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NATIONAL MULTI-ANNUAL OFFICIAL CONTROL PLAN

MANCP 2026-2030

ORGANIZATION OF CONTROLS
THROUGHOUT THE FOOD CHAIN
IN FRANCE



JUNE 2026

MULTI-ANNUAL NATIONAL CONTROL PLAN (MANCP) 2026-2030

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INTRODUCTION - CONTEXT

European legislation (Regulation (EU) 2017/625) requires each Member State to draw up a multi-annual control plan (MANCP) outlining the checks to be carried out throughout the food chain in the following areas: foodstuffs (safety, fair trading, GMOs and materials in contact with food, etc.), the deliberate release into the environment of GMOs intended for the production of food and feed, animal feed, animal health and identification, animal by-products, animal welfare, plant health, plant protection products, as well as organic farming and protected designations of origin, protected geographical indications and traditional specialities guaranteed.

This is the purpose of this document, updated in 2026. It sets out the organisation and operation of the French control system, the procedures for adapting this system as part of a continuous improvement process, and the priority areas defined for the years 2026 to 2030.

The MANCP is a public document intended for members of the public and professionals in the food supply chain. It is also distributed to regulatory authorities and the European Commission.

Pursuant to Article 109 of Regulation (EU) 2017/625, its preparation has been coordinated by the General Directorate for Food at the Ministry of Agriculture and Food, which has been designated at the “coordinating body” for that purpose¹.

¹ **General Directorate for Food**

Health Performance and International Affairs Division
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Office for European and Multilateral Negotiations

France accounts for 15% of the population of the EU and is the second most populous country after Germany (19%). The total area of land used for agriculture in Europe is 157.4 million hectares, 18 per cent of which is in France. In 2023, French farms produced €86.7 billion in agricultural produce. France is Europe's leading agricultural producer, accounting for 18% of the EU-27's production by value. French agri-food production accounted for 15% of the EU total in 2022. France is one of the European Union's leading producers and exporters of agricultural products. With 350,000 farms, France is Europe's leading producer of cereals, agricultural seeds, beef and eggs, and a major producer of pork, wine, fodder, fruit and vegetables, as well as fishery and aquaculture products. The agri-food industry is France's largest industrial sector and ranks second in the European Union. The retail and catering sector comprises more than 28,000 mini-markets, supermarkets and hypermarkets, more than 100,000 food retail outlets, more than 270,000 commercial restaurants and nearly 110,000 catering facilities, particularly in schools. Agricultural and livestock products, together with agri-food products (excluding beverages) exported to the European Union and third countries, are worth over 45 billion euros.

The legislation on the food chain has been largely harmonised at EU level. It in fact derives essentially from EU texts, in some cases supplemented by national provisions. It is applicable pursuant to the same procedures across all countries in the European Union (EU). Its purpose is to protect public health and specifically the health of consumers, the environment, animal health, plant health and fair trade practices. It contains rules which are binding on sector professionals from production to distribution, subject to inspection, and general missions for protection against, and combating animal diseases and plant health.

Each country in the EU is responsible for the organisation of its missions and verification of the rules along the entire food production and the "farm to fork" distribution chain: not only food for human consumption and feed for animals but also live animals and plants at the primary production stage.

There are two clear core issues:

- health safety for food, animals and plants;
- product quality and fair trading.

In France, a number of departments and agencies are responsible for the organisation and performance of these controls at central administrative level: the General Directorate for Food (DGAL) at the Ministry of Agriculture and Food, the General Directorate for Competition Policy, Consumer Affairs and Fraud Control (DGCCRF) and the General Directorate of Customs and Excise (DGDDI) at the Ministry of the Economy, the Military Health Service (SSA) at the Ministry of Defence, the General Directorate of Health (DGS) at the Ministry of Health, the National Institute of Origin and Quality (INAO), and the Directorate for quality and official control at the Interprofessional Organisation for Seeds and Plants - SEMAE, FranceAgriMer, the interprofessional technical centre for fruit and vegetables (CTIFL) and the French Agency for Food, Environmental and Occupational Health & Safety (ANSES). Allocation of responsibilities between these departments and agencies is dependent on the accreditation of their staff and the specific characteristics of the rules governing inspection. Cooperation is organised between departments and agencies, in order to ensure the overall efficacy of the system of control.

All in all, although financial and human resources adjustments vary from year to year, on average more than 6,000 full time equivalent staff work directly on the organisation and application of these controls, not including personnel employed by delegated organisations.

PART ONE: GENERAL ORGANISATION OF THE COMPETENT AUTHORITIES AND THE OFFICIAL SYSTEM OF CONTROL IN FRANCE

1.1 – THE COMPETENT AUTHORITIES

1.1.1 – Designation of competent authorities

1.1.1.1 – General description

In France, in 2025, ten competent authorities operate within the scope of the MANCP and share responsibility for monitoring tasks as well as certain official duties. Where these bodies are directly attached to ministries, they are also responsible for developing public policy and regulations.

1/ The General Directorate for Food (**DGAL**) at the Ministry of Agriculture is responsible for protecting the health of consumers, animals, plants and the environment. It develops and implements the French government's policy in three main areas: consumer protection through food safety, animal health and welfare, and plant health and protection. The DGAL carries out all enforcement tasks relating to the safety of food and feed, in particular:

- monitoring production chains for animal feed, food of animal origin and food of plant origin;
- monitoring facilities in the direct supply sector, which includes distribution (retail outlets, medium and large-scale retailers, etc.), commercial catering and institutional catering (school canteens, staff canteens, etc.);
- monitoring and enforcing regulations relating to the safety of specific products such as food supplements, fortified foods, food improvement agents (food additives, flavourings, enzymes, processing aids, etc.), new foods and allergens;
- monitoring and enforcing health regulations relating to animal feed.

Inspections are carried out in accordance with the territorial division of responsibilities amongst government departments, as well as by certain delegated bodies, as set out below:

- at departmental level, by the Departmental Directorates for Population Protection (DDPP) or the Departmental Directorates for Employment, Labour, Solidarity and Population Protection (DDETSPP);
- at regional level, by the Regional Directorates for Food, Agriculture and Forestry (DRAAF);
- and at national level, by the national service responsible for veterinary and phytosanitary inspections at borders (SIVEP) and the border control posts responsible for import controls on animal products, live animals, animal feed and plants; and by the National Veterinary and Plant Health Investigation Brigade (BNEVP), which is responsible for combatting organised crime.

Official delegates are appointed in certain specific areas, notably animal health and plant health, and, since 2024, in the field of food safety for inspections of direct-sale facilities and checks on foodstuffs during processing and distribution.

2/ The General Directorate for Competition Policy, Consumer Affairs and Fraud Control (**DGCCRF**) at the Ministry of the Economy has a mission to protect consumers. The DGCCRF also:

- monitors the overall compliance of products (food and feed, plant protection products, seeds, materials in contact with food);
- controls the safety of plant protection products, prior to their use, and of seeds;
- controls the safety of materials in contact with food, prior to their use.

This includes the inspection of products bearing a European quality label after they are placed on the market (pre-market inspections carried out by the INAO, *see below*). With regard to wine and spirits, the DGCCRF performs inspections both before and after the products are placed on the market.

It is reliant on the following for the application of these inspections:

- at departmental level, by the DDPPs or DDETSPPs;

- at regional level, on the Regional Directorates for the Economy, Employment, Labour and Solidarity (DREETS);
- at national level, on the SNE, which is focused on combatting organised crime, most notably with regard to fraud;

The DGCCRF relies on the network of laboratories within the Joint Laboratory Service (SCL) to carry out analyses.

3/ The General Directorate of Health (**DGS**) at the Ministry of Health implements policy on the prevention of health risks linked to the living environment and contributes to the management of these risks. In particular:

- it helps to organise risk assessment in these areas in collaboration with the relevant health safety agencies (ANSES, HCSP, ASNR);
- it prepares information for professionals and the public on the risks and the policies implemented;
- it coordinates the policy on the prevention and management of health risks associated with drinking water, and in this context:
 - it sets out the procedures for the approval of water treatment products and processes and for the marketing authorisation (MA) of materials in contact with water (MCDE);
 - it governs the health safety of bottled water produced in France (spring water, natural mineral water, water made potable by treatment);
- within its remit, it contributes to the preparation for and management of public health crises, under the coordination of the Public Health Crisis Centre and, in particular, CORRUSS (Operational Centre for the Regulation and Response to Health and Social Emergencies).

The General Directorate for Health (DGS) relies on the Regional Agency for Health (ARS) at regional and departmental levels to monitor the implementation of the regulations.

4/ The Military Health Service (**SSA**) at the Ministry of Defence, operates within the facilities under the Ministry's remit and other military units (the National Gendarmerie). The SSA Central Directorate in charge of the national coordination of veterinary activities in the armed forces is reliant for application of controls on the veterinary office of the Military Medical Directorate (DMF) and Veterinary Groups (GV), in addition to the specialist departments of the Military Medical Centres (CMA).

5/ The General Directorate of Customs and Excise (**DGDDI**) is responsible, upon importation, for health checks on foodstuffs of non-animal origin and materials intended to come into contact with food, checks on marketing standards for fruit and vegetables, checks on foodstuffs claiming to be organic, and the monitoring of non-commercial movements of domestic animals.

At local level, only certain customs offices located at the first point of entry into the European Union which carry out health checks and, where applicable, organic checks, have the status of Border Control Post (PCF), whilst others, which carry out only organic checks or delegated health checks, have the status of Organic Release Points (PMLP) or control points (PC) respectively.

The DGDDI relies on the network of laboratories within the Joint Laboratory Service (SCL) to carry out analyses.

6/ The National Institute of Origin and Quality (**INAO**) is responsible for control of products bearing EU quality signs (SIQO) prior to market release.

7/ **SEMAE**, the inter-professional representative organisation for seeds and plants, is responsible, working through its Directorate for quality and official control, for granting permits to issue plant passports. Its remit covers seeds for agricultural and market gardening species, seed potatoes, plants of market gardening species and strawberry plants. SEMAE, as a certification body, is accredited by COFRAC under international standard NF EN ISO/IEC 17065.

8/ **FranceAgriMer** is an entity operating under the oversight of the Ministry of Agriculture. It is in charge of the issuance of plant passports for vine propagation materials for winegrowing. It implements this mission together with the mandatory certification of these plants as imposed by directive 68/193/EEC.

9/ The French National Agency for Food, Environmental and Occupational Health & Safety (**Anses**) is a public administrative body operating under the supervision of the ministers responsible for health, agriculture, the environment and labour. It is responsible for the issuance of marketing authorisations (MA) and permits for plant protection products and veterinary medicines. Furthermore, ANSES carries out inspections relating to the production, formulation, packaging and labelling of plant protection products, fertilisers, growing media and their

adjuvants, as well as veterinary medicines. It also coordinates a vigilance network covering these products and works in coordination with the control authorities.

10/ The inter-professional technical centre for fruit and vegetables (**CTIFL**) is responsible, through its Certification Inspection service, for control and the granting of the authorisation to issue plant passports. The scope of its competence: fruit propagation material, excluding strawberry plants, held by professional operators approved for fruit certification.

1.1.1.2 - National coverage of ten competent authorities based on the organisation of French national territory

France has 18 regions. In Metropolitan France, 13 regions are divided into 96 *départements*. In its overseas territories, 5 *départements* also enjoy regional status.

The territorial organisation of the inspection services is based on the national administrative structure (ministries, administrative regions, *départements*) and on specific institutions and local organisations with particular remits, as shown in the following tables. The concerned interministerial directorates in the *départements* operate subject to the authority of the Prefect for the *département*.

Table 1: Territorial organisation: “Ministerial Services” competent authorities

National level	DGAL	DGCCRF	DGS	SSA (DMF)	DGDDI
National-level control mission	Direction Coordination Application of certain BNEVP and SIVEP controls	Direction Coordination Application of certain SNE controls	Direction Coordination	Direction Coordination	Direction Coordination
Regional level	Prefect for Region DRAAF (SRAL) DIRM*	Prefect for Region DREETS (Unit C)	ARS	-	12 Interregional Directorates / 42 Regional Directorates
Regional-level control mission	Direction Coordination Harmonisation Application of certain controls	Direction Coordination Harmonisation Application of certain controls	Direction Coordination Harmonisation Application of certain controls	-	Regulatory support for PCFs, PCs and PMLPs provided by the Economic Action Centres (PAEs) of the regional directorates
Local level	Prefect for <i>département</i> DDPP and DDETSPP** DDTM*		ARS delegated agencies in the <i>départements</i>	Veterinary Groups in Military Medical Centres	Certain customs offices
Local-level missions	Application of controls		Application of controls	Application of controls	Application of sanitary and quality controls, before release for free circulation
Specific case of DROMs**	Prefect DAAF	Prefect DEETS		DIASS***	

* The DDTMs are tasked with the management of shellfish production areas, under the guidance of the DGAL, and are responsible for animal health matters within the shellfish farming sector.

** France’s overseas *départements* and regions (DROMs) have a specific organisation due to their dual status as *départements* and regions.

*** In the DROMs, veterinarians and veterinary technicians in the DIASS (joint forces directorates of health services) apply controls along the same lines as Veterinary Groups in Metropolitan France.

Table 2: Territorial organisation: competent authorities with other statuses

National level	INAO	SEMAE	FranceAgriMer	Anses	CTIFL
National-level control mission	Direction Coordination Supervision of control bodies	Direction Coordination (Plant passports)	Direction Coordination (Plant passports)	Issuance of marketing authorizations	Direction Coordination

	Approval of control body control plans			(AMM) and PPP permits Application of certain controls	Application of controls (Plant passports)
Regional level	Territorial delegated authorities (8)	Regional delegated organisations (6) in territories representative of production	Territorial Services (6)	Not applicable	Not applicable
Regional-level control mission	Supervision of control bodies whose activity is exclusively within their remit Examination of control body control plans	Coordination and application of controls	Application of controls	-	-
Local level	Not applicable	Not applicable	Not applicable	Not applicable	Not applicable

1.1.1.3 Allocation of missions between government administrations and departments

The allocation of control oversight missions amongst the various competent authorities is carried out by food chain sector. This allocation reflects, on the one hand, the legislation designating the competent authorities which define the missions assigned to them (Annex 1), while, on the other hand, it reflects the official powers conferred upon the agents to whom the execution of those missions is entrusted (Annex 2).

Certain missions may be shared between competent authorities.

Application of **controls relating to the sanitary safety of food** (foodstuffs) at all stages of production and marketing, with the exception of controls on facilities in the defence sector, which fall under the remit of the SSA, is entrusted to the DGAL which is responsible for the single health police force. The DGAL provides exclusive oversight for sanitary controls in primary animal and plants production, in slaughterhouses, and in the production, processing and placing on the market of foodstuffs from the animal and plant sectors, as well as beverages. Catering and consumer distribution are control domains shared between the DGAL and SSA, which operates in establishments in the defence sector. The DGAL also directs the control in animal sectors. The DGAL ensures compliance with general health and safety rules as well as specific regulations (pesticide residues, contaminants and undesirable substances, radioactivity, allergens, food supplements, GMOs, processing aids, technological aids, ionisation, new foods) from a food safety perspective.

The DGS is tasked with **protection of the health of the general public with respect to the various uses of water**, and most notably bottled water products up to the point it leaves the factory, and for ensuring that such bottled water complies with the provisions stipulated by prefectural order. The DGAL shares responsibility with the DGS for the safety of bottled water once it is placed on the market.

Product quality and fair trade controls are applied by the DGCCRF. The task of applying controls to products bearing European quality and origin labels (Organic Farming, PDO, PGI, TSG) is shared with the INAO. Specifically, CCRF staff are empowered to seek out and place on record breaches of labelling (general labelling rules, nutritional and health claims, etc.) and cases of fraud. From a fair trading perspective, they ensure compliance with specific regulations which are otherwise monitored by the DGAL from a safety perspective (food supplements, food improvement agents, foodstuffs intended for specific groups, etc.), as well as sector-specific regulations governing the quality and composition of foodstuffs. In the bottled water sector, the DGCCRF is responsible for ensuring that water distributed throughout the country is fair and not misleading, in relation to aspects not linked to production conditions (set by prefectural order) and post-bottling practices.

Where **products bearing EU quality and origin signs are concerned (Organic Farming, PDO, PGI, TSG)**, the INAO has a joint role with the DGCCRF in France in controlling and defending these products. The INAO's role is relevant essentially before (French) products are placed on the market and the DGCCRF acts after this stage (products of all origins, excluding the specific provisions for wines and spirits described in point 1.1.1.1). Import controls are applied by the DGAL and the DGDDI (see below).

The DGCCRF is tasked with monitoring facilities which produce **materials intended to come into contact with food** (MCDA) and these empty materials with regard to food safety and fair trading.

Controls on the **dissemination into the environment of genetically modified organisms intended for the production of foodstuffs and animal feed** are shared between the DGAL for all aspects concerning crops and field trials, in addition to checks on imported seeds, and the DGCCRF for controls on seeds produced in Europe or France and placed on the French market.

Controls on the **animal feed industry** are shared between the DGCCRF and DGAL. The DGAL applies controls relating to the health and safety of the animal feed supply chain at all stages of production and marketing, including primary production and imports (see below). It ensures compliance with general health and safety rules as well as specific regulations (feed additives, processing aids, GMOs, prohibited materials, undesirable substances, pesticide residues, ionisation, etc.) from a food safety perspective. The DGCCRF verifies the accuracy of information placed on animal feed products (GMOs included) in order to ensure healthy and fair competition.

Where **animal health and identification** are concerned, the DGAL acts to provide surveillance, control of regulated animal diseases and inspections, most notably for animal identification on livestock farms. It also has a role in monitoring trade in live animals with other Member States of the European Union. The SSA has a role solely in the defence sector.

The DGAL alone has an oversight role for controls on **establishments processing animal by-products**.

Direction of **animal welfare** checks on livestock farms, on the transportation of live animals and in slaughterhouses is provided by the DGAL. The SSA operates solely with regard to animals in the defence sector.

Measures for protection against plant pests, aimed at ensuring plant health, are placed under DGAL direction, with scientific and/or technical support from ANSES, in its capacity as the body responsible for reference mandates, and from other partners in the epidemiological surveillance platform. This involves surveillance and control of outbreaks of harmful organisms and monitoring the sanitary and phytosanitary conditions under which plants are offered for sale. The DGAL, SEMAE, FranceAgriMer and CTIFL are responsible for the granting of authorisations to operators for the issuance of plant passports and their monitoring.

Marketing authorisations (AMM) for plant protection products, fertilisers and growing media fall under the responsibility of ANSES. Controls on their manufacture are shared between Anses and the DGCCRF. Controls on their marketing are shared between the DGCCRF, Anses and DGAL and controls on their use, especially by primary producers, is part of the remit of DGAL. A protocol signed on 30 April 2026 between the DGCCRF, the DGAL and ANSES organises the coordination and exchange of information for controls and inspections in the plant protection products sector.

Import controls on products from third countries, before customs formalities, are applied under the responsibility of the DGAL and DGDDI² depending on the types of imports. The DGAL is tasked with carrying out health and plant health checks on live animals, products of animal origin and animal feed to ensure that they do not pose a risk to human health, animal health, plant health or the environment. With regard to plants and plant products, the DGDDI carries out health checks to ensure that foodstuffs of non-animal origin do not pose a risk to consumer health (such as testing for pesticide residues), whilst the DGAL carries out plant health checks to ensure that goods do not pose a risk to plant health (such as testing for organisms harmful to crops and ecosystems). These checks are carried out prior to the checks carried out by the DGDDI, in its capacity as the customs authority, during the procedures for release for free circulation (checking the public health document authorising the product's placing on the EU market, issued following the health, phytosanitary or veterinary checks).

Import controls relating to organic farming are divided between the DGDDI (foodstuffs of non-animal origin) and the DGAL (animal feed, foodstuffs of animal origin).

Furthermore, food safety policy is based on a comprehensive risk assessment which takes into account all dangers (physical, microbiological and chemical) and all stages of the food chain, "from farm to table" or "from field to fork". This enables human and financial resources to be allocated in proportion to the risks and helps to strengthen public confidence through more effective communication which is easier to understand.

It is also important to implement policies which are as fully integrated as possible, in order to put the principles of the "One Health" approach into practice, with a view to joint action encompassing human, animal, plant and environmental health.

In recent years, a number of key developments and milestones have brought about changes to the regulatory framework:

² The DGDDI has gradually taken over the import controls previously carried out by the DGCCRF; the transfer of the remaining border posts has been in effect since June 2023.

- Completion of the reform of the “single food safety authority”

Following years of shared management between the DGAL and the DGCCRF, the Government decided in May 2022 to bring the enforcement body responsible for food and feed safety under a single authority, under the auspices of the Ministry of Agriculture and Food Sovereignty and, more specifically, the DGAL. This major reform has created a single health enforcement body, which has been in place since 1st January 2023, with the transfer of investigative functions on 1st January 2024. The DGCCRF remains responsible for inspections relating to the fair trading of food and feed, as well as aspects concerning the safety and fair trading of plant protection products, materials in contact with food and seeds. The signing of a protocol enabled the management of the transition period. A long-term protocol sets out the allocation of missions and the procedures for cooperation between the two administrations.

- *Inspection of bottled water*

In the bottled water sector (natural mineral waters, spring waters, and waters made potable through treatment), the reform of the PSU has resulted in a division of responsibilities among three competent authorities – the DGS, the DGAL and the DGCCRF – whose respective scopes of action and coordination procedures have been set out in a cooperation protocol. The division of responsibilities is based on the following main areas: the DGS is tasked with the health safety of the aforementioned waters from the source through to bottling; with defining, by prefectural order, the operating and labelling procedures; and with verifying the implementation of these provisions. The DGCCRF is tasked with inspecting materials in contact with foodstuffs prior to bottling and with ensuring the accuracy and non-misleading nature of bottled waters distributed throughout the country, in respect of aspects not related to production conditions (set by prefectural order) and post-bottling practices. The DGAL shares responsibility with the DGS for the safety of bottled water once it is placed on the market.

- *Inspection of non-animal foodstuffs upon import*

The missions for health and biological inspections and marketing standards for fruit and vegetables were transferred from the DGCCRF to the DGDDI on 1st June 2023. This transfer of mission enabled work to begin in 2024 on opening new import check points for organic foodstuffs of non-animal origin and fruit and vegetables subject to marketing standards in the towns of Lorient, Brest and Saint-Malo. These check points opened on 6 January 2025, except in Saint-Malo, where checks on fruit and vegetables had been carried out since October 2023. The completion of this transfer also enabled work to begin on the opening of a Clearance Point, tasked with inspecting organic foodstuffs of non-animal origin, at Nice Airport (opening on 1st December 2025).

1.1.1.4 - Cooperation between competent authorities and other authorities

Cooperation between national competent authorities

As and when necessary, protocols of agreement clarify this task sharing and define the procedures for cooperation and the exchange of information between competent authorities, both between central administrations and services tasked with inspections on the ground.

Other control authorities cooperating with national competent authorities

Cooperation with customs authorities

The General Directorate of Customs and Excise (DGDDI) has a role as customs authority, authorising the release into free circulation of products imported from third countries, following certain mandatory controls on plants and potentially problematic items in relation to plant health, animals, animal food products and certain plant products. A specific protocol of agreement, with the DGAL and DGDDI, describes the procedures for the exchange of information in connection with the usual border inspections, exchanges of information directed at the adjustment of inspection frequency to reflect risk and the procedures for cooperation during crises. A distinction is made between these customs missions and the official control tasks that precede customs formalities.

Cooperation with departments and agencies responsible for the control of veterinary medicines

The Agency for Veterinary Medicinal Products (ANMV) at Anses is responsible for issuing marketing authorisations (AMMs) for veterinary medicines and the application of controls on facilities engaged in the manufacture or

wholesale distribution of veterinary medicines. It also performs pharmacovigilance tasks, which by regulation include alerts relating to the detection of residues in foodstuffs. Control of the distribution of veterinary medicines is placed under the responsibility of the DGAL and the DGS (at the Ministry of Health).

Controls on veterinary medicines fall within the scope of the MANCP from the standpoint of food chain safety. Discussions with agencies responsible for controls over these products and their distribution are extensive and contribute to the assessment of the risks and priorities for product control, especially with regard to their use by livestock farmers. Since the amendment of Regulation (EU) 2017/625 by Regulation (EU) 2021/1756, the scope of the MANCP has also included official controls aimed at verifying compliance with Article 118(1) of Regulation (EU) 2019/6 (prohibition on the import of animals or products of animal origin derived from animals which have been treated with antimicrobial medicinal products to promote growth or increase yield, or antimicrobials reserved for the treatment of certain infections in humans).

[Link with control of cross-compliance for support payments](#)

The Payments and Services Agency (ASP) – a French State-controlled administrative public-sector entity – which acts as the paying agency for the EAGF (European Agricultural Guarantee Fund), must verify compliance with identification requirements as part of its checks on cross-compliance for EAGF support payments. The checks carried out by the ASP are part of the identification checks applicable by France. However, the consequences (administrative or criminal) of any non-compliance identified during the checks remain under the remit of the DDPPs and DDETSPPs.

[Contribution to the system of official signs identifying quality and origin \(SIQO\)](#)

The General Directorate for the Economic and Environmental Performance of Enterprises (DGPE) at the Ministry of Agriculture is the supervisory body for the INAO and the agency for the promotion of organic farming (Agence Bio). It is also the lead body in the French delegation to the EU committees on organic farming and PDO/PGI/TSG signs. It is the interface for the Commission on PDO/PGI/TSG management and is the competent authority for the definition of public policies.

1.1.2 - Mission delegation

The competent authorities may delegate part of their regulatory duties to bodies accredited by COFRAC or to authorised or accredited professionals.

The **DGAL** delegates some of its missions to bodies specifically dedicated to sanitary issues (animal and plant health) and to veterinarians mandated as official private-sector veterinarians (most notably in the area of animal health and protection). Sanitary veterinarians (practising veterinarians) are empowered by the government to perform regulatory tasks for which farmers and growers are responsible, such as prophylactic screening.

In addition, two new official control delegations have been established with effect from 2024 for a period of five years. These are implemented at regional level (agreements between regional prefects and delegated authorities) and relate, on the one hand to inspections of food business premises involved in the direct supply of food to the end consumer, and on the other to the taking of food samples as part of monitoring and control programmes at the processing (excluding slaughterhouses) and distribution stages, and the transport of these samples for analysis.

Delegation of missions to outside bodies by the DGAL is governed by provisions in the maritime fishing and rural code notably stipulating that a specific contractual agreement must be in place for this. Supervision of delegated organisations is based on their accreditation by COFRAC, which verifies the quality of their organisation.

The **INAO** delegates application of controls on operators' premises to bodies accredited by the French Accreditation Committee (COFRAC) under standard NF EN ISO/IEC 17065 or, depending on the circumstances, standard NF EN ISO/IEC 17020. These bodies are subject to regular supervision by the INAO, in order to ensure their satisfactory operation, the effective character and quality of the controls applied, as well as the appropriateness of the treatment of instances of non-compliance revealed by those controls. In 2025, 10 inspection bodies specialising in PDO/PGI/TSG products and 10 specialising in organic farming were accredited by the INAO.

Approved control bodies to which control tasks have been delegated are subject to monitoring by the INAO. The basis for approval are the regular evaluations every 12 to 18 months carried out at the head offices of the bodies

concerned, as well as observation of their activities on the ground. These bodies are also monitored by the French Accreditation Committee (COFRAC) with regard to the requirements for accreditation under the relevant standards. These two types of monitoring are mutually complementary and ensure an effective overview of activities, thus helping guarantee that any dysfunction is rapidly detected and dealt within an optimum timeframe. Additionally, the control bodies are required to submit to the INAO an annual activity report. This must contain regular computerised statistics with information on the list of operators, adherence to control frequencies, observed breaches and, where applicable, the follow-up to the measures taken.

As the competent authorities, **SEMAE**, **FranceAgriMer** and the **CTIFL** delegate, or may delegate, powers to plant health organisations recognised by the **DGAL** and already designated by the DGAL as authorised bodies. **FranceAgriMer** and the **CTIFL** are therefore delegating part of the checks relating to plant passports to the “FRE-DON” health organisations. **SEMAE**’s Quality and Official Control Directorate (SOCFrance) outsources official inspections with a view to official certification and the issue of plant passports for seed potatoes, as part of a European public procurement tender. **SEMAE** delegates to the national federation of seed potato producers the responsibility for providing phytosanitary inspection reports for input into official decisions on the issuance of plant passports for seed potatoes. Oversight of the competence of the individuals involved is provided, along with second-level checks on consignments and crops. The delegation of powers is reviewed annually. The delegated organisation is also engaged in an accreditation programme under standard NF EN ISO/IEC 17020.

This allocation of the missions and task delegation are described in more detail in Annex 3. The missions are performed by the departments and agencies in the regions and territorial *départements* in accordance with the territorial organisation set out in point 1.1.1.2 - National coverage of competent authorities based on the organisation of French national territory.

1.1.3 - Resource allocation

1.1.3.1 - Budget resources – taxes and dues

The financial resources employed for the application of controls are dependent on the status of each competent authority.

Controls applied by government departments and agencies are funded under specific budget programmes adopted annually by Parliament in connection with the finance laws and forming part of three-year budget appropriations. For example, budget programme 206 “Food sanitary safety and quality” funds controls within the scope of the MANCP and under **DGAL** direction, and contributes to the funding of **ANSES** (also funded by programmes 204, 181 and 111). Programme 134 “Development of enterprises and regulations” covers controls for which the **DGCCRF** has oversight. The **SSA** is funded under the general budget of the Ministry of Defence (Programme 178 “Preparation and employment of the armed forces”). The **DGDDI** is funded for the whole range of its activities by Programme 302 “Facilitation and security of trade”. Programme 204 “Prevention, sanitary safety and healthcare provision” covers the missions of the **DGS** included in the MANCP. Details of these resources can be found at <https://www.budget.gouv.fr/> by viewing the budget for the relevant year when the financial resources are linked to a ministerial budget.

The **INAO** and **FranceAgriMer** both have their own budgets to cover their control activities, among other things. In the case of **SEMAE**, the budget for its phytosanitary missions, which is published every year in its activity report, accounts for approximately 30% of the budget allocated to public service missions.

As far as the **CTIFL** is concerned, the missions of control of the authorisation to issue the plant passport and certain official plant inspections are financed by the DGAL, within the framework of the agreement. The official sanitary visual examinations of certified plants are financed by the professional operators inspected.

European regulations provide for the mandatory levy of taxes or duties for veterinary, phytosanitary and health checks on imports, and for certain checks on animal products (the meat, fisheries and processing sectors) and animal feed (approval). The amounts are included in overall government resources and can be found on the “Légifrance” website.

Regarding controls other than those on imports, minimum EU rates are stipulated in national law in the general tax code (CGI) (Articles 302 b N to W, WA, WB, WC and WD to WG).

For controls on imports of products of plant origin (enhanced controls and emergency measures), the amounts are set in official ministerial orders.

Another certification tax on livestock movements has been created in France. This tax is levied by **FranceAgriMer** and provide funding for the scheme "Certiv to" (certification by veterinarians of live animals for movements).

In the case of **SEMAE**, the budget is completely financed by mandatory voluntary contributions (CVO). There are four types of CVO based on the business activity of the contributor. CVO amounts can be found on the SEMAE website in the inter-professional agreements: <https://www.semae.fr/accords-interprofessionnels/>.

When applications for marketing authorisations (AMMs) for plant protection products are submitted, **Anses** levies taxes that generate proceeds for allocation to the funding of the processing of those applications and AMM management. Lastly, Anses levies another tax through the Directorate-General for Public Finances (DGFiP), calculated on the revenue generated by AMMs for plant protection products marketed in France. This is used to fund drug safety monitoring programmes.

Where the **INAO** is concerned, in the specific case of certification bodies, the Institute is responsible for the application of controls over EU quality and origin signage, as well as organic farming. The cost of these controls is borne by the operators.

For the **DGS**, the costs of sampling bottled water products and testing (at the source and at the bottling point, before or after bottling) to verify sanitary safety are also borne by the operators.

1.1.3.2 - Staff resources

Control departments and agencies employ staff who have received initial scientific, legal or economics training alongside administrative personnel.

Depending on the status of the relevant competent authority, the staffing comprises public servants (permanent and others under contract) and employees working under private-sector employment contracts.

The staffing allocated by the competent authorities to the application of controls are adjusted annually and are shown in Annex 4.

Impartiality – absence of conflict of interest

Articles 25 and 25b of French law 83-634 of 13 July 1983 on the rights and obligations of public servants set out the conditions to be met by government employees, whether in permanent posts or working under contract, and one of those conditions is the absence of conflicts of interest.

Comparable provisions are included in the obligations and duties of military personnel (French defence code, Articles L. 4122-1 to L. 4122-10) and apply to veterinarians and veterinary technicians in the armed forces.

In the specific case of AMM applications for plant protection products, in order to preserve the independence of Anses, a charter governing relationships with persons or entities presenting potential conflicts of interest aims to ensure the traceability of contacts with stakeholders and to forewarn of any risk of compromise to the Agency's independence. Furthermore, the staff of Anses, depending on their role, as well as members of collegial bodies (specialised expert committees (CES), the Marketing Authorisation Monitoring Committee, the Administrative Committee (CA), etc.) are required to hold and keep up to date a public declaration of interest³.

Internal procedures supplement the national rules and enable potential risks of loss of impartiality to be indicated. Specifically, in their annual evaluation interviews members of staff are urged to declare any risk of compromise to their impartiality in the performance of their duties, due for example to personal relationships with operators or a particular area of activity.

Impartiality is also fundamental for the CTIFL to carry out its control activities. Risk analysis on independence and impartiality is carried out at regular intervals. Inspectors undertake to declare any potential links of interest which they may have, and action plans are implemented if necessary.

³[Decision No. 2025-046 of 24 March 2025 concerning the list of roles held by staff and collegial bodies of the National Agency for Food, Environmental and Occupational Health Safety subject to the provisions relating to the public declaration of interests \(PDF\)](https://www.anses.fr/system/files/RAA-2025AF008.pdf)
<https://www.anses.fr/system/files/RAA-2025AF008.pdf>

Impartiality is a major focus of the objectives and performance contract signed by SEMAE. Accredited under ISO 17065, this inter-professional representative body has implemented arrangements to ensure the impartiality of its activities:

- the existence of a Control Committee whose purpose is to protect the impartiality of the Directorate for quality and official control when performing the activities entrusted to it;
- identification of risks which may possibly compromise SEMAE impartiality in the Directorate for quality and official control certification activities and detailed procedures for managing such risks, either to eliminate or reduce them as far as possible;
- an annual undertaking to avoid conflicts of interest entered into by each member of staff responsible for control and certification activities.

1.1.3.3 - Designation of official and reference laboratories

Official controls on the food chain and surveillance and control measures in animal health and plant health include the performance of laboratory tests. The network of laboratories carrying out those tests comprises laboratories responsible for official testing, known as “official laboratories”, some of which have also been designated as National Reference Laboratories (NRLs). The lists of laboratories are in the public domain and can be found on the websites of the competent authorities.

Official laboratories

Each competent authority designates official laboratories for the performance of the official tests for which it is responsible. Those laboratories must notably meet criteria of confidentiality, impartiality and independence. They are accredited under standard ISO/IEC 17025 by the French Accreditation Committee (COFRAC⁴) for the missions entrusted to them in their capacity as official laboratories⁵.

The **DGAL** works with a network of over 120 laboratories to which it grants official approval in one or more test domains according to the testing required, based on responses to calls for applications. The majority of the laboratories approved in this way are test laboratories for *départements* attached to departmental local government councils, especially with regard to animal health and food sanitary safety. In certain areas of testing, the laboratory networks also include the Anses laboratories, government laboratories in the national joint laboratory service (SCL - see below), laboratories in teaching and research facilities and other laboratories (e.g. private-sector, inter-professional). The various laboratory networks are adjusted as needed to meet testing needs. Each regional, departmental or local agency has access to all the laboratories in the networks established by the competent authorities for the performance of tests. In the event of a crisis, an emergency procedure enables laboratories to be officially approved in order to meet an immediate need for tests. The DGAL’s network of accredited laboratories is adapted on an ongoing basis (by creating new networks and expanding existing ones), in order to meet new requirements for official analyses, such as those relating to the development and validation of methods, emerging animal diseases or oversight of new contaminants.

The networks of accredited laboratories are managed and coordinated by the national reference laboratories, described in the following section.

The **DGDDI** and the **DGCCRF** rely on the network of laboratories run by the Joint Laboratory Service (SCL) to carry out analyses. This is a service with national remit shared by both directorates. This network is made up of 11 government laboratories, scattered around the country. Their competencies are laid down in an official order issued by the Minister of the Economy. Additionally, the SCL may call on the services of approved laboratories on a list published by official order. And lastly, in the event of an emergency or an exceptional need for special expertise, it may call upon a laboratory capable of providing testing, subject to its control. The SCL’s scientific activities are organised into 29 fields spread across its 11 centres (Marseille, Bordeaux, Montpellier, Rennes, Lille, Strasbourg, Lyon, Paris, Le Havre, the French West Indies and Réunion).

The **DGS** uses its own network of 124 laboratories approved for checks on water for human consumption.

The **SSA** uses the laboratories approved by the DGAL.

The **INAO** approves laboratories for the testing done by certification bodies.

⁴This accreditation may also be granted by another equivalent EU accreditation body.

⁵In domains for which COFRAC accreditation exists.

The laboratories used by **FranceAgriMer** are those approved by the DGAL for plant health. It only accredits laboratories for analyses carried out on samples relating to Book II of the Rural and Maritime Fishing Code.

The **CTIFL** uses laboratories accredited by the DGAL for quarantine organisms (OQ and OQP) and, in particular, on the national reference laboratory (ANSES) for regulated non-quarantine organisms.

SEMAE works with laboratories approved by the DGAL for quarantine pests and seed potatoes and with the GEVES national reference laboratory for non-quarantine regulated pests.

National Reference Laboratories

National Reference Laboratories (NRLs) operate in conjunction with European Union Reference Laboratories (EURLs) to drive networks of official laboratories and improve testing. Specifically, their missions include:

- development, optimisation and validation of test methods;
- technical leadership of the network of official laboratories, including where applicable the organisation of interlaboratory proficiency ring testing and training;
- performance of certain analyses, most notably for result confirmation, where necessary.

These laboratories also contribute to scientific and technical vigilance programmes in their respective domains and provide their scientific and technical expertise to the competent authorities. In this way, they play a key role in building knowledge of hazards and collecting data from the laboratory networks.

Each competent authority designates NRLs to match the activities for which that authority is responsible (based on official orders in the case of the **DGAL**, through its quality system in that of the DGCCRF, via the Anses statutes for the DGS). Reference missions are therefore additional to performance of official tests.

Accordingly, the official order of 30 March 2023, as amended by the official order of 15 July 2025, sets out the list of NRLs in the fields of veterinary and plant health.

In total, the NRLs designated by the DGAL will cover 101 areas of competency in France by 2025: 37 mandates for biological (16 mandates) and chemical (21 mandates) contaminants in the food chain, 41 mandates for animal diseases, 3 mandates for GMOs and 19 mandates for plant health. The majority of reference mandates have been granted to the various **Anses** (64) laboratories, while the SCL holds 18 reference mandates. Furthermore, the SCL operates several Reference Laboratories (RLs) specialising in food fraud (Reference Laboratories as defined in the official order of 3 February 2014 setting out the SCL's remit).

Furthermore, as part of the new European mandate on Food, Ingredients and Additives, the Joint Laboratories Service (SCL), which now holds 18 reference mandates, has been granted a new mandate for food improvement agents at its Strasbourg site (official order of 15 July 2025 amending the official order of 30 March 2023 designating the national reference laboratories in the field of veterinary and plant health). Furthermore, the SCL now carries out the DGAL's PSPC (Oversight and Control Plans) analyses for foodstuffs of plant origin (DAOV) and animal feed samples taken outside livestock farms, as part of the establishment of the Single Health Police.

Following the issuance of European calls for candidacies, a number of these NRLs have been designated as EURLs by the European Commission, notably in the areas of microbiology, residues and contaminants in food, animal health and plant health, or as EURC (European Union Reference Centres) in the field of animal welfare. It should be noted that more than one NRL can be appointed for one and the same EURL. Additionally, 12 EURL mandates have been awarded to French institutions (11 to Anses and 1 to Cirad), making France the Member State with the highest number of European mandates.

In the field of fraud detection, the SCL has a benchmark mandate entitled "Moisture content of fresh, chilled and frozen poultry and poultry cuts" at its Montpellier site (L34). This NRL operates solely at national level, as there is no EU reference laboratory for this subject area.

Furthermore, the SCL operates several Reference Laboratories (RLs) specialising in food fraud (Reference Laboratories as defined in the official order of 3 February 2014 setting out the SCL's remit).

The official order of 30 March 2023 defines and supplements the list of national reference laboratories in the fields of veterinary and plant health, in order to take account of developments, in particular those linked to the entry into force of European Regulation (EU) 2016/429 on "animal health". Further developments, relating in particular to the introduction of new mandates ("porcine reproductive and respiratory syndrome", "*Pomaceae*", "feed additives") or to changes in the status of certain plant pests, led to an amendment to this official order in July 2025.

In addition to the NRLs set out in this decree, there is an NRL for determining the water content of fresh, chilled and frozen poultry and poultry cuts in accordance with Regulation (EC) No 2008/543.

The Anses Nancy Hydrology Laboratory is also designated by the **DGS** as the National Reference Laboratory for the chemical and microbiological health monitoring of water intended for human consumption. It is designated by the DGS and the DEB as the National Reference Laboratory for monitoring SARS-CoV-2 in wastewater and sewage sludge from wastewater treatment plants.

Lists of official laboratories and National Reference Laboratories

The lists of laboratories are regularly updated to reflect changes in the needs for official testing in the various regulatory domains.

For the **DGAL**, **FranceAgriMer**, **SEMAE** and the **CTIFL**, the designated laboratories are categorised under different headings: food, animal health, plant health and rabies. The link to the ministerial order designating the NRLs can be found on each of the following pages: <https://agriculture.gouv.fr/les-laboratoires-designes..>

For the **DGCCRF** and the **DGDDI**, the joint laboratory service: <https://www.economie.gouv.fr/dgccrf/comprendre-la-dgccrf/lorganisation-de-la-dgccrf/le-service-commun-des-laboratoires-dgddi-et-dgccrfhttps://www.economie.gouv.fr/dgccrf/comprendre-la-dgccrf/lorganisation-de-la-dgccrf/le-service-commun-des-laboratoires-dgddi-et-dgccrf>

For the **INAO**, approved laboratories: <https://www.inao.gouv.fr/sites/default/files/2025-10/LISTE-LABORATOIRES-HABILITES-INAO.pdf>

For the **DGS**, accredited laboratories and the NRL <https://sante.gouv.fr/sante-et-environnement/eaux/article/laboratoires-agrees-pour-le-controle-sanitaire-des-eaux> and NRL: <https://www.anses.fr/fr/content/laboratoire-dhydrologie-de-nancy>.

1.1.3.4 – Information systems – operator registration

Each competent authority has an information system which enables it to carry out all or part of the following tasks in its respective area of activity:

- operator registration in accordance with the nature of their activities, in order to identify sector professionals and the regulatory obligations to which they are subject. Operator registration is based on declarations of activity submitted to INSEE and supplemented by specific information following an additional obligation to submit a declaration to the control agencies and information provided by agencies gathered in the course of their control activities;
- issuance and withdrawal of official authorisations where these are required in order to undertake certain activities, for example the approval of establishments processing animal products, approval of certain producers of animal feed, authorisation for live animal transportation, and authorisation of plant health passports for operators offering plants for sale;
- registration of animals and their movements, which may be individual, as in the case of cattle, or by "batch" in that of poultry;
- production of control, testing and oversight programmes;
- logging completed inspections, observed non-compliance and the corresponding steps taken (i.e. warnings, official demands to remedy, penalty notices), including details of testing;
- storage of history of alerts;
- the monitoring of the sanitary status of animals and livestock farms in accordance with screening programmes;
- the monitoring of the plant health situation.

Delegated organisations and competent authorities may have access to these information systems or have developed their own such systems.

Furthermore, the competent authorities use the European Commission's information systems (TRACES-NT) for imports (DGAL and DGDDI – excluding standard customs clearance) or for intra-EU trade.

The **DGAL** possesses an information system – RESYTAL – and the legacy applications of SIGAL, its former system.

In the area of plant health, operators are registered using a single database made available by the DGAL for professional operators. The information is then passed on according to the respective remits of the competent authorities (DGAL, SEMAE, FranceAgriMer, CTIFL) for the granting of authorisations to issue plant passports. In addition to this, FranceAgriMer has its own information system for the monitoring of crops, as well as the professionals in the sector for which it is responsible. SEMAE has an information system – EPAD – used to monitor businesses, crops and consignments, plus an internal EDM (Electronic Document Management) resource. CTIFL has an internal information system for monitoring crops and inspections in its field of competence, as well as a SharePoint system for its document management.

The **DGCCRF** has multiple information systems: SESAM for recording operator details and data from investigations and reports, SORA for recording correspondence and the progress of legal proceedings, and DATAVIZ for the thematic analysis of activity and performance data.

The **INAO** has had an information system for monitoring operators and controls. The data input for this system comes from its delegated organisations, these being obliged to keep up-to-date lists of operators, completed controls procedures and their outcomes.

The **DGS** relies on a SISE-Eaux” food-related database for the results of health control of bottled water.

The **SSA** applies controls in facilities in the defence sector and has an information system used to monitor these and the controls applied.

Anses possesses an information system “TOP” (Traceability and Optimization of Processes) which provides data input for the “E-Phy” website containing a catalogue of plant protection products, fertilisers, growing media and additives, and their authorized uses in France.

1.2 - THE NATIONAL STRATEGY

1.2.1 – Aims

The scope of the Multiannual National Control Plan (MANCP) includes a distinction between two broad issues: the quality and safety of food for health, animals and plants and the quality of products and fair trade practices.

1.2.1.1 – Food chain sanitary safety

Every year, with over 390,000 farms and almost 720,000 facilities to check, around 190,000 checks (not including: export certification, testing, slaughterhouse meat inspections and surveillance of plant health and animal health) and more than 180,000 checks on import consignments are carried out for food chain sanitary safety. These are supplemented by oversight and control programmes for diseases affecting animal and plant health. The number of import health checks on foodstuffs of non-animal origin subject to enhanced controls and/or emergency measures (customs PCF) stood at 13,556 for 2024. Their purpose is:

- to prevent food-related risks for the human population: microbiological, chemical and physical risks;
- to prevent risks relating to animals (e.g. foodborne salmonellosis, zoonoses) and to farming practices (e.g. the use of antimicrobials and plant protection products) for human health, animal health and the environment;
- to prevent the introduction into France of animal diseases and organisms harmful to plants, animal health and welfare or plant health;
- to guarantee the sanitary and phytosanitary quality of French produce for the countries to which France exports.

They are carried out locally by around 6000 staff (full-time equivalents) notably:

- in the *départements*: in the departmental directorates responsible for protecting the public (DDPP and DDETSP) and the departmentally delegated bodies of the Regional Health Agencies (ARS);
- in the regions, in the regional directorates for food, agriculture and forests (DRAAF), the regional directorates for the economy, employment, work and solidarity (DREETS), the ARS and veterinary groups (VG) and Military Medical Centres (CMA) answering to the organic authority of the Military Medical Directorate (DMF) as well as public service delegated bodies;
- at border inspection posts for import controls;
- according to the specific territorial organisation of FranceAgriMer, SEMAE and CTIFL.

Additionally, staff with a national remit in the Veterinary and Phytosanitary Investigation Unit (BNEVP) at the DGAL act by carrying out sensitive inspections and investigations, or those of national or international scope, relating to fraudulent practices which may pose a threat to public health, plant health, animal health and the environment.

Food safety also encompasses animal health, the environment and plant health in the face of new threats.

The overall context has in fact changed:

- the opening up of markets and the expansion of trade flows have complicated market surveillance;
- the authorities are confronted with new risks, the potential consequences of which are sometimes difficult to predict in their entirety. Described as “new and emerging risks”, they may lead to a newly identified hazard or a new assessment of a hazard which has been known for many years, highlighting a sanitary concern (reassessment of toxicity, changes in consumer exposure, etc.). Such risks may stem from changes in the practices of operators or in modes of consumption. They may for example involve microbial pathologies whose effects have been underestimated or the characterisation of new chemical contaminants;
- societal concern for animal welfare is increasing;
- the risks of transmission of animal diseases to the human population have led to the development of a common approach under the title “One Health”;
- and lastly, the multiple risk factors and uncertainty as to the reality of the hazards and their relative importance fosters anxiety among consumers, who express their distrust of government statements.

1.2.1.2 – Product quality and fair trading

Since the transfer of food safety responsibilities from the DGCCRF to the DGAL, every year almost 40,000 checks on quality and fair trading are carried out along the entire food chain. Since 2023, there has been a focus on checks on the origin of food products. These checks in particular are aimed at:

- ensuring product compliance, as well as investigating and preventing fraud (product substitution, misrepresentation of origin or quality, etc.);
- verifying the accuracy of the information provided to consumers and of commercial practices (false advertising, most notably);
- verifying of adherence to the regulations on EU quality signage (PDO, PGI, TSG, organic farming) within the scope of regulation (EU) 2017/625, and specifically with regard to protected product names.

According to the DGCCRF, food inspections are performed by around 1,300 officers, representing 465 full-time equivalents (excluding support staff):

- in France’s *départements*: working within departmental directorates responsible for the protection of the public (DDPP and DDETSPP);
- in the regions: working within regional directorates for the economy, employment, work and solidarity (DREETS).

Additionally, the National Investigation Department (SNE) of the DGCCRF is active nationwide, especially for the detection of fraud.

Where control of food-related fraud is specifically concerned, CCRF agents’ procedures are based on national legislation (notably the consumer code and the code of criminal law procedure). This enables them to carry out on-site inspections and seizures and to collect confidential witness statements from “whistleblowers” (employees of agrifood firms who are witness to fraudulent practices, for example).

Lastly, 16 accredited and officially approved control bodies conduct approximately 170,000 verifications of compliance with the mandatory criteria for EU quality signage, acting under the responsibility of the INAO. The aim of these checks is to verify compliance with the specifications governing French products which claim or have obtained EU quality signage (PDO, PGI, TSG, organic farming) before being placed on the market. The INAO has around 231 full time equivalent (FTE) staff, 25.4⁶ of whom work on control of EU quality signage (organic farming, PDO, PGI, TSG).

⁶This figure relates to staff carrying out inspection duties at the INAO, including those relating to sectors which do not fall within the scope of the MANCP

1.2.2 – Performance management

France's finance act (LOLF) of 2001 implemented a performance-focused approach aimed at improving the efficacy of public policies. The budget aspect concerns not only the means, but also the effectiveness of spending in light of the objectives defined for each budget programme.

The finance bill sets out how funds are to be employed for each broad category, or "mission", in public policy relating to one or more government ministries. Each mission comprises a number of ministerial programmes within which distinct budget programmes are defined. Objectives are set for each programme at national level, associated with quantified indicators for measurement of the performance achieved by government departments and agencies in the pursuit of their designated targets.

This nomenclature is used in the annual performance plan (PAP), a document intended for the French parliament and appended to the finance bill. For a given budget year N, the PAP is drafted in year N-1 and sets out the strategy, objectives, funding and performance indicators and their quantified targets for year N. At the beginning of year N+1, the annual performance report (RAP) compares the results obtained with the expectations set out in the PAP. These two documents (PAP and RAP) are in the public domain and are available on the website <https://www.budget.gouv.fr/https://www.budget.gouv.fr/> for each budget mission and programme.

The competent authorities controlling the food chain pursue distinct budget missions and the presentations are therefore contained in different PAPs and RAPs. The strategic objectives defined in the annual performance plans (PAP) dedicated to the various competent authorities generally cover the whole range of their competencies. For that reason they may be far broader than the organisation of official controls and other official activities within the scope of the MANCP. The principal objectives and indicators within the scope of the MANCP are described in Annex 5.

The strategic objectives are broken down into operational objectives which are in essence roadmaps for the departments and agencies responsible for the missions.

The **DGAL** has set out its strategic vision for 2024–2027. It is structured around focused initiatives, with clear, concrete objectives, prioritised over time to enable proper monitoring and evaluation. It enables the DGAL to fully embody the "One Health" approach which places the interdependence between human health, animal health, plant health and environmental health at the heart of its work. It is structured around four key priorities: focusing the DGAL's collective efforts on high-stake objectives; promoting an integrated vision of food shared with society; attracting, engaging and developing the right skills; and improving the working environment (<https://agriculture.gouv.fr/la-dgal-definit-sa-vision-strategique-pour-la-periode-2024-2027>).

The **DGCCRF** publishes its strategic priorities annually in its national investigation programme (PNE), a document which contains the operational implementation of government policy on competition and consumer affairs, including food-related issues.

The **DGDDI** has strategic objectives focused on its customs-related missions.

The DMF (Veterinary Directorate) sets targets every year for the veterinary groups under its authority.

All the above forms the basis for management dialogue interviews conducted in the final quarter of the year between each programme manager and the managers of the operational budgets of that programme at regional level. These discussions allow an overview to be defined for current year N and to make the preparations for year N+1. It can also be verified that there is a satisfactory fit between the missions and the available resources in light of the defined objectives.

SEMAE signed a Objectives and Performance Agreement (COP) with the State on 10 December 2024, covering the period 2025–2027, and is committed to carrying out its public service duties under this clear and transparent agreement. The Objectives and Performance Agreement sets out SEMAE's strategic priorities to guarantee and ensure that inspections are carried out; that the inspection system is adapted to cover all types of seed for all forms of agriculture; that information is provided, particularly regarding protection against harmful organisms; that inspection rules are made publicly available; that the inspection system is simplified and digitised; and that effective responses are provided for any technical queries which may be raised.

An annual DGAL-CTIFL agreement is signed to define the control missions of the Plant Protection Passport carried out by **CTIFL** in its field of competence and the subsidy allocated by DGAL for this mission.

Anses is a public administrative body (EPA) operating under the supervision of four line ministries. A five-year COP (2023–2027) has been signed between Anses and its supervisory ministries. This sets out the objectives and enables mission monitoring, including the aspects linked to the issuance of marketing authorisations (AMM) and

permits, in addition to the control of plant protection products. This objectives and performance contract (COP) contains five strategic focuses for action:

- focus 1: A strengthened health risk assessment programme based on a “One Health” approach;
- focus 2: Harnessing scientific excellence to support public health emergencies and crises;
- focus 3: An ambitious research and reference policy aimed at promoting public health as part of a “One Health” approach;
- focus 4: A strong presence at national, European and international levels;
- focus 5: Transparent and efficiency-focused action.

The **INAO** COP signed at the start of 2024 lays down the strategic orientations for the performance of its missions for the management, control and protection of official origin and quality signage in France. A specific strategic focus “Enhancing control system security and public awareness” is included in this COP. The measures are aimed, in particular, at strengthening the oversight of checks. The scheme aimed at increasing the number of audits involving direct observation of delegated bodies has continued to make progress since its inception in 2022.

1.3 – THE PRINCIPLES OF RISK-BASED CONTROL PLANNING

In accordance with regulation (EU) 2017/625, the planning of the whole range of controls is dependent on a risk analysis applicable to all areas: health and protection of consumers, animal health, plant health, animal protection and animal feed.

The competent authorities define their priorities and plan their control activities based in particular on the following:

- scientific knowledge of hazards and consumer exposure (microbiological hazards such as salmonella and Listeria, chemical hazards such as those relating to plant protection products, food additives, contaminants and food contact materials);
- scientific and technical knowledge relating to risks in animal feed, to human health, animal health and welfare, and the environment;
- scientific and economic knowledge in the area of fraud risk;
- scientific knowledge and the impact of various diseases on animal health and plant health;
- the economic context (e.g. lack of supply of an essential commodity) and/or changes in technology or behaviour (e.g. the development of online shopping);
- information provided in connection with cooperation with other national or foreign competent authorities and the European Commission (e.g. deceptive practices relating to horsemeat, improper use of quality signage designating product origin);
- higher-risk operators identified in earlier control procedures, along with higher-risk sectors;
- instances of non-compliance observed with regard to the various regulations, especially their frequency or gravity;
- complaints and reports received from consumers, professionals or whistleblowers.

Where food safety in the food chain is concerned, the planning of the control authorities also includes certain obligations laid down in EU regulation, for example in relation to meat inspections, and detection of residues in foodstuffs (plant protection products, biocides, veterinary medicines). The same considerations apply to plant and animal health, where control and surveillance programmes derive from EU obligations. They rely on the National Agency for Food Safety, Environment and Work (ANSES), which carries out risk assessments (in the areas of food, environment and work) in order to provide input for the public authorities in defining their sanitary policy. The control bodies also rely on human health information provided by the National Agency for public health - *Santé Publique France* (ANSP), combining missions relating to surveillance, vigilance and alerts in all domains linked to human public health.

Responding to a request from the DGAL, DGS and DGCCRF, Anses published a document ranking food related risks. This document contains both a study of the attributed sources of foodborne infectious diseases⁷ (2017, 2018), the optimisation of monitoring and official control systems for chemical contamination of foodstuffs at all

⁷ [Anses STUDY and REPORT on attributed sources of foodborne infectious diseases](#) (2017, Part 1)

⁸ [Anses STUDY and REPORT on attributed sources of foodborne infectious diseases](#) (2018, Part 2)

stages of the food chain⁹ (2019) and a methodology for ranking biological and chemical hazards in food¹⁰ (2020). This work is continuing with the development and implementation of PrioR, a tool for prioritising biological and chemical risks associated with food, which helps to guide monitoring and control plans¹¹ for the agri-food industry. An initial report on the application of the methodology to the 'beef' sector has been drawn up¹².

Furthermore, following a referral from the DGAL, and as part of its regular national monitoring activities, ANSES has published a report on the assessment of the criteria taken into account in the risk analysis for planning the DGAL's¹³ official controls. This report focuses in particular on the factors guiding inspections of establishments authorised under Regulation (EC) No 853/2004 (2022). Work is continuing in this area with regard to establishments not subject to health authorisation.

The ANSP updated its report on "morbidity and mortality due to foodborne diseases of infectious origin" with the publication of new statistics in 2018. The combined results of these studies enable a more effective definition of priorities to be made, and the measures to be focused on effectively reducing the burden of foodborne disease.

With regard to animal feed, ANSES has also published several studies on risk ranking¹⁴ and on monitoring and control plans¹⁵. These studies will be regularly updated.

Where quality and fair trading practices are concerned, the services also include in their planning any relevant information: alerts transmitted via the network of investigative services; notifications from the ACN alert and cooperation network, in particular the European "Food Fraud" network; as well as information from the administrative assistance and cooperation system known as the "AAC system", and European and international reports.

With regard to imports from third countries, the planning of sanitary controls upstream from customs procedures is largely established at EU level. For the purposes of inspecting foodstuffs of non-animal origin produced through organic farming, the DGDDI's departments base their inspections on a risk analysis.

1.4 – GENERAL ORGANISATION OF OFFICIAL CONTROLS AND OTHER OFFICIAL ACTIVITIES

1.4.1 – Statutory powers – staff empowerment

The powers conferred within the scope of the MANCP are set out in the Rural and Maritime Fishing Code (Book II – Food, veterinary public health and the protection of plants, and Book VI – Production and markets), in the Consumer Code (Book V – Investigative powers and control follow-up) and in the public health code (Book III – Protection of Health and the Environment, and Book IV – General health administration). The main statutory foundations for these powers are described in Annex 2.

Depending on their respective missions, staff responsible for control activities are empowered:

- to conduct checks and inspections;
- to detect and to confirm non-compliance and offences;
- to note the occurrence or suspicion of a regulated animal disease or the presence of plant pests.

In this context, they are able to enter premises between 8 a.m. and 8 p.m. or at any time when such premises are open to the general public or in operation, and to take samples.

⁹ [Anses STUDY and REPORT on the optimisation of monitoring and official control plans for chemical contamination of foodstuffs at all stages of the food chain \(excluding animal feed and water\)](#)

¹⁰ [Anses STUDY and REPORT on ranking biological and chemical hazards with a view to optimising food safety](#)

¹¹ [Scientific and technical guidance note on the development and implementation of a tool for prioritising biological and chemical risks associated with food. Part 1: Identification and specification of criteria relating to biological and chemical hazards](#)

¹² [STUDY on the development and implementation of a tool for ranking biological and chemical risks associated with food. Part 2: Identification and specification of criteria relating to food-biological and chemical hazard combinations in the 'beef' sector](#)

¹³ [Anses STUDY and REPORT on the assessment of the criteria taken into account in the risk analysis for planning official controls under the remit of the General Directorate for Food](#)

¹⁴ [Anses STUDY on ranking chemical hazards in animal feed](#)

[Anses STUDY and REPORT on the hazard posed by *Salmonella* spp. in animal feed](#)

[Anses STUDY and REPORT on the identification and characterisation of microbial hazards associated with raw materials of plant origin used in animal feed](#)

¹⁵ [Anses STUDY on the analysis of monitoring and control plans for undesirable substances in animal feed](#)

Under the authority of a Prefect (or the Minister of Defence in the case of the SSA), staff may take enforcement steps in order to forestall a risk to public health: ordering action to be taken to ensure compliance, withdrawal of products from sale, suspension or cessation of business, among other measures.

Administrative enforcement measures may also be implemented to ensure that practices or products are brought back into compliance where breaches relating to the quality and fair trade of products and transactions are identified.

In connection with import sanitary controls, they may in particular refuse entry into the country.

Where animal health and plant health are concerned, in the event of detection of a case or an outbreak, once again subject to the authority of a Prefect (or the Minister of Defence in the case of the SSA), they can order the implementation of necessary control measures such as livestock isolation and slaughter, the uprooting of plants or plant treatment.

These same legal texts define competencies for the issuance of official permits such as marketing authorisations (AMM) for plant protection products.

1.4.2 – Skills management

1.4.2.1 – Job descriptions: desired skills

The competent authorities seek to define the skills required for the performance of the missions assigned to them. For that purpose they possess “job” reference criteria backed by an interministerial catalogue of government activities (RIME).

For example, the catalogue of missions and activities of the Ministry of Agriculture and its public-sector entities (RMM) aims to develop human resource management by quality consistent with the forward-looking studies conducted by the Observatory of Missions and Activities (OMM). This is used as a reference by managers in drafting job descriptions, assessing the skill requirements for their respective departments, conducting professional interviews and determining their training needs with staff members. The catalogue describes the activities required across the Ministry as a whole in over 300 typical job descriptions grouped in 23 employment sectors.

Additionally, the **DGAL**’s quality-based management approach has entailed the implementation of a number of specific skill management procedures:

- an induction process for members of staff assigned to a new inspection tasks. This will include an initial evaluation of their skills, a programme for acquisition of the necessary skills (a formal qualification pathway), and a final evaluation enabling them to be qualified as inspectors and to sign off inspection reports in their own right;
- supervision by qualified inspectors in line with identified needs.

The reference criteria of the **DGCCRF** for jobs and skills comprises 73 job descriptions: 13 are described as “core CCRF activities”, and 117 as skill sets. A small number of these job descriptions can be cited here: e-commerce investigator, fair trade investigator, product and service quality and safety inspector, national sector network leader, complaints manager, quality manager and alert monitoring manager.

For the **SSA**, the functions of veterinarian and veterinary technician are also defined in the Ministerial Job Reference system (REM) and are the subject of REM job descriptions (ETR).

FranceAgriMer has 10 functions relating to its role as a competent authority, and it has a framework setting out the expected skill sets. In this way, FranceAgriMer ensures that the staff involved have the necessary skills and that these are maintained over time. As such, the organisation implements a policy of training, certification and ongoing supervision of staff. These staff qualification programmes are implemented for all types of inspections carried out.

For **SEMAE**, its job catalogue identifies 76 functions of which 16 are dedicated to control and certification with 39 corresponding skill sets. The mandatory skills for the exercise of control and certification powers are defined in the job description pack of the Directorate for Quality and Official Control. This is composed of training and

mentorship programmes. The missions and responsibilities for control and certification activities are defined in the decision chain of the Directorate for Quality and Official Control.

The **CTIFL** has a quality manager and about ten inspectors involved in health inspection missions. Two of the inspectors are also technical managers who manage the planning, follow-up of the inspections, decisions concerning the authorisation to issue the plant passports, issuing of the plant passports and links with the other competent authorities. The functions of inspector, quality manager and technical manager are defined in the quality manual. A procedure describes the management of competences: selection, accreditation process, accreditation, maintenance of competences, monitoring, and suspension. All the functions involved are regularly monitored.

Anses seeks specific skill sets for the processing of AMM applications for regulated products, as well as the associated vigilance and inspection activities. These are subject to specific oversight through Anses's ISO 9001 certification process.

For all the competent authorities, the line manager of each staff member is responsible for managing the latter's skills:

- on his or her entry into post, by conducting an induction process comprising an evaluation of the person's skills and their match with the missions to be entrusted to him or to her, for example by implementing a qualification pathway as is the case for the DGAL and the SSA, or, in the case of the INAO, the building of a personalised skill overview in conjunction with the training department in order to identify the training needed by the staff member;
- line managers must constantly endeavour to ensure that the skills of their staff are maintained. They should verify that this is the case every year, for example in the annual evaluation interviews.

1.4.2.2 – Initial training

Candidate selection

Initial training allows staff to acquire, develop and make good use of their professional skills. Recruitment by all competent authorities is largely based on competitive examinations.

The **DGAL** uses competitive examinations to recruit Veterinary Public Health Inspectors (ISPV), engineers from the Corps of Bridges, Waters and Forests (IPEF), Agricultural and Environmental Engineers (IAE) and Category A public servants. It also recruits Category B personnel, higher-level technicians at the Ministry of Agriculture (TSMA). These members of staff are trained in various government-run schools over periods of one or two years. The DGAL may also call upon staff under contract to meet short-term or permanent needs for the implementation of its missions. Some profiles require specific qualifications: a doctorate in veterinary medicine for example.

The **DGCCRF** uses competitive examinations to recruit inspectors (Category A), controllers (Category B) and laboratory engineers (Category A), all of which follow a variety of initial training courses (scientific, legal, economic, etc.). Those who are successful in their examinations then attend one year of statutory training at the National School for Competition, Consumer Affairs and Fraud Control (ENCCRF). This training alternates between classroom learning and time spent on the job. Responsibility for training is assigned to the head of the sub-directorate for human resources, financial affairs and organisation, who is assisted by the office for skills promotion.

The **SSA** conducts recruitment based on competitive tests or military veterinary qualifications (officer rank), higher-level studies and manufacturing technician diplomas (TSEF – Category B) and higher-level hospital technicians (TSH) / veterinary technicians (armed forces hospital military nurse and technician – MITHA – a non-commissioned officer rank).

The **INAO** is comprised of staff with a variety of initial training, usually closely related to knowledge of agriculture and its products and how they are processed. The levels for initial training courses are stipulated by statutory provisions. As are also the skills and aptitudes required for the various functions, these being subject to formal definition in descriptions subject to formal opinions issued by joint management/staff representative committees.

The Ministry of Health (for the **DGS** and **ARS**) recruits by competitive examination, and in particular for engineers specialising in biomedical engineering, specialist sanitary studies engineers, biomedical and sanitary safety technicians, medical doctors and pharmacists acting as public health inspectors.

FranceAgriMer recruits inspectors who have received a wide range of types of initial training. They attend specific training for the performance of official control tasks in the grapevine propagation material sector (vine cuttings

and plants). These courses are provided by organisations of reference and in-house. New staff members receive support and mentoring during field inspections as part of their induction programme.

The Directorate for quality and official control of **SEMAE** is staffed by personnel whose initial training and past experience usually relate to agriculture, especially crop growing, or control and certification activities. SEMAE implements a training pathway which combines knowledge of the working environment with a job description package for all new members of staff. This job description package identifies a number of mandatory skill sets required for the exercise of official powers to conduct certain control and certification procedures. This is composed of training and mentorship programmes.

CTIFL recruits inspectors with various initial training backgrounds, generally related to plant production. They are trained during their accreditation process with the support of tutored inspections. Technical operating procedures facilitate the learning of working methods as well as rigorous supervision, particularly during the first year of inspection.

Anses recruits scientific, technical and administrative staff to carry out its remit in the areas of risk assessment, the granting of marketing authorisations within its areas of competence, and research and reference activities. Their skill set is based on a foundation of initial skills determined by their qualifications and experience (CV). Any conflicts of interest are checked before they take up their post.

The **DGDDI** uses competitive examinations to recruit inspectors (Category A), controllers (Category B) and customs officers (*agents de constatations*) (Categories C) with a variety of profiles (scientific, legal, economic, etc.). Those who are successful in their examinations then attend statutory training lasting a year or six months, according to their category, at the La Rochelle or Tourcoing customs schools. This training alternates between classroom learning and time spent on the job. Responsibility for training is assigned to the national directorate for recruitment and professional training (DNRFP) in coordination with the human resources subdirectorate.

Government schools and training courses

Several schools train staff at the Ministry of Agriculture (for the **DGAL**):

- in the case of technicians, the national institute for the training of Ministry of Agriculture staff (INFOMA): <http://www.infoma.agriculture.gouv.fr> <http://www.infoma.agriculture.gouv.fr> ;
- for ISPVs, the national veterinary services school (ENSV): <https://www.ensv.fr> <https://www.ensv.fr> ;
- for engineers, AgroParisTech, the National Institute of Life and Environmental Sciences and Industries, formed from the merger of three engineering grandes écoles (ENGREF, the National School for Rural, Water and Forest Engineers; ENSIA, the National School of Agricultural and Food Industries; and INA P-G, the Paris-Grignon National Agronomic Institute) and the Institut Agro Dijon.

Staff dealing with primary shellfish production are not attached to the Ministry of Agriculture but to the Department of Maritime Affairs (public servants recruited by competitive examination) and before taking up their posts they receive training dispensed by the Maritime Affairs Training Schools – Training Centres and Documentation Group (GECFDAM) whose headquarters are in Bordeaux (Gironde).

Where the **DGCCRF** is concerned, the National School for Competition Policy, Consumer Affairs and Fraud Control (ENCCRF). It has a national-level remit and provides national training. It offers initial training courses and organises the annual programme of continuous training for DGCCRF staff and SCL staff (statutory training for laboratory directors and engineers). The ENCCRF teaches professional practice and prepares trainees for the job of investigator. The courses offer formal qualification pathways to give officers the essential tools for the professional and responsible performance of their future duties. DGCCRF executive-level staff attend specific training courses in management, mission oversight, technical training (quality assurance, management tools, crisis management, SOLPA – monitoring of operators regarding food product compliance, etc.) and inter-ministerial cooperation. They also enjoy access to all the “job-specific” courses in the DGCCRF training catalogue and to courses offered by the Public Service Schools Network (RESP), Regional Platforms for Inter-ministerial Assistance in Human Resources Management (PFRH), the Institute for Public Management and Economic Development (IGPDE) and other organisations.

The ENCCRF website: <http://www.economie.gouv.fr/dgccrf/La-DGCCRF/ecole-nationale-ccrf-encrf> <http://www.economie.gouv.fr/dgccrf/La-DGCCRF/ecole-nationale-ccrf-encrf>.

For the Ministry of Health (**DGS** and **ARS**), initial training is provided by the Higher School of Public Health (EHESP): <https://www.ehesp.fr> <https://www.ehesp.fr>.

In the case of the **SSA**, all staff responsible for conducting official inspections – military veterinarians and technicians (MITHA/TSH non-commissioned officers) and civilian technicians (TSEF) – attend specific training provided by the Val-de-Grâce School. To supplement the academic training (veterinarians, MITHA/TSH and TSEF) specific to each corps, this practical training enables inspectors to acquire the knowledge needed for their assigned tasks. To this theoretical training a formal qualification pathway has been added, a practical training course comprising a final evaluation, which is necessary for the performance of inspections.

With regards to the **DGDDI**, the DNRFP (the National Directorate for Recruitment and Vocational Training and a national-level department) is responsible for the provision of recruitment and training services for Customs personnel. It coordinates the training provided in the two Customs schools (END Tourcoing and END La Rochelle), and also coordinates the continuous training programmes provided by the professional training departments of each interregional directorate. Initial training courses include a module on health, biological and marketing standards checks carried out on imports prior to customs clearance. Officers are also trained in the clearance of goods subject to veterinary, phytosanitary or health checks (verification that the relevant public order document has been presented).

1.4.2.3 – Continuous training

Entitlement to training is recognised in Article 22 of the Public Servant General Status document and is developed in official decree 2007-1470 on lifelong professional training for government servants. Each national administration has a programme and organisation for defining the need for continuous training and establishing the corresponding programme, set out in an orientation memorandum. Funding is reserved for this. These matters are part of the process of dialogue with staff in the ministries.

This organisation involves the designation of a local training manager who provides the interface between staff, line management and the training catalogue. He or she may also be involved in arranging courses at local level.

Training courses may be organised internally, within the finance ministries by the ENCCRF (National School of Competition, Consumer Affairs and Fraud Prevention), a department attached to the DGCCRF, or the IGPDE (Institute of Public Management and Economic Development), a department attached to the finance ministries. Outside service providers in the public or private sectors may be brought in. Training courses common to different competent authorities are put in place and have been developing since the creation of the inter-ministerial departmental directorates with the inception of regional inter-ministerial training. Similarly, the **DGDDI** is called upon to take part in certain training courses organised by the DGAL. Government schools contribute to the organisation of courses for continuous training. To supplement these, exchanges of good practice are arranged (e.g. for the sharing of compliance decisions between inspectors working in the same field).

Frequently, as part of the performance evaluation interviews, each line manager establishes the training needs for individual members of staff and passes this information on to local training managers. These technical training needs can also be established within the framework of quality approaches

An immediate on-the-spot evaluation is carried out on completion of each continuous training course using an assessment questionnaire to be completed by each attendee. The summation of these questionnaires allows the performance of the course to be assessed. Some courses are covered by a later evaluation procedure.

Specific courses are provided for mandated veterinarians.

In the case of the **INAO**, a dedicated department can provide INAO staff with appropriate courses for their professional environment and working methods. These courses in particular deal with the control domain but also product knowledge in technical, regulatory, economic or sensory aspects. Training is covered in three-year plans delivered in annual programmes which focus on certain high-priority activities. These are subject to a formal opinion issued by the joint management/staff committees in each establishment.

Continuous training is an **SSA** priority with the objective of guaranteeing a high level of technical competence for its personnel. The quality management system in the SSA allows continuous training needs to be identified and monitored.

Continuous training is also a priority for the **DGCCRF**. This general directorate has implemented a training catalogue which is published each year. In 2026, 174 vocational training courses will be offered to staff. The catalogue takes into account the priorities determined at the ministerial and inter-ministerial levels as well as issues specific to the DGCCRF's missions, including regulatory and technological developments. It aims to maintain and to develop staff skill sets and to train investigators, especially those responsible for enquiries which form part of the National Investigation Programme (PNE), and for which officers need to be operational at short notice.

Staff at **FranceAgriMer** are trained in regulatory requirements for the performance of official controls.

For staff who are already qualified there are two core focuses for continuous training:

- the training policy of the establishment: during the annual evaluation interviews information is gathered on training needs and wishes and these are addressed by the establishment's human resources department;
- as part of quality management of the vine cuttings and plants programme, a system of supervision and qualification is implemented annually. This supervision enables any loss of skills for key controls to be detected and, if needed, the member of staff can recommence a training cycle, this being based mainly on mentorship and support from duly qualified officers.

For **SEMAE** and **CTIFL**, skills are maintained by means of a training plan, a minimum level of professional activity and regular staff supervision.

For the **DGDDI**, continuous training is organised under a national three-year training and skill development plan (2024-2026), with annual production of a training catalogue. This national offering of training is supplemented and rolled out across the regions in Interregional Training Plans (PIF). A training course is offered each year to staff responsible for carrying out health and biological checks and/or checks on fruit and vegetables subject to marketing standards, and to staff working at regional level (within the Economic Action Division) as regulatory advisors on these checks.

According to **Anses**, the training programme undertaken by inspectors meets the traceable objectives of the ISO 9001 quality management system, involving an assessment of their knowledge base, mentoring and, where necessary, the exchange of best practice between inspectors from various Anses inspection sectors. Furthermore, Anses takes into account specific needs identified during staff members' annual appraisals, which are addressed through training opportunities offered by the Human Resources Department.

Additionally, staff in the competent authorities attend "*Better Training for Safer Food*" (BTSF) courses offered by the European Commission.

1.4.2.4 – Skill maintenance and expert networks

In addition to continuous training schemes, skill maintenance is ensured by recognising expertise.

For example, the **DGAL** has set up networks of experts, reference and resource individuals that this comprises is aimed at maintaining and consolidating the technical skill sets of staff. The scheme comprises 69 "national experts of reference" in 2025 working full time and over 123 "resource persons" part of whose working time is devoted to the network, which operates subject to the authority of the DGAL.

The objectives pursued are as follows:

- to consolidate internal capacity for expertise on risk management, which is necessary for the effectiveness of France's sanitary safety system;
- to clarify the procedures for the operation of the national expert network with a view to enhanced recognition of the latter and a better fit between needs and resources;
- to drive the expert network in the shared interest of departments and staff.

There are two goals: the aim is first to preserve the close link with activities on the ground necessary for action in the closest possible proximity to stakeholders, seeking to explain and affirm government policy, and secondly to formalise and improve the management of this national network of experts of reference in order to pool their skills and their activities. The Expertise Orientation and Monitoring Committee (COSE) in the Ministry enables recognition of the qualifications as specialists or experts of certain members of the national expertise scheme.

Where the **DGCCRF** is concerned, regional and interregional technical days and meetings of sector networks (quality signage, fruit and vegetables, cider, foie gras, dairy products, etc.) allow staff to bring their regulatory knowledge up to date and to share their personal inspection experience. Staff at central administration develop expertise in the sector-specific regulations for which they are responsible, in particular by attending BTSF training courses. The expertise they gain in this way then enables them to train and brief staff in the decentralised services. These networks also allow the central administration to obtain technical support on a range of topics where needed.

Within the **SSA**, persons of reference and groups of experts have also been designated to provide expert input for the national technical manager and personnel on the ground (the activities of persons of reference and experts take up only part of their working time). The individual of reference on "institutional catering" contributes to the work of DGAL "resource persons in the institutional catering sector".

In the case of the **INAO**, two networks have been formed: one comprising staff responsible for technical assessment of certification bodies (approximately 20 individuals), and the other composed of staff dealing with relations with certification bodies (approximately 45 individuals). These networks, facilitated by a central department of the INAO, make it possible, by means of regular discussions, to maintain the knowledge and skills of the personnel participating in them.

At **SEMAE**, experts are appointed to issue opinions in their “job” expert domain, to provide input for decision making and to train and mentor the personnel of the Directorate for Quality and Official Control.

Every year, the **DGDDI** organises a seminar bringing together its network of lead officers responsible for health and biological checks and marketing standards for imports (representatives from border control posts (PCF), control points (PC), release for free circulation points (PMLP) and customs offices). It enables persons of reference to keep up to date with the latest regulatory developments and to share their experiences of their monitoring practices.

The **CTIFL**'s technical managers participate with the DGAL in national working groups on plant health regulations and their implementation. They also ensure regular monitoring of the inspectors.

1.4.3 – Control procedures and reports

Irrespective of the chosen criteria for programme management by quality, each competent authority has implemented a national quality manual and a structured document management system. The aim is to ensure that its procedures, instructions and modes of operation are duly documented for performing control and recording the findings.

The document management systems can be accessed by all relevant personnel. Inspection reports are filed in the information systems of the competent authorities or, where applicable, those of the delegated organisations.

The instructions of the various departments stipulate that inspection reports are to be provided to operators at the very least where non-compliance has been noted. They are frequently provided on a systematic basis, for example in the case of checks on hygiene rules in agrifood facilities or issuance of plant passports to nursery gardeners.

For example, the **DGAL** groups its control procedures together under an “activity reference criteria” heading in its quality programme (the ‘Tools and Methods’ section of the quality intranet). Each set of activity reference criteria comprises instructions on cross-functional matters (alerts, on imports and exports) and in specific areas related to food sanitary safety, plant health and protection and animal health and protection. They in particular include guides and inspection matrices to help ensure the consistency of inspection procedures and findings from controls applied to professional operators. The inspection matrices, which contain an overview of the findings, result ultimately in an evaluation of the establishment: compliant/non-compliant, or a grade of A/B/C/D type. The other official activities, most notably plans for the organisation of animal and plant disease surveillance and control, are also covered by a set of documented instructions.

As the core foundation of the quality-focused approach, the **DGCCRF**'s document management system has a pyramid structure aimed at integrating the entirety of the administrative documentation produced by the DGCCRF. All documents are linked, identified (owner, process, nature of document, etc.) and are catalogued and codified to ensure the long-term viability of the system. The documentation covers all documents of prescriptive type (instructions to staff for investigations, for example) or relating to traceability and methodological support. Documents and forms which aid inspections (templates for penalty notices, reports) can also be directly accessed in the job software used by investigators.

FranceAgriMer has had a quality management system which in particular governs its plant passport scheme. A document management procedure sets out the procedures for managing reference documents and records.

For the **INAO**, checks on quality and origin signage are covered by a set of documented instructions: directives from the Approvals and Controls Council, decisions taken by the head of the Institute, common control provisions and official circulars. All of these texts can be found on the INAO website. They detail the obligations of certification bodies for the control planning, control implementation, control follow-up and the various duties of certification bodies for their communications with the INAO.

For **SEMAE**, a document management system has been implemented in the “Activity” EPAD information system. This system comprises the documents for communication of procedures, instructions, rules, forms and control status to personnel. Part of this documentation and inspection findings is available to businesses via internet and extranet sites.

CTIFL applies methods inspired by those used by the DGAL. The aim is to harmonise practices between these two competent authorities, and also, as far as possible, with the other competent authorities in the plant field. These methods are described in the documents of the CTIFL quality management system. A document management procedure describes the stages of publication of the documents, and includes a regular review of all these documents, with the aim of updating and continuous improvement.

In the case of the **SSA**, control procedures are documented and made available to all staff using the Pyx4 software program. In particular, they contain a guide for inspectors, an inspection matrix and report templates for each domain.

For the **DGS**, the detailed control procedures for water bottling plants and bottled water are set out in an official ministerial order and an implementing circular. A national inspection/control table is provided to officers responsible for the official controls.

For the **DGDDI**, all regulatory and control documentation is published on the customs intranet. Tables tracking the monitoring of foodstuffs of non-animal origin are published regularly on the intranet, in order to ensure compliance with the inspection rates set by the European Commission.

1.4.4 – Transparency of official controls

MANCP annual reports prepared jointly by the various competent authorities are made public (since 2016) and present the whole range of controls applied to the food chain: <https://agriculture.gouv.fr/securite-sanitaire-le-plan-national-de-contrôles-officiels-pluriannuel-2021-2025-pncopa><https://agriculture.gouv.fr/securite-sanitaire-le-plan-national-de-contrôles-officiels-pluriannuel-2021-2025-pncopa> .

Generally speaking, the websites of the competent authorities describe the entirety of their missions and activities relevant to control of the food chain, including animal health and plant health surveillance and management:

- DGAL: <http://agriculture.gouv.fr/thématique-générale/alimentation> including activity reports: <https://agriculture.gouv.fr/tous-les-rapports-dactivite-de-la-dgal> ;
- DGCCRF: <https://www.economie.gouv.fr/dgccrf/comprendre-la-dgccrf/les-missions-de-la-dgccrf> including activity reports: <https://www.economie.gouv.fr/dgccrf/comprendre-la-dgccrf/publications-et-kits-de-communication/bilans-dactivite> ;
- DGS: [Bottled water - Ministry of Health, Families, Autonomy, and Disabled People](#) ;
- Anses: <https://www.anses.fr/fr/thematique/produits-phytopharmaceutiques-biocides-fertilisants-et-macro-organismes> ;
- INAO: <https://www.inao.gouv.fr/controle><https://www.inao.gouv.fr/controle> The INAO's general report describes how controls are supervised: https://www.inao.gouv.fr/sites/default/files/2025-05/ra2024_web.pdf ;
- FranceAgriMer: <https://www.franceagrimer.fr/bois-et-plants-de-vigne> ;
- SEMAE: <https://www.semae.fr/service-officiel-contrôle-et-certification/> ;
- CTIFL: <https://www.ctifl.fr/prestation-certification-des-plants-frutiers> ;
- DGDDI: <https://www.douane.gouv.fr/professionnels/commerce-international/contrôles-sanitaires-et-de-qualite-des-aliments> ;

The website of ANSP - *Santé publique France*: <http://www.santepubliquefrance.fr> contains information on foodborne and/or zoonotic diseases in the human population.

A scheme has been implemented, in order to ensure transparency for general hygiene in food outlets. [Alim'confiance](#) is a website and a mobile application which enables consumers to obtain information on the outcomes of official checks (carried out after 1 March 2017) on the sanitary safety of facilities in the food chain: restaurants, food retail outlets and institutional catering. The results are presented according to four levels: Very satisfactory – Satisfactory – Improvement necessary – Urgent remedy necessary. Findings are added to the site

daily and remain available for viewing for one year. In the case of facilities inspected by the SSA, official control findings must be displayed in a manner easily visible to the consumer.

1.4.5 – The monitoring and control plans (PSCP) scheme, the main tool for implementing official controls within the DGAL

Generally speaking, monitoring and control plans (PSCPs) are designed to monitor contamination levels and verify compliance with regulations for animal feed and foodstuffs. They stem from both European regulation and a risk analysis based on national concerns. The national scheme includes two types of strategies with different aims:

- monitoring programmes are carried out using a sampling strategy based on random selection from a population or sub-population covered by the monitoring. These programmes make it possible to **assess the overall exposure of consumers** or a population to a particular risk and thus to identify control measures to manage it.
- The control plans use a sampling strategy based on targeting an establishment or a product which presents an increased risk. These plans will enable the detection of non-compliance and the **assessment of the effectiveness of the control measures implemented**.

Product monitoring and control plans cover the entire food chain and are scheduled by the DGAL, in accordance with the ‘farm-to-fork’ principle – from production to placing on the market – at both national level and at border control posts, in order to verify that imported food and feed comply with European requirements. The planning is guided by the results of a cross-cutting risk analysis, based in particular on the risk assessments carried out by Anses and EFSA.

European regulations specifically govern the testing for residues of veterinary medicines and prohibited substances in animal production, as well as for environmental contaminants and residues of plant protection products in the food chain. These obligations are set out in the national PSCPs. They are adjusted annually, in particular to take account of non-compliances observed in previous years.

The introduction of the Single Food Safety Authority in 2023 has broadened the scope of the **DGAL’s** PSCP scheme. The aim is to apply risk analysis to the entire food chain and ultimately, include it in the planning of the scheme.

1.4.6 - Management of incident reports and alerts, and emergency intervention plans

1.4.6.1 – Follow-up and management by competent authorities of reported issues, alerts and crises presenting a sanitary hazard

The management of reports, alerts and crises posing a health risk is a major challenge in terms of protecting consumers, animals and the environment.

It obliges the competent authorities – DGAL, DGCCRF and DGS – to provide the necessary ways and means to manage such alerts and such crises swiftly, effectively and in a coordinated manner.

Each devolved service with responsibility for sanitary issues has a point of contact for an “alert unit or team”.

The competent authorities have in place at the central administrative level an operational vigilance and alert centre which centralises all available information on alerts on French territory:

- the DGAL’s Sanitary Emergency Unit (MUS);
- the DGCCRF Alert Unit;
- the DGS Operations Centre for Regulation and Responses to Sanitary and Social Emergencies (CORRUSS).

This management scheme is particularly implemented through the devolved services or other administrations, such as Anses, incident reports from operators or other countries via *Rapid Alert System for Food and Feed* (RASFF), and *International Food Safety Authorities Network* (INFOSAN) in the case of third countries or bilateral channels. These are responsible for, among other things, the reception and processing of alerts and problem reports and addressing sanitary crises.

The division of responsibilities between the various authorities for dealing with reports and alerts is the same as that set out for monitoring.

Since 1st January 2023, as part of the establishment of the Single Health Police, the management of alerts, notifications, withdrawals and recalls relating to all foodstuffs (excluding materials intended to come into contact

with food) and animal feed has been entrusted to the **DGAL**. The **DGCCRF** is responsible for managing alerts, notifications, withdrawals and recalls relating to materials which come into contact with 'empty-calorie' (junk) foodstuffs.

Where food is concerned, the Sanitary Emergency Unit (MUS) and the Alert Unit have a core duty to address crises and alerts relating to products and operators and to act as the two national points of contact for the Rapid Alert System for Food and Feed (RASFF). The DGAL's Sanitary Emergency Unit is the national point of contact for the International Food Safety Authorities Network (INFOSAN Emergency).

Regarding animal health, only **DGAL** departments interact with operators.

Following several years of successive outbreaks, only fifteen outbreaks of highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI) were recorded on poultry farms during the 2024–2025 epidemiological season. Positive results linked to the renewal of the duck vaccination campaign (combined with a dedicated surveillance programme) launched in October 2023 and the maintenance of a high level of biosecurity on farms. By way of comparison, more than 400 outbreaks had been confirmed during the same period in 2022/2023, before the French vaccination strategy was introduced. According to a mathematical model developed by the Toulouse School of Veterinary Medicine, without the roll-out of the vaccination programme, the number of outbreaks would have been of a similar magnitude.

Detected in September 2023 in south-western France, epizootic haemorrhagic disease (EHD) spread significantly during 2024. From the very outset of the crisis, the DGAL has been working intensively out to put in place public health measures and limit the risk of the virus spreading.

At the same time, Bluetongue (BT) also posed a significant challenge to the French authorities in 2024, following the emergence of a new strain of serotype 8 (BTV-8) in August 2023 and the introduction of serotype 3 (BTV-3) in August 2024. A vaccination strategy has been put in place, and biosecurity and insect control measures have also been promoted to limit transmission by insect vectors. Coordination with the Commission's departments and neighbouring Member States has also helped to minimise the impact on the movement of animals.

With African swine fever (ASF) now at France's doorstep and several diseases still present (bovine tuberculosis, bluetongue, etc.), preventing these risks is a priority.

For plant health, the **DGAL** remains the competent authority for management of outbreaks of quarantine pests. Nevertheless, SEMAE, FranceAgriMer and CTIFL acting as competent authorities with regard to plant passports, play an important role in blocking the circulation of consignments. They also collate information regarding traceability enquiries and generally liaise with business operators. Lastly, 2025 was heavily affected by the consequences of the contamination in Eure-et-Loir of water used for irrigation by the bacterium *Ralstonia solanacearum*.

At the **DGS**, the Health Crisis Centre (CSS) is responsible for the collection, recording and management of sanitary alerts relating to the human population, leadership and coordination of the ARS alert management network, and preparation of the response to major health threats, via its crisis preparation sub-directorate. It has an Operations Centre for Regulation and Responses to Sanitary and Social Emergencies (CORRUSS) which is the single point of entry for reports of issues sent by regional health authorities (ARS), ANSP-SpF, the health authorities of other countries, the WHO, the European Commission or ECDC in connection with the application of the International Sanitary Regulation and the EWRS networks, for which CORRUSS is the national focal point.

A coordination and management unit for food-related crises and alerts is set up as and when needed (e.g. for unusually large-scale alerts requiring inter-ministerial coordination, the existence of clusters of human cases, or an emerging phenomenon) in order to share information rapidly and to determine on a consensual basis the steps to be taken. The administration that takes the initiative of setting up this unit is the DGS if there are human cases and in other cases, it is either the DGAL, which is responsible for food safety alerts, or the DGCCRF, which is responsible for materials that come into contact with food.

These three alert management units coordinate their activities for national responses in situations that require this, working in collaboration with the sanitary agencies responsible for sanitary surveillance (ANSP-SpF) or with the evaluation of food-related risks (Anses).

In the Military Health Service (SSA) the organisation of information flows between the DGAL and DCSSA has been formalised in a DGAL-DCSSA cooperation protocol. If a confirmed risk is identified at an establishment monitored by a military veterinary unit, an alert is raised with the relevant inter-ministerial departmental directorate, and the DMF (the 'collective catering' contact) is notified.

The DGDDI submits notifications to the European Rapid Alert System for Food and Feed (RASFF) in the event of non-compliance identified during import health checks, as well as in the event that checks on organic agricultural

products reveal that the maximum permitted levels (MRLs) for pesticide residues have been exceeded. The customs authority, DGDDI, can take action in crises affecting domains relating to the protection of consumers, public health and animal health and the environment. The detailed procedures for collaboration and intervention are established in cooperation protocols put in place between DGDDI and DGAL and between DGDDI and DGCCRF.

1.4.6.2 - Management by the competent authorities of incident reports not presenting a sanitary hazard

In addition to addressing alerts and crises, the following are also managed:

- Incident reports relating to organic production: The **DGCCRF** and **INAO**, in conjunction with the Ministry of Agriculture, are active in processing reports of issues relating to organic production. In the event of an alert, the INAO informs the Certification Bodies (CB) of the operators concerned in order to take steps with regard to the products allegedly involved. The INAO also promotes mutual consultation between CBs to ensure the circulation and sharing of information, in addition to coordinating their actions, where applicable. The DGCCRF intervenes where products on the market are concerned. If necessary, a meeting is held between representatives of the competent government departments in order to determine the steps to be taken, the timetable and the monitoring arrangements.

- Food fraud: For the purposes of processing reports of issues concerning food fraud identified in France, the DGCCRF uses an information collection system embedded in SESAM. In this context, all staff carrying out duties falling within the remit of the DGCCRF who detect any evidence of fraud are asked to report this to central administration via SESAM. The sub-directorate responsible for foodstuffs at the central administration analyses the intelligence.

- Other incident reports/non-compliance with the regulations which do not present a health hazard: this type of situation is addressed in accordance with the allocation of competencies between control agencies. With regard to wine and spirits, reports are recorded in liaison forms circulated between government departments (in accordance with the cooperation protocol between the DGDDI, DGCCRF, FAM, INAO and DGPE).

1.4.6.3 – Crisis management role of the Prefect for the *département*

The government is represented in each French territorial *département* by a Prefect who is the sole holder of State authority at the local level. He or she is the head of the government's devolved services.

In general, where a situation can be seen to have the characteristics of a crisis possibly prejudicial to public order, the law confers specific powers upon the Prefect (Article L. 2215-1 of the general local government code). The Prefect may, for all or some of the municipalities located in the *département*, all and any steps to maintain public health, safety and tranquillity to the extent that those steps have not been taken by the municipal authorities.

Additionally, certain specific health-related events require the activation of emergency plans prepared by the Prefect for the *département* in conjunction with the authorities, agencies and organisations competent to adopt safeguard measures or whose resources are likely to be used to address particular risks. Also, when confronted by such events of all types, the Prefect invokes the ORSEC plan (Civil Defence Response Organisation), which is designed to mobilise and coordinate civil defence actors under the authority of the Prefect at a level which exceeds their routine or day-to-day responses. The goal is to develop the preparation of all those involved in both public and private sectors capable of taking action to protect the general public. In exceptional circumstances, the Prefect may call upon military resources by submitting a request to the military delegate for the *département* (DMD) or even the Joint Staff of the Armed Forces for the defence zone of the region in which the *département* concerned is located.

1.4.6.4 – Transverse provisions and plans

Management of food- or animal-related alerts affecting the human population

At the local level, the pooling of information among the various actors involved in the event of a threat to public health is defined by Article L. 1413-15 of the French public health code. The head of the ARS immediately passes on all reports of issues to the ANSP (SpF) and the government representative in the *département*.

The operational procedures for the application of the above provisions are laid down in ARS/Prefect protocols drawn up pursuant to Article R. 1435-2 of the Public Health Code. The Regional Health Departments (ARS) are responsible for organising the management of sanitary alerts in the regions and coordinating the involved actors.

At national level, generally applicable or specific management protocols lay down procedures for cooperation between the relevant authorities. This means that in the case of major alert, the authorities responsible for addressing the appearance of foodborne or animal-related diseases, the bodies involved in assessing sanitary risks (e.g.: ANSP-SpF, ANSES) and the relevant laboratories of reference can be brought together swiftly to organise the investigation and coordinated management of the event. Such management may necessitate the submission of a request to Anses for a formal opinion.

NRBC Planning

In order to forestall or address threats of terrorist action using biological or chemical means, a government plan to counter NRBC (Nuclear, Radiological, Biological and Chemical) terrorism has been drawn up and rolled out in each *département*.

The plan is structured in two parts:

- a “common core”, whose content is highly classified, comprises the procedures for intervention in the event of an NRBC pre-alert or actual alert;
- specific sections, which are not classified, contain datasheets on the pathogens selected for inclusion as Biotox issues, guides, official circulars and protocols.

Given that food and water are possible vectors for biological and chemical contaminants, the Ministries of Health and Agriculture have provided input for the definition of this plan. Its roll-out across all *départements* involves a number of government devolved services.

1.4.6.5 - Specific plans

Human foodstuffs – product alerts

A management assistance guide for food-related alerts between operators in the food chain and government where a product or batch of products is identified has been drawn up by the DGAL, DGCCRF and DGS in conjunction with representatives of food chain operators and their representative trade organisations. This guide deals solely with alert situations involving an identified product or batch of products.

The instructions detail four standard phases:

- an alert and a situation evaluation;
- notification of the alert;
- management of the alert;
- emergence from the alert situation.

Consumers can find a complete list of recalls of food and non-food products (excluding medicines and medical devices) on a single public website: “Rappel Conso” (<https://rappel.conso.gouv.fr/>). This website is provided for the information of consumers and the intention is that the information it contains should be provided by the industry itself¹⁶.

Animal health – emergency sanitary intervention plans

The purpose of emergency sanitary intervention planning at central level against major epizootics and their implementation in the *départements* is to prepare for the management of sanitary crises relating to, among other issues, foot-and-mouth disease, avian diseases (Newcastle disease and avian influenza), swine fever and bluetongue. From 2016, these plans have been aligned with the national Civil Defence Response Organisation scheme (ORSEC) invoked for natural disasters, industrial accidents, accidents of more routine character and sanitary crises.

The architecture of emergency sanitary intervention planning for major epizootic diseases, based on the general principles of crisis planning and management, comprises the following:

- a phase in which the risk of the appearance of an epizootic disease is identified, which requires knowledge of all data relating to the disease;

¹⁶In accordance with the requirements of Articles L. 423-3 of the consumer code and L. 205-7-1 of the Maritime Fishing and Rural Code, deriving from Article 51 of law 2018-938 of 30 October 2018 (the “EGAlim” law), Article 180 of law 2019-486 of 22 May 2019 (the “PACTE” law), and the official order of 20 January 2021.

- a phase in which the human and physical resources are put in place to prevent realisation of the risk or to mitigate its consequences;
- plan updating or maintenance, which notably requires training for the actors involved (alert exercises). They are an integral part of plan organisation;
- a phase in which the crisis itself is addressed;
- a phase for return to normal operation accompanied by feedback on the management of the crisis and, where applicable, improvements to control planning.

These plans are structured around a core common to all epizootic diseases: combat organisation, comprising:

- the building of legislative and regulatory measures common to all emergency plans;
- the definition of the tasks assigned to institutional and industry partners (in particular, sanitary veterinarians and the livestock farming industry);
- crisis units at the national and département levels set up in the event of an epizootic outbreak.

Animal welfare

Given their specific character, crises relating to animal welfare emergencies are addressed under the authority of the Prefect at the level of each *département*. National-level support is sometimes requested.

Plant health

Instructions describe the steps to be taken in the event of the appearance of outbreaks of plant pests. There are four standard phases:

- an alert and a situation evaluation;
- notification of the alert;
- alert management (and in particular measures relating to crop production);
- emergence from the alert situation.

1.4.6.6 - Collaboration between Member States on the management of food-related non-compliance

Sanitary alert and crisis situations are addressed via the EU's Rapid Alert System For Food and Feed (RASFF) in the ACN alert and cooperation network.

TRACES (Trade Control and Expert System) is a resource for the monitoring of livestock movements linked to imports and trade between Member States, as well as for a large number of products, particularly those of animal origin. Where imports are concerned, it ensures that the various Member States are kept informed of consignment rejections at import.

Where instances of non-compliance relate to foodstuffs placed on the market do not represent a sanitary hazard, Member States exchange details for mutual information and assistance each other via a range of networks:

- the Administrative Assistance and Cooperation System (AAC) provides for the possibility, if necessary, of communication with the control agencies in other Member States regarding instances of non-compliance in the various domains within the scope of the MANCP. The DGAL, the DGCCRF and the DGDDI are the contact points for the system where food products are concerned;
- the "Food Fraud" European exchange network. The DGCCRF and DGAL are the contact points for France. This network, which specialises in combatting fraudulent practices in the food industry, was set up by the European Commission in 2013 in the wake of what came to be known as the "horsemeat scandal";
- the information system on organic farming (Organic Farming Information System – OFIS) for which the point of contact is the INAO. The DGCCRF and the DGDDI also contribute to the management of incident reports via OFIS: The DGDDI notifies Certification Bodies (CBs) in third countries of any non-compliance identified at the time of import.

1.5 – POST-CONTROL ADMINISTRATIVE AND CRIMINAL ENFORCEMENT MEASURES

The application of controls may lead to the detection of breaches of regulatory requirements. The control agencies then set in train enforcement procedures proportional to the seriousness of the offences. They also assess an operator's ability to achieve compliance, particularly taking into consideration the operator's past inspection record.

The types of post-control enforcement falling within the scope of the MANCP are set out in the Maritime Fishing and Rural Code (Book II - Food, veterinary public health and the protection of plants, and Book VI – Production and markets), in the Consumer Code (Book V – Investigative powers and control follow-up) and in the Public Health Code (Book III: Protection of health and the environment). The main administrative measures and criminal law penalties are described in Appendix 2. A distinction is made between the following:

Non-coercive enforcement

The inspection report or warning sent to the sector professional enumerates the observed instances of non-compliance. It is then the professional's responsibility to rectify the non-compliance brought to their attention. These measures also make it possible to build up a record for operators and, where appropriate, to demonstrate that the practice is deliberate if it continues.

Coercive enforcement

In order to put an end to a situation of non-compliance, especially where it presents or could present a hazard for public health or consumer safety, control agencies can also implement negative administrative decisions.

Such "administrative measures" are provided for in French legislation and may begin with a formal demand for compliance, an injunction to take corrective steps (e.g. cleaning/disinfection, product relabelling, use of products for other applications, provision of care to animals). Agencies can also impound or seize livestock and products, and the steps taken may go so far as the withdrawal of official permits which have been issued and the partial or total closure of an establishment. Where product certification is concerned, the certification body may suspend or withdraw an operator's certification.

The DGCCRF may also impose administrative fines for certain breaches of the regulations or for failure to comply with the compliance orders referred to above. Furthermore, since the end of 2022, certain administrative injunctions and sanctions issued by the DGCCRF may be accompanied by public disclosure: the sanction or injunction is made public. This is a measure which affects a company's image and reputation; it acts as a particularly strong deterrent and helps to warn consumers against certain practices, whilst also increasing the impact of the authorities' enforcement actions.

In addition to administrative measures, and with a view to increasing the impact of the administration's actions, certain administrative orders may be accompanied by a daily penalty payment in the event of non-compliance (linked, for example, to the global turnover of the company in question) and by publicity measures (government social media channels, operators' websites).

The detection of cases or outbreaks of a regulated animal disease or the presence of regulated plant pests will lead to the application of official enforcement measures to match the seriousness and contagious character of the specific situation. Such measures may include the isolation of the outbreak and, if applicable, the culling of livestock or the destruction of problem plants.

Penalties in criminal law

These are provided for in French legislation. The Rural and Maritime Fishing Code, the Consumer Code and the Public Health Code confer powers on control staff to record breaches in the form of formal offence reports to the Republican Public Prosecutor who then reaches a decision on court proceedings. The applicable criminal penalties include fines of up to €750,000 and custodial sentences of up to 7 years. The amount of any fine may be determined proportionally to the benefits derived from the offence and up to 10% of average annual turnover, calculated on the basis of the last three known annual turnover figures as of the date of the offence. Lastly, in certain cases, a ban may be issued on the future exercise of industry or sales activity. An automated, paperless system for fixed-penalty fines is currently being rolled out for certain common, minor offences. In the field of food safety, electronic fines may be imposed for certain offences relating to non-compliance with hygiene regulations. With regard to animal health and welfare, offences may be identified in the areas of animal health control, identification, and acts of cruelty and mistreatment of animals. Finally, with regard to plant health and protection, administrative penalties are provided for in relation to plant protection products, harmful organisms

and non-compliance with hygiene rules for non-animal foodstuffs. Finally, prevention of due performance of their duties by authorised officers constitutes a criminal offence under the various codes of law in force.

Plants, products and animals from other Member States

Observed non-compliance may relate to plants, foodstuffs and animals from other Member States. In such cases, in addition to the steps taken against the French operator, the source Member State will be informed of instances of non-compliance of possible concern to it and the steps that have been taken.

Plants, products and animals from third countries

Consignments refused entry into the country are either destroyed, especially where they present a risk to health, or sent back to the third country of origin or another country. The European Commission and the other Member States are informed of the steps taken. This information on non-compliant consignments identified at points of entry into the EU is used to inform the risk analysis of exports from third countries to the EU, which in turn guides the checks carried out by the Commission in those third countries.

1.6 – CONTINUOUS IMPROVEMENT

1.6.1 - Quality-based management

The competent authorities have been engaged in a quality management approach for several years. The objectives pursued are manifold:

- to ensure that the entire scope of the MANCP is covered by designing and documenting an inspection programme based on risk analysis;
- to make the most efficient use of available resources by ensuring staff skills are well managed;
- to guarantee fair treatment for all members of the public by standardising, improving the reliability of and formalising the procedures for carrying out tasks (designing inspection methods or control guides, drawing up inspection reports, etc.);
- to develop and maintain a high level of responsiveness by adopting tools for continuous improvement (identification and analysis of malfunctions, periodic review of procedures, etc.) in order to systematically identify discrepancies and the organisation's need for adaptation.

The measures implemented are based on several standards, such as the NF EN ISO 9001 standard – Quality Management Systems – Requirements. The **DGCCRF** and the **DGAL** have adopted this standard to organise their operations on the basis of a process-based approach. Each organisation has therefore drawn up a process map covering all its activities. The objectives pursued are common to both directorates:

- to clarify the responsibilities of those involved in order to avoid duplication and 'gaps', and to ensure the reliability of government departments' actions by seeking to manage risks;
- to harmonise control practices;
- to break down any silos between departments, foster cross-functional collaboration by transcending traditional roles and activities, whilst ensuring consistent interactions, clarity for all stakeholders and the development of internal communication;
- to strive constantly for continuous improvement.

The ISO 9001 certification, obtained by **Anses**, incorporates the remit entrusted to the Agency since 2015 regarding marketing authorisation and the control of plant protection products, fertilisers, growing media and adjuvants. Furthermore, the French standard NF X 50-110 "General competence requirements for expert assessment" on quality in expert assessment was taken into account during the ISO 9001 audits, particularly regarding the composition of expert panels, the management of conflicts of interest, the decision-making process and traceability.

Furthermore, Anses's laboratories are accredited to the ISO 17025 standard for carrying out their analyses as part of their roles as reference laboratories (at national or European Union level), and some of its laboratories are accredited to the ISO 17043 standard for conducting inter-laboratory proficiency testing.

The ISO/IEC 17020 – Compliance assessment – Requirements for the operation of various types of bodies performing inspection. This is the standard adopted by the **SSA** for food safety inspections carried out by

veterinary teams. Initially accredited in 2010 by COFRAC, the SSA retains its accreditation for food safety inspections under number 3-0675 (scope available at www.cofrac.fr).

The **INAO** authorises bodies to carry out the checks under its remit, which are accredited in accordance with this standard.

The **CTIFL** was accredited to the ISO/IEC 17020 standard from 2016 to 2020 inclusively. Since then, it has maintained a quality management system based on the principles of this standard.

Since 2014, **FranceAgriMer** has implemented a quality management system which, in particular, defines the procedure for issuing plant passports. FranceAgriMer has since maintained a system set out in so-called 'technical' and 'quality' procedures, organised around the following key areas:

- document management and procedure review;
- monitoring of training, qualifications and supervision of staff responsible for the scheme;
- conducting internal audits to assess the effectiveness of the scheme.

Finally, the NF EN ISO/IEC 17065 standard – Compliance assessment – Requirements for bodies certifying products, processes and services – specifies requirements which need to be complied with, in order to ensure that certification bodies operate certification programmes competently, consistently and impartially.

The **INAO** authorises bodies to carry out the checks under its remit, accredited in accordance with this NF EN ISO/IEC 17065 standard.

Regardless of the standard adopted, each entity has adopted a 'national quality' manual and a structured documentation system to record its procedures, instructions and operating methods. These measures all contribute to increasing the efficiency of the control services.

In practical terms, the **DGAL** adopts a process-based approach to ensure risk management, from both an organisational and a technical perspective. The agencies have a description of all processes. These process sheets identify the risks associated with the activity described, taking into account the expectations of stakeholders. They enable each unit to ensure that these steps are followed and that the identified risks are managed. Furthermore, the publication of national summaries of audit findings enables every unit to review them and carry out a self-assessment. Internal audits subsequently ensure that these risks are effectively managed.

These processes were reviewed in 2025.

The **DGCCRF** also bases its quality management system (QMS) on a process-based approach, which enables it to guarantee and reinforce the consistency of its practices, data and management tools. Furthermore, the 2025–2028 strategic plan aims to maximise the impact of the DGCCRF's work at the local level, support economic and social transformation, pursue a strategy of openness and strong cooperation, and strengthen its network dynamics and expertise.

SEMAE holds COFRAC accreditation for its QMS and its inspection and certification activities in accordance with the principles of the international standards NF EN ISO/IEC 17065 and NF EN ISO/IEC 17020.

CITFL has implemented a QMS for its internal inspection and certification activities in accordance with the principles of the international standard NF EN ISO/IEC 17020, without being accredited by COFRAC.

SSA has implemented a QMS covering, in particular, inspection activities carried out as part of official food safety controls and animal welfare requirements. The OI-SSA inspection body has been accredited to the NF EN ISO/IEC 17020 standard for carrying out official food safety inspections since 2010. The inspection programme is drawn up annually on the basis of a risk analysis (type of activities, livestock numbers, etc.) and the results of previous inspections.

The **DGDDI** has adopted a new risk management policy, which will come into force in 2026. It aims to ensure effective risk coverage, particularly in view of the diversity and sensitivity of the tasks carried out by DGDDI staff. It is structured around four key areas (risk analysis and the action plan, monitoring of service delivery, internal control and internal audit) which aim to ensure that customs activities – and in particular the processing of goods entering the EU – are carried out under secure conditions.

1.6.2 – Verification procedures

Verifications are based on performance oversight and the information systems used by the competent authorities, which enable them to monitor plan implementation and outcomes.

The operational objectives flowing in part from the strategic objectives are determined annually for each region and are subject to annual monitoring as part of the management dialogue conducted between the DGAL and each region and its annual evaluation interview at the end of the year (in October/November). The strategic objectives continuously evolve, driven by a programme of continuous improvement. They may relate to a particular area of activity or to the functioning of the control system.

At the level of the *département* or the region, the system for reporting issues can be used at any time. It is necessary to send the DGAL a form containing an analysis of the causes of the difficulties encountered and proposing a solution for them. The DGAL responds to such reports within 60 days. (Overall improvement in the average processing time (in days): 238 in 2023 ; 101 in 2024 ; 63 in 2025).

A report form may also be sent by the central administration to the region or *département* when, for example, it raises an issue of failure to implement certain controls or procedures (National Dysfunction Procedure).

Additionally, a national procedure lays down the procedures for the management of the skills of the staff in the DGAL organisation, including the award and maintenance of qualifications (National Skills Plan). This is supplemented by practical datasheets to be found on the intranet.

The award of qualifications to staff is systematically based on a formal qualification pathway that includes an initial skill assessment. Supervision by the line manager or an individual to whom the latter has delegated that responsibility, ensures the appropriateness of the activities undertaken by members of staff in the course of their official duties. Line managers may decide to supervise a staff member, if they consider this to be necessary, most notably following changes in the regulations. This is mandatory for the formal completion of the qualification pathway for inspectors.

Inspectors may request supervision at any time from their line managers or technical mentor. Supervision may be document-based or conducted on site.

Exchanges of practices are also arranged; these help improve staff qualification levels and more especially uniformity of practice.

DGCCRF

The monitoring and supervision of official controls cover the entirety of the chain of responsibility from the national level to local management of the staff conducting inspections. The regional level plays a special coordination role between the central administration and officers in the *départements*. For that purpose, this level has a management department whose purpose is to provide assistance in the performance of assigned official tasks and ensuring their conformity.

The territorial departments and agencies responsible for the performance of DGCCRF missions and the central administration have the option of monitoring progress on national tasks and the national inspection programme at any time using DATAVIZ, the DGCCRF's library of management tools and activity monitoring dashboards specifically designed for this.

DGS

The ARS's departmental delegations are responsible for inspections and checks. To carry out their tasks, they may be supported by the regional level, which provides coordination and technical support. In some regions, responsibility for packaged water is pooled at regional level, with the regional authority then carrying out inspections and checks on establishments throughout the region.

The national level ensures that these tasks are carried out effectively by issuing instructions where necessary, organising monitoring and arranging meetings to share best practices.

SSA

As part of the quality management system, inspectors are subject to oversight in compliance with the provisions of standard NF EN ISO/IEC 17020, involving observation of inspectors in the field and examination of reports of completed inspections by designated supervisors chosen for their close familiarity with inspection methods and procedures. The relevant procedures are described in the veterinary management manual and are covered in national procedure documents.

INAO

Supervision of inspections carried out by control bodies is the INAO's responsibility involving the use of a range of tools. These comprise, in particular, on-site technical assessments, examination of the information which the control bodies are obliged to provide and verification of the statistics contained in their annual reports.

SEMAE

Verifications are undertaken as part of the quality system accredited under standard NF EN ISO/IEC 17065. It includes supervision of completed inspections by persons of technical reference at regional level in connection with national persons of reference and involves an on-site or document-based assessment of the activity of the person being supervised.

Assessment and inspection report reviews are also organised. If needed, technical support or training can be provided as follow-up to supervision.

CTIFL

All inspectors are subject to on-site surveillance at least every three calendar years in accordance with the provisions of the quality management system. In addition to the on-site monitoring, additional documentary monitoring is carried out.

It should be noted that the technical managers check several inspection reports each year, which contributes to the overall verification and management of the activity. This monitoring and supervision of official controls covers all the health control missions under the responsibility of the CTIFL.

DGDDI

Official controls are monitored and supervised at local level and by central government. With regard to the supervision of the services' activities in relation to import controls, the authority periodically draws up a monitoring table for each border control post, showing the rates of physical checks carried out compared with the rates enshrined in European regulations (see Regulation (EU) 2019/1793). A performance indicator is also provided to show compliance with these rates at national level.

1.6.3 – Internal audits and internal control

Internal control and audit, which have been mandatory in all ministries since 2011, are now governed by Decree 2022-634 of 22 April 2022 on internal control and audit within the State.

Continuous improvement programmes are part of the classic Deming or PDCA ("Plan, Do, Check, Act") scheme as shown here in the diagram, of which the quality management system is the core foundation. Such continuous improvement measures also include internal audits and internal controls.

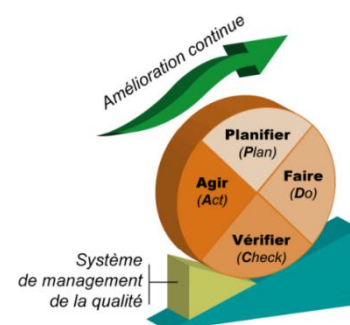


Figure 1 - PDCA cycle or Deming scheme

Internal audits

Internal audits are a tool that can be used by management to ensure conformity with a set of reference criteria, to assess how far planned objectives have been achieved, the effectiveness of the management system, controls and generally all activities. They help identify avenues for further improvement. They are also mandatory in the EU under regulation (EU) 2017/625 and the competent authorities are responsible for them.

Guidelines have been laid down for the performance of audits of official controls and the other official activities relating to the food chain in the 10 regulatory domains within the scope of the aforementioned regulation. They also stipulate that audit activities should be part of an audit programme guaranteeing sufficient coverage of all areas of activity concerned over a period of five years. Audit system coherence is to be verified in a management review.

The competent authorities engaged in a programme of management by quality (DGAL, DGCCRF, SSA, CTIFL, SEMAE) implement a programme of internal audits regarding adherence to EU regulations, i.e. coverage of all the sectors of activity concerned over a period of five years. Such audits are performed in accordance with standard EN ISO 19011 – Guidelines for auditing management systems, and in adherence to the guidelines laid down by the European Commission.

The scheduling of such audits, the procedures for qualifying auditors and follow-up to completed audits are defined in documented internal procedures. The scope and reference criteria for each audit are defined in advance by the leader of the audit team and in some cases by the manager of the audited organisation.

They are based on the document management system in use in the audited entity. Audit findings (non-compliance, strengths or good practice, points for improvement), whether the audit is internal or external, lead where applicable to the implementation of an action plan for which managers are responsible. Audit findings and the action plans deriving from them are analysed in the management reviews of each organization, whether national, regional or in the *département*.

In the national management review, the entire audit system is evaluated to ensure its consistency with, and fulfilment of the requirements of regulation (EU) 2017/625.

Alongside its internal audits, SEMAE is also accredited by COFRAC under standard NF EN ISO/IEC 17065 for its activity in certifying businesses for issuance of plant passports and it is therefore subject to evaluation by COFRAC.

Internal control

Each control department or agency has established its own systems of internal control, and these help guarantee the effectiveness of its inspections.

Monitoring and direction of official controls are spread along the entire chain of responsibility from national level to the local line management of the staff applying the controls. The regional level is in a special position in that it acts as a channel for communication between the central administration and staff in the *départements*. It provides coordination, leadership and management to support performance and the fulfilment of commitments.

Operational objectives, defined annually in the regions as part of the management dialogue process, are monitored regularly. The achievement of those operational objectives contributes to achievement of the strategic objectives laid down in the annual performance plan.

Management of organisational failures is formalised and provides input for continuous improvement of the system based on analysis of the causes and implementation of corrective measures.

For all departments and agencies, verifications are reliant on the information systems used by the competent authorities; these provide all organisational levels with oversight of the implementation of programmes and their results.

Ministerial internal control

Within the various ministries, the risk management framework may, in particular, be supported by the establishment of a ministerial internal audit unit (MMAI) and a ministerial internal audit committee (CMAI). The Ministry of Agriculture and the Ministries of the Economy and Finance have also put in place bodies of this kind (General Inspection and Audit Unit - MIGA for the former, Internal Audit Mission - MAI under the direction of the General Finance Inspectorate (IGS) for the latter), backed by a ministerial risk committee. This approach also includes, for each Ministry, the application of internal control to budget and accounting matters: Budgetary Internal Control (CIB) and Accounting Internal Control (CIC). Accounting and budgetary risk analysis is treated as a specific component of general risk analysis.

Each ministry has mapped its ministerial risks and defined an associated risk control plan. It is on the basis of these elements that the CMAI draws up its audit programme annually as part of the ministerial internal control process.

The DGS can request from the Minister of Health an inspection or an audit of the health system by the General Inspectorate of Social Affairs (IGAS). IGAS is an inter-ministerial certification body in the social sector which audits or assesses organisations or policies on social matters, health, employment and work. Its role is to provide input for the decisions reached by public-sector actors. It comprises 130 experts on social cohesion (families, child protection, reduction of poverty and social exclusion, etc.), safety and social protection (e.g. welfare benefits), work, employment, vocational training and health.

In the case of the Military Health Service (SSA), the requirements and methodology for audits and internal control relating to veterinary processes are addressed in a veterinary quality management system based on an "integrated management" approach described in the Veterinary Management Manual. A National Quality Manager (RAQ) has been appointed as national coordinator for the roll-out of internal control of veterinary processes. The RAQ is charged with oversight of this, subject to the authority of the head of the Veterinary Bureau (cf. Specific Directive 513307/DEF/DCSSA/DPS/PP of 23/10/2013).

1.6.4 – European Commission audits in Member States

The European Commission has a control role in the various Member States of the European Union for verification of full adherence to EU legislation on the food chain as a whole. The relevant controls are applied mainly in the form of audits in Member States conducted by the "Health and Food Audits and Analysis" directorate in the Directorate-General for Health and Food Safety (DG SANTE) on the basis of a multiannual programme. On average, France is audited between 6 and 8 times each year on a varied range of topics (e.g. import controls, plant health, microbiological checks on foodstuffs). The audit reports are made public by the European Commission.

To ensure the satisfactory application of the above controls by the European Commission, the competent authorities provide assistance for their organization, supplying all necessary documents and information. DG SANTE staff are bound to protect the confidentiality of the information gathered in the course of the audits.

This directorate also conducts audits in third countries exporting products and animals to the EU.

PART TWO: APPLICATION OF CONTROLS AND MISSIONS IN THE VARIOUS REGULATORY DOMAINS

The main issues and components of the planning of control activities over the period 2026-2030 are described in the different sectors of activity of the food production chain based on the relevant regulatory domains. This forward planning is adjusted annually or as and when necessary in the event of major changes in circumstances (e.g. new factors, crises). Adaptive changes will be entailed by the implementation of the "From Farm to Fork" strategy of the European Union for a fair, healthy and environmentally-friendly food system, along with the strategy to foster biodiversity by making the resilience of food systems and the preservation of biodiversity central to EU programmes.

The 10 regulatory domains presented (the scope of application of regulation (EU) 2017/625) contribute to sanitary safety and fair trading practices throughout the food chain as a whole. They are fully in line with the foundational principles of the "One Health" approach with the aim of promoting common action covering human health and plant, animal and environmental health. For example, combatting animal diseases can make a major contribution to human health given that many animal diseases are transmissible to the human population (zoonoses) via various channels, including food. Controlling the market release and use of plant protection products has a direct impact on the safety of foodstuffs as well as on the environment.

One specific aspect of the implementation of such controls is dedicated to exports and imports from third countries (i.e. countries outside the European Union).

The implementation of controls and official missions is based on the allocation of responsibilities described at point 3 in Part One. The strategy and principles underlying the organisation of each competent authority and concerned agency have already been described at points I and II

The list of laboratories relevant to each domain can be found via the links provided at point 1.3.3 in Part One.

2.1 – FOOD PRODUCTION AND MARKETING

Regulation (EC) 178/2002 laying down the general principles and requirements of food law defines "primary production" as the production, rearing or growing of primary products including harvesting, milking and farmed animal production prior to slaughter. It also covers hunting and fishing and the harvesting of wild products. The DGAL alone has a role at this stage. However, the DGCCRF may need to take action in relation to operators in the primary production sector in order to carry out checks on products held for the purposes of sale (e.g. on the operator's premises or on markets) or to take forward investigations initially begun at the point of market release.

Pursuant to Article 103 of Regulation (EU) 2017/625, the DGAL and the DGCCRF are the liaison bodies appointed as "contact points" tasked with ensuring the exchange of communications between the competent authorities on behalf of the European Commission.

The DGAL is the competent authority "contact point" for the European Commission for the parts "foodstuffs and their safety, integrity and wholesomeness at any stage of production, processing and distribution" of this regulatory area.

The DGCCRF is the competent authority "contact point" for the European Commission for the parts "*rules to ensure fair trade practices and consumer protection and information, the manufacture and use of materials intended to come into contact with food*" of this regulatory area.

Controls on EU quality and origin signs are described in specific chapters.

2.1.1 – Primary production

2.1.1.1 – Primary plant production

French crop production is varied: cereal-oilseed-protein crops account for 11,557 thousand hectares of farmland generating production of 72.8 million tonnes, 8.6 million tonnes of potatoes and nearly 30 million tonnes of industrial beet are produced every year. The production of dessert fruit stands at over 2,602 thousand tonnes and fresh vegetables at more than 5,800 thousand tonnes. The winegrowing sector produces 48 million hectolitres of wine. Forest and woodland cover 42% of French territory (*source: Memento 2024 Agreste*).

Issues and priorities

These relate to control of use of plant protection products, good hygiene practice on farms and contaminants in plants, contributing to the overall system for the assessment of food safety, including production of crops intended for animal feed. (see also part 2.3).

Use of plant protection products in primary production

These controls are placed under the responsibility and direction of the DGAL. The inspections for control of the whole range of procedures for plant protection product use by farmers are described at point 2.8, which deals specifically with plant protection products.

General rules on hygiene and contaminants

These controls are placed under the responsibility and direction of the DGAL. On farms, they relate to the application of good hygiene practice. The priorities are focused on cress growers, who must be inspected *at least* once every three years, and on germinated seed producers who are inspected once a year. The other targeted inspections relate to market gardening and fruit products consumed raw, due to the risk of microbiological contamination. Holdings growing other fruit and vegetables are also inspected. The sampling of plants carried out in connection with these inspections is directed in most cases at the detection of chemical contamination arising from the use of farm inputs.

2.1.1.2 – Primary animal production

France's animal production stands at over 16.8 million cattle, 6.66 million sheep and goats, and 11.8 million pigs. Poultry production exceeds 1,588 tonnes of meat (in carcass-equivalent tonnes). Fish production stands at 40,000 tonnes and shellfish production at 142 million tonnes (*source: Memento 2024 Agreste*).

Public health

The controls placed under the responsibility and direction of the DGAL relate to the rules for use of veterinary medicines on livestock farms, detection of residues in animal products in livestock farming and at the point of entry into consumption channels, food and general aspects of good hygiene on livestock farms. The effort to combat animal diseases transmissible to the human population is attached to the animal health domain and also contributes to the protection of human health. Controls on animal identification and movements are also the foundation for traceability in animal production prior to release for consumption. Shellfish farming is also subject to specific sanitary surveillance in production areas, including both shellfish and fishing areas.

Use of veterinary medicines¹⁷

In livestock farming, the issue for control applied under the responsibility and direction of the DGAL is adherence to the rules governing the administration of veterinary medicines and their safe storage. Inspections on livestock farms cover all animal production sectors following a common risk analysis based on reports of non-compliance: previous unfavourable inspection outcomes for the farm, inspections in another establishment linked to that farm, slaughterhouse incident reports or possibly the results of a non-compliant official sample. In the region of 1,200 inspections are performed every year.

Surveillance plans and control plans for animal production

Checks on residues in animal production sectors are a priority across the EU and the core issue is to verify absence of residues of banned substances, medicinal drugs and various contaminants in animal products. Some of the sampling is carried out on farms (urine, faeces, hair, feed, milk, honey, fish in fish farming). Such samples are supplemented by others taken in the slaughterhouse at the point of entry into consumption channels. Approximately 46,000 samples are scheduled every year for meat (over half of this total in slaughterhouses) in

¹⁷Control of the distribution of veterinary medicines (retail pharmacies, veterinarians and officially approved groups) is outside the scope of the MANCP. These inspections are coordinated by the DGAL, in conjunction with the ANMV (French Agency for Veterinary Medicinal Products) for regulatory expertise.

addition to other animal products: milk, eggs, fish (fish farming) and honey. These controls are placed under the responsibility and direction of the DGAL (see subsection 2.1.2.1 listing the monitored contaminants).

Animal feed on farms is also an aspect of the controls applied in animal primary production; this is developed further at point 2.3.

Good hygiene practice on livestock farms

Farm inspections relating to a range of hygiene and safety rules applicable to livestock production are carried out in connection with the cross-compliance required for support payments. Approximately 2,200 inspections are performed every year.

Sanitary surveillance of shellfish production areas

The government agencies at *département* level are responsible for managing sanitary surveillance of shellfish production areas. To this end, they are reliant on the *département's* test laboratories (LDA) to which the implementation has been delegated (scheduling and performing sampling and analyses). Shellfish farmers and fishers are also called upon for sampling, especially where specific seagoing craft are needed for this, in exchange for compensatory payments from government. Ifremer sets out, in agreement with the central competent authority (the DGAL), the general requirements for these networks and provides support for their implementation.

The monitoring system set up locally by Ifremer enables government departments to check that it is being implemented correctly and to make any necessary adjustments. Such monitoring is also the subject of in-depth analysis at national level. This organisation strengthens the networking of the various local actors, giving them greater involvement while at the same time ensuring that the effectiveness of the surveillance is maintained.

Sanitary surveillance operates via three networks: REMI (microbiological surveillance), REPHYTOX (phytoplankton and phycotoxins in shellfish surveillance) and ROCCH (surveillance of chemicals).

Every year Ifremer publishes regional overview reports on the surveillance of the quality of the coastal marine environment which include other surveillance networks coordinated by the Institute. These reports also contain a description of multiannual trends in the results of surveillance.

Each of Ifremer's "Environment and Resources" (LER) laboratories publishes two types of document each year, setting out the data from this health monitoring programme by *département* (or the laboratory's geographical area of responsibility):

- **quality assessment reports for production areas** covering the last three years, which draw on data from the REMI and ROCCH networks, assess the quality of the monitored areas against the classification criteria and identify any discrepancies with the current classification. The relevant local authorities use these reports to review the classification of areas;
- **monitoring reports**, drawing on data from various networks managed by Ifremer, which include data outside the scope of public health. These reports present the results of the official monitoring carried out by the REMI, ROCCH, REPHY and REPHYTOX networks, broken down by monitoring point.

Microbiological surveillance (*E. coli*): this monitoring is only performed in designated production areas. Under national regulations, the classification of an area is determined by the type of shellfish found there:

- Group 1: echinoderms, gastropods and tunicates (most of which may be harvested outside designated areas);
- Group 2: burrowing bivalve molluscs;
- Group 3: non-burrowing filter-feeding bivalve molluscs.

As a guide, as at 21 October 2025, no areas are designated under Group 1; 22, 97 and 11 areas are designated as A, B and C respectively under Group 2; while 133, 142 and 5 areas are designated as A, B and C respectively under Group 3.

In 2024, 4,353 routine monitoring tests, in addition to 613 alert results were performed in designated production areas.

Monitoring of phytoplankton in water: 2,595 water samples were used for health monitoring through microbial analysis to identify toxin-producing species.

Phycotoxin surveillance: in 2024, a total of 3,688 tests were performed, both in designated areas and at offshore pectinid beds. Procedures for the detection of toxins in shellfish are undertaken mainly in cases where there are warning signs in the marine environment (presence of toxic phytoplankton). This total breaks down as follows:

- Lipophilic toxins: 2,302 chemical tests;
- PSP (Paralytic Shellfish Poison): 665 chemical analyses (as biotests on mice were discontinued in 2021);
- ASP (Amnesic Shellfish Poison): 721 chemical tests.

This surveillance is completed by monitoring regulated and unregulated toxins via the vigilance network for emergence of marine biotoxins (EMERGTOX). In 2024, 73 phycotoxins and lipophilic or hydrophilic cyanotoxins were established using multi-toxin chemical testing in bivalve molluscs in 12 production areas.

Surveillance of chemical contaminants: In 2024, analyses focused on regulated compounds in molluscs. Three trace metals (Pb, Hg, Cd) were analysed in 89 samples (plus one gastropod sample analysed for Hg only), along with 17 dioxins, 18 PCBs and 4 HAPs at a limited number of sites deemed to be of interest for organic compounds (14 samples in 2024). In 2024, 50 samples were also analysed for perfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS), including the 4 regulated substances and 21 unregulated substances, ensuring that all monitored sites of environmental concern had been analysed between 2023 and 2024 (one site was analysed in 2025). Some sanitary sampling is combined with the sampling for the environmental component.

2.1.2 – Market release of products for human consumption and food contact materials

2.1.2.1 – Food safety

Issues and priorities

The objective is to guarantee a high level of consumer protection against sanitary hazards with physical, microbiological and chemical origins which may affect foodstuffs. Primarily, this involves verifying the safety for health of food products placed on the market. Secondly, the aim is to verify the overall functioning of facilities producing, processing and distributing food products (adherence to regulations), in addition to their means of transport and storage, and to assess their systems for self-inspection.

In order to ensure the safety of products for human food consumption and food contact materials, three mutually complementary control processes are rolled out simultaneously: surveillance plans and control plans (PSPC), in-company controls and, lastly, sectoral investigations.

The system monitors:

- **chemical contaminants**: trace metals (such as cadmium), organic pollutants (such as dioxins or per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS)), residues of veterinary medicines (such as antibiotics), banned substances (such as chloramphenicol), residues of authorised or banned pesticides, agricultural contaminants (such as mycotoxins and plant toxins), toxins (such as phycotoxins), industrial contaminants (such as newly formed compounds); presence of additives and flavourings;
- **biological contaminants**: bacteria (such as *Salmonella*), viruses (such as the hepatitis E virus), parasites (such as *Anisakidae*);
- **physical contaminants**: radionuclides and foodstuffs treated with ionising radiation;
- **unauthorised GMOs**.

These contaminants have a proven or suspected adverse effect on consumers' health, with **short-term** consequences (for example: food poisoning caused by *Salmonella*) or **long-term** consequences (chronic toxicity that may lead to cancer or endocrine disorders).

Added to the above controls are the following:

- Short-term and seasonal actions aimed at throwing a spotlight on certain sectors of business for a defined period. For example, specific "Tourism Economy" and "End-of-year Holiday Season" operations target possibly problematic activities (e.g. catering facilities, retail food outlets) during those periods. These short-term actions may also be planned at local level by the Prefect, the Public Prosecutor or the control agencies themselves, based on an analysis of the local risk or following a complaint or a report of a particular issue;
- Enhanced control measures for imports of higher-risk products (See part 12 – Import Controls).

Competent authorities

Four competent authorities have roles in the area of food safety starting at the production stage (excluding primary production presented in point 2.1.1) and extending up to supply to the consumer. Since 2023, a new division of responsibilities regarding food safety has been put in place.

The **DGAL** is responsible for all types of risk (biological, chemical, radioactive, etc.) and, in particular, for:

- Surveillance of microbiological health hazards in the plant and animal sectors (*Salmonella*, *Campylobacter*, norovirus, *Listeria*, enterohaemorrhagic *E. coli*, etc.);
- Surveillance of chemical health hazards in the plant and animal sectors (plant protection products, dioxins and PCBs (polychlorinated biphenyls), heavy metals, newly formed compounds, radionuclides, etc.);
- Inspection of slaughterhouses;
- Checks on hygiene and safety in facilities processing animal products and officially approved for that purpose;
- Checks on hygiene for plant-based, animal-based and so-called 'mixed' foodstuffs at all stages of market release;
- Checks on allergen risk (cross-contamination);
- Checks on institutional catering establishments;
- Checks on improvers in food products (additives, flavouring and technical auxiliaries, including enzymes);
- Checks on food ionisation;
- Checks to verify the absence of unauthorised GMOs in food;
- Checks on food supplements, enriched foodstuffs and novel foods;
- Checks on products intended for specific groups of consumers;
- Checks on beverages, including bottled water once it has been placed on the market.

Within the DGAL, the National Veterinary and Phytosanitary Investigation Brigade (BNEVP) is the investigative unit of the Directorate-General for Food (DGAL). It operates throughout the country to combat organised crime across the entire food supply chain, including, where relevant, offences relating to food safety.

The **DGCCRF**'s role in food safety includes:

- Checks on materials that come into contact with food and the premises where they are produced;
- Checks to verify the absence of unauthorised GMOs in seeds intended for cultivation.

The **DGS** controls bottled water before it is placed on the market (natural mineral water, spring water and water treated for potability).

The **Military Health Service** (SSA) is active in establishments attached to the Ministry of Defence and military formations under the authority of the Minister of the Interior (National Gendarmerie), mainly in the area of institutional catering.

Operator registration

Establishments are registered in the databases of the competent authorities. EU regulations impose mandatory official registration or approval, depending on the specific activities, for all the operators concerned. So-called "sanitary approval" is obligatory for slaughterhouses, establishments processing animal products, certain storage facilities and water bottling or treatment plants. These official approvals are issued following verification of adherence to regulations by the competent authorities responsible for the relevant domain.

The number of establishments registered or approved is indicated in relation to the various stages in control described below.

Application of controls

Control activities are based on the requirements laid down by EU regulations and the outcomes of previous investigations and the national risk assessment. As a priority, they target food products, activities potentially offering high risk for the consumer and detection of fraud. Controls are applied at the product distribution stage and earlier in the chain on manufacturers and importers.

The data collected in connection with inspections, and especially information deriving from product surveillance and control plans, is passed on to the risk evaluation agencies, thus contributing to greater knowledge of food-related risks. Alongside the DGAL's surveillance and control plans (PSPC), other controls are applied:

Inspection of slaughterhouses

Inspections performed by the DGAL in slaughterhouses, where a large number of controls are mandatory, continue to be a priority. As an obligatory point of passage of animals before release for consumption, slaughterhouses enable controls to be applied, along with sampling and testing for the detection of non-compliance deriving from the rearing process as a whole. The following are particularly closely monitored: environmental contaminants, residues of banned substances (anabolic agents) and residues left by veterinary medicines.

Within the slaughterhouses, staff from the inspection and official veterinary agencies are responsible for protecting public health. This is achieved by direct and systematic verification of the health status of the animals and the health safety of the meat, in order to guarantee that carcasses and edible offal are suitable for consumption. A favourable inspection outcome is formalised by the placing of a sanitary approval stamp on each carcass.

Inspectors also seek to ascertain whether regulatory provisions have been adhered to in the area of animal welfare with a view to preventing suffering either before or at the point of slaughter, which is also a factor in the sanitary quality of the meat. Official controls on the sanitary conditions in which slaughterhouses operate are based on an audit of the slaughter sanitary control plan.

Inspection of establishments engaged in the processing and initial market release of food products

Establishments engaged in initial market release are responsible for handling, treating and processing products and supplying products to distribution channels. Industrial and craft establishments processing and handling animal products (meat products, dairy products, eggs and egg products, fisheries products, gelatine), must have official sanitary approval pursuant to regulation 853/2004. Bottled water production facilities must hold a health permit issued by the authorities following specific inspections. France has 25,000 facilities processing animal products and over 1,500 producers of raw milk sold directly to the consumer, in addition to over 110 water bottling firms.

Product volume is high in this sector. Handling and processing are "high risk" stages from the sanitary standpoint and from that of possible fraud. Action early in the sector supply chain allows products to be effectively controlled prior to their entry into distribution channels.

Within the **food production sector**, the DGAL monitors hygiene and safety standards in food production establishments, whether or not they are authorised, and regardless of their type (industrial, farm-based, etc.). Approved establishments are inspected at intervals ranging from twice a year to once every three years, depending on the risk rating assigned to each establishment. The inspections take into account, in particular, the theoretical risk associated with the activity, the volume of production, the vulnerability of the population and the outcome of the previous inspection. These controls cover all aspects of the establishment relating to the hygiene control of the foodstuffs produced: hazard analysis, self-monitoring plans (including analytical tests), and the management of non-compliance and alerts.

Furthermore, non-approved establishments are also inspected for food hygiene and safety, particularly those involved in processing plant products. Facilities producing food additives, food supplements, products intended for infant nutrition and foodstuffs intended for specific groups, as well as transport companies, are also subject to inspection.

In **food processing and first-stage marketing establishments**, the controls are performed as follows:

- the **DGAL** verifies hygiene and safety in establishments producing animal products and conducting activities subject to official approval by the Prefect. The inspection frequency ranges from once a year to once every two years, with the actual frequency depending on the risk grade assigned to the individual establishment. In particular this takes into account the theoretical risk of the activity, production volume, the vulnerability of the general public and the outcome of the previous inspection. These controls cover every aspect of an establishment (premises, equipment, operation, etc.) but focus particularly on its ability to counter microbiological hazards. It also checks health and safety standards at non-approved establishments, based on a risk assessment, particularly those involved in the processing and handling of plant-based products and those dealing with composite products, pre-processed animal-based foodstuffs or beverages. Facilities producing food additives, food supplements, products intended for infant nutrition and foodstuffs intended for specific groups, as well as transport companies;

- The **DGCCRF** checks the quality and fairness of products and transactions (see 2.1.2.2. – Quality and Fair trade in marketed products

- the **DGS** oversees inspections of water bottling and treatment plants. In this connection, around twenty inspections are performed every year by Regional Health Authorities (ARS). Sanitary control involves the verification of the quality of the bottled or treated water (natural mineral water, spring water or water made potable by treatment), inspection of the facilities and control of the sanitary safety measures applied by the operator.

Inspection of distribution and catering establishments

The distribution and catering sector comprises some 16,000 supermarkets and hypermarkets and stores specialising in frozen foods, over 8,900 warehouses, more than 230,000 retail outlets, almost 247,000 commercial restaurants and in excess of 108,000 institutional catering establishments, school canteens most notably. Additionally, the sector includes 1,025 facilities attached to the Ministry of Defence and military units under the authority of the Minister of the Interior (National Gendarmerie) [2024 statistics] Two competent authorities direct the controls in this domain (DGAL and SSA). SSA (Army Health Service) intervenes solely in the defence industry. Catering establishments are subject to stricter inspections. In 2024, 63,002 inspections were carried out in catering establishments.

The inspection of establishments which market materials that come into contact with food

The sector for materials and articles which come into contact with food represents a very large market, ranging from food packaging to kitchen utensils and industrial equipment. The DGCCRF applies checks at every stage of the supply chain, from the manufacture of materials and objects in contact with food (MCDA) right through to their distribution. With specific regard to “initial market release checks” (CPMMs), these are carried out at a frequency that takes into account, in particular, the risks associated with the activities of the companies in question, their ability to ensure product compliance, and the results of previous official checks. Unlike PSPCs, they do not relate solely to managing a specific risk but have a much broader scope: during these inspections, the DGCCRF may be required to verify compliance with all the regulations applicable to the products it is responsible for inspecting (quality, safety, competition, fair trading and consumer protection).

The checks carried out are designed to verify compliance with European regulations (MCDA regulations, Good Manufacturing Practice, etc.) or national regulations (specific legislation on certain materials), both in terms of product safety (material inertness) and fair trading (labelling, claims, etc.).

In total, health and safety conditions were inspected in 2024 at around 88,000 premises, including nearly 80,000 premises supplying food directly to the end consumer (catering establishments, commercial catering outlets, retail outlets, markets, etc.). Taking the food chain as a whole, including primary production and bottled water, more than 85,000 samples are taken every year. Those samples may be tested in a number of ways.

Laboratories

The networks of laboratories are set up to reflect the specific characteristics of the testing (matrix/analyte/method triptych). There is a wide variety of tests covering microbiological, chemical and physical contamination along the entire production chain from primary production (animals, plants) to product supply to the consumer.

The DGAL works in this way with a number of laboratory networks. Examples are a “food microbiology” network comprising over 70 laboratories and focused on detecting a range of microorganisms (enterobacteria, salmonella, Listeria, etc.) and a “shellfish norovirus” network. The chemical analysis networks are designed to handle the volume of tests required for the PSPCs and include SCL (Joint Service) laboratories, in particular for the tests to be carried out by the DGAL as part of the single animal health policy from 2023 onwards. The SSA also makes use of this laboratory network.

The DGCCRF is reliant on the national joint laboratory service (SCL) which carries out, among other activities, testing on food contact materials.

For checks on bottled water, the DGS calls on its network of laboratories – accredited by the Ministry of Health for radioactivity parameters and by ANSES for other parameters – to collect and analyse water samples at the source and at bottling points (before or after bottling). The [“Agrément Eaux santé”](#) Health-related Water Approval platform contains information on analytical methods.

2.1.2.2. – Quality and Fair trade in marketed products

General controls

DGCCRF inspections are directed at verifying adherence to the following regulations:

- EU regulations: labelling (general and nutritional), health claims, infant foods, meat, fisheries products, EU quality and origin signs (an area shared with the INAO, which is responsible for pre-market release controls), the EU value statement “mountain food product”, GMO labelling of food and feed, eggs, milk, olive oil, etc.
- and national regulations: sector-specific rules applicable to certain categories of products (cider, honey, dairy products, etc.), national value-added schemes (Label Rouge, product compliance certificates, “farm products”, etc.), claims of all types, “GMO free” value statements, and so on.

In this context, at every stage in a sectoral supply chain the DGCCRF verifies adherence to the rules for labelling and composition and the names given to products of all kinds. Its enquiries may lead the DGCCRF to investigate primary production to check compliance with marketing standards (poultry meat, eggs, etc.) and the veracity of certain value statements and claims. Traceability controls are also applied.

The goal is to detect food-related fraud and trading practices which impact the fairness of trade and distort competition between operators. These infringements also cause economic harm to consumers by depriving them of accurate information and impairing their ability to make informed choices. While the majority of investigations of this type are unrelated to sanitary safety, it should be noted that certain types of fraud and non-compliance may in fact affect consumer safety.

Risk analysis by the DGCCRF takes into account the entry into force of new regulatory provisions, the findings of inspections in preceding years and reception of reports of issues.

When it comes to reporting issues, the DGCCRF relies in particular on SignalConso – a tool launched in February 2020 which enables consumers to report problems encountered whilst shopping – as well as on the whistleblower scheme, which was introduced in 2022 to collect and process reports from whistleblowers securely.

It also makes use of an effective system for the collection and processing of feedback and information (SESAM reporting) enabling all DGCCRF staff in the field to report back to line management any information or marginal evidence possibly indicative of fraudulent food-related practice involving an operator or an entire sector supply chain. The relevance of such information is analysed and it may be added to data already accumulated or lead directly to an investigation.

Annual plans (national, regional and local) are put in place in accordance with reported issues and the identification of risks. This programme also takes into account developments in the economy and in industry practices – particularly with regard to voluntary claims made on food labelling, such as those stating the absence of a particular substance – as well as consumer expectations, and focuses on the challenges posed by the green transition, digital transition and globalisation. Furthermore, since 2024, following the discontinuation of the SSA’s remit, the DGCCRF has introduced a process for checking major operators with regard to the fair trade of food products (including animal feed), known as SOLPA.

Within **food processing and first-market-placement establishments**, the **DGCCRF** checks all the regulations applicable to the products which fall under its remit (quality, competition, fair trading and consumer protection). These checks are carried out as part of the programme to monitor operators’ compliance with food labelling regulations (SOLPA). They make it possible to enhance market surveillance with in-depth checks on significant economic operators and to better identify and analyse risks, particularly in relation to fraudulent practices.

Laboratories

The DGCCRF uses the national joint laboratory service (SCL) for testing, in order to verify product composition not only in connection with compliance with the relevant specific regulations (dairy products, meat products, specialist nutritional products, etc.), but also the match between content levels claimed on labels and the actual levels established by testing. In this same context, the national joint laboratory service (SCL) also carries out testing to establish the authentic character of foodstuffs.

2.2 – VOLUNTARY DISSEMINATION INTO THE ENVIRONMENT OF GMOs FOR THE PRODUCTION OF FOOD OR FEED (seeds/crops)

Issues and priorities

The purpose of controls on GMOs is to verify adherence to EU and French regulations on voluntary dissemination of GMOs into the environment. The growing of GMO crops has been banned in France since 2008. Field trials of GMOs are possible in France only if they are authorised in advance by the Ministry of Agriculture and no trials are authorised at the present time.

Controls relating to GMOs in human food, animal feed or imports are addressed in the relevant chapters.

Competent authorities:

The DGAL and the DGCCRF are responsible for directing the controls:

- the DGAL has responsibility for the crop growing and aspects relating to imports (bans on crops, trials);
- the DGCCRF has responsibility for seeds placed on the market (presence of unauthorised GMOs, labelling).

The competent authority acting as “point of contact” for this regulatory domain is the DGAL.

Control planning and approximate volume of checks

Controls are applied by the DGAL to crops every year to verify adherence to these bans, especially in regions close to Spain, where GMO crops are permitted. All reports indicating suspected illegal or accidental growing of GMO crops are followed up with inspections to verify whether or not GMOs are present and, if confirmed, to ensure the effective destruction of the crops concerned and complete GMO eradication. Checks on compliance with the provisions on GMOs in imported seed are set out in the section on import controls.

At the stage when products are placed on the market, the DGCCRF seeks to ascertain whether GMOs are present in batches of seeds intended for crop growing irrespective of their origin (national, European or third country). It also verifies that self-inspections have been carried out by those responsible for initial market release. The focus here is mainly on seeds from the species most likely to have been genetically modified (i.e. maize, rapeseed and soybean).

The verification of adherence to provisions concerning GMOs in food or feed is described in the relevant sections.

Laboratories

The DGAL and the DGCCRF work with three National Reference Laboratories for the detection of GMOs:

- ANSES-Plant Health Laboratory – Bacteriology, Virology, GMO Unit – Angers Station;
- GEVES/ BioGEVES-Surgères;
- The national joint laboratory service (SCL) - Strasbourg laboratory.

2.3 - ANIMAL FEED

Issues and priorities

Animal feed is one of the first links in the food chain. The challenges facing primary plant and animal production are similar to those mentioned in section 2.1. The issues relating to industrial manufacturers concern hygiene in feed manufacture, verification of the absence of unauthorised or unlabelled proteins in raw materials and compound feed products in livestock farming, detection of unauthorised GMOs, detection of salmonella, adherence to maximum permitted levels of undesirable substances (e.g. pesticides, dioxins, heavy metals, mycotoxins), observance of authorisations for additives and accurate labelling. These same issues apply, *mutatis mutandis*, to other operators in the animal feed sector (producers or suppliers of feed materials, additives, premixes, etc.) In livestock farming, the priority for inspections is adherence to EU regulations on the distribution of animal feed products. Checks are also carried out on the use of materials of animal origin and on the premises of on-farm manufacturers of feed carrying out their own incorporation of additives, most notably of “coccidiostat” type, and premixes.

Feed for non-food-producing animals (i.e. mainly pets) presents similar challenges to feed for farm animals in terms of food safety. Furthermore, these foods are aimed at pet owners – non-professionals – for whom diet is a key

factor in their pet's well-being and the main factor in keeping their pet healthy. This raises specific issues regarding the accuracy of labelling, particularly with regard to claims and the verification of guaranteed content levels. Inspections are carried out at all stages, from manufacture to distribution (including at online retail sites).

Issues relating to the use of materials of animal origin in animal feed are also covered by the regulations on animal by-products (see section 2.5).

Aspects relating to the import and export of animal feed are discussed in section 2.11.

Note: since Regulation (EU) 2019/4 came into force on 28 January 2022, medicated feed and intermediate products have been regarded as animal feed, whereas under French law they previously had the status of veterinary medicinal products. Monitoring compliance with the provisions of this Regulation has therefore been incorporated into the scope of animal feed controls.

Competent authorities

The **DGAL** is the competent authority "contact point" for the European Commission for the parts "*animal feed and its safety, integrity and wholesomeness at any stage of production, processing and distribution*" of this regulatory area.

The **DGCCRF** is the competent authority "contact point" for the European Commission for the parts "rules aimed at ensuring fair commercial practices and the protection and information of consumers" of this regulatory area.

The DGAL and the DGCCRF allocate their control activities on the basis of the following general principles which have been in force since January 2024 following the establishment of the single animal health authority:

DGAL (health and safety)	DGCCRF (fair trade)
Hygiene rules on the premises of operators in the animal feed sector (e.g. manufacturers, wholesalers, transporters), and on livestock farms	Fair labelling rules applicable to all operators in the animal feed sector (from manufacture to distribution): composition, labelled contents (levels of analytical constituents, raw materials, additives in compound feed, etc.), claims, and the presentation of feed.
Specific regulations: - medicinal feed - undesirable or banned substances - animal by-products (see part 2.5) - "feed ban" (Regulation (EC) No 999/2001) - Additives for animal feed - GMO: GMO regulation, checking the absence of unauthorised GMOs - Imports (see part 2.11.1) -	Specific regulations: - Control of labelling of authorised GMOs - Feed additives (labelling, unfair practices)
PSPC for animal feed on livestock farms and among operators in the animal feed sector at all stages	Annual national surveys and regional surveys to monitor the compliance of animal feed at all stages (from manufacture to distribution)
Several topics may be 'mixed', i.e.: - fall within the remit of both regulations administered by the DGAL and regulations administered by the DGCCRF; - and/or - fall within the scope of health regulations but with implications for fair trading, or within the scope of labelling regulations but with health implications. In this case, the competent authorities: - shall provide each other, at local (and, where appropriate, national) level, with all relevant information; - shall cooperate when handling the case, either by acting jointly or by deciding, depending on the circumstances of the individual case, to entrust the lead role in the case to one authority, whilst the other authority remains involved and kept informed.	

Facility registration and approval

The European regulation on hygiene in the feed sector (Regulation (EC) No 1831/2003) introduces a requirement for all establishments in the sector (with certain exceptions) to be registered or authorised, depending on their activities. Certain specific activities are subject to registration or authorisation under national regulations. The procedures for registration or authorisation, as well as the publication of lists of facilities, fall within the remit of the DGAL. Since 28 January 2022, this has included authorising facilities under Regulation (EU) 2019/4 (medicated feed and intermediate products).

Regulation (EC) No 999/2001 also provides for the registration or authorisation of certain facilities producing or using animal proteins in feed for farmed animals. The procedures and the publication of lists of facilities also fall within the remit of the DGAL.

The lists of establishments in the animal feed sector are published on the website of the Ministry of Agriculture and Food: <https://agriculture.gouv.fr/alimentation-animale>.

Control planning and application

Depending on the allocation of responsibilities between the **DGAL** and the **DGCCRF**, control activity covers the following:

- Annual sampling plans, every year;
- Control and monitoring of all operators in the sector (importers, intermediaries, transport firms, manufacturers, livestock farmers, distributors) pursuant to a plan based on the risk assessment;
- Specific investigations in sectors presenting a particular risk, e.g. investigations into the accuracy of labelling, including whether animal feed contains GMOs;
- Investigations initiated following alerts, complaints or information provided by other countries (ACN notifications) or other sources (e.g. reports from other professionals, consumers, market watch, etc.).

Control and monitoring of establishments: approved establishments and operators registered under national regulations (Decree of 28 February 2000) are inspected by the **DGAL** every 1 to 4 years, in particular depending on the potentially problematic nature of their activity and the quantities manufactured. On-farm manufacturers of feed incorporating certain own additives (approved or registered) are also inspected or they are approved or registered.

Other establishments (establishments registered in accordance with Regulation (EC) No 183/2005, breeders and retailers of pet food) are inspected by the DGAL on the basis of a local risk assessment.

In parallel, the **DGCCRF** carries out checks on fair trading practices at all the establishments concerned, including online retail sites

In total, over 2,700 inspections were conducted in 2024 by the two directorates.

Given the obligation to combat food waste, many foodstuffs are and will continue to be recycled as animal feed. The competent authorities are available to assist agrifood or distribution professionals in implementing these new regulatory provisions, as well as for the systematic inspection of these new operators in the animal feed chain.

Controls on animal feed (raw materials, additives, premixes and compound feed, medicinal feed and intermediate products): the surveillance and control plan sampling (PSPC) are allocated between livestock farms firstly, and non livestock establishments secondly: compound feed manufacturers, suppliers (importers, producers, intermediaries) of raw materials (plant and animal), additives and premixes, and stockists/distributors. The competent authorities consult with each other every year in order to update this planning to reflect the results obtained in previous years and the appearance of new risks, to organise the allocation of sampling and also to coordinate their respective activities (as some tests may be used for both health checks and compliance checks, such as the measurement of additive levels). Every year, around 6,200 samples are taken in this field. Allocation of testing (for “animal feed/detection substance” couplings) may change in the light of current knowledge and previous results.

The DGCCRF’s inspections of animal feed focus on compliance and fair trading (composition, guaranteed levels, labelling of authorised GMOs, misuse of additives, labelling, claims, etc.).

Controls on animal feed transportation: the DGAL seeks to ensure due registration of animal feed carriers and adherence to the conditions imposed by regulations concerning the alternation of food and feed in transportation (explicit prohibitions in line with the rules governing animal by-products and ESTs) and good hygiene practice.

Import controls on animal feed at border inspection posts are described at point 2.11.1.

Laboratories

Testing is carried out:

- by the SCL for the DGCCRF;
- by approved laboratories and relevant NRLs, including the SCL, for the DGAL.

2.4 – ANIMAL HEALTH AND IDENTIFICATION

Competent authorities, delegated organisations and practising veterinarians

Surveillance, prevention and control of zoonosanitary hazards across France are provided by the DGAL, and by the SSA where military premises are specifically concerned.

Where animal identification is concerned, controls are placed under the responsibility and direction of the DGAL. The French Horse and Riding Institute (IFCE) has been delegated responsibility for the identification of equines. As previously outlined in point 1.1.1.4, the Payments and Services Agency (ASP) – a French State-controlled

administrative public-sector entity – which acts as the paying agency for the EAGF (European Agricultural Guarantee Fund), must verify compliance with identification requirements as part of its checks on cross-compliance for EAGF support payments. The checks carried out by the ASP are part of the identification checks to be applied by France. However, the consequences (administrative or criminal) of any non-compliance identified during the checks remain under the remit of the DDPPs and DDETSPs.

Some official missions, most notably sanitary surveillance, are delegated by the DGAL to regional sanitary defence federations recognised as dedicated sanitary bodies (OVS). These are accredited under standard ISO 17020.

Practising veterinarians play a role in this scheme under one of two types of status:

- Sanitary veterinarians are empowered by the government to perform regulatory tasks for which farmers and growers are responsible, such as prophylactic screening. These veterinarians are chosen by livestock farmers and remunerated directly by them for tasks performed on their farms. The amount of this remuneration is set by government;
- Mandated veterinarians, who are already empowered to act as sanitary veterinarians, and are additionally duly qualified and authorised by the Prefect to perform certain official tasks on all livestock farms and at all assembly centres. They act subject to the authority of the Prefect in pursuance of the missions of government and may conduct official checks. They are remunerated directly by government.

In the event of an outbreak and in the context of efforts to contain certain particularly serious diseases, sanitary veterinarians are given the legal status of mandated veterinarian.

The DGAL is the competent authority acting as “point of contact” for the European Commission in this regulatory domain, in which the Chief Veterinary Officer (CVO), as defined by the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE) is designated.

2.4.1 – Animal health (monitoring, prevention and control of animal diseases and zoonoses)

Issues and priorities

The control of animal diseases is a key issue not only in terms of public health but also from the economic standpoint. Livestock farming accounts for a large share of the value of agricultural production, and animal diseases, due to the losses they cause, whether direct (sick livestock, mortality) or indirect (increased production costs, impediments to trade), erode the value of production and may have severe socioeconomic and political consequences. Animal health is also a major factor in farm competitiveness and is therefore a key issue for France, focused as it is on exports and the development of high value-added production. Moreover, certain diseases, due to the fact that they are zoonoses can directly impact public health.

The priorities for action are based on a classification of the health hazards. The ways and means mobilized by government or trade bodies are determined in light of the gravity of the relevant risk.

The system of disease categorisation already in place in France was adjusted to fit the new EU provisions on animal health as of April 2021.

The principle is maintained whereby there is a graduation between the following:

- diseases involving serious compromise to public health, major risks for the environment or production capacity and requiring mandatory measures in the general interest for prevention, surveillance and control;
- diseases with an economic impact in one or more sectors for which it may be necessary to implement collective programmes for prevention, surveillance and control;
- diseases that call for measures that remain within the scope of private-sector initiative.

Disease prevention requires livestock farmers to apply biosecurity measures to protect their farms.

Certain diseases are covered by emergency planning in the event of the appearance of a case or an outbreak. This is the case, for example, with foot-and-mouth disease, classical and African swine fever, highly pathogenic and low-pathogenic avian influenza, Newcastle disease in poultry, and bluetongue.

Inspection programmes for sanitary measures on livestock farms

The priority for these controls relates to biosecurity measures in the poultry sector (salmonella contamination – risk linked to avian influenza) and aquaculture operations. Over 4,000 inspections are performed every year in this context. Certain livestock breeding establishments (e.g. insemination centres) that must abide by sanitary rules specific to their activity are subject to around 260 annual inspections.

Surveillance programmes

Disease surveillance programmes directed by the DGAL reflect the epidemiological situation and the seriousness of the disease for animals and the risks to human health in the case of diseases transmissible to the human population. Such surveillance may be based on diagnostic testing as an immediate response to clinical suspicion (e.g. where there is a suspected case of avian influenza or foot-and-mouth disease) and/or test campaigns (serological testing, systematic tests in slaughterhouses).

Measures to combat disease in the event of an outbreak and cases of the above regulated animal diseases are directed at avoiding spread of the disease and in most cases include steps to isolate outbreaks and cull the animals and the herds to which they belong and, in some cases, perimeter vaccination.

Examples of animal disease monitoring

Bovine spongiform encephalopathy is monitored using slaughterhouse testing of cattle born prior to 1 January 2002 and higher-risk bovines aged over 48 months, in addition to testing in rendering plants, and possible alerts triggered by the appearance of suspected symptoms. France is a “controlled risk” country.

Bluetongue, is a viral disease in ruminants transmitted by midges in the genus *Culicoides* (an arbovirus disease). It is not transmissible to the human population. Several serotypes are in regular circulation in continental Europe.

In the aquaculture sector, the main endemic diseases in fish in France are Infectious Hematopoietic Necrosis Virus (IHNV) and Viral Haemorrhagic Septicaemia (VHS. France is recognised as free of Infectious Salmon Anaemia (ISA).

In pigs, the threat of introduction of African swine fever is still relevant.

Salmonella on poultry farms is a focus for systematic on-farm sampling of breeding operations (Gallus and turkeys) and production of table eggs and table poultry (turkeys and chickens). In the region of 500 contaminated farms are detected every year.

Specific case of military premises

Veterinarians in the Military Health Service (SSA) participate in the national scheme for surveillance, prevention and control of zoonotic hazards relating to animals belonging to the Ministry of Defence (mainly military working dogs and horses) and to those, irrespective of origin, present either permanently or occasionally on military bases or the premises of the Gendarmerie.

The Rural and Maritime Fishing Code, supplemented by Decree n° 2021-1240 of 27 September 2021 on army veterinarians, specifies that the missions of health veterinarians are carried out by army veterinarians for all establishments under the authority of the Minister of Defence or his supervision and for the military formations of the Ministry of the Interior (Article R.203-16-1).

The DGAL-DCSSA cooperation protocol stipulates that, apart from planned situations (contingency plans), the involvement of military veterinarians in the implementation of veterinary public health operations or measures – which may be implemented on an ad hoc basis in crisis situations – may be requested where civilian resources prove to be non-existent, unavailable, unsuitable or insufficient. This is set out in the procedures enshrined in the framework of the Joint Territorial Defence Organisation (OTIAD).

Laboratories

For the various animal diseases covered by regulations, the laboratory networks are regularly adapted to the need for diagnostics and the annual number of tests linked to surveillance programmes and the national epidemiological situation. Over 50 laboratories are in fact active in diagnosing bluetongue and more than a dozen for swine fever. A National Reference Laboratory (NRL) exists for each disease or group of diseases. In particular, the NRLs act to confirm diagnoses or provide emergency diagnoses for diseases not present in France, such as foot-and-mouth.

2.4.2 – Animal identification

Issues and priorities

The core issue for animal traceability is not only to guarantee the sanitary status of French herds, but also provision of the information needed to provide product traceability ranging from the livestock farm to entry into market distribution channels. The priorities are focused on satisfactory adherence to the rules governing the identification and movements of livestock between farms and from farms to slaughterhouses. Movements of animals between Member States of the European Union are subject in all cases to sanitary certification. In the event of the appearance of a disease, this traceability makes it possible to conduct an epidemiological investigation and swiftly implement measures to isolate potentially infected livestock.

Livestock farm registration and animal identification

The registration of cattle, pig, sheep and goat farms is managed by livestock farming bodies (EDE) in the *départements* approved by the Prefects in those *départements*. EDEs are also under an obligation to inform the owners of animals of their obligations and to carry out a first-level verification of their fulfilment of those obligations. They must notify any anomaly to the control agencies. The allocation to each animal of a unique national number allows them to be identified individually and to track their movements in a livestock register and the national identification database (BDNI), which is managed by the Ministry of Agriculture. All farms, except poultry farms, are registered in the BDNI, which is directly linked to the RESYTAL information system at the DGAL. Poultry farms are registered in the RESYTAL information system.

Livestock assembly centres and markets are registered and need specific approval from the Prefect, if they despatch animals to other Member States in the European Union.

Control planning and application

For cattle, at least 5% of applicants for EAGF cattle aid in each *département* are inspected each year by the ASP to check their eligibility for the aid, including checks on identification. In addition, the DDPP/DDETSP may carry out identity checks alone, thereby enabling the identity check rate to reach 3% of establishments keeping these animals within the country, as stipulated by the regulations on official controls. The holdings are selected on the basis of an analysis of the risks (75-80%) or chosen randomly (20-25%).

As part of the checks on national and EU authorisations, at least 20 per cent of assembly centres and markets are inspected with regard to traceability (once every 5 years).

For sheep and goats, at least 10 per cent of applicants for EAGF sheep and goat aid in each department are inspected annually by the ASP to check eligibility for the aid, including checks on identification. In addition, where applicable, separate identification checks are carried out by the DDPP/ DDETSP, in order to ensure that the identification inspection rate of 3% of holdings keeping these animals within the country, as stipulated by the regulations on official controls, is met. For the eligibility checks, the holdings are selected on the basis of an analysis of the risks (75-80%) or chosen randomly (20-25%).

For pigs, no control rate has been set. Inspections are based on an analysis of the risks and are conducted as part of the animal health programme.

2.4.3 - Certification of trade with other European Union Member States

Where live animals are concerned, the certification of intra-EU trade is covered by the harmonised framework laid down by EU regulations. For live animals, certification is applied by official veterinarians working with the directorates in the *départements* responsible for protection of the general public which are then based on health certificates issued by veterinary health officers, or involve self-employed veterinarians appointed to carry out this certification.

Certification covers the identity of the animal, the conformity of its sanitary status according to the sanitary qualification of the livestock farm from which it has come, absence of clinical signs and adherence to animal welfare rules during transportation.

In 2024, over 45,192 certificates were issued for 1,402 375 bovine animals going to other countries in the European Union, of which over 90% were certified under the mandated veterinarian procedure.

2.5 - ANIMAL BY-PRODUCTS

Issues and priorities

All animal materials and materials of animal origin (terrestrial or aquatic), on the basis that they are not or are no longer intended for use as human food, are by definition covered by the regulations on animal by-products. The issues involve the protection of animal health and adherence to the ban on reintroduction into the human food chain, in addition to fulfilment of the conditions restricting entry into the animal feed supply chain to those that are not hazardous for human or animal health.

Competent authorities

Controls in the area of animal by-products and products derived from them are directed by the DGAL, which acts as the “point of contact” for the European Commission in this regulatory domain.

Establishment registration and official approval

In 2025, 2,700 establishments were officially approved in France for activities involving animal by-products and nearly 5,200 were authorised/registered. All establishments in the animal by-products sector must, as a minimum, be registered. Certain activities related to the processing of animal by-products as referred to in Article 24 of Regulation (EC) No 1069/2009, present particular risks and the establishments engaged in those activities need approval. This is issued by the Prefect following an inspection and assessment of their application for authorisation.

A list of authorised establishments is published on the website of the Ministry of Agriculture and Food: https://agriculture.gouv.fr/sites/minagri/files/documents/pdf/ListeOfficielleEtablissementsSPAN_cle8726ab.pdf

Specific approvals (registration or authorisation) are also provided for under Regulation (EC) No 999/2001, for producers of animal by-products from non-ruminant farmed animals and for plants that process them for use as feed for farmed animals authorised to receive them (see also section 2.3).

Control planning

National control planning is based on an analysis of the risks, which determines the frequencies of controls applied to approved establishments and registered establishments. Establishments are classed in risk categories that reflect the nature of the by-products treated or processed: categories 1 and 2 represent the highest levels of risk for public health and category 3 covers animal by-products that pose a low risk to animal and public health, some of which may therefore be used in animal feed. Particular risk is associated with restrictions on the use of animal proteins in animal feed due to communicable spongiform encephalopathies (BSE, or scrapie in small ruminants). Following these calculations, establishments are placed in one of four risk categories each of which imposes a frequency of site inspections ranging from once a year to once every four years. Inspections of establishments processing animal by-products are focused particularly on the effectiveness of their sanitizing treatments and on traceability. Transport firms and wholesalers are a priority for the monitoring of registered establishments. Carriers of animal by-products in particular are inspected, in order to verify the absence of cross-contamination arising from successive journeys with different products.

Around 800 inspections are performed each year both for control planning and inspections required prior to official approval for new establishment categories.

There has been an increase in the number of approved establishments, largely due to the sharp rise in applications for approval under Article 24.1(g) of Regulation (EC) No 1069/2009 for anaerobic digestion or composting facilities.

Certification of trade with other European Union Member States

Where animal by-products are concerned, the certification of intra-EU trade is covered by the harmonised framework laid down by EU regulations. In **2024, 11,064** certificates were issued for consignments of animal by-products going to other countries in the European Union.

Addressing the risks linked to animal by-products upstream and downstream in the supply chain

Upstream from the processing establishments, the collection of animals found dead on farms (departmental private markets) or animals collected as part of the public rendering service (as well as the traceability of such material) is carried out by the Animaux Trouvés Morts (ATM) associations, or by the State through FranceAgriMer, respectively.

Management of catering waste from international transport presenting high levels of risk for animal health is the responsibility of the port authorities or catering firms and this is controlled by DDPP and DDETSPP staff or the SIVEP.

Other stages in the food chain are also important and are described in the relevant sections:

- identification and separation of animal by-products in establishments producing animal by-products (e.g., in slaughterhouses) into different categories (C1, C2, C3), based on their potential risk to human, animal or environmental health. In slaughterhouses, this relates in particular to the separation of specified risk materials (SRM) and their classification as C1, in view of the risk of spongiform encephalopathies;
- management of waste in food production establishments (processing, distribution);
- use of animal proteins in animal feed, including the ban on use of ruminant proteins.

Laboratories

The SCL laboratory in Rennes is the NRL responsible for testing to detect processed animal proteins (PATs) in raw materials from establishments processing animal by-products and animal feed.

Another laboratory, Inovalys in Nantes, is also officially approved for such testing.

The SCL also carries out tests for GTH (a marker for Category 1 and 2 animal by-products, which cannot be used in animal feed) in animal feed containing products of animal origin, in order to check that only Category 3 animal by-products are used in animal feed.

These analyses form part of the Animal Feed PSPCs discussed in section 2.3.

2.6 - ANIMAL WELFARE

Issues and priorities

Intensification of animal production, fundamental changes in local regions and developments in scientific knowledge in particular explain the reasons for the public desire for greater account to be taken of animal sentience. The welfare of animals on livestock farms, pets, and recreational animals is the subject of wide ranging policy and constitutes a societal issue. The 2016-2020 animal welfare strategy, which brings together all the actors involved and forms part of the principles underpinning sustainable agriculture, has provided a focus for a diverse range of programmes aimed at addressing animal welfare more effectively. Furthermore, this strategy encompasses different areas of focus, including training, combatting animal cruelty, pain management and painful practices carried out in livestock farming. Since December 2023, the measures under the French strategy have been supplemented by work related to the review of European legislation on animal welfare. This wide-ranging review should lead to a reassessment of the content of the directives and regulations relating to animal welfare (rearing, transport, slaughter) and, where appropriate, the introduction of new regulations (labelling). This review is being carried out in line with the latest scientific advances and in response to societal expectations, as expressed, for example, through the “End of Cages” European Citizens’ Initiative (ECI).

Competent authorities

Animal welfare controls in France are undertaken by the DGAL, and by the SSA in the specific case of military premises.

Mandated veterinarians (cf. the animal health and identification domain) can conduct verifications of animal welfare in livestock assembly centres, for trade certification and the conditions in which live animals are transported.

The competent authority acting as “point of contact” for the European Commission in this regulatory domain is the DGAL.

Control planning and application (excluding slaughterhouses)

National priorities for inspections are defined annually and implemented, most notably on livestock farms and during the transportation of animals¹⁸. Controls in addition to those planned are also carried out following a reported issue or a complaint filed by a third party (e.g. a private individual, a non-profit association). The DGAL's Veterinary and Phytosanitary Investigation Unit (BNEVP) may provide support to agencies in the *départements* for investigations initiated following complaints.

Where pets are concerned, the priorities relate to professional activities involving these animals (e.g. sales, breeding, boarding kennels, animal shelters, dog pounds). Approximately 20% of such inspections (in the region of 2,000 each year) are performed following complaints or reported issues.

For equines, the number of cases of cruelty involving the withdrawal of horses in consultation with the central administration of the Ministry of Justice has been steadily rising. Animal protection associations have again warned the Ministry of Agriculture of the major difficulties encountered in placing these horses, of which there may be large numbers in some cases (occasionally, in excess of a hundred).

Nearly 6,000 inspections are carried out on livestock farms, of which the majority are linked to cross compliance linked to support payments. Annual inspection pressure (planned inspections and inspections following complaints) is steady at 1% of farms subjected to controls in this regard.

A little over 1,400 checks relate to animal transportation conditions and are performed during road transport inspection operations, as well as on arrival (or departure, according to case), in slaughterhouses, markets, assembly centres, livestock farms, border inspection posts, ports and airports.

Additionally, any cruelty which is intentional or due to lack of care is a topic of primary concern and must be prevented, detected at an early stage or ended as a matter of urgency. For enhanced efficiency, action must be organised and collective and must take into account human suffering, which is frequently associated with this.

In order to provide better support to farmers facing serious difficulties and at risk of animal cruelty, operational prevention units were set up in the *départements* in 2017, in order to identify farmers in distress and improve their situation. Their operating procedures were reviewed in 2025 to make them more effective, particularly in the light of the experience gained since 2017.

At the same time, in order to be more effective in putting an end to cases of animal cruelty, the DGAL is strengthening its partnership with the other ministries involved in this area. Additionally, steering committees to combat animal cruelty were set up in 2024 in all departments to ensure that public prosecutors, law enforcement agencies, veterinary services and animal welfare organisations work together when a case of animal cruelty is reported or identified. In 2024, the DGAL also set up a training programme for law enforcement agencies in collaboration with the Ministry of the Interior. At the same time, the Animal Welfare Office is stepping up its training initiatives for departmental veterinary services.

Application of controls in slaughterhouses

Certain procedures linked to animal slaughter can cause stress and suffering. Operators must therefore take the necessary steps to avoid causing any pain and to mitigate distress and suffering for animals during slaughter as far as possible, taking into account best practice in this area and the methods that are authorised. This is a strong societal demand, one exacerbated by regular denunciations by animal protection associations of the conditions in which animals are handled and slaughtered in the slaughterhouses.

In addition to the *ante mortem* inspection systematically performed on animals prior to slaughter, official checks specifically targeting the protection of animals in the slaughterhouse are carried out at different levels:

- two annual audits focused on adherence to animal protection requirements and follow-up on the action plan defined by the operator;
- regular unannounced inspections of slaughterhouse operations, which contribute day-to-day and in real time to observance of animal protection requirements in slaughterhouses;
- regular checks on the internal control procedures implemented by operators.

Only the first control level leads systematically to the drafting of an inspection report for communication to the operator. For the second and third levels, the recording of findings, both compliant and non-compliant, remains at local level and internal to the slaughterhouse inspection service, but the outcome is shared with the operator via an inspection log or non-compliance sheets. Only non-compliance leading to the administrative enforcement

¹⁸Animal protection controls in slaughterhouses are described in the chapter on the safety of food products.

measures (warnings, formal demands for remedy, etc.) or criminal proceedings involve the communication of an inspection report.

Inspections relating to internal control procedures performed by the operator and those relating to corrective measures defined by the operator have been intensified since 2020 in order to improve the non-compliance statistics of previous years.

Specific case of military premises

Military Health Service (SSA) veterinarians control animal welfare for the working livestock of the Ministry of Defence and other military units (National Gendarmerie). Animal welfare control is a primary objective for the SSA since the welfare of its animals directly determines their operational effectiveness. Control activity planning is based on an analysis of the risks, taking notably into account the numbers housed in each entity and the results of previous inspections in terms of animal welfare. In light of these factors, inspection frequency may vary between once every three years and once a year, or indeed more often where there is non compliance.

2.7 - PLANT HEALTH

Issues and priorities

The relevant sanitary issues concern the maintenance of production and plant species. This is so because while plant diseases are not communicable to the human population some may result in the destruction of crops or the infestation of plants (trees, for example). Priority is given to protection against the most important regulated organisms harmful to plants designated under regulation (EU) 2016/2031 as regulated quarantine pests (RQP) or non-quarantine regulated pests (NQRP). Producers and resellers of plants for planting are particularly closely controlled in connection with the authorisation to issue plant passports for circulation within the EU. Over 200 plant pests are covered by official surveillance plans organised by individual sector for the purpose of detecting their appearance on national territory as early as possible. Where necessary, control measures must be taken in the event of an outbreak.

Competent authorities and delegated organisations

The DGAL, in its capacity as government department responsible for the safeguarding of plant health, is the National Plant Protection Organisation (NPPO). Controls and official missions are placed under the responsibility of four competent authorities:

- the DGAL;
- SEMAE is in charge, through its official control and certification service, of authorising operators to issue plant passports. The scope of its competence: seeds of agricultural and vegetable species, seed potatoes, vegetable and strawberries planting material. It carries out this mission at the same time as the compulsory certification of these plants;
- FranceAgriMer for controls for the issuing of plant passports for vine propagating material (vine cuttings and plants). It carries out this mission at the same time as the compulsory certification of these plants imposed by Directive 68/193/EEC;
- The CTIFL, through its Certification-Inspection department, is in charge of the control and the granting of the authorisation to issue plant passports or of its issue. The scope of its competence: fruit propagating material of species listed in Annex 1 of Directive 2008/90/EC, certified or CAC (Conformité Agricole Communautaire), excluding strawberry plants, held by professional operators approved for fruit certification.

SEMAE is the organisation to which the DGAL has delegated the application of controls in view of the certification of exports of seeds and plants in these same categories.

Dedicated regional sanitary bodies (FREDON) may be delegated tasks by the competent authorities based on organisational and operational factors specific to each region.

The competent authority acting as “point of contact” for the European Commission in this regulatory domain is the DGAL.

Control planning and approximate volume of checks

Controls on operators marketing plants: over 9,000 establishments producing and reselling plants are subject to control (annually in the case of professional operators authorised to issue plant passports and according to a frequency based on risk among those who do not issue plant passports), in addition to establishments subject to seed and plant quality controls. Changes in EU regulations require new operators to be monitored, leading to a significant increase in the number of establishments to be inspected since 2020. The phytosanitary compliance of plant materials (and some plant products) is attested by the issuance of a plant passport (PP) for the plants concerned.

The purpose of the plant passport is to provide a guarantee that the plant material in circulation within the European Union (including its country of production) is free of regulated pests and compliant with the requirements applicable to the latter. Those requirements are common to all Member European Union States. The competent authorities shall authorise professionals to issue such passports or, where appropriate, issue them directly.

Where non-compliance relates to [detection of a quarantine pest](#), steps to address this will, if applicable, be taken immediately in order to prevent release to the market of the plants concerned and forestall dissemination of the pest on EU territory. In addition, a traceability enquiry is conducted upstream and downstream by the competent authorities, in order to identify the origin of the contamination and establish what has become of the plants that are potentially contaminated but are already on the market. Inspections may then be conducted nationwide in the establishments relevant to this enquiry. If the material has been sourced in another EU Member State or a third country, the DGAL will contact the competent authorities in the country concerned in order to allow them to take the investigation further, along with the appropriate steps,. This will enable information to be obtained on the French operators which have received the possibly contaminated plant material from the supplier concerned. Where non-compliance is linked to **the detection of a regulated non-quarantine pest**, the immediate consequences for the commercial operator are withdrawal of the PP and implementation of measures to prevent circulation of the plants involved.

Controls on wood packaging: between 700 and 800 inspections each year focus on wood packaging (e.g. transport pallets) manufactured, processed, marked and repaired by professional operators and which are channels for the introduction and dissemination of pests, such as for example the pine wood nematode or the Asian longhorn beetle. The wood packaging used for trade between the European Union and third countries must bear a specific marking (ISPM 15) to certify that it has been sanitised using heat or chemicals. Customs is involved in inspecting these packages. In the event of non-compliance, SIVEP officers will specify the necessary action to be taken, such as holding the goods, changing the packaging where possible, or destroying the pallets as non-compliant packaging, in order to better manage phytosanitary risks.

Biological surveillance of national territory

The [official monitoring of regulated pests](#), carried out pursuant to Article 22(1) of Regulation (EU) 2016/2031, is organised into 7 plant sectors (vineyards, fruit trees, vegetable crops, potatoes, arable crops, forestry and timber, gardens, green spaces and infrastructure), and 78 crops or types of site, representing nearly 180 distinct monitoring methods. This approach makes it possible to pool inspections, which target several pests likely to be present on the same crop or at the same type of site, and to be detected during the same period. Each year, the monitoring programme is designed at national level to achieve relevant statistical performance levels and a risk-based distribution across crops and regions. In the forestry sector, a network of 290 specialist observer correspondents carries out monitoring work on certain specific regulated or emerging pests. This provides significant support for the official monitoring programme implemented by the DGAL. The overall framework of official monitoring makes it possible to determine the country’s status with regard to regulated or emerging pests and to aim for the early detection of harmful pests. Specific official monitoring is also carried out in the French protected zone to monitor rhizomania (Brittany).

In the event of [detection of a quarantine pest](#), government agencies are alerted and, once it has been officially confirmed, a notification is sent by the NPPO (i.e. DGAL) to the European Commission and the international

authorities (EPPO, IPPC). Where a pest considered to be particularly dangerous is detected, mandatory control measures are ordered by government in order to ensure its eradication or containment. Emergency plans are drawn up for the pests of most concern. The application of mandatory measures to combat the pest is the responsibility of the owner of the plants and their implementation will be subject to government verification – by the DGAL in this case.

Laboratories

The ANSES plant health laboratory has six sites main, the principal of which is based in Angers. It has 13 NRL mandates and 3 EURL mandates. In addition to the validation of test methods, it provides diagnostic services, expert opinions and, in certain domains, training for the relevant SRAL and FREDON inspectors. The DGAL-approved network comprises 19 laboratories nationwide.

The laboratory is working to monitor the country and carry out import controls. Given this, inspectors may carry out routine testing (usually for entomological identification) at entry points. However, the samples are invariably sent for confirmation to the National Reference Laboratory or the laboratories approved for plant protection tasks.

2.8 – PLANT PROTECTION PRODUCTS

Issues and priorities

PPP usage is a major issue for both food sanitary safety and the environment. Controls and policies for incentivising a reduction in their use form one component of a wider-ranging policy which, due most notably to the impacts on biodiversity, exemplifies the “One health” approach. Changes in practices are an important part of the European Commission’s “Farm to Fork” strategy. Authorisations to place plant protection products on the market represent the starting point for their use. The control priorities subsequently focus on the marketing and application of these products and contribute to the general scheme for assessment of food sanitary safety, including plant crops intended for animal feed.

Competent authorities

Anses is responsible for the issuance of marketing authorisations and permits for plant protection products (PPP), with the exception of derogations for cases of phytosanitary emergency which fall within the remit of the Ministry of Agriculture (DGAL).

The DGCCRF, and Anses in some circumstances, have a role in inspections on the premises of manufacturers and packagers.

Checks at the distribution stage (whether the purchaser is a professional or not) are performed by the DGCCRF to ensure the compliance of plant protection products (quality, accurate labelling, safety), by the DGAL with regard to their safety, and, on an ad hoc basis, by Anses. Checks on online sales fall within the exclusive remit of the DGCCRF.

Checks on PPP use are carried out by the DGAL and also include detection of residues in farm crops.

The competent authority acting as “point of contact” for the European Commission in this regulatory domain is the DGAL.

NB: The Ministry of the Environment and the Ministry of Employment also have a role with regard to the rules for the classification, labelling and packaging of these products.

Marketing authorisations (AMMs) for plant protection products

Anses is responsible for the issuance of decisions on marketing authorisations (AMM) relating to plant protection products, in addition to applications for permits for experimentation or parallel trade involving these products. It receives, registers and assesses the admissibility of the relevant decisions and permits. Decisions on AMMs (authorisation, modification, rejection and withdrawal) and permits are examined in light of the results of scientific evaluations, the agronomic context in which the product is used, and/or the existence and characteristics of other products available on the market.

When importing plant protection products, the DGDDI checks the presence and validity of marketing authorisations for these products.

Controls on plant protection products placed on the market

The DGCCRF, and ANSES in some circumstances, exercise control over PPP release to market. It is important to verify that the products placed on the market are compliant with regulations, in order to ensure that products whose harmlessness and effectiveness have not been evaluated do not enter circulation. For products legally on the market, the aim is to verify the match between their composition and the product's announced effects and actual characteristics. That is why the DGCCRF, and in some cases ANSES, regularly inspect the companies responsible for their initial market release (production/manufacture, imports). The DGAL and the DGCCRF also carry out checks at the distribution stage. In this context, the task is to examine the conditions in which they are offered for sale, the application of the regulations specific to the sector and the actual composition of the products, most notably by means of sampling.

The activities of Anses are focused on establishments formulating, packaging and labelling products in order to verify the traceability of their composition and formulation, in addition to their packaging and labelling when they leave the production line, in addition to the application of new methods of control.

Anses and the various inspection and control bodies answering to the DGAL and the DGCCRF work in coordination, exchanging information on their annual planning and overall results, as well as on the establishments visited. They do so in conjunction with the regional food departments of the Regional Directorates for Food, Agriculture and Forests and the directorates for the protection of the public in the départements, in order to avoid repeated checks by a series of inspection agencies. A protocol signed on 30 April 2026 between the DGCCRF, the DGAL and ANSES organises the coordination and exchange of information for controls and inspections in the plant protection products sector.

The DGDDI monitors plant protection products when imported and whilst in circulation, ensuring that they have a valid marketing authorisation issued by the competent authority.

The steady increase in online PPP sales is resulting in rising numbers of cases of fraud involving the selling of products that are not authorised in France, or which even contain substances which are banned in Europe.

Given its remit and powers, the DGCCRF is able to take action against online sales sites for plant protection products, in order to ensure that they comply with the relevant regulations (sector-specific regulations, consumer information regulations), to have access to them, closed or blocked where necessary, and to initiate criminal proceedings where appropriate.

The DGAL's National Veterinary and Phytosanitary Investigation Unit (BNEVP) is responsible for conducting targeted investigations into the online trade in illicit plant protection products, in line with its remit to combat trafficking at national and even international levels.

If notifications from other Member States concerning PPPs (non-compliance or fraud) are received, prior coordination is established between the relevant departments to ensure these cases are dealt with.

Controls on the use of plant protection products

These checks, performed by the inspectors of the Regional Departments for Food (SRAL) are placed under the responsibility and direction of the DGAL. The purpose of the inspections is to verify adherence to the conditions governing PPP holding, use and registration in accordance with regulatory provisions aimed at the protection both the safety of plant production and the environment (sustainable PPP use). This also includes checks on seed treatments.

On-farm inspections accounted for nearly 87% of checks on "farm inputs" carried out in 2024 (5,350 out of a total of 6,100). Samples taken from primary crops in order to test for PPP residues (contamination) are subjected to testing of the "multi-residue" type. Crops are targeted on the basis of the risk of the presence of plant protection products and the importance of the type of production. Every year, around 1,200 samples are taken in this field.

Users who are "application service providers" (treating seeds on production premises using mobile equipment, or treating crops directly) account for approximately 10% of annual controls.

Procedures for detection of PPP residues in plant products placed on the market are described at point 1.

Checks on "other users" of plant protection products (e.g. parks, public spaces, recreational areas), which are essentially focused on protection of the environment, account for around 3% of all controls.

Laboratories

The SCL laboratory in Lyon is attached to the Ministry of the Economy and Finance and is the only facility tasked with the testing of PPP formulations.

The DGAL uses a network of 9 approved laboratories and 4 NRLs for testing to detect residues in crops and harvests.

Reduction of the use of plant protection products is a strong desire of the general public and a necessity for the safeguarding of our health and of biodiversity. The result of extensive consultation with stakeholders, the Écophyto 2030 strategy was published on 6 May 2024 and follows on from the Ecophyto II+ plan. It sets out France's roadmap for achieving an ambitious goal which combines public health and environmental protection, whilst ensuring that all farmers are given the means to make this transition. This is achieved through the development of alternative methods and enhanced support to help them change their practices, with a view to achieving food sovereignty. This strategy therefore reflects France's threefold ambition in the agricultural sector:

- Safeguarding public health and environmental health within a "One Health" framework;
- To support the economic and environmental performance of farms;
- To maintain a high level of crop protection by adapting the techniques used.

With this strategy, France is pursuing its objective of a 50% reduction in the use and overall risks of plant protection products by 2030, compared with the three-year average for 2011–2013. In order to ensure consistency with the European framework, this target is measured using the Harmonised Risk Indicator 1 (HRI1), established by European Directive 2009/128.

Anses was tasked with setting up a phytopharmacovigilance scheme in 2024. This monitoring scheme for plant protection products covers environmental contamination, exposure and impacts on living organisms – including human health – and ecosystems as a whole, as well as the development of resistance. The aim of the phytopharmacovigilance scheme is to detect, at the earliest possible stage, any signals or warnings which may lead to measures to prevent or limit the risks associated with plant protection products to a residual and acceptable level being implemented. With this system, the Agency is equipping itself with the means to anticipate, detect, analyse and prevent the adverse effects of plant protection products. A review of 10 years of the phytopharmacovigilance scheme was published in October 2025. It highlights the value of adopting a "One Health" approach to addressing the health and ecosystem issues specific to plant protection products. This system could become even more effective in informing public policy through access to data on product usage. Furthermore, rolling out this strictly French scheme at a European level would make it possible to share comparative views and take account of a wider variety of climates, soils, land uses and so on. This development would be all the more relevant given that the system for the assessment and authorisation of plant protection products already draws extensively on the complementary nature of national and European expertise.

2.9 – ORGANIC FARMING

Organic farming production must meet the requirements stipulated in EU regulations and in French regulations where certain specific aspects and sectors are concerned. At the end of 2024, over 84,000 operators (producers, processors, distributors, importers), including more than 61,000 agricultural holdings (almost 17% of all holdings) had adopted this approach in France.

Issues and priorities

For the last more than ten years, the organic sector has experienced constant growth. Its acceleration has recently been all the more striking given that in just five years the organic farming area and the organic food market in France have doubled. The sector's momentum has been underpinned by government through successive "Ambition Bio" programmes. The current programme for 2018-2022 sets our ambitious goals of 15% of UAA and 20% organic products in public-sector institutional catering by 2022. This programme goes hand in hand with financial tools such as support payments for conversion to organic, organic tax credits and the Fonds Avenir Bio [organic future fund], all of which are intended to provide support for balanced development of organic supply and demand. The key issue for controls is to promote trust on the part of consumers and users of products bearing the official organic farming logo as part of their labelling (the EU or the French logo) in the context of the expansion of production and consumption of organic products.

For this reason, the priorities focus on adherence to the rules governing production by operators based in France and adherence to labelling rules.

Competent authorities

Inspection of operators prior to product market release falls within the remit of the National Institute of Origin and Quality (INAO). Checks on products actually on the market are the responsibility of the DGCCRF, which may also take action at any stage in production.

Import controls relating to organic farming are divided between the DGDDI (foodstuffs of non-animal origin) and the DGAL (animal feed, foodstuffs of animal origin) (see also part 2.11.1).

Control planning and application

- Controls on operators prior to product market release: inspections on operators' premises are performed by staff from the certification bodies (CB) accredited by COFRAC under standard NF EN ISO/IEC 17065 and approved by the INAO.

The INAO grants approval to CBs for a range of categories and activities on the basis of their expertise and qualifications. 10 CBs were approved as of 31 December 2024.

Controls are carried out in accordance with the common control provisions laid down by the INAO and applicable to all CBs. Failings observed by a CB in the course of its controls are to be treated in accordance with the provisions contained in the national catalogue of measures for application in the event of non compliance established by the INAO. These are further supplemented by the provisions specific to each individual CB with regard to the sectors covered by French product mandatory specification sets applicable to organic farming.

These provisions provide for at least one physical inspection per year per operator in compliance with EU requirements. In addition, CBs must carry out a risk analysis based on three core criteria (previous inspection findings, relevant product quantity and risk attached to trade in the products). The aim is to focus operator selection for inspection visits based on additional sampling, unannounced inspections and control visits and operators on whose premises samples need to be taken (other than in cases of suspected fraud). Other additional criteria can be applied by the control bodies.

In 2024, the total number of visits under the authority of the INAO (physical inspections, sampling, additional visits) was 137,228 on the premises of producers, processors, distributors and importers. The number of inspections is likely to increase in line with the expansion of national production.

Supervision of control bodies is provided by the INAO, which in particular verifies the effectiveness of their checks and their handling of observed failings. This supervision particularly involves technical evaluations of these bodies on the basis of a guide. Preparation of these evaluations takes into account the history of past evaluations, knowledge of the strengths and weaknesses of the organisation concerned, the number of years' experience and any reports of poor practice. Each control body is evaluated once yearly. Pursuant to Article L511-22 of the Consumer Code, customs officers are authorised to investigate and record offences listed in Book IV of the Consumer Code (fraudulent or misleading practices) as part of control performed on the origin and quality of wines carried out pursuant to the Rural and Maritime Fishing Code.

- Controls on products placed on the market: The DGCCRF verifies the accuracy of the information associated with marketed products of all origins (French or foreign) relating to claims referring to organic production. Taking all investigations together (i.e. national, regional and local), approximately one thousand operators are inspected every year, involving all stages in sector supply chains (production, processing, distribution, catering, online sales, imports). An annual national control plan focuses more closely on operators without certification requirements, operators whose certification has been withdrawn by their certification body, fraud detection and higher-risk sectors identified in previous investigations. Checks are directed at verifying adherence to certification obligations and production rules (for French products) in addition to the conformity of label statements.

Laboratories

The INAO and DGCCRF use a network of laboratories for testing. Tests focus mainly on residues of plant protection products in plant production.

2.10 – UTILISATION AND LABELLING OF PROTECTED DESIGNATIONS OF ORIGIN, PROTECTED GEOGRAPHICAL INDICATIONS AND TRADITIONAL SPECIALITIES GUARANTEED

France protects products covered by European quality, origin and traditional speciality signage, foreign products included, produced and/or marketed on its national territory. This protection covers:

- product names linked to their geographical origin (Protected Description of Origin – PDO, Protected Geographical Indication – PGI, and, for spirit drinks and flavoured wines, Geographical Indications – GI);
- product names linked to traditional expertise (Traditional Speciality Guaranteed – TSG).

These products, which are registered in the European Union, must obey specific rules for their production, these being embodied in sets of mandatory specifications, and their names must be protected (e.g. against improper use, misappropriation of notoriety, fraud). In addition, certain non-European product names must also be protected as Geographical Indications (GIs) under international agreements to which the European Union is party.

As of the end of 2024, 163 agrifood product PGIs were registered in France, as were 52 PDOs for dairy products (mainly cheeses) and 363 PDOs for wine, 56 PDOs for other agrifood products (fruit, vegetables, olive oil, among others), in addition to 53 GIs for spirit drinks and 3 TSG.

Controls on winegrowing products (excluding ciders, spirit drinks and flavoured wines) are within the scope of the MANCP only where fraudulent or deceptive practice is identified.

Issues and priorities

The main issue for controls is to promote trust on the part of consumers and users of products whose labelling contains one of the official logos for “PDO”, “PGI”, “TSG” or “GI”. France produces a large number of such products and these add to the value of the relevant economic sectors. Official controls focus on products registered in France in addition to all products marketed across the country irrespective of origin (France, EU or third-country).

Competent authorities

Inspection of operators registered in France prior to product market release falls within the remit of the INAO. Checks on products of all origins and proposed for sale in France fall within the authority of the DGCCRF. The latter is active at all stages in the marketing of products (production, processing, wholesalers and distribution, online included, and catering). The DGDDI is responsible for checking the origin and quality of wines at production and storage sites.

Control planning and application

-Controls on operators prior to product market release: Controls on operators registered in France are performed by certification bodies (CB) or inspection bodies (IB) accredited by COFRAC under standards NF EN ISO/IEC 17065 and NF EN ISO/IEC 17020 respectively and granted official approval for each individual quality signage (PDO, PGI, TSG, GI) and for each product category by the INAO, bodies to which the latter has delegated the control tasks. The INAO has put in place documented procedures for inspections for the guidance of operators and certification bodies and inspection bodies (CB/IB).

Controls are applied on the basis of a control or inspection plan drawn up by the CB/IB responsible for checks on the product covered by the EU quality sign and approved by the INAO. Each control plan describes in detail the procedures for checks on adherence to mandatory specifications and these are carried out at all stages in the production cycle and on the product itself at defined intervals.

Controls may be physical or document-based and performed either at the site of production or off-site. Testing is also performed by laboratories approved for this by the INAO. Where applicable, and in light of the stipulations contained in the product specifications, organoleptic testing may be carried out by specially formed panels of judges proceeding in conditions of anonymity.

Control frequencies are set when the control and inspection plans for each product are approved by the INAO. Determination of this frequency may provide for modulation to reflect product volume or the option of increasing control pressure based on control findings in previous years or information supplied by producer groups in connection with internal inspections. The frequency may be set at the national level for each category of operators in a given sector, taking into account non-compliance risks for each operator category.

Over 32,000 checks were carried out in 2024 for quality and origin signage.

The INAO provides supervision of certification bodies and inspection bodies, notably verifying the effectiveness of their controls and, in the case of certification bodies, their handling of observed breaches. In particular, this supervision involves technical evaluations of these bodies based on a joint guide shared with organic farming. Preparation of these evaluations takes into account the history of past evaluations, knowledge of the strengths and weaknesses of the organization concerned and any reports of poor practice. Each control body is subject to regular evaluation at intervals ranging between 12 and 18 months.

- **Controls on products placed on the market:** the DGCCRF verifies the accuracy of the information placed on products offered for sale irrespective of origin (French or foreign) relating to claims referring to a PDO, PGI or TSG (including products using PDO/PGI/TSG ingredients). Taking all investigations together (national, regional, local), approximately a thousand operators are inspected every year at all stages in sector supply chains (production, processing, distribution, catering, online sales, imports). Care is taken not to overlap with INAO checks. A national control plan focuses more closely on operators not subject to INAO control and those whose certification has been withdrawn by their certification body, fraud detection and higher-risk sectors identified in the course of earlier investigations. Risk analysis also takes into consideration the outcomes of past inspections, knowledge of the regional economic fabric and reports of issues communicated by the INAO, the European Commission or competent authorities abroad. Checks cover adherence to certification obligations, labelling, product composition and traceability, and observance of transitional national protections and transitional periods. Steps are also taken to detect improper use and misappropriation of notoriety relating to PDOs, PGIs and TSGs, along with deceptive or fraudulent presentations. The DGCCRF further endeavours to ensure proper account is taken of origin rules laid down in other EU texts (regulation on consumer information and regulations on the common organisation of markets).

- **Checks on the origin and quality of wines at production and storage sites:** The DGDDI is responsible for checking the origin and quality of wines at production and storage sites. On the basis of an inspection programme drawn up following a national and regional risk analysis, the customs authorities carry out sampling and document cross-checks at wine-making and wine-trading establishments. These checks enable quantities of wine that do not comply with the AOP or IGP declared to the authorities via the computerised vineyard register to be reclassified as VSIG (wine without a designation of origin). These consignments are reported as being in breach of the regulations and seized pursuant to Articles L665-1 to L665-26 of the Rural and Maritime Fishing Code.

Laboratories

The INAO and DGCCRF use a network of laboratories for testing. These tests depend on the specifications and mandatory criteria applicable to products and may be very varied in nature.

2.11 – IMPORTS AND EXPORTS (THIRD COUNTRIES)

2.11.1 – Import controls

Issues and priorities

The EU single market has pushed international sanitary and phytosanitary borders back to the outer frontier of the European Union and instituted mandatory inspection points at points of entry into EU territory. This means that in very many cases imports of animals, plants and their products arriving in the European Union from third countries must be presented at border inspection posts with the necessary inspection facilities and competent personnel prior to the application of customs procedures. These border inspection posts are located near borders at points where traffic is highly concentrated (seaports, international airports and major road arteries). It should be considered that where entry into the EU via France is concerned 80% of all flow (excluding those from the United Kingdom) passes through Roissy-Charles de Gaulle airport and the ports of Le Havre and Marseille – Fos.

In the wake of Brexit, the United Kingdom has third-country status and these sanitary and phytosanitary controls are mainly (98%) concentrated at points of entry via Calais (the port, Channel Tunnel and Boulogne), along with Dunkirk and Caen-Ouistreham.

Import controls may also focus on the application of fair trade rules to foodstuffs: this is the case for checks on organic farming products.

In order to prevent non-compliant imports entering the EU market, mechanisms exist for:

- specific authorisation of exports to the European Union for certain provenances and, in some cases, production establishments;

- identification of higher-risk products;
- adoption of harmonised control rules aimed at preventing entry into the market of non-compliant products and avoiding situations in which products rejected by one Member State are able to enter the EU market via another Member State;
- application of controls within Member States.

Competent authorities and customs authorities

The DGAL and DGDDI are involved prior to the application of customs procedures, depending on the nature of the imports described below.

The DGDDI also undertakes customs responsibilities for goods subject to official control outside the scope of the MANCP. The DGAL, as the authority responsible for food safety, works closely with the DGDDI.

Lastly, the customs authorities are responsible for checks on personal baggage and pets accompanying travellers, in addition to prevention of illegal imports.

Application of controls

In the case of animals and the highest-risk products, checks take place at border inspection posts specifically designated for certain imports of animals and products. These checks are related to import release and are carried out before the release of the goods concerned into free circulation. The DGDDI, when undertaking its customs responsibility, verifies the presence and validity of Common Health Entry Documents or CHED (in the case of organic farming, the inspection certificate for imported organic products) at the point of release for free circulation.

In practice, importers use TRACES NT, the European Commission's information system, to notify the arrival of consignments in advance. On completion of the mandatory controls preceding customs formalities, issuance (or refusal of issuance) is also registered in this information system, which is shared by all European Union countries. In the case of imports at French border inspection posts, interconnection with the French customs computer system enables the status of Common Health Entry Documents to be verified automatically.

Other controls are also organised for imported products after completion of customs formalities – for example, on the premises of wholesale importers.

Veterinary inspections of animals, products of animal origin and animal by-products are aimed at protecting human and animal health against infections, zoonotic diseases and chemical contamination potentially linked to imported commodities. They include systematic document (sanitary certificate) and identity checks. They are carried out by the Veterinary and Phytosanitary Border Inspection Office (SIVEP), a DGAL national-level department responsible for veterinary and phytosanitary border inspections. Where live animals are concerned, physical inspections are systematic and notably include a check on the welfare of animals being transported. For products of animal origin and animal by-products (including animal feed of animal origin), physical inspections are carried out at intervals that vary according to EU regulatory requirements and the level of sanitary risk for individual types of product. Thus, sampling and analysis plans, partly harmonised at European level, are carried out each year, for example on residues of veterinary medicines and prohibited substances in animal products.

Animals or products of animal origin imported into the Union from third countries are also subject to official controls by the SIVEP services of the DGAL. This is done to verify compliance with Article 118, (1), concerning the prohibition on importing animals or products of animal origin derived from animals which have been administered with antimicrobial medicinal products to promote growth or increase yield, or antimicrobials reserved for the treatment of certain infections in humans.

Consignments of animal feed of non-animal origin are inspected by the DGAL's SIVEP department. SIVEP also administers the authorisations granted to establishments which, in accordance with Article 24 of Regulation (EC) No 1831/2003, want to act as representatives for a third-country establishment to enable the latter to export certain feed products to the EU.

The DGDDI is responsible for monitoring foodstuffs of non-animal origin, ensuring that they comply with European health requirements. For example, this involves verification that they do not have levels of pesticide residue or of certain contaminants (e.g. Salmonella, mycotoxins, radionuclides) in excess of permitted limits. After completing a risk analysis conducted at EU level, lists of products to be inspected from countries presenting sanitary risks are drawn up on the basis of a "product/origin/risk" triad. The same rule applies to food contact materials (FCM), some of which may require specific surveillance due to the risk of chemical migration.

Checks to verify the absence of unauthorised GMOs in seeds imported from third countries and, where authorised GMOs are present, the conformity of the labelling are performed by the SIVEP. These checks focus primarily on the species and places of origin for which a risk of introducing unauthorised GMOs into the EU has been identified on the basis of a risk analysis. These checks mainly concern maize, but also rapeseed and soya.

In addition to the objective of protecting human health against infection and contamination, checks on plants and plant products are directed at verifying plant health in order to protect the environment and agriculture. For such phytosanitary aspects, document and identity checks are carried out according to EU requirements, accompanied by physical inspections at intervals determined by the level of phytosanitary risk, this frequency being a matter for discussion at EU level. These controls are applied by the DGAL's SIVEP department. Plants sourced in French overseas territories present specific risks in terms of protection against plant pests and they are also subject to controls before entry into EU territory.

The DGDDI (for foodstuffs of non-animal origin) and the DGAL (for products of animal origin and animal feed) are tasked with controlling imports of "organic farming" products and the validation of the electronic import inspection certificate for organic products (COI) that must obligatorily accompany all "organic farming" products entering the territory of the European Union.

The DGDDI, as customs authority, checks for the presence and the validity of the COI at the point of release into free circulation.

For all types of controls, physical inspection may involve the taking of samples for testing.

Once a consignment has been accepted at a French border inspection post, it may circulate throughout the entirety of European Union territory, other than in the case of livestock or certain animal by-products subject to specific rules. Non-compliant consignments (between 0.6% and 5%) are refused entry to EU territory and are either destroyed – particularly where they represent a risk to human or animal health or to crops – or sent back to the third country of origin. In addition, the European Commission and all EU Member States are informed and checks on goods from the entity concerned may then be enhanced at all European border inspection posts. According to the circumstances, import conditions may be revised and possibly strengthened up to and including an import ban.

Every year (excluding products sourced in the United Kingdom), SIVEP (DGAL) inspects approximately 3,800 consignments of live animals (e.g. aquarium fish, day-old chicks, equines, zoo animals). Similarly, every year over 38,000 consignments of products of animal origin from third countries are inspected by the SIVEP (70% of fisheries products). Where animal feed of non-animal origin is concerned, close to 2,900 consignments are checked each year (additives, feed cake, vitamins, minerals, etc.). Lastly, 66,000 batches of plants and plant products are inspected every year on phytosanitary grounds (fruit & vegetables, wood, wood packaging, seeds, plants, flowers and cuttings) and 40-41 samples of seed consignments for detection of GMOs were taken per year between 2021 and 2024. The DGDDI checks over 13,500 consignments of food products of non-animal origin at border inspection posts.

2.11.2 – Export certification

The expansion of international trade increases the risk of introduction and dissemination of unwanted organisms and materials. Mechanisms have been implemented to guarantee product compliance with legislation.

Firstly, the international community has developed mechanisms to protect the public, animals and plants, as well as the environment, against pests, diseases, toxins and other hazards. The World Trade Organisation (WTO) is reliant on three standards organisations for ensuring the sanitary and phytosanitary safety of exported products: the International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC), the Codex Alimentarius and the World Organisation for Animal Health (WOAH). Therefore, where the regulations in an importing country so require, animals and products of animal origin intended for export must be accompanied by a sanitary certificate and plants, plant products and other products derived from them and intended for export must be accompanied by a phytosanitary certificate.

Issues and priorities

Exports (including to other countries in the European Union) of agricultural and agrifood products generate annual sales of 82 billion Euros and a trade surplus of 4.9 billion Euros (2024 statistics). Exports to third countries for which specific "export" certification may be necessary accounts for a little over one third ("France Diplomatie" infographics – February 2020).

Competent authorities

The competent authorities – DGAL and DGCCRF – have roles within their respective remits. Where plant health is concerned, SEMAE can provide pre-certification input on seeds and plants for planting.

Application of controls

All products subject to sanitary or phytosanitary certification are also subject to systematic document checks by DGAL agencies. The decision to carry out physical inspections is taken on the basis of a risk analysis taking into account a range of criteria such as the nature of the products, the outcomes of inspections of the companies and their level of sanitary or phytosanitary efficacy.

Entities producing animal products are subject to specific official approval for exports based on terms laid down by certain third countries (e.g. USA, Australia) and are subject to specific inspections.

Where the DGCCRF is concerned, it issues export affidavits when asked to do so. This scheme allows companies to demonstrate to the authorities of third countries that they are subject to regular controls, and that their products are suitable for consumption and compliant with French regulations.

Each year (excluding exports to the United Kingdom) approximately 300,000 sanitary certificates, 70,000 phytosanitary certificates and 50,000 DGCCRF export affidavits are issued by the devolved services (DD(ETS)PP, DREETS and DRAAF/SRAL).

Expadon 2: this is the platform launched by FranceAgriMer and the Ministry of Agriculture to simplify the processes for French exporters and streamline sanitary and phytosanitary procedures. It is the standard tool for all exports to third countries for which no agreement applies at European Union level.

It contains:

- numerous documentary resources on the entry portal, or InfoCom, which can be accessed freely without prior authentication, including all the health certificate templates for export;
- an online service for applying for authorisation;
- an online service for applying for a certificate.

TeleCertex: this application was developed by the DGCCRF and since 2020 has enabled companies wishing to export to obtain an export certificate and have it validated by the authorities via an online process. Based on an innovative QR code format, the digital export certificate form provides the regulatory authorities in the country of destination with sufficient assurance regarding the products they are to authorise for sale within their territory.

TELEFEL: an application developed by the DGCCRF and used by economic operators to notify the import or export of fruit and vegetables subject to marketing standards for the purposes of implementing Regulations (EU) 2023/2429 and (EU) 2023/2430.

SORAFEL: an application developed by the DGCCRF and used by inspectors to receive notifications of imports (DGDDI) and exports (DGCCRF), draw up reports of non-compliance and issue admission certificates (for imports) or certificates of compliance (for imports and exports) for consignments of fruit and vegetables notified for import or export, in accordance with Delegated Regulations (EU) 2023/2429 and (EU) 2023/2430.

APPENDICES

Appendix 1 – Competent authorities contact information and main legal texts on their assigned missions

General directorate for food (DGAL) at the ministry of agriculture - *Direction générale de l'alimentation (DGAL) au ministère en charge de l'agriculture*

251 rue de Vaugirard – 75732 Paris Cedex 15

Website: <http://agriculture.gouv.fr/http://agriculture.gouv.fr/>

General directorate for competition policy, consumer affairs and fraud control (DGCCRF) at the ministry of the economy - *Direction générale de la concurrence de la consommation et des fraudes (DGCCRF) au ministère chargé de l'économie*

59 boulevard Vincent Auriol – 75703 Paris Cedex 13

Website: <http://www.economie.gouv.fr/dgccrfhttp://www.economie.gouv.fr/dgccrf>

General directorate for health (DGS) at the ministry of health - *Direction générale de la Santé (DGS) au ministère chargé de la santé*

14 avenue Duquesne – 75350 Paris 07 SP

Website: <https://solidarites-sante.gouv.fr/>

General Directorate for customs and indirect taxation (DGDDI) at the ministry of the economy and finance - *Direction générale des douanes et droits indirects (DGDDI) au ministère chargé de l'économie et des finances*

11 rue des deux communes - 93558 Montreuil Cedex

Website: <https://www.douane.gouv.fr/https://www.douane.gouv.fr/>

National institute for origin and quality (INAO) - *Institut national de l'origine et de la qualité (INAO)*

12 rue Henri Rol Tanguy – TSA 30003 – 93100 Montreuil Cedex

Website: www.inao.gouv.fr/www.inao.gouv.fr/

Central directorate of the army health service (SSA) at the ministry of Defence - *Direction centrale du service de santé des armées (SSA) au ministère chargé de la défense*

60 boulevard du Général Martial Valin – CS 21623 – 75509 Paris Cedex 15

Website: <https://www.defense.gouv.fr/https://www.defense.gouv.fr/>

Anses

14 rue Pierre et Marie Curie - 94701 Maisons-Alfort cedex

Website: <https://www.anses.fr>

FranceAgriMer

12 rue Henri Rol Tanguy – TSA 20002 – 93555 Montreuil Cedex

Website: <https://www.franceagrimer.frhttps://www.franceagrimer.fr>

SEMAE (Inter-professional organisation for seeds and plant propagating material)

44 rue du Louvre – 75001 Paris

Website: <https://www.semae.fr/https://www.semae.fr/>

CTIFL (Centre technique interprofessionnel des fruits et légumes) (Interprofessional Technical Centre for Fruit and Vegetables)

97 boulevard Pereire, 75017 PARIS

Website: <https://www.ctifl.frhttps://www.ctifl.fr>

For the main texts defining missions and remit of those services, consult Légifrance (<http://www.legifrance.gouv.fr/>), and each of the competent authorities websites.

Cross-disciplinary legislation

Decree n°2004-374 of the 29th of April 2004 on the powers of Prefects and the State organisation in regions and departments (*Décret n°2004-374 du 29 avril 2004 relatif aux pouvoirs des Préfets et à l'organisation des services de l'État dans les régions et les départements*)

Decree n°2009-1484 of the 3rd of December 2009 on interministerial departmental directions (*Décret n° 2009-1484 du 3 décembre 2009 relatif aux directions départementales interministérielles*)

Decree n°2010-1582 of the 17th of December 2010 on the organisation and missions of State services in department and regions overseas, at Mayotte Saint Pierre and Miquelon (*Décret n° 2010-1582 du 17 décembre 2010 relatif à l'organisation et aux missions des services de l'État dans les départements et les régions d'outre-mer, à Mayotte et à Saint-Pierre-et-Miquelon*)

French Ministry of Agriculture, Agrofood and Food Sovereignty: DGAL, INAO, FranceAgriMer, SEMAE and CTIFL

Rural and Maritime Fishing Code – Book II (veterinary public health and plant protection) (*Code rural et de la pêche maritime – Livre II (santé publique vétérinaire et protection des végétaux)*)

Rural and Maritime Fishing Code – Book VI (productions and markets) (*Code rural et de la pêche maritime – Livre VI (productions et marchés)*)

Decree n°2019-1349 of 12 December 2019 and Decree n° 2021-1858 of 28 December 2021 amending the Rural and Maritime Fishing Code (designation of FranceAgriMer, SEMAE and CTIFL as competent authorities in Article R 250-1) (*Décret n° 2019-1349 du 12 décembre 2019 et décret n° 2021-1858 du 28 décembre 2021 modifiant le Code rural et de la pêche maritime (désignation de FranceAgriMer, SEMAE et du CTIFL en tant qu'autorités compétentes à l'article R 250-1)*)

Decree No. 84-428 of 5 June 1984 on the creation, organisation and operation of the French Research Institute for Exploitation of the Sea (IFREMER) (*Décret n° 84-428 du 5 juin 1984, relatif à la création, à l'organisation et au fonctionnement de l'Institut français de recherche pour l'exploitation de la mer (IFREMER)*)

Decree n°2010-429 of the 29 of April 2010 on organisation and remit of regional directorate for food, agriculture and forestry (*Décret n° 2010-429 du 29 avril 2010 relatif à l'organisation et aux missions des directions régionales de l'alimentation, de l'agriculture et de la forêt*)

Decree n°2010-687 of the 24 June 2010 on organisation and remit of state services for state services of region and departments of Ile de France (*Décret n° 2010-687 du 24 juin 2010 relatif à l'organisation et aux missions des services de l'Etat dans la région et les départements d'Ile-de-France*)

Decree 2013-130 of the 11 of February 2010 on organisation and remit of interdepartmental directorate for sea (*Décret n° 2010-130 du 11 février 2010 relatif à l'organisation et aux missions des directions interrégionales de la mer*)

Decree n°2008-636 of the 30th of June 2008 on the organisation of the central administration of the ministry of agriculture, food and forestry (*Décret n°2008-636 du 30 juin 2008 fixant l'organisation de l'administration centrale du ministère chargé de l'agriculture, de l'alimentation et de la pêche*)

Decision of the 25th of March 2021 on the organisation of the general directorate for food (*Arrêté du 25 mars 2021 portant organisation de la direction générale de l'alimentation*)

Decision of the 28th of December 2009 on the creation of a service of national competency called "Veterinary and phytosanitary inspection service at borders" (*Arrêté du 28 décembre 2009 portant création d'un service à compétence nationale dénommé «service d'inspection vétérinaire et phytosanitaire aux frontières (SIVEP)»*)

Ministry of Economy and Finance:

DGCCRF

Consumer Code

Decree n°2001-1178 of the 12th of December 2001 on the General directorate for competition policy, consumer affairs and fraud control (*Décret n° 2001-1178 du 12 décembre 2001 relatif à la direction générale de concurrence, de la consommation et de la répression des fraudes*)

Decision of 18 December 2019 on the organisation of the central administration of the Directorate-General for Competition, Consumer Affairs and Fraud Prevention (*Arrêté du 18 décembre 2019 portant organisation de l'administration centrale de la direction générale de la concurrence, de la consommation et de la répression des fraudes*)

Decision of the 14th of March 2006 on the creation of a service of national competency called Ministry of Economy, Finance and industry joint service laboratories" (*Arrêté du 14 mars 2006 portant création d'un service à compétence nationale dénommé « service commun des laboratoires du ministère de l'économie, des finances et de l'industrie »*)

Decision of the 3rd of February 2014 on the ability of laboratories in the joint service to proceed with the analysis and tests based on article R. 512-31 of the Consumer Code (*Arrêté du 3 février 2014 fixant la compétence des laboratoires du service commun des laboratoires à procéder à l'analyse et aux essais en application de l'article R. 512-31 du code de la consommation*)

Decree n°2020-1545 of the 9th of December 2020 on the organisation and remit of the regional directorates for economy, employment, work and solidarities, the departmental directorates for economy, employment, work and solidarities, the departmental directorates for economy, employment, work and solidarities and population protection (*Décret n° 2020-1545 du 9 décembre 2020 relatif à l'organisation et aux missions des directions régionales de l'économie, de l'emploi, du travail et des solidarités, des directions départementales de l'emploi, du travail et des solidarités et des directions départementales de l'emploi, du travail, des solidarités et de la protection des populations*)

DGDDI

Decree n°2007-1664 of the 26th of November 2007 on the General Directorate for Customs and Indirect Taxation (*Décret n° 2007-1664 du 26 novembre 2007 relatif à la direction générale des douanes et droits indirects*)

Decision of the 19th of December 2019 on the organisation of the General Directorate for Customs and Indirect Taxation (*Arrêté du 19 décembre 2019 portant organisation de l'administration centrale de la direction générale des douanes et droits indirects*)

Decree n°2007-1665 of the 26th November 2007 on organisation of the decentralised services of the General Directorate for Customs and Indirect Taxation (*Décret n° 2007-1665 du 26 novembre 2007 relatif à l'organisation des services déconcentrés de la direction générale des douanes et droits indirects*)

Controls on safety and organic rules carried out by DGDDI staff are based on the Consumer Code.

Ministry of Health, Families, Independence and People with Disabilities: DGS

Public health code – Book III (health and environment protection) and book VI (general administration for health) (*Code de la Santé publique – Livre III (Protection de la santé et environnement) et livre VI (Administration générale de la santé)*)

Decree n°2000-685 of the 21st of July 2000 on the central organisation of the Ministry of Employment, and solidarity and the remit of certain services (*Décret n° 2000-685 du 21 juillet 2000 relatif à l'organisation centrale du ministère de l'emploi et de la solidarité et aux attributions de certains services*)

Decision of the 6th of April 2016 on the organisation of the General Directorate for Health (*Arrêté du 6 avril 2016 portant organisation de la direction générale de la santé*)

Ministry of Defence: DCSSA

Rural and Maritime Fishing Code – Book II (feeding, veterinary public health and plant protection), Title III and II (sanitary mandate) (*Code rural et de la pêche maritime – livre II (alimentation, santé publique vétérinaire et protection des végétaux), titre III et titre II (mandat sanitaire)*)

Defence Code (*Code de la défense*): articles R.3233-1 to R.3233-4

Decree n°2008-933 of the 12th of September 2008 on the particular status of the army practitioners (*Décret n° 2008-933 du 12 septembre 2008 portant statut particulier des praticiens des armées*)

Decision of 11 July 2018 on the organisation of the Armed Forces Medical Service (*Arrêté du 11 juillet 2018 portant organisation du service de santé des armées*)

Ministerial Instruction n°149/DEF/DCSSA/AST/VET of 24 January 2011 on the organisation and functioning of the armies veterinary services and veterinary support outside mainland (*Instruction ministérielle*)

n°149/DEF/DCSSA/AST/VET relative à l'organisation et au fonctionnement des services vétérinaires des armées ainsi que du soutien vétérinaire hors métropole)

Ministerial Instruction n°3228/DEF/DCSSA/AST/VET of the 24th of November 2005 on the organisation and functioning of the quality service for the exercise of veterinary competences linked to the armies health service (*Instruction ministérielle n°3228/DEF/DCSSA/AST/VET du 24 novembre 2005 relative à l'organisation et au fonctionnement de la cellule qualité pour l'exercice des compétences vétérinaires rattachées au service de santé des armées*)

Anses:

Public Health Code – articles L1331-1 to 11 (*Code de la Santé publique – articles L1331-1 à 11*)

Chapter III of Book III of the Public Health Code: National Agency for Food, Environmental and Occupational Health Safety (Articles L1313-1 to L1313-11)

Appendix 2 – Key legal provisions relating to the authorisations of officials, as well as offences and penalties

Legal basis	Rural and Maritime Fishing Code	Consumer Code	Public Health Code
For the conduct of checks and inspections	Book II: Food, veterinary public health and plant protection L 205-1 to L 205-9 L 212-13 and L 214-20 L 221-5 and L 231-1 and 2 L 236-5 L 250-2, 3 and 5 L 251-18 and L 253-14 D 250-1-1 Book VI: Production and markets L 642-3, L 642-27 and 642-34 L 663-3 R 250-1	Book V: Investigation powers and follow-up L 511-1 to L 511-19	<u>First part:</u> Book III: Protection of health and the environment L 1312-1 L 1321-5 Book IV: Health general administration L 1421-1 L 1435-7
For entry onto properties	Book II: Food, veterinary public health and plant protection L 205-5 and L 205-6 L 206-1 L 212-14 and L 214-23 L 221-8 and L 231-2-1 L 250-5, L 251-2 and 251-7 L 253-15 Book VI: Production and markets L 642-3, L 642-27 and 642-34	Book V: Investigation powers and follow-up L 512-5 to L 512-7	Book III: Protection of health and the environment L 1321-5 Book IV: Health general administration L 1421-1 L 1421-2 L 1421-2-1 L 1435-7
For obtaining information and/or carrying out sampling	Book II: Food, veterinary public health and plant protection L 205-7 L 214-23 L 221-8 and L 231-2-1 L 250-5 and L 250-6 L 253-15 and L 257-5 Book VI: Production and markets L 642-3, L 642-27 and 642-34 L 663-3	Book V: Investigation powers and follow-up L 512-8 to L 512-15 (information and documents collection) L 512-17 (resort to a qualified individual) L 512-18 to L 512-22 (exchange and sharing of information) L 512-23 to L 512-38, L 512-51 and following (sampling-consignment, visits and seizure)	Book III: Protection of health and the environment L 1321-5 L 1322-13 Book IV: Health general administration L 1421-1 L 1421-3 L 1435-7
Main offences and sanctions - administrative measures <i>*administrative sanctions</i>	Book II: Food, veterinary public health and plant protection L 205-10 (out of court settlement) and Section 205-11 (obstruction of justice) L 211-29 (protective measures) L 215-1 to L 215-13 (animal possession and transport) L 228-1 to L 228-8 (animal health hazard) L 237-1 to L 237-4 (food safety and quality) L 250-7 to L 250-9*, L 251-14*, L 251-20 and L 257-12 (plant health) L 254-8* et L 254-9*, L 254-12*, L 253-13* - L 253-14 à L 253-18 (plant protection products)	L 531-1 and L 531-2 (obstruction of justice) Fraudulent trade practices (L 121-1 to 5 ; L 132-1 to 9) Fraud, falsification, breaches of European regulations... (book IV)	Book III: Protection of health and the environment L 1312-2 (penalties for obstructing the performance of duties) L 1324-3 (criminal sanctions) Book IV: Health general administration L 1427-1 (penalties for obstructing the duties of public officials)

	L257-8* and L257-12 (primary plant production) L258-2 (introduction of non-indigenous macro-organism) Book VI: Production and markets L663-3* to L663-5 *, L671-14 to L671-16 (GMOs) L671-5 and L671-7 (SIQO) L661-7-1, R661-33 (vine cutting and plants)		
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Appendix 3 – Division of remit among competent authorities

Area of control/activity	Central competent authority	Delegation of certain tasks or duties (where relevant)
Food (except European quality marks)		
<i>Primary production</i>		
Public health for primary plant (including use of plant protection products) and animal production (including use of veterinary medicinal products)	DGAL ¹⁹	-
<i>Food placed on the market or held for sale at all the stages (production, manufacture, wholesaling, retail)</i>		
Food safety (including meat inspection, residues and contaminants).	DGAL (animal sectors), DGS and DGAL (production and sales of bottled water), SSA (defence sector)	Public testing laboratories responsible for carrying out and forwarding certain samples from the PSPC scheme to laboratories
Food contact materials, quality and fairness of products GMOs: Safety, quality and fairness Improvers (additives, flavourings, enzymes, etc.): Safety, quality and fairness Ionisation: Safety, quality and fairness New foods, food supplements and fortified foods, foods intended for specific groups: Safety, quality and fairness Consumer information (general labelling rules, nutritional information, claims regulated by the authorities and voluntary claims, including nutritional and health claims, etc.).	DGCCRF (MCDA, "quality and fair trading" aspects of the specified areas of supervision, consumer information) DGAL ("safety" aspects of the specified areas of control, novel foods)	-
<i>Biotechnology : control of seeds and crops (GMOs)</i>		
Crops and field tests	DGAL	-
Marketed seeds	DGCCRF	-
Animal feed		
Provisions relating to feed safety (manufacture, hygiene, transport, additives, GMOs, undesirable substances, impurities/residues, prohibited substances, the feed ban, etc.)	DGAL	-
Fairness in animal feed (including the labelling of GMOs and fair trading regarding the use of additives)	DGCCRF	-
Animal health and identification		
Primary production Control of intra-EU trade	DGAL SSA (defence sector)	Health-centred organisations and mandated veterinarians Participation of veterinary practitioners
Animal by-products		
Animal by-product sector Control of intra-EU trade	DGAL	-

¹⁹For the use of veterinary medicines DGAL (competent authority) – in conjunction with the ANMV (ANSES) for manufacturing and wholesale distribution, and with the DGS for pharmacies.

Animal welfare		
Rearing, transport, slaughtering	DGAL	Mandated veterinarians
Control of intra-EU trade	SSA (defence sector)	
Plant health		
Pest control and monitoring	DGAL	Health-centred organisations
Control and plant passports authorisation	DGAL	Health-centred organisations
	FranceAgriMer (vine cutting and plants),	Health-centred organisations
	SEMAE (seeds of agricultural and vegetable species, potato plants, vegetable seedlings and strawberry plants)	FN3PT (potato plants)
	CTIFL (fruit propagating material of species listed in Annex 1 of Directive 2008/90/EC, certified or CAC, excluding strawberry plants, held by professional operators approved for fruit certification)	Health-centred organisations
Plant protection products		
Market release authorisation	Anses	-
Product marketing	DGAL DGCCRF Anses	-
Sustainable use (Agricultural users and other professional users)	DGAL	-
Organic farming		
Control and certification of the producers and operators of the Organic farming sector (before market release)	INAO	INAO delegates controls to control bodies (CB)
Controls after market release	DGCCRF	-
Use and labelling of PDO, PGI, TSG		
Control and certification of the producers and operators in these sectors (before market release)	INAO	INAO delegates controls to control bodies (CB)
Controls after market release	DGCCRF	-
Imports and exports (third countries):		
Imports (from third countries)	DGAL(SIVEP) (plant health, animal health and animal welfare, safety of food of animal origin, GMO seeds, organic animal feed) DGDDI (inspection of foodstuffs of non-animal origin, materials in contact with food, checks on biological quality and marketing standards)	-
Export certification to third countries	DGAL (plant health, animal health, food of animal origin safety, feed, animal by-products)	DGAL delegated bodies Health-centred organisations and mandated veterinarians, SEMAE Directorate for quality and official control of seeds and plants

Appendix 4 - Staff numbers

	Services	Staff numbers (Full time equivalent, 2023/2024 data)
Central level	DGAL	215
	DGCCRF	65
	DGS	1
	SSA	109 (83 veterinarians + 26 technicians, including 78 for inspections)
	INAO	6
	Inspections performed by CBs	Not available
	Anses	1,1 inspectors
	FranceAgriMer	6
	SEMAE	6
	DGDDI	4
	CTIFL	5
Regional level	DRAAF – SRAL	1,178
	DIRM	4 (part time)
	DREETS – C centre	82
	ARS	10 (estimate for bottled water only)
	INAO (territorial delegated authorities)	20
	SSA	see national level
	FranceAgriMer	30
	SEMAE	44
	DGDDI	Not available
Department/local level	DDPP/DDETSPP	3,941 (resources from programme 206 - DGAL)
	DAAF (overseas territories)	378 (resources from programme 134 - DGCCRF)
	DEETS (overseas territories)	+ 6,200 authorised veterinarians who can be mandated (part time)
	DDTM	31 (part time)
	SSA	see national level
	Customs (DGDDI)	136 (staff carrying out their duties in PCF, PC or PMLP)
Analytical laboratories	National joint laboratory service	380 (part time)
	Laboratories designated by the Ministry of Agriculture, INAO and the Ministry of Health	Not available

Contribution to risk assessment and to expertise (outside MANCP)	Anses	1,400 agents
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**Appendix 5 - Performance management: objectives and indicators
linked to the food chain official controls**

Mission	Budgetary programme	Competent authority	Strategic objectives in the scope of the MANCP	Indicators in the scope of the MANCP
Agriculture, food, forestry and rural affairs	Programme 206 - Food safety and quality	General Directorate for Food Ministry of Agriculture	Objective 1 To encourage changes in behaviour in order to protect public health and the environment.	Indicator 1.1 – Control of pesticide and antibiotic use
			Objective 2 Assessing, preventing and reducing health risks at all stages of production	Indicator 2.1 – Follow-up on ANSES's activities Indicator 2.2 – Follow-up on non-compliance reported during inspections
			Objective 3 Ensure the responsiveness and efficiency of the health monitoring system	Indicator 3.1 – Preparedness for health risk management Indicator 3.2 – Effectiveness of health control services
	Programme 149 – Competitiveness and sustainability of agriculture, the agri-food sector, forestry, fisheries and aquaculture	National Institute for Origin and Quality (INAO) - Institut national de l'origine et de la qualité (INAO) (an organisation attached to the Ministry of Agriculture)	Objective 1 Combining economic and environmental performance in agricultural holdings, the agri-food sector and the forestry sector Including the indicator "Proportion of land under organic farming within the utilised agricultural area (UAA)"	No indicators linked to official controls
Economy	Programme 134 – Business development and regulations	General directorate for competition policy, consumer affairs and fraud control (Ministry of Economy and Finance)	Objective 3 Ensuring that markets operate fairly and securely	Indicator 4 – Proportion of establishments visited which require corrective or disciplinary action
Health	Programme 204 - Prevention, health and safety, and healthcare provision	General Directorate for Health (Ministry of Health)	Objective 2 Prevent and manage health risks	Indicator 2.2 – Percentage of reports dealt with within 1 hour / Total number of reports
Defence	Programme 178 - Preparedness and use of forces	Armies health service Ministry of Defence	Objective 6 Enhance support efficiency	No specific indicator
Management of public finances and human resources	Programme 302 – Facilitating and securing trade	General Directorate for Customs and Indirect Taxation (Ministry of the Economy and Finance)	Objective 2 Optimising and modernising the handling of goods flows at the border and strengthening support for businesses	No indicator directly linked to controls

Appendix 6 - Glossary (main acronyms)

AMM	Market release authorisation
ANMV	French agency for veterinary medicinal products (<i>Anses</i>)
Anses	French agency for food, environmental and occupational health and safety
ANSP	French National Public Health Agency
AOP - PDO	Protected Designation of Origin
ARS	Regional Health Agency
BNEVP	National Brigade for Veterinary and Plant Health Investigations (<i>DGAL</i>)
CIPV	International Convention for the Protection of Plants
CMA	Military Medical Centres
CNAVA	National Coordinator for Veterinary Activities within the Armed Forces (<i>DCSSA</i>)
CTIFL	Inter-professional Technical Centre for Fruit and Vegetables
COFRAC	French Accreditation Body
DCSSA	Central directorate of the army health service (<i>Ministry of Defence</i>)
DDETSPP	Departmental directorate for employment, work, solidarity and protection of the population
DDPP	Departmental directorate for the protection of the population
DDT(M)	Departmental directorate for territorial (and maritime) affairs
DGAL	General directorate for food (<i>Ministry of Agriculture</i>)
DGCCRF	General directorate for competition policy, consumer affairs and fraud control (<i>Ministry of the Economy</i>)
DGDDI	General Directorate for customs and indirect taxation (<i>Ministry of the Economy</i>)
DGPE	General Directorate for the Economic and Environmental Performance of Businesses (<i>Ministry of Agriculture</i>)
DGS	General Directorate for Health (<i>Ministry of health</i>)
DIASS	Joint Forces Directorates of Health Services
DMF	Military Medical Directorate
DRAAF	Regional Directorates of Food and Feed, Agriculture and Forestry
DREETS	Regional Directorates for the Economy, Employment, Work and Solidarity
DROM	Overseas territories
ENCCRF	National School on Competition, Consumer Affairs and Fraud Prevention (<i>DGCCRF</i>)
FTE	Full-time equivalent
FAO	United Nations Organisation for Food and Agriculture
FVI	France Vétérinaire International
GV	Veterinary Group
IFREMER	French Research Institute for the Exploitation of the Sea
PGI	Protected Geographical Indication
INAO	National institute for origin and quality
LNR	National Reference Laboratories
EURL	EU Reference Laboratories
CB	Certification Body
EPPO	European and Mediterranean Plant Protection Organisation
GMO	Genetically-modified organism
WOAH	World Organisation for Animal Health
WHO	World Health Organisation
NPPO	National Plant Protection Organisation
PAP	Annual Performance Project
PCF	Border Control Post
MANCP	Multi-annual National Control Plan
PP	Plant Passport
PSPC	Monitoring and Control Plans (<i>DGAL</i>)
NRBC	Nuclear, Radiological, Biological, Chemical
RAP	Annual Performance Report
RASFF	Rapid Alert System for Food and Feed
SIQO	Quality and Origin Signage (Organic farming, PDO, PGI, TSG)
SCL	National Joint Laboratory Service (<i>DGCCRF and DGDDI</i>)
SEMAE	National Inter-Professional Union on Seed and Plants including the Directorate for Quality and Official Control
SESAM	Enquiry system for staff on secondment
SIVEP	National authority responsible for veterinary and phytosanitary border controls (<i>DGAL</i>)
SNE	National Investigation Service (<i>DGCCRF</i>)
SpF	French Public Health
SORA1	Operational system for networks and activities
SRAL	Regional Food Service (<i>DRAAF</i>)
SSA	Armies Health Service (<i>Ministry of Defence</i>)

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