

# codex alimentarius commission



FOOD AND AGRICULTURE  
ORGANIZATION  
OF THE UNITED NATIONS

WORLD  
HEALTH  
ORGANIZATION



JOINT OFFICE: Viale delle Terme di Caracalla 00100 ROME Tel: 39 06 57051 www.codexalimentarius.net Email: codex@fao.org Facsimile: 39 06 5705 4593

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**JOINT FAO/WHO FOOD STANDARDS PROGRAMME  
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**INFORMATION ON NATIONAL FOOD CONTROL SYSTEMS AND CONSUMER  
PARTICIPATION IN FOOD STANDARD SETTING (CL 2006/21-EURO, PART A)**

Information submitted by Poland, Sweden

**POLAND**

*National Food Control System*

*(i) Structure and organization of official services responsible for food control*

In Poland food safety and quality issues are within the authority of Sanitary Inspection, Veterinary Inspection, Plant Protection and Seeds Service, Agricultural and Food Quality Inspection and Trade Inspection. These institutions cooperate in compliance with signed bilateral and multilateral agreements on cooperation and coordination of control activities.

**Sanitary Inspection.** The tasks, the scope of activity and the organization of Sanitary Inspection bodies are set out in the Act on State Sanitary Inspection of 14 March 1985 (Official Journal 2006, No. 122, Item 851, with amendments)

Responsibilities of the Sanitary Inspection are carried out by the following bodies: the Chief Sanitary Inspector, 16 Provinces Sanitary Inspectors, 318 County Sanitary Inspectors, and 10 Border Sanitary Inspectors and their laboratories.

The Sanitary Inspection carries out public health tasks, in particular by supervising health and quality aspects of food and by exercising on-going and preventive sanitary supervision.

Within its on-going sanitary supervision, the Sanitary Inspection controls compliance with provisions imposing hygienic and health requirements, in particular the conditions of production, transportation, storage and sale of food and the conditions population nourishment.

**The Veterinary Inspection** is headed by the Chief Veterinary Inspector. The Veterinary Inspection operates under The Act on Animal Health Protection and Fighting Infectious Animal Diseases of 11 March 2004 (Official Journal 2004, No. 69, Item 625).

The Veterinary Inspection consists of the General Veterinary Inspectorate, 16 Provinces Inspectorates, 304 County and 10 Border Veterinary Inspectorates.

The operations of the Veterinary Inspection include prevention of and fight against animal diseases and supervision of health and quality aspects of foodstuffs of animal origin, and in particular:

1. examination of slaughtered animals and their meat, meat of game and other animals intended for consumption by humans,
2. border veterinary control,
3. supervision of health and quality aspects of foodstuffs of animal origin, including sanitary conditions for obtaining, producing, processing, storing, transporting and selling directly such foodstuffs,
4. supervision of trade in animals and products of animal origin,
5. supervision of health and quality aspects of animal feedstuffs,
6. supervision of usage of pharmaceuticals and medical material intended for animals and the related trade,
7. control of the occurrences of chemical and biological, medicinal and radiation contamination residue in animal tissue, foodstuffs of animal origin and feedstuffs,
8. supervision of health of animals intended for breeding and of health and quality aspects of biological material,
9. supervision of compliance with regulations on animal welfare,
10. control of compliance with rules for animal identification and registration, diagnostic laboratory research conducted by veterinary hygiene institutions forming part of Province Veterinary Inspectorates.

The system of rapid alert (RASFF) in connection with EC General Food Law was established. A national contact point was appointed to exchange information with the European Commission.

**Agricultural and Food Quality Inspection** started its activity on 1 January 2003 under the Act of December 21, 2000 on Commercial Quality of Agricultural and Food Products (Official Journal 2005, No. 187, it. 1577). It was created on the basis of two inspection bodies: *Agricultural and Food Quality Inspection /CIS/* and *Inspection for Purchasing and Processing of Agricultural Products /ISiPAR/*.

The Inspection is responsible to the Minister competent for the agricultural markets.

The Inspection is managed by the Chief Inspector, and 16 Province Inspectors of Agricultural and Food Quality.

The Chief Inspector coordinates and supervises all activities of the Inspection with the support of the Main Inspectorate.

Tasks of the Inspection are as follows:

1. Supervision of commercial quality of agricultural and food products, in particular:
  - commercial quality control of agricultural and food products during production and marketing, including exported agricultural and food products,
  - commercial quality control of imported agricultural and food products (the list of imported agricultural and food products and their minimum quantities subjected to commercial quality control is set by the Regulation of Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development of 18 December 2002 (Official Journal 2002 No. 230, item 1933 with amendments)
  - issuing certificates on commercial quality of agricultural and food products.
2. Inspection of agricultural and food products labelling, on the basis of other provisions, with Protected Geographical Indication (PGI), Protected Designation of Origin (PDO) or certificates of specific character.
3. Inspection of agricultural and food products storage and transport conditions.

4. Co-operation with paying agencies (Agricultural Market Agency, Agency for Restructuring and Modernisation of Agriculture) in the scope of Common Agricultural Policy.
5. Gathering and processing information on agricultural market situation.
6. Determining whether transactions under the system of financing by the EAGGF Guarantee Section are being executed correctly. Preventing frauds and any other illegal activities prejudicial to the Polish and Community budget („Ex-Post” Controls).
7. Co-operation with or participation in international organisations working in the area of commercial quality of agricultural and food products and international marketing of agricultural and food products (FAO/WHO Codex Alimentarius Commission - acting as Codex Contact Point for Poland, United Nations/Economic Commission for Europe – acting as the Polish Secretariat for co-operation with Working Party on Agricultural Quality Standards, Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development).
8. Conducting training in the scope of provisions and commercial quality requirements, setting quality classes and methods of analyses of agricultural and food products.
9. Co-operation with foreign official inspection units on commercial quality of agricultural and food products.

Additionally, the Inspection has competences for carrying out control in the following areas: fruit and vegetable market and hop market, genetically modified organisms (GMO), wine products, organic farming, fertilisers and fertilisation, store houses and surplus stocks of agricultural products.

## LABORATORIES

Proper realization of the above mentioned activities is assured by analytical activities carried by Inspection's laboratories.

Analyses of agricultural and food products are conducted in 14 official Inspections' laboratories – Central Laboratory and 6 specialised laboratories at the national level in the structure of the Main Inspectorate and 7 laboratories in the structure of the Voivodeship Inspectorates.

Methods of analyses used by our laboratories comply with the EU methods. Determination of methods of analyses and sampling methods in legal acts which are in force, assures that control procedures in each body of the Inspection are uniformed.

All Inspection's laboratories are accredited by PCA (Polish Centre for Accreditation) according to PN-EN ISO/IEC 17025.

The accreditation scope covers 144 selected analytical, instrumental and microbiological methods related to certain groups of products such as: milk and milk products, juices and their concentrates, beer, cereals and cereal products, oils and vegetable fats, vegetable products, drinks and mineral waters.

These two laboratories since February 2002 are also accredited, as the only Polish laboratories working in the area of official food control, by official bodies of the Russian Federation - Gosstandart and Gossanepidnadzor. The accredited methods comprise a large part of the analyses on foodstuffs.

Quality Management System operating in Agricultural and Food Quality Inspection was certified in May 2005. Agricultural and Food Quality Inspection has ISO 9001:2000 Quality Management System Certificate as the first Polish official food control body.

**The Plant Protection and Seeds Service** operates under the Act on Plant Protection of 18 December 2003 (Official Journal 2004 No. 11, Item 94) and the Act on Seeds of 26 June 2003 (Official Journal 2003 No. 137, Item 1299). The Plant Protection and Seeds Service is managed by the Chief Inspector and 16 Province Inspectors.

The main objectives of The Plant Protection and Seeds Service are supervision of plants, soils, conditions of storage of plants and plant products, keeping control over existence and spreading of pests in particular:

1. evaluation of how plants are threatened by pests,
2. notifying plant protection organs in exporting countries of holding or destroying sick plants, plant products or objects,
3. examination of samples of plants, plant products, soil and grounds to state the presence or the absence of pest organisms.

**The Trade Inspection** subordinates the Chairman of Competition and Consumer Protection Office. The Trade Inspection operates under the Act on the Trade Inspection of 15 December 2000 (Official Journal 2001, No. 4, Item 25 as amended).

The Trade Inspection structural consist of The Main Inspectorate, 16 Province and Inspectorates of Trade Inspection and 34 of their delegates. In the structure of the Main Inspectorate there are 6 analytical laboratories inspecting food products.

In relation to food the Trade Inspection carries out:

- control of products in trade, labelling and misleading, excluding control of commercial quality of agriculture and food products and produce at the producer and in wholesale trade, and control of health quality of foodstuffs and stimulants specified in relevant provisions;
- control of legal compliance and reliability of operators engaged in business activities in the area of production, trade and services;
- mediation in disputes between consumers and operators to protect consumer interests and rights;
- consumer counselling.

#### *(ii) Food Legislation*

The Polish food legislation is harmonized with EU legislation. EU legislation has been transposed into the Polish's law and key national food legislation has been reformed.

#### *(iii) Cooperation with Other Countries*

At Central Government level, officials have regular contact with their colleagues in other EU Member States. There is also considerable contact through participation at meetings in the various EU Commission and Council committees and working groups in Brussels dealing with the development of food legislation, and also contact with other food-relevant international organisations including the various committees in Codex. There is a regular contact with representatives of other Member States when Codex issues and the relevance to the EC legislation are discussed. Polish officials also take part in the projects providing technical assistance for new EU Members States and for the countries outside the EU (TAIEX, Phare etc.)

### **National Codex Contact Point & Other National Structures for Codex Matters**

#### *(i) Activities of Codex Contact Point*

Poland is a member of Codex Alimentarius Commission since its creation (1963).

Agricultural and Food Quality Inspection acting as the National Codex Contact Point coordinates all Codex activities in the Poland. Polish Codex Contact Point fulfils the 9 core functions of CCPs set out in the Procedural Manual.

Polish Codex Contact Point cooperates with almost 80 partners, i.e.: governmental and non-governmental bodies, consumer and industry bodies, scientific organizations, universities and other parties with an interest in the subject matter. Prior to each Codex meeting which Polish delegates are going to participate in, detailed instruction for delegates is prepared with cooperation with all partners and when

there is a need to discuss issues of special concern for Poland, coordination meetings are being convened by the Codex Contact Point with representatives of all stakeholders concerned.

(ii) *National Codex Committee*

The National Codex Committee wasn't established.

## **CONSUMER PARTICIPATION IN STANDARD SETTING**

The national positions for the Codex meetings are coordinated through the Polish Codex Contact Point (managed by Agricultural and Food Quality Inspection) after consultations with experts from the industry and other bodies which are involved in Codex Alimentarius issues. Consumers and consumer organisations have the possibility to comment on all Codex issues and it is the role of the government to prepare the final Polish position for Codex meetings.

In Poland, there is a well established mechanism for consumer participation in standard setting which includes communication thorough the website: [www.ijhars.gov.pl](http://www.ijhars.gov.pl).

There are more than 30 public and non-governmental organizations related to food and nutrition which are involved in the drafting of national food acts.

Documents received are forwarded electronically to the all stakeholders.

Poland acknowledges that involvement of consumers in setting of standards needs to be generally encouraged. Our intention is to improve education of consumers, dissemination of relevant information about Codex Alimentarius and better cooperation with consumer organizations.

## SWEDEN

### National Food Control System

#### (i) Official Agencies

In Sweden, the National Food Administration, an autonomous government agency reporting to the Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Fisheries, is the central administrative authority for matters concerning food. Sweden is divided into counties (21) and municipalities (290). Food control at the local level is the responsibility of the relevant municipal committee(s), usually the Environment and Health Protection Committee. The County Administrations are responsible for co-ordinating food control within each county.

#### The National Food Administration (NFA)

The NFA deals with all types of foodstuff, including drinking water. The meat inspection organisation is part of the NFA.

In the interests of the consumers, the NFA works towards three goals:

- safe foods;
- fair practices in the food trade and
- healthy dietary habits.

In order to achieve these goals, the NFA

- issues food standards and other food regulations;
- carries out supervision according to the Food Decree and leads and co-ordinates food control in Sweden;
- keeps the Government informed about developments in the food sector;
- assists the Government with and participates in EU work and other international activities in the food area;
- carries out investigations and practical scientific studies on foods and dietary habits and develops methods for food control;
- informs consumers and other interested parties in the food chain about current legislation and other important matters related to food;
- participates in the implementation of the regional development policy;
- works for the development of the country's school meals;
- co-ordinates questions concerning infant nutrition, including breast-feeding.

The NFA takes measures aimed at

- achieving effective and equivalent food control throughout the country;
- increasing the public's, especially young people's, knowledge about good and safe food so that they can make informed choices;
- increasing the public's, especially young people's, knowledge about the connection between diet and health.

The NFA's work is based to a large extent on international co-operation, especially within the European Union.

The **Board** of the NFA, which consists of 8 members, with the Director-General of the NFA as chairman, meets about eight times a year. It makes decisions on regulations issued by the NFA, budget proposals and the annual report submitted to the Government.

The Director General and the five heads of department are responsible for the day-to-day running of the NFA, which has a staff of about 300 at its headquarters in Uppsala. In addition, about 75 veterinarians and 105 meat inspection assistants work in the meat inspection organisation and are stationed at slaughterhouses throughout Sweden. The present organisation of the NFA in Uppsala is shown in the attached diagram.

Expert scientific advice for the NFA's work is provided by the NFA's own scientific divisions and experts and by external advisers and expert committees. The scientific staff includes a high proportion of graduate scientists, over 35 of whom have doctorates. Three professors on the staff provide expert advice on

microbiology and nutrition, respectively. Scientific experts from the NFA take an active part in the work of the scientific advisory bodies of the European Food Safety Authority (EFSA), the Council of Europe, FAO/WHO and other international organisations.

The NFA has about 45 external scientific advisers who are leading scientists working at universities, university hospitals or research institutes. The NFA has two external scientific advisory committees – on diet and health and paediatric nutrition, respectively.

The Food Standards Department contains the Swedish Contact Point for the Codex Alimentarius. The Research and Development Department contains the secretariat of the Swedish National Committee of the Nordic Committee on Food Analysis (NMKL).

The Food Control Department is the contact point for the European Community (EC) Rapid Alert System for Food (RASFF).

### **Other organizations**

The NFA co-operates with other government agencies with responsibilities in related areas, including:

- Swedish Board of Agriculture (agriculture, including animal health and welfare, the veterinary services and animal feed);
- National Chemicals Inspectorate (pesticide registration and use);
- Medical Products Agency (registration of drugs for human and veterinary use);
- Environmental Protection Agency (environmental pollution and protection);
- Swedish Consumer Agency (consumer information, marketing);
- National Institute of Public Health (information on alcohol, tobacco, diet and health);
- National Board of Health and Welfare (health statistics and health services);
- Institute of Infectious Disease Control (epidemiology and control of food borne diseases);
- National Veterinary Institute (animal diseases, feed control, national zoonosis centre);
- National Board of Fisheries;
- Swedish Board for Accreditation and Conformity Assessment (laboratory accreditation);
- Swedish Institute for Food and Agriculture Economics.

### **(ii) Food Legislation**

*The Parliament passed the Swedish Food Law in 2006. It mainly contains provisions regarding control authorities, administrative measures, penalties, fees and delegations of norm-making competence. The principles of what food is, how it should be handled and under what conditions it should be let out on the market are set out in EU-regulations (notably 178/2002). The Swedish Food Law complements the EU rules. The government in an ordinance has further developed the rules on control authorities and has given the NFA the right to issue more detailed rules. It is usually the NFA that implements EU-directives in the food area in Sweden. In parallel with this system the EU regulations are directly binding in all member states.*

### **Food Control**

The National Food Administration is responsible at the national level for enforcing the Food Act and regulations issued under the provisions thereof. The NFA is also responsible for the coordination of control of larger food establishments such as the larger slaughterhouses, larger industries and dairies. The control of other food establishments is the responsibility of the County Administrations at the regional level and at the local level the municipal Environment and Health Protection Committees is responsible for food control.

To ensure that adequate financial resources are available to provide the necessary staff and other resources for official controls, as required in Regulation 882/2004/EC (food control regulation), Sweden has a system (regulated in SFS 2006:1110) based entirely on fees from the food business operator. Official control will be based on risk assessment and the fees will reflect the cost of the risk based control.

### **National level**

The NFA inspects slaughterhouses, dairies, egg product establishments, export-controlled establishments and other very large food-producing establishments (in all some 600 establishments). In addition, the NFA provides advice to the regional and local supervisory authorities and to the food industry and trade. It also

initiates food control projects, which are carried out by the local authorities and follows up the results of food control carried out at the municipal level.

The NFA organises the control of pesticide residues in fruit, vegetables and cereals. Samples are collected at ports of entry or wholesale markets. They are analysed at laboratories working under contract to the NFA. The results of the control of pesticide residues are published annually and are available on the Administration's web site.

The NFA also organises the control of veterinary drug residues in foods of animal origin, mainly meat. Samples are collected at farms, slaughter-houses or ports of entry and are analysed at the NFA or at laboratories working under contract to the NFA. NFA also coordinates and is responsible for the control of other substances according to relevant EC regulations and directives. Such substances are dioxins and dioxinlike PCBs, polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAH), nitrate in certain vegetables, mycotoxin in foods of plant origin, heavy metals in vegetables, salmonella, cesium, and also toxins in bivalve molluscs.

The NFA has overall responsibility for export control. For food from countries outside the EU, inspection and sampling for microbiological (salmonella, etc.) examination as part of import control is carried out by the NFA at Border Inspection Posts.

### **Regional level**

Each of the 21 County Administrations in Sweden is responsible for co-ordinating food control at the regional level, but they do not usually carry out any direct food control work.

### **Municipal level**

Except those under the supervision of the NFA, the municipal Environment and Health Protection Committees carry out food control at all food handling establishments, including food production establishments, wholesalers, retailers, catering establishments, restaurants and waterworks, altogether about 52 000 establishments.

Approximately 1 000 inspectors are involved in food control at the municipal level. However, some of these only work part-time with food control and the personnel involved in food control correspond to about 300 full-time inspectors.

Food samples collected by the municipal food control authorities are usually analysed by private laboratories which has to be accredited. At present there are 14 such private laboratories in Sweden, 4 laboratories at municipal level and 2 governmental laboratories. Most of these are also accredited for drinking water. In addition there are 26 laboratories accredited only for analyses of drinking water.

### **(iii) Cooperation activities**

#### *EC member*

Sweden joined the European Union (EU) on 1 January 1995 and has harmonized its food legislation with that of the EC. As a member of the EU, Sweden takes part in the development of new EC legislation in the food area. **European Community Regulations** apply directly in Sweden. **European Community Directives** are transposed into NFA Ordinances.

Sweden coordinates its Codex positions with the other MS and the European Commission following the agreed procedures.

#### **Other cooperation activities**

Sweden has certain cooperation with the Baltic countries. The NFA has provided expert advice, seminars and also technical support to the Baltic countries for several years.

Sweden has six times arranged a training program for participants from developing countries. The managing organisation in Sweden is SIDA (the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency ) [sida@sida.se](mailto:sida@sida.se). This training programme will again be held at the end of January next year, this time for participants from Eastern Africa.



*The overall objectives of the programme are:*

To provide awareness, information and training to the relevant governmental officials and economic operators regarding the new principles and requirements related to food safety, international trade in food and agricultural products.

The programme therefore aims to provide participants with a more in-depth understanding of:

- International trade based on the WTO-TBT agreement. Introduction, content and effect. Relation to the WTO-SPS agreement.
- The WTO-Agreement on the Application of Sanitary and Phytosanitary measures, WTO-TBT agreement.
- Food legislation and enforcement (Veterinary and public health aspects). Principles and concepts covering food safety, animal health, plant health, additives and substances in contact with food, additives in feed, GMOs, nutrition, contaminants, residue monitoring, animal welfare. Risk analysis.
- European Union food safety systems.
- International standardisation work in the food area, Codex Alimentarius, International Animal Health Organisation, International Plant Protection Convention.
- Food Labelling
- The concept of quality
- HACCP training
- Accreditation. Methodology, procedures, use of accreditation nationally and internationally
- Laboratory testing. Requirements, quality systems, traceability of measurements, preparation for accreditation.

The training programme is designed to cover all major issues related to the preparation, adoption and application of technical regulations covering food, issues related to the SPS and TBT agreement, national enforcement mechanisms and issues related to the national quality infrastructures development for food safety and quality.

The programme is structured as a three step approach:

- International training course to be conducted in Sweden.
- Project-work to be performed at home base.
- Follow-up training course to be conducted in one of the countries participating in the course.

### ***National Codex Contact Point and Other National Structure for Codex Matters***

#### **(i) Activities**

The NFA is the Swedish Codex Contact Point. The Food Standards Department at the NFA is responsible for coordination of Codex matters. One expert is appointed responsible for each of all the committees in which Sweden takes an active part. A coordinator who works at the Food Standards Department at the NFA acts as the link between these experts and the Codex secretariat as well as the Council Secretariat (EC) and the Swedish ministry of agriculture (the ministry which is responsible for all matters related to food). Codex Circular Letters of special interest are sent out for comments to consumer organisations. These comments are taken into consideration when preparing written Swedish comments. Generally representatives from both the ministry of agriculture and the NFA participate in Codex meetings. Sweden gives highest priority to the general subject committees and does not take an active part in any of the commodity committees except for the milk committee (CCMMP)

The NFA provides information on food matters (including legislation) of interest to consumers via the website ([www.slv.se](http://www.slv.se)) and various publications, press releases, etc. General information concerning Codex Alimentarius and short reports from Codex meetings are published on the website. Some information is also published in the NFA's journal *Vår Föda*, which is sent to *inter alia* the mass media in Sweden.

A Consumer Board has been established at the NFA for information and discussion of food matters of special interest to consumers including Codex matters. The Consumer Board meet several times a year.

**(ii) National Codex Committee**

Sweden has not established a National Codex Committee. The Swedish Codex Contact Point (NFA) has not seen a need for a special National Codex Committee since Codex matters are discussed both in the Board of NFA and in our Consumer Board. Written communication is seen as the main input from consumer representatives and all other interested parties.

Consumer Participation in Standard Setting

*(iii) Sweden coordinates most of its positions for Codex meetings within the EC. The Swedish inputs to EC positions are prepared according to the above described systems.*

*(iv) Sweden has identified a number of consumer organisations. In Sweden there are two so called “umbrella organisations” which are represented at the consumer board. Individual consumer organisations as well as the “umbrella organisations” have the possibility to provide written comments. Consumer representatives are invited to participate in Codex meetings at their own expense.*

*(v) and (vi) same as (iv).*

Contact with the National Food Administration

Address: Box 622, SE-751 26 Uppsala, Sweden

Telephone: +46 18 175500 Telefax: +46 18 105848

E-mail: [livsmedelsverket@slv.se](mailto:livsmedelsverket@slv.se) or [codex@slv.se](mailto:codex@slv.se) Internet website: [www.slv.se](http://www.slv.se)

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### Organization of the Swedish National Food Administration

