MULTI-ANNUAL NATIONAL CONTROL PLAN

2016-2020

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<tr>
<td>NFSA</td>
<td>National Food Safety Agency</td>
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<tr>
<td>TSFS</td>
<td>Territorial Subdivision for Food Safety</td>
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<td>RVDC</td>
<td>Republican Veterinary and Diagnosis Centre</td>
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<td>MANCP</td>
<td>Multi-Annual National Control Plan</td>
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<td>EU</td>
<td>European Union</td>
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<td>MAFI</td>
<td>Ministry of Agriculture and Food Industry</td>
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<td>DG SANTE</td>
<td>Department General for Health and Food Safety of the European Commission</td>
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<td>GMP</td>
<td>Good Manufacturing Practices</td>
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<td>GHP</td>
<td>Good Hygiene Practices</td>
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<tr>
<td>GAP</td>
<td>Good Agriculture Practices</td>
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<td>ISO</td>
<td>International Organization for Standardization</td>
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<td>HRD</td>
<td>Human Resources Department</td>
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<td>QMS</td>
<td>Quality Management System</td>
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<td>OIE</td>
<td>World Organization for Animal Health</td>
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<td>AIC</td>
<td>Agricultural Information Centre</td>
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<td>AITS</td>
<td>Animals Identification and Traceability System</td>
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<td>PFP</td>
<td>Phytosanitary and Fertilizing Products</td>
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<td>EFSA</td>
<td>European Food Safety Authority</td>
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<td>GMO</td>
<td>Genetically Modified Organisms</td>
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<td>RASFF</td>
<td>Rapid Alert System for Food and Feed</td>
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<td>HACCP</td>
<td>Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Points</td>
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<td>PVM</td>
<td>Products of Veterinary Medicine</td>
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<td>VMC</td>
<td>Veterinary Medicines Commission</td>
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<td>NPHC</td>
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Chapter 1. Introduction

The Multi-Annual National Control Plan of the Republic of Moldova in the area of supervision of food safety, animal and plant health is a strategic document stating the governmental functions assigned to the National Food Safety Agency. The document provides measures to be taken during the period 2016-2020 within the official control in the mentioned areas and shall offer guidelines, including, for the provisions of annual control plans.

The document contains a clear description of the legal provisions of the Republic of Moldova on the roles and responsibilities of the competent food safety authority and on the cooperation with other national associated institutions and organizations, involved to a various extent in the actions related to the official control for this area.

The plan describes the mechanisms that are established or are to be established to ensure the increase of consistency and efficiency in all control systems, in all areas, and at all stages of the food, feed manufacturing flow, health and welfare of animals and plant health.

MANCP covers entirely the planned official control activities of the competent authority and the priorities established for the plan implementation period. The document describes also the MANCP implementation progress monitoring and reporting procedures.

MANCP of Moldova was developed according to the principles and requirements of Law of the Republic of Moldova No 113 of 18.05.2012 on food safety, Law No 221 of 19.10.2007 on sanitary-veterinary activity, Law No 228 of 23.09.2010 on the protection of plants, the Regulation of the European Parliament (EC) No 882/2004 of 21 May 2007 on guidelines to assist the Member States in preparing the single integrates multi-annual national control plan and Commission Decision 2007/363/EC on guidelines to develop MANCP.

This document was developed by the National Food Safety Agency with the support of BMZ/GIZ Project ‘Improving Food Safety in the Republic of Moldova.’

Chapter 2. General National Strategic Objectives

2.1. Strategic Objective
Ensuring food safety, from the production of raw material to food distribution to the consumer and ensuring a high level of human life and health protection based on the risk analysis, through the application of modern and effective process supervision and monitoring system for the entire food chain to guarantee the final consumer’s access to safer and healthier products.

2.2. Specific Objectives
General NFSA specific objectives for the average run are as follows:

- Implementation of specific regulation for the sanitary-veterinary area activities, health of plants and safety of animals, in compliance with the national legislation;
- Organization of official supervision and control activities across the country according to a single concept, for human health, animal health protection and prevention of transmission of diseases from animals to humans, sanitation animal feed and the protection of plants and the environment;
- Implementation of the provisions of the Association Agreement and the Free Trade Agreement with the European Union in the area food safety;
- Strengthening the official control system to obtain authorizations to export products of animal origin to the European Union market;
- Building a positive NFSA image and gaining people and private sector’s trust in the food quality and safety assurance activity;

**Chapter 3. Policies and Legislation**

3.1. Introduction about the Republic of Moldova

The Republic of Moldova with 3.56 million people and a territory of 33.843 sq. km lays geographically in the South-East Europe. Its ethnic structure consists of Moldavians – 69.7%, Russians – 11.23%, Ukrainians – 9.40%, Gagauz – 3.85%, Bulgarians – 2.02% and other ethnic minorities – 3.8%. The Republic of Moldova pronounced its independence on the 27 of August 1991 following the break-up of the Soviet Union it was a part of. From administrative viewpoint, Moldova is divided in 32 rayons, 5 municipalities (Chisinau, Balti, Bender, Comrat, Tiraspol) and 1 autonomous territorial unit “Gagauzia”, and a part of the territory that is not under the control of Chisinau authorities, called Transnistria.

The strategic internal and external objective of the state is its integration into the European Union. In 2013, the Association Agreement with EU was initialled, which became effective in September 2014. Under this agreement, Moldova undertook a number of commitments. The document contains 395 directives and regulations which, once put into application in the national legislation, will make of the Republic of Moldova a country with an integrated community Acquis.

The Deep and Comprehensive Free Trade Agreement between the Republic of Moldova and EU is part of the Association Agreement and ensures the Republic of Moldova’s economic integration into the community area and the gradual liberalization of trade with goods and services, reduction of custom duties, technical and non-tariff barriers.

Currently, the Republic of Moldova has agriculture potential and the agriculture-related businesses keep being strategic for the country, forming the country’s economic column, because the weather conditions on the entire territory is favourable for the area’s development. The agriculture’s share in the country’s Gross Domestic Product generally amounts to 30%. The structure of agriculture production can be qualified as relatively stable, which generally consists of 55-70% of the plant production and 30-45% of production of animal origin.

The agriculture is facing a lot of problems – the outlet market, the level of prices in the region, the degree of equipment of households with technical and agriculture machinery, low productivity caused by the use of old technologies, low developed infrastructure for yield storage and harvest, the results in the area depending on weather conditions, which, in the end, contribute essentially to the economic indicators in the agriculture producers’ business balance and the amount of income of employees working in this area.

The growth of productivity requires an investment; that is why it is necessary to increase the agricultural subsidies funds, which amount to MDL 1 billion per year. The subsidies fund is also supplemented with funds from international donors, mostly from the European Union.
3.2. Hierarchic Adoption of the Legislation

According to Art. 72 of the Constitution of the Republic of Moldova, the Parliament adopted the Organic Law No 780 of 27 December 2001 on legislative acts. The legislative acts are acts adopted by the state’s single legislative authority on the grounds of constitutional norms, according to the procedures established in the Parliament’s Regulation, other effective regulations, and hold the highest place in the hierarchy of regulatory acts from the Republic of Moldova.

The following are legislative acts:
   a) Constitution of the Republic of Moldova and constitutional laws;
   b) Organic laws and ordinary laws;
   c) Decisions and motions

Law No 780 establishes the initiation, drafting, notice, assessment, wording, interpretation, and cancellation of legislative acts, as well as the means, methods, and techniques used in this sense.
According to the Constitution of the Republic of Moldova, the members of the Parliament, the President of the Republic of Moldova, the Government, and the Autonomous Territorial Unit of Gagauzia People’s Assembly have the right of legislative initiative, deemed as the authors of the draft legislative acts or legislative proposals.

The draft legislative acts and the legislative proposals are submitted to the Government for approval. The bills on the agenda of the Parliament are usually discussed in two readings. Ordinary bill, at the Parliament’s decision, can be adopted in a single reading. Organic bills are adopted only after discussing them in the second reading. Some bills can be proposed for discussion in a third reading.

Laws, decisions of the Parliament, President’s decrees, Government’s decisions and provisions, and other acts of some institutions are published in the Official Gazette of the Republic of Moldova, in the official language with translations provided in Russian and other languages, according to the legislation.

By Law No 239 of 13.11.2008 the principles for ensuring transparency in the decision-making process within the central and local public administration authorities are established:

- Duly inform the citizens, the associations established under the law, other stakeholders about the initiation of decision drafting and about the consultation of the public on these draft decisions;
- Equal possibilities for the participation of citizens, associations established under the law, other stakeholders in the decision-making process.

The approval of the regulatory act draft is usually synchronized with the consultation of the public on this subject matter. The regulatory act draft, accompanied by an informative note, submitted for approval, is examined within 10 days, if the draft is voluminous or complex the period can be extended up to 30 days. After being ratified and consulted with the public, the regulatory act draft is mandatorily ratified, prior to being submitted for examination to the Government, by the Ministry of Justice.

The regulatory act draft is mandatorily subjected to legal survey to check whether it is not contravening with the Constitution of the Republic of Moldova, and an anticorruption survey to check whether it corresponds to the national and international anticorruption standards.

The Government adopts decisions, orders, and provisions. To organize the enforcement of laws, the Government adopts decisions. The provisions are issued only under a special Government enabling law, within the limits and under the conditions provided by such law. The provisions are issued by the Prime-Minister to organize the Government’s internal activities.

According to the Chapter III item 11, paragraph 5) of the Regulation on the organization and operation of the National Food Safety Agency, approved by Government Decision No 51 of 16.01.2013 the Director General of NFSA issues orders and provisions.

**The harmonization of the national legislation** with the community legislation is an on-going process aiming at ensuring full compatibility of the internal with the community rules of law. The harmonization of the legislation of the Republic of Moldova with the principles and standards of the European Union is done primarily in the areas of priority established by the effective bilateral acts that regulate the relationships between the European Union and the Republic of Moldova.
Bills and Government decisions and provisions are added to the category of regulatory act draft with community relevance, which are mandatorily ratified. The other regulatory acts (orders, instructions, etc.) issued by ministers or other central administrative authorities, which are part of the secondary national legislation that implements community provisions, shall be submitted only to the Ministry of Justice and the Ministry of External Affairs and European Integration prior to being approved.

Chapter 4. Competent Authority Designation

4.1. The History of Establishing the National Food Safety Agency
To help the Moldovan producers reach international standards for animal, plant health and animal safety (the only way to export on the EU market), and to guarantee to local consumers that the ‘Made in Moldova’ products meet these requirements, on 16 January 2013 the National Food Safety Agency was created. NFSA was established according to the provisions of Law No 113 of 18 May 2012 on the general principles and requirements of food safety law.

NFSA was created on the reorganization by merger of the Sanitary-Veterinary and Food Safety of Animal Origin Agency (central public authority in charge for the implementation and monitoring of sanitary-veterinary and safety of food of animal origin policy and strategies) and the General Inspectorate of Phytosanitary Supervision and Seed Control (administrative authority in charge of the implementation of the state policy of phytosanitary quarantine, protection of plants, control of seeds, and quality of cereals and derivative products, production and sale of tobacco and tobacco products).

The National Food Safety Agency became the successor of the rights and obligations of the veterinary and phytosanitary authority and started officially its activity on 14 February 2013.

The establishment of the National Food Safety Agency was necessary in order to concentrate all bodies with food safety functions and duties in a single institution that will lead and will be in charge of this activity area in the Republic of Moldova. In this context, it was suggested to set up a new state structure that will concentrate all control and supervision functions, held currently by public services of different subordination, in a single body and will be in charge for food safety policy’s promotion and implementation.

With the establishment of the National Food Safety Agency, all bodies with relation both to control and supervision, and execution – monitoring, risk evaluation, advice, record, audit, logistics, and etc. to food safety activity area, have been added to its structure.

The food safety legislation principles that make up the base for this reorganization are:
- **Usefulness principle** – optimal fulfilment of the institution’s functions that integrate the pillars of the area concerned.
- **Responsibility principle** – by reference to the competencies of the new created structure;
- **Efficiency principle** – appropriate use of financial, human, and material resources to get the performance in the area and to isolate the redundant duties and system replicates. The efficiency is reflected in the technical character that the control duties conducted at institutional level must have;
- **Transparency principle** – related to decision making and funds allocation.
The expected outcomes, following the implementation of EU phytosanitary law principles, shall be:

- Strengthening the official control at production sites and along the entire food chain;
- Increasing control requirements on food safety and quality;
- Registering food establishments;
- Inspecting contaminant residues in food and feed;
- Improving the food safety information system;
- Aligning the national laboratories’ activity to the EU analysis methods;

4.2. Legal Basis for NFSA Establishment and Operation.
To optimize the functions of some state services, according to Law No 113 of 18 May 2012 on general principles and requirements of food safety law and the approval of the Food Safety Strategy, the National Food Safety Agency was established. Also for this purpose, the Government Decision No 51 of 16 January 2013 on the organization and operation of the National Food Safety Agency was approved.

NFSA operates under Law No 113 of 18 May 2012 on the general principles and requirements of food safety law, Law No 221-XVI of 19 October 2007 on the sanitary-veterinary activity, Law No 228 of 23 September 2010 on plants protection and phytosanitary quarantine, and Government Decision No 51 of 16.01.2013 on the organization and operation of the National Food Safety Agency.

**Chapter 5. Organization and Management of Official Control**

5.1 NFSA Organization and Management
The National Food Safety Agency is an administrative authority supervised by the Government. The Agency has a Director General appointed and dismissed by the Government, at the Prime-minister’s proposal. The Director General has three Deputy Directors-General:

1. Deputy Director-General for Sanitary-Veterinary Area
2. Deputy Director-General for Phytosanitary Area
3. Deputy Director-General for Food Safety and Quality Control.

The Deputy Directors-General possess higher education in the corresponding areas and shall be appointed and dismissed by the Government, at the proposal of the Director General of the Agency.

The NFSA organization structure consists of the central body or the headquarters, territorial subdivisions and subordinated laboratories, and border control posts.

*The Central level* are located in the capital, Chisinau city, has 170 employees and the following main competencies:

1. Coordinates and monitors the territorial subdivisions’ activity in charge for the official inspection, and that of laboratories involved in the official control
2. Drafts official control methodology and procedures
3. Participates in drafting legislative and regulatory acts
4. Plans food safety and plant and animal health monitoring programmes
5. Communicates with the international bodies and institutions, including DG SANTE
6. Manages human, material, and financial resources of the agency.
The Territorial level consists of 37 territorial subdivisions, with 1100 employees. Each territorial subdivision is led by a Head and a Deputy Head. Each subdivision employs between 16 and 100 inspectors, split into veterinary, phytosanitary, and food safety areas. The main function of the territorial subdivisions is to provide supervision and official control in the area of competence. NFSA consist of the central body, which in its turn consists of Departments, units, services, sanitary-veterinary and phytosanitary border control posts. NFSA organization chart is approved by the NFSA Director General and ratified by the State Chancellery of the Republic of Moldova.

Figure 2. National Food Safety Agency’s Organization Chart

The Agency’s central body consists of the Departments, as follows:

- Department of Sanitary-Veterinary Surveillance
- Department of Veterinary Pharmaceuticals and Feed Control
- Department of Plant Health and Protection
- Department of Plant Protection Products and Fertilizers Control
- Department of Seed Control
- Department for Surveillance of Animal Origin Food Processing Establishments
- Department for Surveillance of Non Animal Origin Food Processing Establishments
- Department for Surveillance of Retail, Distribution and Consumption of Food Products
- Department of Quality Control and Quality Systems
- Department of Laboratories Management and Risk Evaluation
- Department for Coordination of Border Inspection Posts
- Finance and Accounting Department
- Human Resources Department
- Heritage and Internal Management Department
- Legal Department
- Internal Audit Department
- Profile Audit Department
The Agency has rayon/municipal territorial food safety subdivisions with legal entity status, with coat-of-arms seal and name in the official language, special seals, and treasury accounts. The sanitary-veterinary and phytosanitary control posts are territorial subdivisions of the Agency, without legal entity status.

The Agency’s rayon/municipal territorial food safety subdivisions (Departments, units, and departments) are led by managers appointed and dismissed by the Agency’s Director General’s order, under the law. The Agency’s rayon/municipal territorial food safety subdivisions’ legal status is established based on the number of employees.

The Agency’s employees have special work IDs, when performing their job duties. The border control post inspectors wear uniforms of established design, with appropriate badges. The territorial subdivisions’ managers ensure the fulfilment of the duties established in the territorial subdivisions’ regulations, approved by the Agency’s Director General.

**Figure 3. Organization Chart of the Territorial Food Safety Subdivisions**

### 5.2. NFSA Competencies

The Parliament of the Republic of Moldova, by the adoption of Ordinary Law No 50 of 28 March 2013 ‘on the official inspections for the verification of compliance of the legislation on feed and food with the animal health and welfare standards’, establishes general rules on the official inspection and verification of compliance with the standards related to:

a) prevention, elimination, or cut down to the admissive level of human and animal health risks, be it directly, or through environmental conditions;

b) guarantee of correct practices in the feed and food sale and protection of consumers’ interests, including the labelling of the feed and food and other forms of information of the consumers.

Thus, the National Food Safety Agency conducts regularly, depending on the risks and appropriate frequency, official inspections to achieve the mentioned objectives considering:

a) the identified risks related to feed, food, and animals, enterprises operating in the feed or food area, use of feed, food, or any other process, material, substance, activity, or operation that might influence the feed, food safety, animals’ health and welfare;
b) the history of feed and food operators on the compliance with the requirements for feed, food and animals’ health and welfare standards;
c) the reliability of any of the already conducted own inspection;
d) any information that points to non-compliance.

According to Law 50, official controls are conducted without prior notice, except when audit is performed, which requires prior notification of feed and food operators.

Official supervision and controls are conducted on the entire food chain, according to:
- Law No 221 of 19 October 2007 on sanitary-veterinary activity
- Law No 119-XV of 22 April 2004 on the phytosanitary and fertilising products
- Law No 228 of 23 September 2010 on the plants protection and phytosanitary quarantine
- Law No 113 of 18 May 2012 on the general principles and requirements on food safety law
- Law No 131 of 08.02.2012 on the state control on the entrepreneur activity
- Law No 68 of 5 April 2013 on seeds
- Government Decision No 51 of 16.01.2013 on the organization and operation of the National Food Safety Agency.

According to Law No 221, the following types of establishments are subject to sanitary-veterinary official surveillance:
1. Livestock farm
2. Quarantine farm
3. Incubation facility
4. Animals exhibition and zoo
5. Menagerie
6. Establishments specialized in the selection and reproduction of animals
7. Summer animal camp
8. Sheep farm
9. Establishments for industrial processing of bodies of animals, of products of animal origin, of non-eatable by-products of animal origin, confiscated under law
10. Crematoria, animal cemeteries, dry wells
11. Disinfection, insect removal, and rat extermination establishments
12. Animal fair
13. Animal market
14. Stray dog shelter
15. Kennel
16. Pets boarding
17. Training schools for dogs
18. Pet salon
19. Medicine, bio-products, and other veterinary products factory
20. Compound feed factory
21. Veterinary pharmaceutical establishments
22. Veterinary pharmacy
23. Bio-products or veterinary pharmaceutical products laboratory
24. Establishments specialized in the production of biostimulators, premixes and medicated feed
25. Veterinary pharmaceutical products storehouse
26. Medical-veterinary technical establishments
27. Sanitary-veterinary laboratory
28. Sanitary-veterinary dispensary
29. Cabinet medical-veterinary
30. Medical-veterinary clinic
31. Forages control laboratory
32. Meat processing factory
33. Slaughterhouse
34. Animal slaughter establishments
35. Cold store
36. Meat and meat by-products processing establishments
37. Conserved meat factory
38. Meat by-products factory
39. Raw/dry sausage factory
40. Meat and mixed culinary products and by-products factory
41. Store of gross uneatable by-products of animal origin (skins, wool, fur, horsehair, feathers, down)
42. Natural membranes (bovine, horse, pig, ovine, caprine intestines) processing establishments
43. Collection centre
44. Fishery cold store
45. Fishery production, processing, storage, transportation, and sale establishments
46. Milk collection, cooling, and storage establishments
47. Milk products factory
48. Public catering area
49. Eggs collection and processing centre
50. Bee honey and apiculture products collection and processing establishments
51. Food storehouse
52. Public catering establishments
53. Vehicles for the transportation of products subject to state sanitary-veterinary control and transportation of livestock
54. Enterprises, institutions, organizations of any type of property conducting manufacturing, import, transportation, storage, sale, and use activities of phytosanitary and fertilising products
55. Individuals and legal entities involved in activities related to the production, storage, transportation, import, export, re-export, transit, and sale of plants, living parts of plants, seeds and plant products, related goods subject to the phytosanitary quarantine
56. Seed (nursery) and production of seedlings facilities, seed storehouses in their sale establishments, in the technology processing, packaging, and labelling establishments;

In the phytosanitary area, the following types of establishments are subject to surveillance:
1. Storehouses and stores of authorized Plant Protection Products and Fertilizers (PPPF)
2. Registered seeding material producers
3. Agricultural producer
4. Holder of joint storehouse and/or shipping centre;
5. Importer;
6. Exporter;
7. User of PPPF.

5.4. Official Inspection Organization Principles. Supervision and Control Methods
Official inspection-related duties are fulfilled through some control methods and techniques. They are described in Table 1.
### Table 1. Methods of Surveillance and Control

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Method</th>
<th>Document/programme, on the basis of which implementation is realised</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Monitoring</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Surveillance and planned measurements related to the level of residues of veterinary medicines in food, as well as to presence/absence of diseases in animals are realised through this method.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>The annual monitoring takes place on the basis of:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>1. Annual residues monitoring plan in poultry, eggs, natural honey and fish. This plan is annually approved by the NFSA and is presented to the DG SANTE</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2. 2015-2020 national programme for pesticide residues monitoring and nitrate contents in plant-origin food, approved through Government Decision no.567 dated 2014</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>3. Monitoring and surveillance programme in the field of animal food safety</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>4. Monitoring and surveillance programme in the field of plant health and non-animal food safety</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>5. Feed monitoring and surveillance programme</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Surveillance</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Surveillance includes several subactivities and refers to surveillance over activities of the enterprises dealing with food business. This comprises, as the case may be, sanitary-veterinary authorisation, registration and certification of the products, issuance of notifications and permits, identification of animals and putting them to the official control.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Verification</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>This method most often refers to verification through examination of the documents and information obtained/presented for abidance by the requirements stipulated in the effective regulatory instruments.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Inspection</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Inspection means on-site examination of all the aspects in activities of the food-chain operators, in order to ensure abidance by the requirements of the effective laws.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Inspections are realised in conformity with:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Numerical plans annually developed at the central level of the NFSA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Annual and monthly realised plans, which are developed by each territorial subdivision</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Samplings are realised in conformity with the monitoring and surveillance plans by the territorial subdivisions, as well as in case of suspicions of animal diseases, food toxic infections and in the course of controls at the border check points.

Laboratory analysis within the framework of official controls are realised only by the laboratories annually appointed therefor through an order of the NFSA Director General. They carry on testing of the samples taken in conformity with the method specified in clause 5 of this table.

Basic principles of a control are:

- Prevention of legislative breaches through consultative aspect of the control
- Neutrality and impartiality
- Conduct of controls on the risk assessment basis
- Presumption of abidance by laws by the person under control
- Transparency of individual and regulatory instruments issued by the control authority
- Legality and abidance by the competences explicitly stipulated by laws
- Proportionality of controls and opportunity of initiation thereof – proceeding to controls only in case if this is indispensable to realisation of the control authority’s functions and if there have been exhausted other ways of inspection of abidance by laws by the persons under control
- Proportionality and opportunity in the terms of control duration – conduct of controls within the shortest possible time, depending on the reasons invoked by the control authority
- Recording of evidences all control actions and documents
- Right to contest any deed or any document of the control and to recover the damage caused
- Non-admission of controller’s property interests through exclusion of direct allocation of the financial resources deriving from the pecuniary sanctions, into the relevant control authority’s budget
- Non-admission of affection and/or suspension of the activities of the person under control

5.5. Human, Financial and Material Resources

The number of NFSA staffing positions is set forth in Government Decision no. 51 dated 16.01.2013 on Organisation and Functioning of the National Food Safety Agency and the Director General thereof approves the personnel schedule of the Agency and of the entities subordinated thereto, within the limits of the established labour remuneration fund and of the maximum number of personnel. The personnel schedule is later on confirmed by the State Chancellery of the Republic of Moldova.

The Director General appoints and dismiss the employees of the central office and territorial subdivisions of the Agency, heads and deputy heads of the institutions and organisations subordinated to the Agency, applies stimulating measures and disciplinary sanctions to them, in conformity with the effective laws.
The competences of the Director General also include approval of the regulations of the Agency subdivisions and of the institutions subordinated thereto, as well as of the job descriptions of the employees. The originals of the regulations and job descriptions are kept in special folders at the HRD, but the copies thereof are be kept at each subdivision and brought to public official’s knowledge under their signature upon employment, modification, etc.

Table 2. NFSA Personnel number per territorial subdivisions

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Territorial, rayon/municipal food safety subdivision (Department, section, service)</th>
<th>Maximum number (persons)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Anenii Noi</td>
<td>26</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Basarabeasca</td>
<td>17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. Briceni</td>
<td>31</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. Cahul</td>
<td>32</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5. Cantemir</td>
<td>19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6. Calarasi</td>
<td>28</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7. Causeni</td>
<td>31</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8. Cimislia</td>
<td>27</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9. Criuleni</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10. Donduseni</td>
<td>27</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11. Drochia</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12. Dubasari</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13. Edinet</td>
<td>36</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14. Falesti</td>
<td>31</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15. Floresti</td>
<td>37</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16. Glodeni</td>
<td>27</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17. Hincesti</td>
<td>36</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18. Ialoveni</td>
<td>28</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>19. Leova</td>
<td>26</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20. Nisporenii</td>
<td>25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>21. Ocnita</td>
<td>27</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>22. Orhei</td>
<td>38</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>23. Rezina</td>
<td>28</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>24. Riscani</td>
<td>28</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25. Singerei</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>26. Soroca</td>
<td>35</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>27. Straseni</td>
<td>27</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>28. Soldanesti</td>
<td>24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>29. Stefan Voda</td>
<td>27</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>30. Taraclia</td>
<td>27</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>31. Telenesti</td>
<td>27</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>32. Ungheni</td>
<td>38</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Autonomous Territorial Unit of Gagauzia (Gagauz-Yeri)</td>
<td>74 Including Comrat – 30, Ceadir-Lunga – 24, Vulcanesti – 20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chisinau Municipality</td>
<td>101</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Balti Municipality</td>
<td>50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Border check points</td>
<td>110</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>In total per service created in the territory</td>
<td>1141</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Central body of the service</td>
<td>171</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>In total per country</td>
<td>1422</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
The same procedure is abided, as well, in case of individual annual performance evaluation. The salary category is upgraded basing on annual assessments. The HRD arranges annually submission by all employees of the Declarations on property and personal interests, which are later collected from the HRD. A copy thereof shall be forwarded to the National Integrity Agency within 20 days after submission.

The NFSA is fully funded by the state budget. Evolution of the budget available for the NFSA is at the decision of the Government and Parliament of the Republic of Moldova. It has been evolving as indicated in the table over several recent years (as estimated for 2017, 2018, 2019 and 2020). The Agency plans the annual growth of its expenses by circa 4% as an annual mean.

Starting with 2016, all incomes generated by the NFSA are transferred to the state budget in conformity with the legal provisions, in order to be later obtained within the framework of the financing plan. Circa 30 mln. lei (15% of the NFSA budget) are annually registered as incomes. Such funds derive from taxes for service provided to the business operators.

**Table 3. Evolution of the 2013-2020 NFSA Budget**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>141 mln.</td>
<td>193 mln.</td>
<td>168 mln.</td>
<td>180 mln.</td>
<td>194 mln.</td>
<td>203 mln.</td>
<td>211 mln.</td>
<td>218 mln.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The main categories of expenses are indicated in the table below:

**Table 4. Main Categories of Expenses in the NFSA Budget**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category of expenses</th>
<th>Share in the total budget, %</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Personnel remuneration and related social taxes</td>
<td>56</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Goods and services purchased</td>
<td>21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Procurements and maintenance of the fixed assets</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Turnover stocks</td>
<td>17</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Since there is a permanent need for financial funds, the NFSA appeals to the donors and development partners, to get the assistance. The assistance is granted in kind, as a rule.

The priorities set for the scheduled period in the financial area are:
- Assurance of the budgets required for overall implementation of the official control and monitoring programmes in conformity with the laws
- Provision of the laboratories with the kits and consumables, in order to obtain required accreditations for participation in official controls
- Procurement of the tools and equipment necessary for the inspectors in the sampling and inspection process
The NFSA as an organisation created through merging has inherited material facilities that are used now. Here is included real estate property, means of transport, equipment and apparatuses, as well as laboratories and equipment thereof. The conditions of provision with material resources differ from one territorial subdivision to another and, as compared, from the central level.

The central office of the NFSA is a building with an area of more than 1400 square metres, which has been renovated recently within the framework of a World Bank’s project, but the territorial divisions possess 102 real estate items used as offices and laboratories. Circa 20 of such items need urgent renovation.

The Republican Veterinary and Diagnosis Centre is a laboratory within the NFSA framework. The RVDC has real estate items in Chisinau and three territorial laboratories. In addition thereto, each territorial subdivision has several laboratories fitted with simple equipment monitoring the safety of the products marketed by small manufacturers.

The NFSA is poorly provided with the means of transport. In total, there are used 288 motor vehicles: 32 vehicles belong to the central office, 22 belong to the border check points and 234 belong to the territorial subdivisions. The service life of a great part of such motor vehicles makes more than 12 years.

The priorities for 2016-2020 development of the NFSA material facilities lie in:
- Procurement of the equipment for the laboratories within the framework of the territorial subdivisions
- Renovation of 21 territorial offices
- Updating of the service vehicle fleet
- Re-equipment of the offices with furniture

Chapter 6. Horizontal and Support Activities

6.1. NFSA Training System

Professional development of the public servants within the framework of the National Food Safety Agency is realised through training activities of different types and forms, for the purpose of knowledge extension and upgrading, skills development and modelling of the attitudes and behaviours required for efficient fulfilment of their job duties.

Continuous professional development of the public servants lies in assurance in conformity with the legal provisions of the regulations on scheduling, arrangement and conduct of the process of continuous professional development of public officials. The legal framework includes:

- Law no.158 dated 04.07.2008, article 37/ Continuous professional development process lit. c) provision in their own annual budget annual of the funds to finance the process of continuous professional development of public officials, in the amount of at least 2% of the remuneration fund
Identification of the training needs. The methods of identification of the professional training needs are based on comparison of the required level of professional skills with that one shown by inspectors/public servants in the course of their activities.

The individual professional development needs of inspectors/public servants and those ones of a group/subdivision are identified:

a) as a result of an audit – through analysis of records, on-site observations, analysis of reports, interviews, testing, simulated inspections and other techniques for performance assessment, depending on the nature of inspection activities (according to 6.1.8 of ISO17020)

b) within the framework of the process of annual assessment of professional performances of public servants, subject to updating throughout the year in the course of monitoring and assessment of their activities by the direct supervisor of such inspectors/public officials, in conformity with the general procedure and form code: MEMI-6.1.

Planning of trainings. The subdivisions responsible for audit identify the professional development needs and forward them to the heads of the structural subdivisions, who analyse and systematise such needs. Basing on the needs identified in the course of assessment, monitoring, control, analysis and definition of the top-priority area of training, the head of the structural subdivisions drafts requests for the subjects/topics of internal and external training activities and submits such requests to the Human Resources Department with form code: PADP-6.1, at the beginning of the year. The Human Resources Department examines such requests and develops the Annual personnel training/professional development plan that may be updated in the course of the year, as a result of identification of training needs.

The 2016-2020 Multi-annual training plan was approved by order of the NFSA Director General no.147 dated 09 June 2016. The Multi-annual plan uses 5-year scheduling cycle, hence, there is set an objective that all Agency employees acting in this specific sphere shall obtain required training or trainings during a 5 years cycle, in order to ensure proper fulfilment of their job duties. This plan is also used as a monitoring tool.

Continuous professional development of the public servants is realised through the following types of training:

1. **External training** is realised by the ministries, other central public administration bodies and other public bodies differing from subordinated ones, acting in the relevant sphere, by other entities, including development partners, for various categories of personnel, by international bodies and specialised institutions.

2. **Internal training** is realised in different forms, including:
   
   - *On-the-job training* (under supervision of the head or a mentor)
   - *Off-duty training* (under supervision of the specialists from the NFSA framework and/or providers of the training services, on the topics presenting the major interest for the authority, in the form of seminars, workshops, conferences, round tables and other forms).

3. **Self-training** – is realised through access to the legislation and other NFSA instruments.
The training service provider network is formed of training service providers having the status of legal entities (both domestic and foreign ones) and entitled to carry on activities on professional development of the public officials/adults. The most active training providers for the NFSA are:

- Academy of Public Administration
- State or private organisations and institutions, including university education institutions
Training centres subordinated to the ministries and other public bodies
Training service providers having the status of individuals (both domestic and foreign ones)

The 2016-2020 priorities of the professional development system were set in the 2016-2020 Multi-Annual Training Plan.

The public servants within the NFSA framework benefit from training activities ordered by the state and implemented by the Academy of Public Administration, as well as by other specialised domestic and foreign institutions. The process of continuous professional development of public servants both within the NFSA framework and within the TSFS framework is monitored by the State Chancellery of the Republic of Moldova through the Register of Public Posts and Public Officials, taking into account the topics of professional development activities. All information on planning, arrangement, conduct, implementation and monitoring of the process of continuous professional development of public officials is recorded in the Register of Public Posts and Public Officials and is reported by the HRD on a trimestral basis.

6.2. Audit System
Two subdivisions responsible for internal audit are available and function within the NFSA framework:
- Internal (Financial) Audit Service
- Profile Audit Service

The Internal (Financial) Audit Service is formed of 2 persons and carries on controls and verifications related exclusively to financial aspects, within 37 territorial subdivisions of the NFSA. Both Audit Services are directly subordinated to the Director General.

The Profile Audit Service is responsible for methodical and independent examination of abidance by the way of conduct of official controls aimed to ensure the verification of compliance with feed and food law, animal health and animal welfare rules, and to determine whether the activities and related results abide by the dispositions set and whether such dispositions are effectively applied and allow reaching the objectives.

The Profile Audit Service within the NFSA framework relies on the following legislative instruments, in their activities:
- Law no.50 dated 28.03.2013 on Official Controls for Verification of Compliance with Feed and Food Law, Animal Health and Animal Welfare Rules
- EN ISO 19011: 2011 – Guidelines for Auditing Quality or Environment Management Systems

The Profile Audit Service is subordinated directly to the NFSA Director General and consists of the Service head and two specialists, a specialist in the sanitary-veterinary area and a specialist in food safety.
The audits realised within the NFSA framework in conformity with article 4 of Law no.50 are carried on a scheduled basis, in conformity with:

- Multi-annual and annual audit programmes, or ad-hoc, in conformity with the dispositions of the institutions’ management
- Multi-annual programme for audit of the official control systems and annual programme for audit of the official control systems, which are made public and placed on the NFSA official web-site

Ad hoc audits may be carried out in cases of notifications of some major or repeated deficiencies found in operation of a control system, in introduction of some amendments to the specific laws or NFSA structure and organisation, or in external audit planning by an international organisation. In case of an audit, the auditing structure shall inform the audited structure about the audit sphere and objectives at least a day before and shall establish a programme by their common consent (date, time, etc.).

Frequency of audits planned for an area is be at least 1 audit for 2 years, so that each phytosanitary control system, sanitary-veterinary control system and food safety control system should be audited at least one time, including all hierarchic levels, during such 2 years.

The procedure for selection, training and designation of internal auditors was approved in the beginning of 2016. This procedure describes requirements and ways of selection and training of the NFSA specialists (at the central and territorial level) for obtainment the status of an internal auditor. Appointment of the specialised internal auditors is made to empower them to take part in audit teams together with the specialists from the Profile Audit Service that will carry on audits within the territorial subdivisions of the National Food Safety Agency.

**Figure 5. Organisation of the Profile Audit System**
The Profile Audit Service documented procedure *PS-01/01 ‘Internal Audit of the Official Control System’*, which it is guided by. This procedure describes duties and ways of internal audit conduct, which are used by the NFSA to ensure achievement of the objectives set in Law no.50, art. 4.

Audits may refer to a system or to a sector. Sector audits are carried on within the framework of a system audit. All audits are subjected to independent control and are carried on in a transparent way.

**Figure 6. Document Flow between the NFSA Director General, PAS and Audited Structures**

The **goal and subject of internal financial audit** is to give consultation and to ensure, in an objective way, efficacy of the financial management and control system, as well as to present recommendations on improvement thereof and to contribute to improvement of the NFSA activities. The internal audit subject comprises all NFSA activities and operational processes.

The Audit Service has free access to the NFSA premises and is entitled to require and to receive information and explanations, both oral and written ones, to examine documents and digital data, to request copies and excerpts of the documents, and to take originals of the document from the NFSA employees.

According to the annual actions plan, the Internal Audit Service realised in mean 3 to 5 scheduled audit missions but the remaining part of the missions is carried on ad-hoc (it may reach the number up to and including 10 ad-hoc missions /per year), upon request of the NFSA Director General and on the basis of the incoming claims, etc.

The annual plan of the Internal Audit Service is drafted on a yearly basis and is approved by the NFSA Director General. The activities plan of the Internal Audit Service includes four main objectives:
• Development within the NFSA framework of the relevant management control systems
• Strengthening of the actual assessment system, MFC reporting and issuance of a declaration of good governance
• Strengthening of the internal audit activities
• Assurance of a relevant framework of the Internal Audit Service regulation and functioning

**Development priorities:**
• Promotion and creation of an appropriate control culture within the NFSA and TSFS framework
• Revision of the NFSA bylaws and job descriptions through introduction of the duties characteristic of management control
• Systematic assessment of the control environment within the NFSA and TSFS framework
• Identification of the weaknesses and revision of the financial management and control reporting and assessment system
• Development of the internal audit reports in conformity with the provisions of the National Standards for Internal Audit and Methodological Rules for Internal Audit in the Public Sector

6.3. Professional Support Activities

**Risk assessment unit.** Risk analysis is a structured decision-making process having three distinct but closely related components: risk assessment, risk management and risk communication

The Section of Risk Assessment, Planning and Monitoring of Residues Control functions within the Department for Laboratory Management and Risk Assessment. This unit comprises 3 persons and activities thereof are conducted in conformity with the Regulation of the Department, approved by the NFSA Director General.

This unit centralises the information used for analysis and further for development of the National Residues Control Plan. The duties of this Section also include:

1. Identification of chemical, biological and microbiological risks related to:
   • residues of pesticides and contaminants in the animal products and non-animal ones
   • residues of pesticides and contaminants in the feed
   • animal and non-animal food
2. Assessment on the basis of the data collected of the impact and degree of risk of the diseases for animal health, plant health, animal and non-animal product safety
3. Identification of the risk sources and assessment of eventual damages that would be caused by evolution of certain diseases in the country territory
4. Monitoring of the way of completion of the questionnaires on exceedance of the maximum residue and contaminant limits in the animal and non-animal products

**Quality Management System.** The EU acquis in the sphere of internal/management control recommends to implement the requirements of ISO 9001 and ISO 17020 standards for management systems.

In this context, aiming to monitoring, coordination and methodological guidance on implementation and development of a NFSA internal/management control system based on standard ISO 17020 ‘Conformity Assessment – Requirements for the Operation of Various Types of Bodies Performing Inspection’, the NFSA Director General issued order no.100 dated 26.07.2013, according to which there was formed a work group for designing, development and implementation of the Quality Management System, but on 26 October 2013, there were approved through an order the ‘Stages of Development and Implementation of the Internal/ Management
Control System at the NFSA level, relying on the principles of the Quality Management System (QMS) and complying with the requirements of standard ISO 17020’.

The NFSA Department for Quality Control and Quality Systems is responsible for designing, implementation of the quality management system and running of the system implemented, so as to ensure that the system requirements are understood, applied and maintained.

The premises for successful implementation of the Quality Management System are:

- Involvement of all employees in the implementation process
- Use of the QMS documents in the everyday practices
- Ongoing updating and improvement of the QMS documents

The main functions of the Department for Quality Control and Quality Systems include, as well:

- Verification and confirmation of the management system documents drafted by the Departments
- Dissemination of the general procedures within the relevant subdivisions
- Recording of the general and specific procedures in hard copies and in electronic format
- Participation in introduction of modifications (revisions, editions) into specific procedures
- Participation in development of new procedures and updating thereof
- Assistance in implementation of the general procedure forms describing the management system documentation
- Training of the quality managers appointed to the subdivisions of the central office
- Dissemination in a controlled way of the standards required for the NFSA subdivisions

The NFSA priorities in the quality assurance sphere are stated below:

1. Updating/revision of PO-01 ‘QMS Procedure Development’ (2016)
2. Creation of the fund of standards MS, ISO, EN, RS, etc. required for activities of the Departments involved in implementation of ISO 17020 (2016-2018)
3. Updating/revision of the available general procedures approved by the Director (2017-2018)

6.4. RASFF

Although the Republic of Moldova is not presently a RASFF member, it has a limited access to the RASFF through signing-in, and it has also a contact person within the NFSA framework that is responsible for monitoring and receipt of notification. The contact person is Ms. Aliona Vasilica, e-mail: aliona.vasilica@ansa.gov.md.

Thus, in case if the Republic of Moldova is involved into a nonconformity related to imported or exported products, a notification is received through the e-mail and thereafter an official investigation of product traceability starts, which ends with application of the measures set by the effective legislation, depending on case specificity.

The NFSA developed the Operational Procedure ‘Notifications of the RASFF Rapid Alert System for Food and Feed at the NFSA central level’ for implementation and good functioning of the RASFF system. Pursuant to this Procedure, the Risk Assessment Unit is responsible for internal and external risk communication but the Departments within the NFSA framework receive the information, carry on official investigations and order such measures as constraining, recalling from the market, as the case may be, destruction of foods and feeds non complying with the food safety requirements.
Chapter 7. Priorities of the Official Control for the period 2016-2020

- Drafting a strategic development document of the National Food Safety Agency
- Obtain accreditation for the inspection body, in compliance with standard ISO 17020, as a first step – in the phytosanitary sphere
- Increase the level of professionalism of the inspectors engaged in official control
- Development and implementation of an information system ensuring the official control efficiency – ‘e-NFSA’
- Provision of the inspectors from the territorial subdivisions and border inspection points with the equipment required for implementation of official control to the fullest extent
- Implementation of a laboratory strategy foreseeing reconstruction of the laboratories, provision thereof with required equipment and consumables, and obtainment of accreditation thereof
- Development and practical implementation of the risk assessment system and classification of the establishments on the basis of risk assessment, for the purpose of inspection planning
- Insurance of a higher level of biosecurity in livestock farms, particularly in case of Avian influenza and African swine fever virus
- Increase of the level of animal health to record a decrease in diseases cases by 50%
- Establishment of a control system for animal origin by-products not intended for human consumption, and for animal residues
- Improvement and increase in efficiency of official controls through development and updating of the operational and regulatory framework in the area of food safety, hygiene and food expertise
• Establishment of a system for permanent updating the lists authorised establishments for animal food processing

• Development of food contingency plans

• Commissioning of four border sanitary-veterinary and phytosanitary inspection posts and running thereof in conformity with the national legislation

• Updating and adjustment of the Multi-Annual National Control Plan, and reporting about implementation thereof directly to the Government of the Republic of Moldova

**Chapter 8. Revision and Amendments to Multi-Annual National Control Plan**

The current Multi-Annual National Control Plan is the first NFSA plan of such a kind. This document is to be modified and adjusted in the course of implementation thereof. Amendments to the Plan will be introduced either as a result of modifications made to the legislative instruments serving the basis for the described control systems, or in case of appearance of new diseases or risks for human and animal health. Modifications may, as well, be introduced as a result of significant changes in the structure, management or way of functioning of the NFSA, as a consequence of certain modifications to the guidelines or on the basis of findings of the realised official controls.

A year after application of the Plan commenced and every year thereafter, the NFSA shall present an annual report to the Government till 1 February of the next year. Such a report shall be later brought to knowledge of the civic society.

The annual report shall include all modifications introduced into the multi-annual control plan, results of the controls realised in the course of the year on the basis of the multi-annual control plan provisions, type and number of identified cases of nonconformity, and measures for assurance of effective multi-annual control plan functioning, including implementation measures and results thereof.
9.1. Relevant Legislation

- Law no.221 dated 19.10.2007 on Sanitary-Veterinary Activities
- Law no.50 dated 28.03.2013 on Official Controls for Verification of Compliance with Feed and Food Law, Animal Health and Animal Welfare Rules
- Government Decision no.51 dated 16.01.2013 on Organisation and Functioning of the National Food Safety Agency
- Government Decision no.370 dated 27.05.2014 on Approval of the Methodology of Scheduling of State Control over Entrepreneurial Activities in the Sphere of Food, Sanitary-Veterinary, Phytosanitary and Seed Products Safety, Management of Phytosanitary and Fertilising Products, Basing on the Risk Criteria Analysis
- Order of the National Food Safety Agency no.348 dated 03.08.2009 on the Regulation on the Way of Sanitary-Veterinary Control Organisation

9.2. Organisation and Structure of the Surveillance System

The animal health control system is organised as comprising 2 levels:

- Central level is represented by the Sanitary-Veterinary Surveillance Department
- Territorial (rayon/municipal) level is represented by the Animal Health and Welfare Section within the TSFS framework

The Sanitary-Veterinary Surveillance Department (SVSD) has as its mission the assurance of health, protection and welfare both of servicing and pet animals, in order to prevent transmission of infectious diseases from animals to humans. Particularly, Department employees at the central level:

- Implement veterinary strategies for health protection, in order to prevent introduction of epizootics and zoonosis in the country territory
- Ensure implementation of national and international programmes for territory protection against infiltration and dissemination of most dangerous infectious diseases
- Carry on control over contagious diseases in animals, over zoonosis and zoonotic agents
- Collect, analyse, construe and report on a systematic basis the data on animal health; realise the system of risk analysis, management and communication in the sphere of epizootics and zoonosis introduction in the country’s territory, in cooperation with other competent bodies
- Take part in development of sanitary-veterinary rules and technical instructions on supervising, identifying, taking prophylactic measures and combatting animal diseases and zoonosis
- Offer methodological support to the territorial subdivisions, inclusively through development of official procedures and instructions
- Develop plans and programmes to be implemented at the national level. They include:
  - National programme for salmonellosis control in poultry
  - National programme for avian influenza control in animals
  - Programme for strategical actions on supervising, taking prophylactic measures and combatting animal diseases, and on preventing transmission of diseases from animals to humans
- Control and coordinate activities of the territorial subdivisions, as well as verify fulfilment of national programmes

The Department is structurally composed of a section including two services, and three independent services; 18 persons in total work at the central level (Fig.8).
The territorial food safety subdivisions organise sanitary and veterinary activities in the whole territory of the rayon/municipality, ensure realisation of national and international programmes for territory protection against infiltration and dissemination of most dangerous infectious diseases, control abidance by the sanitary and veterinary requirements in the course of permutation, export and import of animals, animal products and raw materials, and feed.

**Figure 8. Organisation of the Animal Health Control System**

The animal health and welfare sections act within the territorial food safety subdivisions. 236 inspectors work in 37 territorial subdivisions of the NFSA.

At the rayon or municipal level plans of national programme implementation are developed. In particular, the territorial subdivisions supervise, as well, the activities of appointed (empowered) free-practicing veterinarians.

Such activities are carried on by the official veterinary doctors (inspectors), who are veterinary doctors with higher education and have the status of public servants working within the framework of the National Food Safety Agency, inclusively within the framework of the territorial food safety subdivisions.

The appointed (authorised) free-practicing veterinary doctors (circa 210 persons) are veterinary physicians contracted by the NFSA for realisation of certain state sanitary-veterinary activities, under legal conditions. They are contracted at the level of territorial subdivisions and, as a rule, make vaccinations, collect serum samples, collect samples, realise disinfection activities, disinfection and deratization activities and so on.
Table 5. Number of Animals and Exploitations

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>No.</th>
<th>Species of animals</th>
<th>No. of animals</th>
<th>No. of exploitations</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1.</td>
<td>Bovine</td>
<td>296000</td>
<td>140</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.</td>
<td>Swine</td>
<td>727000</td>
<td>201</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.</td>
<td>Sheep</td>
<td>900000</td>
<td>62</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.</td>
<td>Goats</td>
<td>227000</td>
<td>80</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5.</td>
<td>Horses</td>
<td>48000</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6.</td>
<td>Donkeys</td>
<td>2200</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7.</td>
<td>Hens</td>
<td>18821016</td>
<td>53</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8.</td>
<td>Hares</td>
<td>357675</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9.</td>
<td>Palmipedes</td>
<td>2042085</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10.</td>
<td>Quails</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11.</td>
<td>Pheasants</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12.</td>
<td>Water basins for fish breeding</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>342</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>IN TOTAL</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td><strong>857</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

9.3. Methods of Surveillance and Control Activities

Official controls and controls for disease liquidation are carried on in conformity with the provisions of Law no.50/2013, without a pre-notice. The main form of control is inspection, i.e. a verification by an official veterinary doctor (inspector) within the framework of the animal health and welfare section, for the purpose of fulfilment of the sanitary-veterinary measures. Another used form of surveillance is sampling and analysis thereof in a reference laboratory or in a laboratory designated by the Agency.

Exploitation inspections may be planned and unexpected. Planned inspection is realised not more than once a year. In the majority of cases, these are basic inspections that are also realised either on the basis of an application for sanitary-veterinary authorisation of establishment functioning, or on the basis of claims, bills of complaints and queries. The following aspects shall be verified in the course of a basic exploitation inspection:

- Abidance by the rules for animal protection and welfare, in conformity with the Guide for indicators, areas, distances and parameters for animal protection and welfare
- Registers kept with regard to exploitation (to record realised medical treatments, to record died animals and poultry, to record realisation of the measures for deratisation, disinfection and desinsection (DDD), to record number of animals, poultry and bee families, to record veterinary pharmaceutical products; Register of Exploitation, to record anti-epizootic measures, to record the animals reacting to tuberculin, to record bovines tested for sub-clinical mastitis).

Controls for liquidation of infectious diseases in animals are realised on the basis of specific procedures for verification of the actions on identifying and combatting infectious diseases. Unexpected controls and, as well, repeated controls are not regarded as planed controls.
They are realised outside the plan only in cases when:

a) There is a suspicion of an infectious disease
b) An infectious disease was confirmed
c) There appeared toxic infections in animals
d) There is information on breaches of the sanitary-veterinary legislation
e) There shall be verified the information, which is reported in a mandatorily way, in conformity with the law
f) There shall be verified the information obtained within the framework of another control of the entrepreneur that had economic relations with the person under control, if the following conditions are met:
   • The entrepreneur refuses to present such information
   • There is no other way of getting such information
   • This information is decisive and indispensable for achievement of the goal of the control started earlier

Unexpected controls have the nature of a thematic inspection, since they refer either to the aspects related to the diseases from the list of transmissible animal diseases, or to other specific topics.

**Implementation of official controls and controls for disease liquidation.** The actions making part of an official control for liquidation of animal diseases are initiated if there is a notification on suspicion of a disease. Such notifications may come from the local public bodies or subdivisions, or as a result of bills of complaint and other queries.

**Classical swine fever (CSF).** The CSF control is realised in conformity with the Specific Procedure ‘Verification of the Actions on CSF (Classical Swine Fever) Identifying and Combatting’, Code: PS (D - 02/1D) - 01/01. Samples are collected in the course of necropsy by the official veterinary physicians within the framework of the rayon/municipal Departments or, if there are no such, by the authorised practicing veterinary physician. Transportation and assurance of samples security in the course of transportation is in the responsibility of TSFS inspector. The samples are sent to the National Reference Laboratory (Public Institution RVDC). The International Reference Laboratory for classical swine fever is: Institut für Virologie from Hannover, Germany.

**Avian influenza (AI).** The avian influenza control is realised in conformity with the Specific Procedure ‘Verification of the Actions on Avian Influenza Identifying and Combatting’, Code: PS (D - 02/1D) - 01/02. The official veterinary doctor or practicing veterinary doctor takes samples from the poultry having the clinical signs of disease, or from the corpses, and sends such samples promptly to the Public Institution RVDC. The International Reference Laboratory for avian influenza and Newcastle disease is the Veterinary Laboratories Agency from Great Britain.

**Newcastle diseases (avian pseudo-fever).** The controls over Newcastle disease are realised in conformity with the Specific Procedure ‘Verification of the Actions on Newcastle Disease Identifying and Combatting’, Code: PS (D - 02/1D) - 01/03. The samples taken shall be sent as soon as possible, under conditions of refrigeration, and shall be accompanied by the supplementary sheet. The National Reference Laboratory for avian influenza and Newcastle disease is the Public Institution – Republican Veterinary and Diagnosis Center.

**Rabies in animals.** The rabies controls are realised in conformity with the provisions of the Specific Procedure ‘Verification of the Actions on Rabies Identifying and Combatting’, Code: PS (D - 02/1D) - 01/04. If rabies is suspected, the samples intended for laboratory examinations are
packed into plastic bags, plastic flasks or special boxes to avoid any liquid losses and viral dissemination. Transportation of the samples to the Public Institution RVDC is realised in containers bearing the labels with a remark: ‘BIOLOGICAL SAMPLES WITH A HIGH RISK OF CONTAMINATION – WARNING: RABIES’, at the temperature of refrigeration or congelation. Sample freshness shall make not more than 24 hours in the winter season and 12 hours in the summer season.

**Anthrax in animals.** The control on anthrax in animals is realised in conformity with the provisions of the Specific Procedure ‘Verification of the Actions on Anthrax Identifying and Combatting’, Code: PS (D - 02/1D) - 01/05. It is prohibited to dissect corpses of the animals that had suspected anthrax. The official veterinary doctor or practicing veterinary doctor takes samples of skin (ear) of the undissected animals. Negative samples are studied using biological specimen (laboratory animals are used to refine the diagnosis). The Laboratory dealing with anthrax is the Public Institution – Republican Veterinary and Diagnosis Center.

**Tuberculosis (TBC) in animals.** The controls of tuberculosis in animals are realised in conformity with the provisions of the Specific Procedure ‘Verification of the Actions on TBC (Tuberculosis) Identifying and Combatting’, Code: PS (D - 02/1D) - 01/06. All bovines older than 6 weeks are subjected to official intradermal tuberculation tests, through the unique test (UT). Animals reacting positively to the unique intradermal test are subjected to an intradermal simultaneous comparison test (SCT). Tuberculation is technically realised only by the authorised veterinary physicians. Reaction reading as a result of interpretation of tuberculation is carried on only by the official veterinary physicians. Individual samples for laboratory examinations shall be collected in a mandatorily manner from all reacting animals cut for the diagnostic purposes and only in authorised slaughter houses. The Laboratory for tuberculosis is the Public Institution – Republican Veterinary and Diagnosis Center.

**Transmissible spongiform encephalopathy (TSE).** The controls of transmissible spongiform encephalopathy in bovines (bovine spongiform encephalopathy) and in small cattle (scrapie in sheep and goats) are realised in conformity with the provisions of the Specific Procedure ‘Verification of the Actions on Transmissible Spongiform Encephalopathy (TSE) Identifying and Combatting’, Code: PS (D - 02/1D) - 01/07. The risk analysis is based on the following factors: consumption by bovines of meat-and-bone meals of ruminant animal origin, import of animals or ovules/embryos potentially infected with transmissible spongiform encephalopathy, epizootic status of a country, area or sector, related to transmissible spongiform encephalopathy. Examinations are realised basing on the brain samples of ruminant animal at the Republican Veterinary and Diagnosis Center.

**Brucellosis in animals.** The controls of brucellosis in animals are realised in conformity with the provisions of the Specific Procedure ‘Verification of the Actions on Brucellosis Identifying and Combatting’, Code: PS (D - 02/1D) - 01/08. The plan of measures for supervision of brucellosis in bovines foresees serologic supervision through the rapid serum agglutination test (RSAT) using the Rose-Bengal coloured antigen, or through the enzyme-linked immunosorbent assay (ELISA) in 10 samples as an aggregate, collected from:
- Servicing bulls, in order to take or draw seminal fluid for artificial insemination – control realised twice a year, in the 2nd and 4th trimesters
- cows, heifers and calves older than 12 months – twice a year, with a 4-month interval
- aborting cows and heifers (in 14 to 21 days after abortion), or those having the clinical signs of suspected Brucella infection
- 100% of imported bovines
• 10% of sheep, 100% of goats and 100% of imported sheep and goats and all aborting animals (in 14 to 21 days after abortion) are controlled for brucellosis. The Laboratory controlling the brucellosis is the Republican Veterinary and Diagnosis Center.

Bluetongue Disease. The controls of bluetongue disease in ruminant animals are realised in conformity with the provisions of the Specific Procedure ‘Verification of the Actions on Bluetongue Identifying and Combatting’, Code: PS (D - 02/1D) - 01/09. The official veterinary physician or practicing veterinary physician collect samples from living animals or animal corpses and send such samples to the National Reference Laboratory dealing with bluetongue, i.e. Public Institution – Republican Veterinary and Diagnosis Center. The International Reference Laboratory is AFRC Institute for Animal Health, Pirbright Laboratory, United Kingdom.

Supervision of contagious diseases in animals. The SVSD set as an objective to implement range of strategies for animal health and public health protection, for animal protection and animal welfare for 2016-2020, through development of specific programmes containing the measures for preventing and combatting animal-borne diseases and zoonosis.

For this period of time there is foreseen the realisation of actions on disease supervision, preventive vaccination operations, anti-parasite treatment operations and laboratory investigations aimed to early detection of diseases comprised in lists OIE, A and B.

A programme for strategical actions on surveillance, taking prophylaxis and combatting diseases in animals and preventing disease transmission from animals to human is developed on an annual basis and is approved through the order of the NFSA Director General. The programme includes:

• Actions on sanitary-veterinary supervision of highly contagious diseases: foot-and-mouth disease, avian influenza, avian pseudo-fever, classical swine fever, African swine fever, bluetongue disease
• Actions on sanitary-veterinary surveillance of contagious diseases: leucosis in bovines, bovine spongiform encephalopathy, glands, European foulbrood, American foulbrood
• Actions on sanitary-veterinary supervision of zoonosis: bovine tuberculosis, brucellosis in bovines, sheep, goats and pigs, salmonellosis in laying hens and broilers, infectious epididymitis in rams, leptospirosis in pigs, scrapie in sheep and goats
• Actions on taking prophylaxis against zoonosis and diseases not transmissible from animals to humans: vaccinations/repeated vaccinations against anthrax in bovines, sheep, goats, horses, against rabies in dogs and wild fauna, against classical swine fever, Newcastle disease

The Republic of Moldova has a system of compensations for the owners of animals that were slaughtered, killed or otherwise affected as a result of liquidation of zoonosis outbreaks. The owners of animals may receive compensations exceeding the sums recovered through valuation of the products and byproducts received from slaughtered animals. Payment of compensations is realised from the funds stipulated in the budget of the National Food Safety Agency, within the limit of allocations for annual financing of the sanitary and veterinary prophylactic measures and for supervising and combatting animal diseases, in the value substituting the market price as of the date when liquidation of the foci of disease.

If there are outbreaks of infectious diseases, mechanism of isolation of the relevant area for human and animal passage is put in practice. A decision in this regard is adopted at the territorial level by the Rayon President acting as the Chair of the Emergency Commission. If there are multiple outbreaks or if a disease is disseminating, Republican Emergency Commission headed by the Prime-Minister, gives orders to constraint and required actions.
Actually the National Programme for Control of Zoonotic Salmonellosis is implemented in part. The Programme for Liquidation of Rabies in Wild and Domestic Animals is not implemented.

9.4. Control Planning

Control planning is realised at the central level for the purpose of fulfilment of the actions from the national strategical programmes for animal health. The rayon/municipal numerical plans, which the inspectors are governed by, are developed at the level of territorial subdivisions.

The minimum frequency of controls for any categories of exploitation is once a year, within the actual control system, however, relying on the situations described above, the controls may be carried on more often, depending on severity of identified breaches. There may be directed several types of measures:

1. Prescription regarding deficiency removal, subject to establishing the time frames of a repeated control
2. Application of sanctions as stated in the Code of Contraventions
3. Issuance of an ordinance on suspension of the authorisation for functioning
4. Appeal to the criminal prosecution bodies, with regard to severe contraventions

The decision on imposing of the measures provided in p. 1-3 is adopted by the inspector. When it comes to actions provided in clause 4, the inspector only drafts a protocol but the decision is taken by the head of the territorial subdivision.

9.5. Surveillance and Control Documentation. Reporting System

The reporting system is based on the bottom-up principle. The (authorized) practicing veterinary physicians present monthly reports to the head of the territorial subdivision. Reporting may be made on a weekly basis, depending on the critical epizootic situation. The SVSD reports to the deputy Director General dealing with animal health.

The territorial subdivision presents a report to the central level of the NFSA on a monthly basis, in conformity with Order no.36/2009. Such numerical reports contain data about measures undertaken for each numbers of items, localities and time periods. Besides this, in case of a suspicion or confirmation of diseases, there are completed the forms specified in NFSA Order no.51/2015, with presentation of internal notifications. State of health and slaughtering of animal stocks are reported on a weekly basis in conformity with the provisions of the NFSA Orders.

The RVDC laboratory reports and notifies the central level of the NFSA and the territorial level of its subdivisions about causes of disease, identified as a result of sample analysis. The testing reports are sent to the territorial subdivisions, where the relevant sample came from.

The NFSA, in its turn, drafts an annual report, which is submitted to the Government till 1 February of the year following the reporting year. Basing on its commitments as an OIE member, being a responsible authority, the NFSA sends the semester and annual reports on animal assets health in the Republic of Moldova to the OIE.
9.6. Human, Material and Technical Resources

Table 6. Human Resources within the Framework of the Animal Health Control System

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>No.</th>
<th>Level of supervision and control</th>
<th>No. of persons in conformity with the personnel schedule</th>
<th>Remarks</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Central level (SVSD)</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>3 vacant posts</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Territorial level</td>
<td>238</td>
<td>36 vacant posts</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table 7. Material and Technical Resources within the Framework of the Animal Health Control System

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Manual sprayer</th>
<th>Motor sprayer</th>
<th>Atomiser</th>
<th>Mercado apparatus</th>
<th>Mechanical sprayer</th>
<th>Special equipment (overall, gloves, etc.)</th>
<th>Motor vehicle DUC-52-01</th>
<th>Orchard sprayer STL</th>
<th>Heavy-load vehicle Photon COH 857</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>90</td>
<td>41</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>206</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

9.7. Personnel Training Plans

Trainings are realized either by the specialists of the Department at the central level of the NFSA, or as many times as required, by the specialists of the territorial subdivisions, on the topics specific to each separate existent situation, taking into account the priorities of each Department.

The personnel training plans are developed on an annual basis. The 2016 training topics are the following:

- Sanitary and veterinary measures management
- Programme for aerial vaccination of foxes against rabies
- Collection, packing, labelling and transportation of official samples to the laboratory
- Planning and arrangement of official controls
- Sanitary and veterinary certification
- Strengthening the favorable epizootic situation in the Republic of Moldova
- Correctness of valuation of fertile sheep, assessment of the value of young breeding sheep
- Correctness of valuation of fertile heifers. Growing up of young breeding cattle

74 inspectors (2 inspectors from each territorial subdivision) are trained every year. Later on those inspectors provide ‘cascade’ training, i.e. the trained personnel trains all subdivision inspectors on the relevant topic, at the level of the subdivision.

9.8. Information Systems and Databases

All animals of such species as bovines, sheep, goats, swine, horses, donkeys, all exploitation centers (households) holding or using such animals, including farms, sheep yards, slaughter houses, animal fairs, are identified and registered in the database of the Animal Identification and Traceability System (AITS), which makes the State Animal Register.
The informational animal disease management system named the ‘Programme of Strategic Sanitary and Veterinary Measures Management’ was developed and is undergoing testing now, for the purpose of monitoring and more effective coordination of the national plans. This will become the main tool used by the subdivisions for reporting to the central level of the NFSA.

9.9. Cooperation with other Entities and Organisations

The SVSD cooperates with the national and international institutions and organisations:

- Ministry of Agriculture and Food Industry
- Agricultural Information Centre
- Civil Protection and Emergency Service
- National Public Health Centre
- Moldsilva Agency subordinated to the Ministry of Environment
- Hunter and Fisher Association of the Republic of Moldova
- World Animal Health Organisation
- National Sanitary Veterinary and Food Safety Authority of Romania
- Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO)

Cooperation with the above institutions lies in assurance of transparency in the animal disease situation in the world arena (OIE), implementation of the principles of the legislation of the European Union in the national legislation, in promotion of regulatory instruments, and collaboration in prophylaxis and combatting some common animal and human diseases.

9.10. 2016-2020 Top-Priority Measures for Animal Health

- Increase of the bio-security level in the animal breeding centres and of the degree of preparedness for protection of the territory of the Republic of Moldova against infiltration with the African swine fever and avian influenza
- Increase of the level of animal health, inclusively through contribution to decrease of the cases of infectious diseases by 50%
- Conduct of analysis to identify the risk, in correlation to the current epizootic situation, and to monitor, supervise, control, combat and liquidate diseases
- Basing on the epidemiological risk analysis, provide proposals of the legislative measures for preventing, monitoring, controlling and liquidating zoonosis and diseases in animals
- Implementation of the measures for combatting rabies in wild fauna in the entire territory of the country
- Introduction of an effective control system, to monitor and verify conformity in animal residue processing
Chapter 10. Control System of Animal Identification and Traceability

10.1 Primary and Secondary Legislation

- Law no.221 dated 19.10.2007 on Sanitary-Veterinary Activities
- Law no.231 dated 20.07.2006 on Animal Identification and Registration
- Government Decision no.507 dated 18.07.2012 on Approval of Rules for Animal Identification and Traceability

10.2 Description of the Animal Identification, Registration and Traceability System

Animal identification is realised by the owner of the animals, who is bound to identify the animals and to present the relevant information to the territorial offices of the National Operator, i.e. Agricultural Information Centre, within 15 days after birth (see Fig.9).

Each animal is identified separately and is registered within the AITS, using earmarks for animals of such species as sheep, goats and swine, two earmarks (having the same identification code) for animals of such species as bovine, respectively, a transponder (microchip) for animals of such species as horses. In case of bovines, when an earmark is applied, an individual passport is issued for them. The earmark price varies from 7 to 17 lei and a microchip costs circa 60 lei. The only institution issuing earmarks is the AIC, and such earmarks are available at the AIC central office (in case of amounts exceeding 1000 pieces), at the AIC territorial offices and at the practicing veterinary physicians.

Animal registration is realised in the State Animal Register on the basis of an application for identification submitted to the AIC territorial office by the owner of animals within 20 days after animal was born. The owner of animals is bound to notify the official veterinary doctor about any intention to move the animals, submitting an application for permutation and annexing thereto a veterinary certificate issued by the official veterinary doctor and asking the latter to issue the Permutation Form (F2) and Sanitary-Veterinary Certificate (F1) for such purposes. In case of animals of bovine species, there shall be additionally registered the individual passport of the bovines.

Figure 9. Time Frames for Identification, Registration and Declaration of the Events

- 7 days • declaration of birth
- 15 days • identification
- 20 days • registration in the AITS database
10.3 Number of Animals and Exploitations Thereof.

2,053,050 animals are registered presently in the State Animal Register.

Table 8. Registered Animals, by Species

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Species</th>
<th>No. of animals</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Bovines</td>
<td>2,969,260</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sheep</td>
<td>902,920</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Goats</td>
<td>227,259</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pigs</td>
<td>727,266</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Horses</td>
<td>48,716</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Donkeys</td>
<td>2,218</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

447,305 animals of the total number thereof belong to legal entities, this constituting 21%, but 1,758,000 animals are held in the individual households, this making 79%.

10.4 Control Arrangement and Structure

Figure 10. Animal Identification Supervision System

The inspectors of the territorial subdivisions carry out on-site inspections to verify abidance by the owners of animals or by the authorized practicing veterinary doctors by the duties of identification and registration of bovines, sheep and goats.

The exploitation centres dealing with each of the relevant species and subjected to verification are selected on the basis of risk analysis for each exploitation centre, taking into account the following elements:

- Number of animals present at the exploitation centre, including identified and unidentified ones
- Reasons of public health and animal health, particularly, presence of certain previous foci of diseases in relevant animals
• Results of verifications carried on earlier, particularly, proper keeping of the register of animals held at the exploitation centre and of the documents related to animal turnover, as well as of animal passports in case of bovines available at the exploitation centre

On-site verifications are realised unexpectedly, as a rule. If needed, verifications may be a subject matter of a preliminary announcement and are limited to a minimum required time period, however, they are not longer than 48 hours, except for emergency cases. Verifications may be carried on alongside with another inspection, so, during verifications, identity of all animals present at the exploitation centre is realised.

**Figure 11. Animal Identification, Registration and Traceability Procedure**

10.5 Methods of Surveillance and Control
Planned and ad-hoc inspection may be realised within the framework of the animal identification and traceability control system. There shall be verified during such controls:

• Presence of concordance between the exploitation centre register and AITS database
• Proper identification of all animals present at the exploitation centre, in conformity with the legal provisions
• Presence of unidentified animals younger than 20 days after birth
• Presence amongst unidentified animals of those ones that have the signs of earmark/earmarks application
• Number of animals that came to the exploitation centre according to identification form (F1)
• Number of animals that came to the exploitation centre according to transmutation form (F2)
• Number of animals that left the exploitation centre according to event declaration form (F3) (animals that disappeared, died or were butchered for personal consumption)
• Availability of an exploitation centre register – in digital format or in the hard copy
• Filling-in of the exploitation centre register by that day
• Verification of correctness and reality of the data registered
• Existence of notifications on permutations and events at the exploitation centre
• Existence of passports for all bovines present at the exploitation centre; in case of their transmutation, there shall be made records their individual passports too

The following issues are controlled at the slaughter houses:

• Recording in the slaughter house register of the date of reception, code of animals, code of the initial exploitation centre, date of cutting, no., series of permutation form, no., series of the event declaration form
• Daily updating of the slaughter
• Verification of concordance between the earmarks and supporting documents
10.6 Inspection Planning

According to Government Decision no.507 on Animal Identification and Traceability, if the AITS operates in a normal way, the inspection plan shall include at least 10% of registered exploitation centres that comprise at least 10% of animals of the total number of registered ones. Selection is realised on the basis of selection criteria identified through a risk analysis.

If there are detected breaches in the provisions of the system of identification and registration of bovines, sheep and goats, the frequency of inspections of the relevant species is to be tripled during the following period of annual inspections.

There is specified that this number of exploitations is inspected only with regard to animal identification and traceability control. In practice, the official veterinary doctors (NFSA inspectors) carry on inspections at all animal exploitations of the country at least once a year. Animal health, animal welfare, veterinary pharmaceuticals use, animal feed and animal identification and traceability system is verified within the framework of such inspections. The annual inspection plans developed by the heads of territorial subdivisions shall include such establishments and such aspects of controls.

10.7 Surveillance and Control Documentation

The documents required by inspectors to conduct a control of animal identification and traceability at an animal exploitation are drafted in conformity with the Specific Procedure for Verification of Animal Identity and Registration (PS (DO2/1E). The data found out are recorded in the control report. In case of any nonconformities detected at the centre, there is drafted a prescription specifying the time frames for deficiencies removal.

An application for identification of the exploitations or animals in the database is submitted to the territorial office by the owners of animals or exploitation, but the territorial operator then records in the State Register the information about the exploitation centre or animals in conformity with the application submitted by the owner, and generates a Registration Form (F1) for the exploitation centre or animals, from the system. In case of bovines, there are additionally issued individual passports for bovines.

In order to move animals from an exploitation to another, the owner of animals requires a sanitary-veterinary certificate, i.e. a document attesting state of animal’s health and effective during 72 hours, from the official veterinarians. The owner presents the sanitary-veterinary notice and the application for permutation to the inspectors from the Animal Health and Welfare Section of the territorial food safety subdivisions, and basing on the notice and the application, the inspector generates a Permutation Form (F2) from the AITS database and additionally issues a Sanitary and Veterinary Certificate either for an animal, or for animal stock, which is also effective for 72 hours.

In case of any events occurred to animals, such as traditional or forced slaughtering, death, disappearance or loss of identification means or bovines’ passports, the owner of animals submits an application for event declaration to the territorial office, and an Event Declaration Form (F3) is generated from the system on the basis of such an application.

10.8 Information Systems and Databases

The Animal Identification and Traceability System (hereinafter referred to as the AITS) is one of the main subsystems, which is the integral part of the animal product traceability process. The AITS is a complex of elements and procedures allowing to identify and register animals and exploitation centres, ensuring abidance by the principle of traceability. All animals of such species
as bovines, sheep, goats, swine, horses, donkeys and descendants thereof resulting from their cross-breeding, all exploitation centres (households), where such animals are kept or used, i.e. farms, sheep yards, animal fairs or slaughter houses, are identified and registered in the AITS database that makes a Register.

Events occurring to animals (permutation, declaration of such events as death, traditional butchering, forced butchering of animals or loss of identification means, recovery of individual passports of bovines) are also registered in the AITS database. Access to the database is granted to the AITS operators registering exploitation centres and animals, as well as events occurring to animals, and to the veterinary physicians, who realise animal permutation. The official veterinary physicians send an animal traceability report to the central level of the NFSA twice a year.

10.9 Human and Material Resources, Technical Equipment

At the central level, the Animal Identification and Traceability Supervision Service is composed of 2 persons: 1 – head of the Service and 1 – principal specialist. At the territorial level, the human resources for animal identification and traceability control are represented, depending on the area of competence, by the veterinary inspectors from the animal health and welfare sections:

- Central level (SVSD) 2
- Territorial level 214

The official veterinary doctor (inspector) generates from the AITS database a report on the number of animals at the exploitations and on events occurred to them. Basing on such a report, they carry on on-site verifications but if there are detected any nonconformities in the actual number of animals at the exploitation centre and the number thereof in the generated database, they introduce required modifications.

It would be useful to equip the inspectors with the bar-code readers to read the identification means, and with the laptops having access to the Internet.

10.10 Personnel Training

A training plan is annually developed at the NFSA level and it includes thematic trainings and trainings on animal identification and traceability. Topics for the trainings are selected in the following way:

- Approval of a new regulatory instrument
- Modification of the national legislation
- Proposals of the territorial veterinary physicians or other concerned institutions

Thus, training of the territorial inspectors (circa 74 persons) is realised by 2 employees of the Animal Identification and Traceability Supervision Service, but the trainees later carry on seminars ‘in cascade’ for other inspectors or practicing veterinary physicians at the territorial level.

10.11 Cooperation with Other Entities and Organisations

The NFSA cooperates with the following institutions:

- State Enterprise ‘Agricultural Information Centre’, also known as National Operator, that is vested, under legal conditions, with the activities on data registration and AITS designing, formation, implementation, operation and maintenance, and that acts as a manager and national supplier of identification means
- Ministry of Agriculture and Food Industry, an institution responsible for development of policies in the sphere of animal identification and traceability
10.12 2016-2020 Priorities of Animal Identification Control

- Introduction of modification to current legislation, to improve the animal identification and traceability system
- Provision of the official veterinary physicians with the bar-code readers to read the identification means, and with the laptops having access to the Internet

Chapter 11. Animal Welfare Control System

11.1. Primary and Secondary Legislation

- Government Decision 793 of 22.10.2012, Protection and Welfare of Animals during Transportation, which partially reproduces CE Regulation 1/2005 of 22 December 2004 concerning the protection of animals during transportation and associated operations, as well as the amendment of Directives 64/432 CEE and 93/119CE and CE Regulation 1255/97;
- Law 50 of 28.03.2013, Official Inspections to Verify the Compliance with Laws on Animal Feed and Food Products and with Animal Health and Welfare Standards, which reproduces Titles I, II, III, V, VI (Chapter II) and VII (Chapter I) of CE Regulation 882/2004 of 29 April 2004 concerning official inspections carried out to verify the compliance with laws on animal feed and food products and with health and welfare standards for animals;

11.2. Actual Situation. Number of Animals, Production Establishments, Transport Establishments

NFSA is responsible for implementing laws concerning the welfare of animals at farms and during transportation and slaughter, while also verifying to which extent establishments and individuals meet sanitary and veterinary requirements concerning the protection and welfare of animals at farms and during transportation and slaughtering.

The number of animals is shown in Table 8 (Chapter 10). The State Register contains entries on 1,173 production establishment.
Table 9. Types and Number of Registered Production Establishments

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Type of establishment</th>
<th>Number</th>
<th>Type of establishment</th>
<th>Number</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Production establishment</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>Mixed Farm (breeding + slaughter)</td>
<td>24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Collection Centre</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>Quarantine Farm</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Republican Breeding Stock Slaughter Centre</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>Breeding Farm</td>
<td>22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Breeding Complex</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>Institute of Animal Breeding and Veterinary</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Farming Cooperative</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>Border Control Point</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Authorized Sheep Stable</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>Slaughter Unit</td>
<td>109</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Authorized Summer Camp</td>
<td>296</td>
<td>Farm</td>
<td>577</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The table below shows the types and number of authorized sanitary and veterinary transport means included in the Animal Identification and Traceability System.

Table 10. Authorized Sanitary-Veterinary Transport Units

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Species of animals requiring transportation</th>
<th>Number of transport establishments</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cattle, sheep, pigs</td>
<td>136</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fowl and poultis</td>
<td>139</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Live fish</td>
<td>52</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>327</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

11.3. Organization and Structure of Surveillance

The duty to carry out official inspections concerning the protection and welfare of animals lies with the Animal Health and Welfare Section within the Health and Veterinary Surveillance Department centrally and its territorial food safety subdivisions locally.

The Animal Health and Welfare Department comprises four people, while each territorial subdivision has 8 to 20 inspectors (236 in total). These inspectors are responsible for the control of animal health and welfare.

The Animal Health and Welfare Department is the central structure of NFSA that coordinates and controls official control activity carried out nationwide in all establishments requiring sanitary and veterinary authorization, regardless of their form of business organization, including individual households, in the field of animal welfare and protection.

The corresponding activity is currently under the surveillance of and carried out by the Animal Identification and Traceability Service. Additionally, the system involves border inspection points that check the health and welfare of animals during transportation, loading and unloading ramps, as well as compliance with other conditions which, if neglected, can cause the import of animals to be banned by border inspectors.

Territorial animal health and welfare subdivisions are in charge of:
organizing the territorial official inspection activity in the following fields: protection of animals during transportation, protection of farm animals and protection of animals during slaughter, from unloading to bleeding;
• analyzing, solving issues and prescribing actions in case of petitions concerning animal welfare and protection;
• informing NFSA management of any incompliance or deficiency found during the official inspection activity;
• organizing, monitoring and controlling the implementation of sanitary and veterinary regulations to ensure animal welfare;
• producing documents to register/authorize transport means for livestock transportation;
• controlling compliance with minimum standards regarding the protection of animals during transportation and slaughter and at farms.

Figure 12. Animal Protection and Welfare Surveillance System

11.4. Surveillance and Inspection Methods
Control activities are described in procedures and carried out according to programmes and the methodological plan. Animal welfare control is integrated with animal health control and carried out with the same frequency, unless certain notifications, claims or other information is received which must be verified by NFSA inspectors.

During a regular inspection in an establishment the official veterinarian shall:
• verify the establishment’s inspection log (previous inspections, remediation terms, repeated inspections, copies of prescriptions and breach reports etc.);
• fill in the evaluation sheet;
• check documents;
• check the equipment (stunning tools, handling equipment, water tank etc.), its positioning, and authorized transport;
• submit an inspection report and a prescription or a breach protocol, as the case may be;

11.5. Inspection Planning

Animal welfare control is, as a rule, concurrent with animal health control. Thus, there are no separate inspection plans at rayon level, while central authorities develop and implement only the Inspection Programme regarding animal protection and welfare at farms where laying hens and chickens for meat production are grown. Veterinary inspectors annually plan their inspection activity to ensure protection and welfare of animals according to this programme.

Developed at the end of each year, the plan focuses on farms that have shown high mortality rates as recorded in treatment and mortality logs, which records had to necessarily be checked during previous inspections.

Inspections are planned to cover the following types of establishment: farms, slaughterhouses, collection centres and fairs. Inspection planning is based on risk factors, such as:
• high mortality rates recorded;
• animal welfare issues identified in previous years, including a large number of breach reports (inspection reports);
• large livestock populations (in case of farms);
• slaughter of a significantly large number of animals (in case of slaughterhouses).

Inspections shall be prioritized based on each establishment’s precedents and welfare standards recorded. Priority shall be given to farms where animal welfare issues have been identified in previous years, farms with large livestock populations and, especially, all farms that have shown high mortality rates (such data are recorded in treatment and mortality logs).

11.6. Documentation on Surveillance and Control

Documents necessary for the surveillance and control of animal welfare at farms are applied and prepared by local inspectors. These include: specific procedures, evaluation sheets, inspection reports, prescriptions etc.

Specific procedures are aimed at setting a common method of checking compliance with technological standards of animal management at farms and carrying out inspections in an objective, efficient and binding manner to identify any eventual deviations from animal welfare regulations. Where any breaches are found at a unit, a prescription is made providing remedy terms.

At the same time, evaluations sheets were developed and approved at the instruction of NFSA, which make part of the following specific procedures intended to ensure animal protection and welfare:
• PS 01/01 – specific procedure for the protection and welfare of animals at pig farms;
• PS 01/02 – specific procedure for the protection and welfare of animals at calf farms;
• PS 01/04 – specific procedure for verifying compliance with sanitary and veterinary standards concerning the protection and welfare of farm animals;
• PS 01/05 – specific procedure for the protection and welfare of laying hens;
• PS 01/06 – specific procedure for the protection and welfare of meat poultry;
• PS 01/07 – specific procedure for the protection and welfare of animals during transportation;
• PS 01/08 – specific procedure for the protection and welfare of animals during slaughter.
Sanitary and veterinary inspections focused on animal welfare are reported quarterly by territorial veterinary inspectors to NFSA’s central level. Currently, only the situation in avibreeding is reported; there is no reporting system to report the welfare of other species of animals. An efficient system of planning and reporting on animal welfare in Moldova will be developed in the following year or two.

11.7. Human Resources, Materials and Equipment
Official inspections in the field of animal welfare and protection are conducted by veterinary inspectors within the Animal Health and Welfare Department.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Central level (AHWD)</th>
<th>4</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Territorial level</td>
<td>214</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Territorial food safety subdivisions are provided with hardware, software and information systems, office machines and technical equipment. All computers have access to a corporate network that links together all territorial subdivisions. Bilateral information exchange between the central structure and a territorial subdivision is ensured through telephone, fax and/or email.

To verify whether businesses comply with national legal requirements concerning the protection and welfare of farm animals, inspectors require special technical equipment: telemeters, light meters, gas detectors and time meters, which have not been bought so far.

11.8. Information Systems and Databases
The Animal Identification and Traceability System (AITS) is one of the basic subsystems that is part of the animal origin food traceability. AITS database is the State Register of Animals.

11.9. Staff Training
Animal Health and Welfare Department staff is trained centrally (at the Animal Health and Welfare Department) with the support of TAIX programmes and through trainings held by BTSF (Better Training for Safer Food) and OIE (World Organisation for Animal Health). NFSA annually develops a Training Plan that also includes training in animal welfare area. Training topics are, as a rule, defined upon approval of a new regulation, change of the national law or based on inquiries of territorial veterinarians or other stakeholders. Trainings for veterinary inspectors of the Animal Health and Welfare Department are provided according to NFSA’s Professional Advancement Plan to enforce the national law in this area.

11.10. Cooperation with Other Institutions and Organizations
NFSA cooperates with the following institutions:
- Agricultural Information Centre, a state-owned enterprise (also called the national operator), which is responsible, under the law, for registering data, developing, building, implementing, operating and maintaining AITS; it is the national administrator and supplier of identification means;
- Ministry of Agriculture and Food Industry and OIE.

11.11. Priority Actions in Animal Welfare for 2016-2020
- Create a risk evaluation system for businesses to be inspected;
- Develop inspection planning programmes and an animal welfare reporting system.
Chapter 12 – Animal Breeding Surveillance System

12.1 Relevant Legislation
- Law 412 of 27.05.1999
- Law 371 of 15.02.1995 concerning selection and breeding in animal breeding
- Law 70 of 30.03.2006 on bee breeding
- Government Decision 667 of 23.07.2010 on the approval of the Regulation on Grazing and Mowing

12.2 Animal Breeding Establishments and Animal Populations.
The Animal Breeding Surveillance Service within the Sanitary-Veterinary Surveillance Department monitors the activity of animal breeding establishments, including breeding farms, which require special attention in the area of selection, breeding and development.

Breeding farms have been included in the total number of animal livestock establishments in Moldova based on Order 226 of 19.11.2013 of the Ministry of Agriculture on the results of state attestation of breeding farms and Order 156 of 18.07.2014 of the same ministry on complementing the annex to Order 226 of 19.11.2013.

Table 11. Breeding Farms Divided by Species of Animals

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Type of unit</th>
<th>Number of establishments</th>
<th>Animal population</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1 Cattle farm</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>3482</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 Pig farm</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>2987</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3 Sheep farm</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>14976</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4 Horse farm</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>169</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5 Fowl farm</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>191000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6 Rabbit farm</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>3600</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7 Breeding bee haves</td>
<td>2 (families) 250</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8 Fish farm</td>
<td>8</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

12.3 Surveillance Organization and Structure
The Animal Breeding Surveillance Service is composed of 3 people, while the staff of territorial subdivisions includes 18 animal breeding inspectors appointed to 2 rayons according to job description, who help fulfil the objectives set by NFSA with a view to implementing state policy and coordinating the relevant activity according to the applicable laws and regulations.

The Animal Breeding Surveillance Service ensures monitoring and surveillance of the following aspects:
- a) Animal selection and breeding:
  - compliance with standards related to animal selection and breeding activity and animal management at animal breeding establishments;
  - compliance with state standards for sperm assessment and compliance with instructions and regulations related to animal selection and breeding activity;
• compliance with the applicable methodology and standards in assessing descendant quality and the unit’s own performance;
• use of male breeders of various species and their authorization for participation in breeding;
• monitoring of breeding animal import/export;
• participation, through media, in informing the population of actions taken to guarantee compliance with applicable laws and regulations;

b) Animal management techniques:
• compliance with rules and standard parameters in growing, maintaining, feeding and selling animals;
• compliance with technological standards of growing and exploiting animals at farms;
• control of compliance with animal grazing timelines and standards;
• monitoring and control of feed use and improvement;

c) Sustainable development of the animal breeding sector:
• ongoing development of animal breeding based on technical and scientific achievements, actions taken to increase animal productivity in all categories of households;
• development of instructions, regulations and activity standards applicable to animal breeding;
• execution of decisions, resolutions and orders of superior management and local public authorities concerning animal breeding issues;
• examination of suggestions, observations and claims submitted by citizens regarding certain issues within the Service’s competence, followed by respective actions;
• awareness raising, through the media, on actions taken to ensure compliance with applicable laws and regulations.

12.4. Surveillance and Control Methods

To ensure surveillance and monitoring of animal breeding activity the service, based on ISO 17020 quality management principles, developed specific procedures aimed at establishing a common method for verifying compliance with applicable technological standards of animal management at farms, namely:

• promotion of a coherent and integrated strategy of conducting official inspections based on laws used to ensure compliance with the above technological standards at animal breeding farms;
• state-owned surveillance and control of the conditions of animal growing, feeding, improvement, selection, breeding, protection and legal circulation;
• law enforcement and promotion of sustainable development of animal breeding;
• protection of the environment, public safety and animals during exploitation and national/international legal circulation;
• encouragement of research in the areas of animal breeding and feed production;
• identification and compulsory state registration of breeding animals and resources;
• creation of a solid base for the inspection service to carry out inspections and monitoring in the field, as well as to verify the efficiency of official inspections conducted.

Inspections are conducted according to monthly plans approved by the territorial food safety subdivision’s management which includes animal breeding inspectors. Within the inspection programme and according to the regulation on organizing and conducting inspections, these can be:

1. General inspections:
   ➢ according to the activity plan;
   ➢ upon a breeding farm’s request for authorization;
   ➢ based on petitions, claims, notices etc.
2. **Specialized inspections focused on:**
   - feeding;
   - artificial insemination of animals;
   - animal breeding records;
   - growing techniques;
   - other specialized topics.

### 12.5. Inspection Planning

The Animal Breeding Surveillance Service monitors implementation and application of laws and regulations in the field. To enforce such applicable laws and regulations, the Service fulfils its duties according to the annual and monthly activity plans. Territorial/rayon subdivisions have a staff composed of 18 animal breeding inspectors, each responsible for 2 rayons, who help fulfil objectives set by the National Food Safety Agency.

Inspectors carry out their activity within territorial/rayon subdivisions in line with annual and monthly plans and in coordination with the Animal Breeding Surveillance Service. Breeding farms are inspected on a quarterly basis, with special focus on selection, breeding and improvement activities, and animal productivity is subsequently reported using quality and quantity indices.

### 12.6. Documentation on Surveillance and Control

**Specific procedures:**
- verifying compliance with technological standards of animal management at cattle farms;
- verifying compliance with technological standards of animal management at horse farms;
- verifying compliance with technological standards of animal management at sheep and/or goat farms;
- verifying compliance with technological standards of animal management at fowl farms;
- verifying compliance with technological standards of animal management at fish and pond farms;
- verifying compliance with technological standards of animal management at pig farms.

**Other standard documents:**
- **Inspection report** is made upon evaluation of an animal breeding unit and specifies certain deficiencies;
- **Audit process report** concerns audits carried out in spring and autumn at beehouses, submitted by work groups formed at the recommendation of NFSA;
- **Report on overwintering preparation and process** for the respective season, submitted by work groups formed at the order of NFSA;
- **Information sheet** containing quality and quantity indices of animal productivity;
- **Activity report** – the Animal Breeding Surveillance Service sums up and systematizes activity reports submitted by territorial inspectors and prepares a General Report.

### 12.7. Human Resources, Materials and Equipment

The Animal Breeding Surveillance Service is made up of 3 people centrally and has 18 animal breeding inspectors in territorial subdivisions.

Inspectors require the following materials and equipment to fulfil their duties:
- laws and regulations in the area of animal breeding;
- instructions on performing animal valuation;
- tape measure to assess body sizes;
camera or corporate cell phone with a camera;
other equipment.

12.8. Staff Training
To ensure enforcement of the national law, training is provided to employees of the Animal Breeding Surveillance Service according to the Annual Professional Advancement Plan of the National Agency for Animal Safety and as required.

Newly hired inspectors are necessarily trained at animal breeding farms and participate in territorial or regional animal seminars held in Moldova. Animal owners in the industry are also involved in training and provide advice on enforcement of the applicable law.

The purpose of this training is to ensure application of industry-specific legislation and improve professional performance.

12.9. Information Systems and Databases
Animal Identification and Traceability System
Beekeeping Certificates Database.

Develop jointly with AIC a separate module for NFSA’s information system to keep stock of animals at breeding farms, which will allow preserving the genes pool and increasing productivity and quality of breeding animals;
Encourage technological development and investments in modern equipment to maintain and improve animal nutrition and create favourable conditions for animal exploitation;
Implement new professional advancement programmes for inspectors dealing with animal breeding.
### Chapter 13. Animal Origin Food Processing Establishments Control System


<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sanitary and veterinary regulations approved in Moldova</th>
<th>EU Regulations and Resolutions</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Law 221-XVI of 19.10.2007, On sanitary and veterinary activity</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Law 50 of 28.03.2013, On official inspections to verify compliance with law on food for animals and food products and animal health and welfare standards</td>
<td>Regulation 882/2004 of 29 April, 2004</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
13.2. Organization and Structure of Official Control

The Department for Surveillance of Animal Origin Food Processing Establishment (DSAOFPE) was created as an autonomous structural subdivision reporting to NFSA Deputy Director and composed of the following structures: i) Section for surveillance of red meat, poultry meat and eggs establishments, ii) Section for surveillance of fish, honey and bee keeping establishments, and iii) Section for surveillance of milk and milk products establishments.

The Department’s main duties, which are specified in Law 113 and Law 50, are as follows: ensuring biological, chemical and physical safety of animal origin food products; monitoring the residues of veterinary medicines and other contaminants in food; control of food production process and health conditions in food industry businesses.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Government Decision</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>European Decision/Regulation</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>221 of 16.03.2009</td>
<td>Approval of rules concerning microbiological criteria for food products</td>
<td>European Commission Regulation 2073/2005 of 15 November, 2005</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>782 of 01.09.10</td>
<td>Approval of the sanitary and veterinary standard for official collection of samples from live animals and animal source foods</td>
<td>European Commission Decision 98/179/CE of 23 February, 1998</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>773 of 03.10.2013</td>
<td>Approval of the sanitary and veterinary standard for determination of requirements for the sale of poultry meat</td>
<td>European Commission Regulation 543/2008 of 16 June, 2008</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1112 of 06.12.2010</td>
<td>Approval of the sanitary and veterinary standard for organizing specific official control of animal source foods</td>
<td>Regulation 854/2004/CE of 29 April, 2004</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>298 of 27.04.2011</td>
<td>Approval of the sanitary and veterinary standard for the supervision and inspection of certain substances and their residues in live animals and animal products, as well as residues of veterinary drugs in animal products</td>
<td>Council of Europe Directive 96/23/EEC of 29 April, 1996</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>435 of 28.05.2010</td>
<td>Approval of specific safety rules for animal source foods</td>
<td>Regulation 853 of 29 April, 2004 concerning food safety</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
The central Department supervises the activity of territorial subdivisions relating to the safety of animal origin food by:

- verifying and supervising how TSFS carry out official inspections in establishments that produce/process animal source foods;
- systematically processing information and monthly, quarterly, semi-annual and annual reports submitted by rayonal/municipal TSFS.

Additionally, the central Department’s responsibilities include:

- participating in the development of draft regulations that will transpose European legislation and sanitary - veterinary standards prescribing compliance with veterinary requirements;
- developing procedures and instructions and coordinating territorial implementation of specific regulations;
- developing the National Residue Monitoring Plan and the National Programme for surveillance of animal health, plant health and animal source foods safety, including its territorial distribution, monitoring their implementation, analyzing data from reports submitted by subdivisions and preparing monthly numerical reports;
- analyzing relevant notices and claims submitted by entities or individuals and taking necessary actions;
- constantly communicating with DG SANTE in view of obtaining and maintaining the statute of country approved for the export into EU market with animal origin products.

At the territorial level, inspectors from food safety departments within TSFS conduct official inspections (including sampling) in the area of food safety. A separate activity consists in authorizing establishments that receive, produce, collect, store and process raw materials and food of animal origin.

All territorial inspectors are responsible for implementing the National Programme for surveillance of animal health, plant health and animal source foods safety and the National Residue Monitoring Plan. Inspectors systematically submit to NFSA’s central structure monthly, quarterly, semi-annual and annual reports on the main activity of each TFSS’s Food Safety Department.

An inspector’s surveillance process implies the monitoring of their activity by their direct superior (head of department) through systematic activity reports on authorizing and inspecting establishments. An inspector’s activity audit is also carried out centrally (NFSA) by the competent audit service and specialized departments. The quality of an inspector’s work is controlled directly by the head of department or centrally through joint inspections at establishments and through verification of documents prepared and permits issued.

Veterinarians working at animal origin food safety production/processing establishments are hired by their respective companies, but they report to NFSA’s territorial subdivisions. They are empowered by the territorial subdivision to certify final products for placement into the local market. A veterinarian signs the contract as an individual with the subdivision’s manager.

Respectively, during official inspections official veterinarians check the activity of the empowered veterinarians. From time to time, official veterinarians organise training to update empowered veterinarians on the applicable animal health and food safety legislation.
National Residue Monitoring and Microbiological Safety Programmes. Each year DSAOFPE develops the National Residue Monitoring Plan and submits it to DG SANTE for approval and publication by the end of March. The Plan includes the number of samples to be approved by categories of products. This number, determined separately for each category of product (honey, eggs, poultry meat and aquaculture products), is directly proportional to the amount of products produced in the respective administrative unit. The samples are tested for residues and contaminants.

At the same time, the Department participates in the development of the National Programme for surveillance of plant health and food and feed safety, which provides for the monitoring of microbiological criteria in animal origin food production/processing establishments according to Government Decision No 221 on approving rules of microbiological safety of food products. The Programme specifies the frequency of official inspections and/or sampling at animal origin food production/processing establishments depending on their category as determined following risk assessment.

Programmes are implemented by TSFS inspectors through official sampling and establishment inspection; inspectors’ activity is, in its turn, audited by the central authority. Discrepancies in programme implementation are communicated to relevant NFSA Departments and necessary actions are prescribed to the establishment in question.
Programme implementation also involves laboratories that are selected and contracted by NFSA. The Republican Veterinary Diagnostic Centre in Chisinau and its Donduseni branch act as the national reference laboratory that conducts official control of animal origin food processing establishments.

13.3. Rapid Alert System
When a discrepancy is reported through RASFF, relevant Departments order, within their competence, that an internal investigation is undertaken and nonconforming products are withdrawn from market. There is a procedure for such cases that includes RASFF notifications and actions taken by the competent authority, including internal investigation and closing notices. In case of nationwide crises the following structures are also involved: National Public Health Centre, Customs Service, Ministry of Internal Affairs and Consumer Protection Agency. NFSA communicates with them through official correspondence, as well as via telephone and/or email, as the case may be.

13.4. Contingency Plans
Currently, there is no Contingency Plan that would serve as a crisis management tool concerning food safety. Developing such plan is a NFSA’s priority for the following years.

13.5. Surveillance Methods and Control Activities
Authorization and Registration. According to Law 221 of 19.10.2007 concerning sanitary and veterinary activity, NFSA authorizes animal origin food processing establishments. The establishments receive sanitary-veterinary authorizations for their respective type of activity. Exact steps of NFSA inspectors are described in the Procedure for authorization and listing of animal origin food processing establishments, which describes in detail the authorization and listing system.

The following types of establishments are authorized within the current control system:
1. Slaughterhouse
2. Cutting centre
3. Cold store for raw material and animal origin food products
4. Meat processing plant (combinat)
5. Meat and by-product processing establishment
6. Canned meat plant
7. Uncooked smoked/dry sausage plant
8. Meat preparation plant
9. Natural membranes processing establishment
10. Fish collection centre
11. Cold store for fish products establishment
12. Fish production, processing, storage, transportation and sale establishments
13. Milk collection, cooling and storage centre
14. Meat preparation workshop within chain supermarkets
15. Dairy plant
16. Egg collection and processing establishment
17. Honey and beekeeping products establishment

Authorization is provided by NFSA’s territorial subdivisions at the entity’s request. After submitting a set of documents the establishment is subject to inspection and, provided all sanitary-
veterinary requirements are fulfilled, an authorization is issued within no more than 20 days and the respective decision is communicated to the operator within 15 days.

National law does not expressly require registration of establishments; however, lists of establishments are compiled based on authorizations issued. Starting in 2016, NFSA will list establishments according to EU requirements. Such lists shall be constantly updated and will be available on the agency’s web page.

**Inspections at Establishments.** Inspections are carried out by TSFS inspectors according to the Inspection Plan developed by head of the Food Safety Section and approved by head of the TSFS. The document specifies the number and types of establishments to be inspected, inspection frequency, persons appointed to conduct inspections and materials and equipment to be used.

Inspections and other forms of control are carried out according to procedures approved and checklists (these are listed in item 13.7). After each inspection an inspection report and an checklist is signed (one copy of each document remains with the establishment), and a control report is made. Original documents are kept with the territorial subdivision. Only when the case is referred to a court original documents are attached to the case.

**Official Sampling.** Sampling, interpretation of test results and subsequent decision-making are part of the official control process and are carried out according to the National Residue Monitoring Plan, as well as the National Programme for surveillance of animal health, plant health and animal source foods safety that provides for monitoring of microbiological criteria in animal origin food production/processing establishments.

Sampling is performed by official TSFS veterinarians according to specific sampling procedures. Samples are managed and labelled to guarantee their legal and testing validity. Sampling procedures are listed in item 13.7.

**Nonconformity Provisions.** When a nonconformity is found, DSAOFPE orders that the territorial subdivision starts an internal investigation to remedy the situation. When determining actions to be taken the territorial subdivisions take into account the nature of the nonconformity and the establishments’ previous nonconformity record. Such actions include the following, as the case may be:

- sanitation and any other measures deemed necessary to ensure food safety or compliance with food safety laws;
- restricted or banned marketing, import or export of food products;
- surveillance and, as the case may be, order for recovery, withdrawal and/or destruction of food products;
- authorization for a use of food products other than the initially intended purpose;
- suspension of the establishment’s activity or its complete or partial shutdown until all nonconformities have been remedied;
- suspension or withdrawal of the establishment’s authorization.

13.6. Inspection Planning
NFSA’s central structure annually develops national surveillance and inspection programmes for all areas of NFSA’s competence. The programmes are approved by the Director General and distributed among territorial subdivisions for implementation.
Inspection planning is done by heads of TSFS. Based on national programmes every subdivision develops annual numerical plans that are used to plan activities for the whole year. The plans list actions and categories of establishments. Subsequently, monthly plans are developed which list the number and types of establishments to be inspected, inspection frequency, persons appointed to conduct inspections and materials and equipment to be used.

The procedure that will contain risk analysis and the respective risk-based classification of establishments is to be developed and approved. Thus, the frequency of inspections by types of establishments has been agreed upon and can be seen in item 13.8 hereof.

13.7. Documentation on Surveillance and Control

List of approved procedures:
1. Specific procedure ‘Sampling poultry carcasses to detect Salmonella SPP’;
2. Specific procedure ‘Sampling aquaculture products for microbiological criteria’;
3. Specific procedure ‘Inspecting animal origin food production/processing establishments’;
4. Specific procedure in case of nonconforming products;
5. Specific procedure for sampling natural honey products;
6. Specific procedure for sampling animal origin food to detect residues in eggs;
7. Specific procedure for sampling animal origin food to detect residues in fish and aquaculture products;
8. Specific procedure for sampling ASF to detect residues in poultry meat;
9. General procedure for preparing an inspection at an animal origin food processing unit;
10. General procedure for conducting an inspection at an animal origin food processing unit.

List of checklists approved for use within inspections:
1. Red meat production establishments;
2. Minced/cooked/mechanically separated meat production establishments;
3. Meat product production establishments;
4. Poultry meat production establishments;
5. Raw material milk collection centres, both independent and integrated in milk farms;
6. Raw material milk or dairy product processing establishments, including ice-cream factories;
7. Egg packing centres (EPC);
8. Egg processing establishments (LEP and EPP);
9. Fishing vessels and fish carriers;
10. Fish and fish product processing establishments;
11. Application of HACCP at animal origin production establishments;
12. Packing warehouses and centres;
13. Repacking warehouses and centres;

Reporting System. Inspectors prepare reports on the results of inspections carried out. Such reports include a description of the inspection purpose, inspection methods used, results obtained and actions required from the food industry operator that was subject to inspection, as the case may be.

Inspection reports are registered and submitted to the head of the Food Safety Section for analysis and summing-up. At the beginning of each year the subdivision reports to the central level on previous year’s activities. In this regard an order is prepared that is signed by NFSA Director General.
Industry operators are also involved in reporting. At least in cases of noncompliance with regulations inspectors send the respective operator a copy of the report on inspection results. The operator can challenge the decisions contained in the report under the Law on Administrative Courts No 793-XIV of 10 February, 2000.

The following information is collected from reports submitted by subdivisions:
- List of animal origin food production/processing establishments;
- List of animal origin food production/processing establishments holding an import/export authorization;
- Number of inspections carried out;
- Authorized establishments;
- Sanitary and veterinary authorizations issued/withdrawn;
- Number of reports and prescriptions produced;
- Data on contraventions protocols and materials submitted to the court;
- Number and amount of penalties;
- Number of animals slaughtered, including diseased animal slaughter;
- Sanitary and veterinary expert reviews carried out;
- Number of infectious and parasitic diseases detected;
- Amount of meat and by-products destroyed;
- Amount of meat and by-products processed;
- Data on implementation of the National Residue Monitoring Programme.

13.8. Types of Establishments and Inspection Frequency

Table 12. Type of Processing Establishments and Inspection Frequency

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>No</th>
<th>Type of establishment</th>
<th>Number of establishments</th>
<th>Inspection frequency</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1.</td>
<td>Raw material milk or dairy product processing establishments, including ice-cream factories</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>Quarterly</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.</td>
<td>Raw material milk collection centres</td>
<td>677</td>
<td>Annually</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.</td>
<td>Meat and meat product production/processing establishments</td>
<td>76</td>
<td>Quarterly</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.</td>
<td>Slaughterhouses</td>
<td>142</td>
<td>Quarterly</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5.</td>
<td>Egg packing centres</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>Semi-annually</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6.</td>
<td>Fish and fish product production/processing establishments</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>Quarterly</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7.</td>
<td>Cold stores</td>
<td>109</td>
<td>Semi-annually</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8.</td>
<td>Honey collection and processing establishments</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>Semi-annually</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9.</td>
<td>Agricultural food markets</td>
<td>77</td>
<td>Quarterly</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
13.9 Official Product Certification
All animal origin food products for human consumption are subject to sanitary-veterinary certification. Official sanitary-veterinary certification for the local market implies a veterinary inspection, laboratory tests and other actions to determine product safety with a view to ensuring public health. In case of compliance respective sanitary-veterinary certificates are issued by official veterinarians.

When a processing unit has a large number of operations, sanitary-veterinary certificates are issued by an independent veterinarian authorized by NFSA. The latter can issue certificates only for the local market. Sanitary-veterinary certificates for export are only issued by official TSFS veterinarians in coordination with the corresponding Department of NFSA’s central office. Certificates are issued according to F2 form.

Both official and independent authorized veterinarians are given the right of signature under Government Decision 385 of 25.06.2009. Thus, every year NFSA’s Director General signs an order on approving the list and signature specimens of all NFSA inspectors with the right to sign sanitary-veterinary certificates. A similar order grants the right of signature to authorized independent veterinarians.

13.10. Human Resources, Materials and Equipment
The Department for the surveillance of businesses producing food of animal origin has 9 employees. Territorial food safety subdivisions officially employ 74 veterinarians who are responsible for this issue.

Official control of animal origin food is ensured by the national reference laboratory – Republican Veterinary Diagnostic Centre in Chisinau and its Donduseni branch. Additionally, in order to implement Monitoring Plans NFSA contracts foreign (Romanian) laboratories, namely the Institute for Hygiene and Veterinary Public Health and the Sanitary Veterinary and Food Safety Laboratory.

NFSA also has a number of sanitary-veterinary expertise laboratories located in different places. Placing on the market of animal origin food is allowed only in specialized buildings at the market and only with certificates issued by these laboratories following a sanitary-veterinary expert review of the products.

As for equipment and supplies, territorial inspectors are provided protective clothing, gloves and shoe covers for conducting inspections and sampling, as well as measuring tools (thermometers, hygrometers, nitrate testers and measuring probes) and transport means (cars). Also, each subdivision receives sample containers and seals to carry out sampling according to the National Residue Monitoring Programme.

13.11. Staff Training
Each year the central level Department prepares the Annual Staff Training Plan for its own employees and the staff of territorial food safety subdivisions. The Plan which is based on NFSA’s Multi-year Training Plan is then submitted to the Human Resources Department. At the same time, TSFS and the Department’s employees participate in trainings, seminars and workshops organized by various national and international structures dealing with food safety issues.
13.12. Information Systems and Databases
The Department shall have access to the following databases:
1. RASFF that will link the Agency with sanitary and veterinary authorities, on the one hand, and other competent authorities concerned with the safety of animal source foods of any kind, on the other hand;
2. Digital Agricultural Register.

13.13. Cooperation with Other Institutions and Organizations
Within its activity the Department for surveillance of animal origin food production establishments cooperates internally with other departments of the Agency and externally with various national and international entities whose activity is associated with food safety (Ministry of Agriculture and Food Industry, Ministry of Health, National Public Health Centre, Consumer Protection Agency, DG SANTE, OIE, EFSA etc.).


- Improve and enhance the efficiency of inspections by developing and updating the operational and legal framework and organizing trainings on food safety, health rules, food hygiene for responsible executives within territorial structures;
- Develop a mechanism for continuous updating the lists of authorized establishments;
- Develop procedures for:
  - risk assessment and classification of establishments;
  - official inspections;
  - actions in case of non-conform products;
- Implement a system of establishments classification based on risk assessment;
- Implement the National Programme for surveillance of animal health, plant health and animal source foods safety to ensure the collection of a sufficient number of samples and their laboratory testing;
- Advance the professional qualities of inspectors and supply them with sampling tools;
- Develop contingency plans.

Chapter 14. Non-Animal Origin Food Processing Establishments Control System

14.1. Legislation in force

- Law no. 113 of 18.05.2012 on establishing the principles and general requirements of food safety legislation
- Law no. 50 of 28.03.2013 on official controls for verification of compliance with the legislation on food for animals and food products and with the norms on health and welfare of animals
- Law no. 78 of 18.03.2004 on food products partly reflecting the Regulation (EC) no. 178/2002
- GD no.1191 of 23.12.2012 on approval of the Sanitary Regulation on maximum allowable limits of residues of phytosanitary preparations and fertilizers from, or on food products and food of plant origin (partially transposes the Regulation (EC) no. 396/2005)
- GD no. 520 of 22.06.2010 on approval of the Sanitary Regulation on contaminants in food products.
- GD no. 115 of 08.02.2013 on the control of nitrates in food products of plant origin
14.2 Organization and Structure of the Control System

The NFSA through territorial food safety structures (TFSFs) carries out official controls in establishments which produce, process, store, transport and/or distribute products of plant origin.

The Department for Surveillance of Non-Animal Origin Food Processing Establishment (DSNAOFPE) provides implementation of the control system of establishments producing food of plant origin, and namely:

- develops procedures and technical guidance on hygiene and expertise of products of plant origin in the establishments concerned, including in the field of expertise through laboratory examination of products of plant origin;
- monitors implementation of the legal framework for the operation of establishments by organizing joint inspections with inspectors from the territorial subdivisions;
- develops and coordinates the implementation of the Program of Surveillance, Prevention and Control and the Program of Monitoring Pesticide Residues and Nitrate Contents;
- develops procedures of official control for each type of entity;
- analyzes technical data sent from on-site on the results of surveillance of hygiene and expertise of food of plant origin;
- directs the technical activity of subordinated structures performing official control through trainings, joint inspections and distribution of monitoring and control programs.
- periodically analyzes the activity reports received from the TSFSs and proposes measures to improve their activity.

The Department for Surveillance of Non-Animal Origin Food Processing Establishment is represented locally by inspectors from food safety divisions of the District/Municipal Food Safety Subdivisions. The number of inspectors ranges between 60 and 70 people who are responsible for safety of food of non-animal origin. In particular inspectors:

- develop plans and schedules of official control at local establishments on the basis of national programs;
- control compliance with the requirements of the establishments as part of the official control, by filling in the checklists appropriate for each type of establishment (approved by the Order of the NFSA no. 78 in 2013);
- monitor compliance with the HACCP requirements and own-check of safety of food of plant origin and its quality;
- update, on a permanent basis, the database (in Excel) comprising establishments manufacturing products of plant origin;
- sampling food products of plant origin for implementation of the Program for Monitoring, Prevention and Control in hygiene and expertise of products of plant origin and the Program
for Monitoring of Pesticide Residues and Nitrate Content (the list of procedures is included in p. 13.3);

- establish the necessary measures in finding nonconformities of food products, and have measures to remedy deficiencies as required by laws in force;
- report to the central level of the NFSA on performance of official controls on safety of food of plant origin.

**Figure 14. Control system of establishments processing food of non-animal origin**

Laboratories involved in implementing the Programs for Surveillance and Official Control of Food Products of Plant Origin are contracted by the NFSA based on public tenders. The mandatory requirement for laboratories is ISO 17025 accreditation.

**Inspection.** The current control system includes inspections, sampling and certifications of products. Official controls of plant origin food safety are carried out by inspectors of territorial subdivisions. Inspectors are trained on an annual basis on sampling of food products of plant origin.
in order to determine contaminants, pesticide residues and nitrate content. Samples are sealed and sampling protocols are filled in, so as to be later transported to the laboratory.

Inspectors in carrying out official control of establishments producing food of plant origin verify compliance with the food safety legislation throughout the manufacturing chain; evaluation procedures and checklists are used for this purpose. Implementation of the HACCP system and the own checks system of the business that shall meet the following criteria:

- to be designed for at least one year,
- to specify the type of the monitored danger from and on food products
- to specify the type of monitored food products
- to contain data on: the sampling procedure used, used sampling strategy, the references used in interpreting laboratory results,
- the capacity to establish and implement remedies in case of nonconformity are verified as part of the control.

The inspections are followed by preparation of a control report, and in case of nonconformities, a prescription is also filled in. If deficiencies are not removed, a Protocol is filled in and later on the activity of the enterprise may be suspended by a court decision.

**Registration of establishments.** The NFSA draws up a list of economic operators for internal use (for surveillance and monitoring). The legal procedure is being developed and will be introduced by amending the Law no. 50/2013 on official control in the field of food.

Currently establishments are registered from the whole food chain, whose activities are covered by the requirements of the GD no. 412 of 25.05.2010 on approval of the general hygiene rules of food products. Economic operators are registered following the evaluation of their compliance with the food safety legislation performed by inspectors of municipal/district subdivisions.

**Certification.** Food products of non-animal origin placed on the market, which were manufactured, transported and stored by using plant protection products and/or fertilizers, must correspond to sanitary norms, as confirmed by the certificate of food safety.

Certificate of food safety is issued based on a test report issued by an accredited laboratory. Tested indicators are established by the NFSA depending on the product and the treatments to which the product was subject. Thus, inspectors from the non-animal origin food field take samples of products of non-animal origin from each homogeneous lot of product. The sample is sealed and the sampling protocol accompanying the sample to the laboratory is filled in. A copy of the protocol remains with the business.

Certificate of safety or harmlessness is issued only in cases when the laboratory gave a negative result on the presence of certain pesticides in the product. The fee to be paid by the business for issuance of the certificate is 15 MDL. The business operator also pays the costs of laboratory investigations carried out during certification. Also certificate of harmlessness is issued during the export of products at the request of the importing country.
Table 13. Type of establishments processing food of non-animal origin and frequency of inspections

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>No.</th>
<th>Type of establishment subject to supervision</th>
<th>Number of existing establishments</th>
<th>No. of inspection / year</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Wine-making establishments</td>
<td>75</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Brewing establishments</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Water bottling establishments</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Juice production establishments</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Soft drinks bottling establishments</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Milling establishments</td>
<td>175</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Bread-making establishments</td>
<td>186</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Pasta manufacturing establishments</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>Pastry and confectionery establishments</td>
<td>59</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>Establishments manufacturing of cocoa, chocolate and sugar products</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>Grain storage establishments</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>Fruit and vegetable processing establishments, including warehouses</td>
<td>70</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td>Vegetable oil processing establishments</td>
<td>110</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14</td>
<td>Sugar producing establishments</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TOTAL</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>729</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Sampling.** Samples are taken by inspectors of Territorial Food Safety Subdivisions, according to sampling procedures in order to implement the Program for Monitoring and Surveillance in the area plant health and safety of food of non-animal origin, which is annually approved by the General Director of the NFSA. The samples are being submitted for laboratory analysis in the designated laboratories. In order to implement both programs around 1500 - 2000 samples of food of non-animal origin are taken.

The maximum admissible level for contaminants are stipulated in the Government Decision no. 520 of 22.06.2010 on approval of the Sanitary Regulation on Contaminants from Food Products. The maximum level of additives in food products is set out in the Government Decision no. 229 of 29.03.2013 approving the Sanitary Regulation on Food Additives.

Most often samples are subject to laboratory analysis for the following indicators:

- Methyl alcohol
- Sulphites
- Acesulfame (E950)
- Benzoates (E 210 ...)
- Tartrazine (E 102)
- Copper
- Cadmium
- Fumonizines
- Deoxynivalenol
- Ochratoxin A
- Aflatoxins

**Reporting.** The territorial subdivisions pool data on official controls performed by inspectors in subdivisions and send monthly reports to the central level of the NFSA. These reports include
more data and information such as the number of inspected establishments, the number of performed laboratory analysis, and the number of issued certificates of harmlessness. An online reporting system was additionally developed that is relatively simple and enables local inspectors to enter data about each sample taken and sent to the laboratory.

Subsequently all these data are pooled and used for planning and decision making. Each year until 1 February an annual general activity report on official controls of safety of food of non-animal origin are drawn up.

14.4. Planning of Inspections
At the national level inspections in the are of processing/production food of non-animal origin is planned as part of two national plans: Program for Surveillance, Prevention and Control in hygiene and expertise of products of plant origin and the Program for Monitoring of Pesticide Residues and Nitrate Content.

The Program for Surveillance and Control of safety of food of plant origin provides for and takes into account several aspects of food safety, especially:

- Type of hazard (allergens, contaminants, additives and prohibited substances, pesticide residues)
- Areas of activity of establishments
- Place of control (production facilities, warehouse, etc.)
- Phase in the food chain where control is performed
- Frequency of controls
- Personnel responsible for controls
- Type of sampled products
- Sampling procedure
- Procedure used for laboratory analysis
- Specific conditions for performance of control and procedure of cost coverage
- Procedure for contesting the results of official controls
- Procedure in case of a suspicion.

Annually the DSNAOFPE develops numerical plans for implementation of the Program for Surveillance, Prevention and Control of Food Safety. Numerical plans are developed for each of the TSFS separately. They contain the type of product inspected, name of verified indicator, place of sampling, number of investigations and origin of domestic or imported product. Numerical plans are composed of several sections. The sections of the plan are as follows:

- Official control of contaminants in products of plant origin;
- Official control of pesticide residues from or on food products
- Official control of additives/prohibited substances in food products
- Official control of the degree of radioactive contamination of food products
- Official control of genetically modified food products of plant origin;
- Official control of wine, beer, alcohol and low alcoholic drinks;
- Official control of the contents of iron and folic acid in flour and bakery products.

However, the DSNAOFPE develops numerical plans to implement the Government Decision no. 567 of 16.07.2014 on approval of the National Program for Monitoring of Pesticide Residues and Nitrate Content in Food Products of Plant Origin for the years 2015-2020. Numerical plans are approved by the General Director of the NFSA.
The criteria underlying development of Numerical Plans include: number of registered economic operators, number and capacity of warehouses, seasonal availability, volume of imports, notices of results of laboratory analysis on exceeding maximum allowable limits/maximum allowable doses/from previous years.

14.5 Organic agriculture
The organic agriculture began to be developed in Moldova since the 2000s. In 2005, the Law no. 115 on organic agricultural food production, and later the Government Decision no. 149/2006 implementing the law above, were approved. In 2014 there were 60 manufacturers in Moldova engaged in organic agriculture, and in 2015 additional 26 requests were recorded to enter the organic food circuit.

The legal framework sets out the principles of production and rules of certification, which are harmonized to the Regulation EC nr. 2092/91 on organic production and agricultural food production guidelines with all additions until 1 June 2005, and the Regulation EC no.1804/1999 supplementing the Regulation EC no. 2092/91 to include animal products.

Business producing, processing, importing, exporting and/or marketing in organic products are required to submit annually to the Ministry of Agriculture and Food Industry data on their activity and to undergo the control made by the inspection and certification body chosen by business, from among the accredited ones, as established, and authorized by the Ministry of Agriculture.

Inspection and certification of organic food production is carried out by public or private legal bodies accredited and authorized according to the Law no. 186 of 24 April 2003 on assessment of conformity of products and under the provisions of Art. 4 of the Law no. 115-XVI of 9 June 2005 on organic food production. In order to authorize inspection and certification bodies, the Commission authorizing inspection and certification bodies is established within the Ministry, by order of the Minister.

The applicants of authorization as inspection and certification bodies must meet several conditions including:

- have experience of inspection;
- have their own laboratory accredited in the National System of Product Conformity Assurance, or have a contract of collaboration with such a laboratory to perform all analysis needed for control and certification of organic products;
- have qualified personnel for inspection;
- be independent of all involved, impartial and integral parties;
- fulfil all the requirements set by the standards of the Republic of Moldova SM EN 45011: 2002 and SM EN 45004: 2002;
- work according to the national and community rules and regulations in the field.

The Ministry assigns each authorized inspection and certification body an ID number as a result of its record in the Register of accredited bodies. The Ministry supervises the activity of authorized inspection and certification bodies.

Inspection and certification body performs at least once a year an on-site control of the producing and/or processing establishments, and in other areas. Samples can be taken as part of such controls to determine whether products or production techniques not authorized in accordance with annexes no. 1, 2 and 3 to the Regulation on methods and principles of organic food production, are used.
Samples are also taken to determine possible contamination with unauthorized products. These samplings are binding if use of unauthorized products is assumed. Inspection and certification body draws up a report after each inspection, countersigned by the person responsible for the establishment(farm) concerned. Inspection and certification body grants to economic operators the right to sell the product with reference to procedure of organic production.

14.6. Control of Genetically Modified Organisms
Obtaining, testing, production, use and marketing of genetically modified organisms (GMOs) by means of modern biotechnologies governed by the Law no. 755/2011 on biosafety, are authorized by the National Biosafety Commission. The National Biosafety Commission consists of a total of 13 members and the positions of President and Secretary of the National Biosafety Commission are held by representatives of the Ministry of Environment.

Genetically modified organisms and/or products derived from such organisms may only be put on the market based on the authorization of the National Biosafety Commission.

A product is deemed to contain genetically modified organisms or products derived from such organisms where the content of such organisms makes up at least 1%, and in seeds - 0.3% of the total weight of the product.

The NFSA has powers to control food products as to the level of genetically modified organisms. When importing products of animal origin economic operators submit laboratory reports issued by accredited laboratories proving lack of GMOs, and in order to obtain certificates of quality of seeds, economic operators submit an affidavit that the seeds do not contain GMOs.

Currently Moldova does not have an accredited laboratory that would identify the level of GMOs in raw materials and food products. Only in 2016 sampling was introduced to determine the level of GMOs and analysis will be carried out in a laboratory located outside the country.

14.7 Documented Procedures, Instructions and Guides
The Department for Supervision of Establishments Producing Food of Plant Origin has developed and approved the following documentary procedures, instructions and guides:
1. Procedure of sampling for determination of the content of nitrates and pesticide residues in plants and food products of plant origin, approved by the Order no. 46 of 05.06.2013 of the General Director
2. Procedure on approval of sampling methods for determination of the level of mycotoxins in food products of plant origin approved by the Order no.160 of 08.10.2013 of the General Director
3. Assessment procedures for food safety of food business approved by the Order no. 78 of 08.07.2013 of the General Director.
4. Instructions on organization of certification of food products of plant origin designed for export approved by the Order no. 58 of 17.06.2013 of the General Director
5. Instructions for issuance of certificate of harmlessness for agricultural raw materials and import agricultural food products approved by the Order no. 62 of 10.03.2014 of the General Director
6. Guide on implementation of HACCP principles in establishments manufacturing food products of non-animal origin

At the same time the Department for Surveillance Non-Animal Origin Food Processing Establishments works on development of the following procedures:
1. Procedure on approval of methods of sampling and analysis of samples for official control of levels of lead, cadmium, mercury, inorganic tin, 3-MCPD and benzo(a)pyrene in food products
2. Procedure of official control of establishments producing food of plant origin
3. Revision of the procedure of official registration for food safety of food chain operators.

The Department for Surveillance Non-Animal Origin Food Processing Establishments is represented locally by 65 inspectors, centrally the Department has 7 employees. The local staff has the minimum technical equipment required to perform their duties (office equipment, cars, etc.)

14.9 Training of Staff involved in Official Control
Annually the DSNAOFPE contributes to the development and implementation of the annual Plan for professional development of inspectors, approved by the General Director. All inspectors of territorial subdivisions participate in internal trainings organized within this Plan. The trainings take on average 8 hours. The topics more often included in the program are as follows:

1. Procedure of official control of safety of food products of plant origin.
2. Implementation of the Program for Monitoring of Pesticide Residues and Nitrates in products of plant origin.
3. EU legislation on control and monitoring of contaminants in food products.
4. Certification of food products of plant origin according to indices of harmlessness.
5. Streamlining online reporting and systematization of information on activity of TFSSs in the area of safety of food products of plant origin.

14.10 Cooperation with other Institutions, Organizations.
Cooperation with other competent institutions in the field of food safety is as follows:

- Ministry of Agriculture and Food Industry, Ministry of Economy, Ministry of Health and other ministries - development, approval, implementation of food safety legislation.
- Consumer Protection Agency - joint activities, exchange of information in the course of official controls, examination of petitions, etc.
- National Institute of Standardization and Metrology - approvals of standards, instructions, technological recipes, etc.
- Ministry of Environment - coordination, approvals of draft laws, implementations in the file of genetically modified organisms, protection of plants and soil, etc.
- State Supervisory Service of Public Health - joint activities, exchange of information in the course of official controls, examination of petitions, etc.

14.11 Information Systems, Databases and Registers
1. Register of establishments in the field of production of evaluated food products of non-animal origin.
2. Register of issued certificates of harmlessness;
3. Database of samples taken for programs.

14.12 Priority Activities to be included in the MANCP 2016-2020
- Drafting the procedure of official registration for food safety of food economic operators;
- Drafting the procedure of official food safety control;
- Drafting the procedure for assessment and avoidance of risks in food establishments;
• Trainings for implementation of the above mentioned procedures;
• Trainings in the field of control of compliance with requirements of quality for fresh vegetables and fruits (for export and local market);
• Provision of inspectors with the sampling equipment required.

Chapter 15. Retail and Public Catering Establishments Control System

15.1. Legislation in force
The most relevant laws on the control system of retail and public catering establishments is listed below.

• Law no. 113 of 18.05.2012 on establishing the principles and general requirements of food safety legislation
• Law no. 50 of 28.03.2013 on official controls for verification of compliance with the legislation on food for animals and food products, and with the norms on health and welfare of animals
• Law no. 231 of 23.09.2010 on domestic market;
• Law no. 131 of 08.06.2012 on state control of entrepreneurial activity.
• Law no. 78 of 18.03.2004 on food products
• GD no. 1209 of 08.11.2007 on provision of catering services
• GD no. 412 of 25.05.2010 approving the General Rules of Hygiene of Food Products
• GD no. 435 of 28.05.2010 on approval of Specific Rules of Hygiene of Food Products of Animal Origin
• GD no. 1112 of 06.12.2010 approving the Sanitary and Veterinary Norm of organization of official specific control of food products of animal origin
• GD no. 221 of 19.10.2007 on approval of Rules on microbiological criteria for food products
• GD no. 996 of 20.08.2003 on approval of the Rules on labelling of food products and Norms on labelling of household chemicals
• GD no. 1300 of 30.12.1998 on approval of the Regulation on ceasing production and (or) marketing (execution, provision) of non-standardized, low-quality products (processes, services), withdrawal of counterfeit products from circulation and destruction of products (processes, services)
• GD no. 520 of 22.06.2010 on approval of the Sanitary Regulation on Contaminants from Food Products
• GD no. 921 of 08.12.2011 on performance of retail marketing

15.2. Organization and Structure of the Control System
Centrally the Department for Surveillance of Retail, Distribution and Consumption of Food Products (hereinafter the DSRDCFP) is composed of 6 persons and consists of the Service for Surveillance of Retail and Distribution of Products of Animal Origin and the Service for Surveillance of Retail and Distribution of Products of Non-Animal Origin.

The main duty of the DSRDCFP is to supervise activity of territorial subdivisions as part of official control. To achieve the objectives, the field of activity, the DSRDCFP performs the following functions:

• Coordinates and monitors performance of official controls on retail, distribution and catering through planning of actions and analysis of reports.
• Develops norms and instructions binding for local subdivisions for uniform application of provisions of domestic and European legislation on food safety in retail and distribution of food products;
• Develops measures to be taken as a result of official control (seizure, detention or withdrawal products from marketing);
• Supervision of performance of the official control on compliance with rules of marketing of food products by organizing joint inspections;
• Pools reports submitted by TSFS, which include the number of controls, their results, the number of samples taken, the number of samples declared compliant/non-compliant, measures applied, etc.

**Figure 15. Organization of official control on retail, distribution and consumption**

There are 180 local food safety inspectors, respectively each of the 37 territorial subdivisions has 2-8 persons. Inspectors ensure fulfilment of duties set out in regulations of territorial subdivisions and job descriptions, held by inspectors, approved by the General Director of the NFSA.

Official control staff has the following responsibilities:
• Authorizes according to the Law no. 221 and Law no. 231 the establishments subject to sanitary-veterinary authorization of operation.
• Assesses compliance with the requirements to operation of food product retail and catering establishments,
• Checks meeting of sanitary conditions laid down in the domestic legislation at establishments subject to sanitary-veterinary surveillance, with preparation of inspection reports, prescriptions and protocol;
• Check the state of marketing places of products of animal and non-animal origin, checks storage conditions thereof;
• Establishes the necessary steps in finding non-conformities of food products, and takes measures to remedy deficiencies;
• Reports on official controls on food safety,

Heads of subdivisions develop plans and schedules of official control at establishments in the field and inspectors carry out official controls with an appropriate frequency, so as to achieve the objectives of minimizing and eliminating risks. According to Annex 6 of the Law no. 221 of 19.10.2007 the following types of establishments are subject to sanitary and veterinary supervision:

1. Warehouses of food without temperature control,
2. Catering establishments (restaurants, bars, canteens, catering, buffet and other food preparation establishments)
3. Wholesale and retail establishments (wholesale, food stores, supermarkets and other retail establishments)

15.3. Methods of Control and Coordination of Activities
Duties related to official control are performed by applying methods and techniques of control such as inspection, authorization, sampling and laboratory analysis.

Official controls (inspections) are carried out without prior notice. Food establishments are inspected pursuant to the principle „from clean to dirty” and the process flow subject to the theme. Inspections are performed under a written procedure established centrally for each type of establishment separately, accompanied by checklists. Checklists are developed by the DSRDCFP according to the provisions of the domestic legislation. Only after their completion and completion of the certificate of control, deficiencies and measures to be ordered to address deficiencies can be summarized.

Whatever the nature of control is, it ends with preparation of certificates of control and a report containing:
  o measures and actions taken on occasion of control;
  o term for removal of the non-conformities concerned;
  o nomination of persons responsible for their removal.

Sanitary- veterinary authorization of establishments storing, marketing, distributing food of animal origin and sanitary-veterinary registration of activities of direct sales by manufacturer of small quantities of primary products to end consumer or retail establishments that directly supply end consumer, are performed in accordance with the Law no. 221/2007 and the Law no. 50/2013. Operators submit the application to the territorial subdivision and after an inspection of evaluation, the decision on authorization is made, if the entity do not fulfil the effective requirements a prescription is imposed on the operator to eliminate existing deficiencies. A repeated control can take place in 20 days for a repeated evaluation. The sanitary and veterinary authorization is issued for a fee of 150 MDL and has an indefinite period of validity. Operation of the establishment without authorization is prohibited by law.

Official control is carried out according to Numerical Plans of control drawn up by each territorial subdivision, depending on classification of establishments by risk. Planned inspections are performed as a result of planning of activity within the Program for Surveillance and Control of Food Safety.
Figure 16. Scheme of preparation, conduct, completion of control and follow of fulfilment of recommendations.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Stage</th>
<th>Procedure</th>
<th>Documents</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Preparing the inspection</td>
<td>Preparing the designation order</td>
<td>Designation order</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Approving the designation order</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Performing the control</td>
<td>Introducing the team and the control topic</td>
<td>Order and Program</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Showing the IDs and designation order</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Handing a copy of the designation order</td>
<td>Protocol of findings, assessment checklists and checklists for recommendations follow up, protocols of sampling, copies of documents etc.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Control according to the program objectives</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Finalising the inspection, presentation of findings and conclusions</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Finalising the control</td>
<td>Filling in the protocol and prescription</td>
<td>Protocols and prescriptions</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Approving the protocols and prescriptions</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Draft and approve the inspection control</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Followup the implementation of recommendations</td>
<td>Requesting, receiving the documents regarding the implementation of recommendations</td>
<td>Memos regarding measures undertaken in due time</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Unplanned inspection are performed in one of the situations described below:
- identification in the course of an official control of one/several non-conformities (repeated control),
- issuance of some notifications on a particular theme,
- organization of joint actions of competent authorities at local level,
- actions undertaken under coordination of the Rapid Alert System,
- epidemiological surveys in cases of outbreaks of food infections,
- complaints, suspicions.

**Inspection** is performed in accordance with specific procedures on official control. During inspection the following aspects are being checked:
- General conditions for operation of establishments;
- Warehouses of raw materials, auxiliary materials, finished products, packaging, labels;
- Production halls;
- Organization of process flow;
- Annexes (changing rooms, toilets, rooms for storage of detergents and disinfectants);
- Means of transport and room required for washing and disinfection of means of transport, transport conditions and procedure of reception of raw and auxiliary materials;
- Own laboratories;
- Waste disposal;
- Application of good practice guides or application of food safety rules;
- Establishing and monitoring critical control points.
- DDD plan (to be submitted, updated and approved by the Public Health Centre).

In case of outbreaks of food infections, inspectors of TSFS with specialists of the Territorial Service of the National Public Health Centre carry out epidemiological surveys and take steps to address and prevent their repeat.

**Sampling and testing.** In the current control system, samples are taken only in case of investigations/epidemiological surveys, after record and report of cases of infections.

The NPHC notifies the NFSA and its appropriate territorial subdivisions about cases of infections. These notifications contain information about location of the incident and predisposing factors that caused disease. Typically, food products and water are sampled (as food ingredient and product in contact with food product) and sanitation tests are carried out to verify effectiveness of hygiene sanitation and disinfection operations. Samples are sent to the designated microbiology laboratory.

Sampling will be made on an unannounced basis, without prior notification of the representative of the entity. Extraordinary samplings are possible in case of complaints, suspicions, emergency of unexpected food infections.

Following the samplings inspectors draw up sampling protocols and the request for analysis. Samples accompanied by the documents referred to, sealed and marked in accordance with the Sampling Procedure (see p. 15.5.) are sent to specialized laboratories for laboratory testing.

**Actions undertaken in case of non-conformity.** If an official control/inspection identifies a non-conformity, inspector orders measures for operator to remedy the situation, the measures can be as follows:
imposition of sanitary procedures to ensure food safety and establish a real term to remedy non-conformities assumed by operator;
restricting or prohibiting retail, import or export of food products;
ordering recovery, withdrawal and/or destruction of food for animals or food products;
authorization to use food for animals or food products for purposes other than those for which they were originally intended;
suspension of activity or shutting down, in full or in part, the enterprise concerned for an appropriate period;
suspension or withdrawal of authorization of the entity;
provision of infringement sanctions, warning or fine (in this situation the „the minutes of finding and penalizing infringements pursuant to sanitary and veterinary norms and food safety” are filled in appropriately).

15.4. Classification of Establishments and Frequency of Inspections
Official control of food products is carried out on a risk basis. Classification of establishments form the basis for control planning, making it possible to perform the unitary control of activity. In fact all existing establishments are considered in a particular risk category, and inspections occur with a frequency established in the national monitoring and control plan.

Table 14. Type of establishments and frequency of inspections for control in the field of retail, distribution and consumption

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>No</th>
<th>Type of establishment</th>
<th>Total establishments</th>
<th>Frequency of establishments</th>
<th>Subject to san.-vet. authorization</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Restaurants</td>
<td>357</td>
<td>annually</td>
<td>X</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Bars, cafes</td>
<td>772</td>
<td>annually</td>
<td>X</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Canteens</td>
<td>208</td>
<td>annually</td>
<td>X</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Catering</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>annually</td>
<td>X</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Buffet</td>
<td>182</td>
<td>annually</td>
<td>X</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Food buildings for schools</td>
<td>961</td>
<td>quarterly</td>
<td>X</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Food buildings for kindergartens</td>
<td>960</td>
<td>quarterly</td>
<td>X</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Food buildings for camps</td>
<td>76</td>
<td>annually</td>
<td>X</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>Food buildings for orphanages</td>
<td>42</td>
<td>annually</td>
<td>X</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>Food shops</td>
<td>8,275</td>
<td>annually</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>Supermarkets (culinary departments)</td>
<td>66</td>
<td>annually</td>
<td>X</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>Food warehouses</td>
<td>261</td>
<td>annually</td>
<td>X</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>TOTAL</strong></td>
<td><strong>12,180</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

15.5. Documented Procedures, Instructions and Guides
The DSRDCFP is a technical department responsible for drafting and approval of guides, technical instructions, procedures for inspectors and for uniform implementation of the EU and domestic legislation by all food economic operators. The following procedures are also developed and approved:
- General procedure for preparation of inspection/official control
Specific procedure for performing of official control in catering establishments

Upon completion of the official control the following documents shall be drawn up:
- Evaluation sheet of the establishments;
- Certificate of control is made in two copies and shall be signed and stamped, a copy is handed over to the representative of the operator;
- Prescription, specifying the legal basis of official control, is completed and all inspection results are recorded, detailing revealed non-conformities, is drawn up in two copies to be signed and stamped, a copy is submitted to representative of operator concerned.

15.6. Technical Equipment
During official control inspectors need the following means and equipment of work:
- office supplies, computer and other equipment necessary to carry out the duties and powers
- personal protective equipment;
- sterile sampling equipment and tools;
- sterile containers for sampling and transport of samples;
- measuring and control equipment - metrologically verified thermometer;
- cold boxes for transport of samples, ensuring their conservation temperature till the receipt by laboratory.

15.7. Training of Official Control Staff
Both at central and local levels training needs are identified for staff and an annual Plan for professional development is prepared. The training aims implementation of specific legislation and improvement of professional achievements. Efficiency of trainings is reflected by internal audit activity.

In establishing the annual program for professional development of official control staff, the field of competence inspection and control of staff, detection of training needs, given the number and profile of activity of registered establishments, recommendations of audits, results of tests and evaluation of staff in previous years, general objectives proposed for the current year, are taken into account.

As a rule, staff may be trained in courses and trainings, using the online access to programs of legislation and information; practical activity; cooperation with other control bodies; specializations in the fields of activity.

15.8. Cooperation with other Institutions, Organizations
In order to optimize efforts of collaboration on food safety, a Cooperation Agreement was concluded with the Ministry of Agriculture and Food Industry.

To perform sanitary-veterinary activities the NFSA cooperates with local public administration authorities. The NFSA jointly with the NPHC of the Ministry of Health, centralize through the Rapid Alert System all cases affecting food safety and endangering public health. Also the NFSA notifies authorities with responsibilities in the field about those situations and, jointly with them apply, as appropriate, measures required to resolve and remove risks.

Additionally, the NFSA jointly with the NPHC of the Ministry of Health apply measures on compliance with the hygienic and sanitary measures for prevention of food infections and zoonosis, carry out epidemiological surveys in case of food infections or zoonosis and inform consumers on how to prevent infections.
15.9. Information Systems, Databases and Registers.
There are no database and information systems in the current control system. Territorial subdivisions keep records of issued sanitary-veterinary permits.

15.10. Priority Activities to be included in the MANCP 2016-2020

- Informing consumers about safety of products of animal and non-animal origin, about prevention of infections and zoonosis;
- Development of measures of seizure, detention or export non-conformant food products, and use of remedy actions, prohibition, withdrawal or destruction.
- Drafting procedures that are still required:
  - sampling of food products for microbiological testing at catering establishments,
  - check of traceability
  - inspection of establishments marketing food.
  - inspection of mobile/fixed facilities operating temporarily/permanently, where food products are prepared/sold,
  - inspection of warehouses for products of animal origin,
  - recall/withdrawal of non-conform food from the market.

Chapter 16. Control of Veterinary Pharmaceutical Products

16.1. Relevant Legislation

- Law no. 221 of 19.10.2007 on sanitary-veterinary activity;
- Law no. 1456 of 25.05.1993 on pharmaceutical activity;
  - Law no. 1409 of 17.12.1997 on medicines;
- Law no. 50 of 07.06.2013 on official controls for verification of compliance with legislation on food for animals and food products, and with the norms of health and welfare of animals;
- GD no. 321 of 18.03.2008 approving the Regulation on registration of veterinary pharmaceuticals;
- GD no. 169 of 06.06.2013 approving the Regulation on testing of veterinary medicines;
- GD no. 942 of 11.10.2010 approving the Sanitary and Veterinary Norm on prohibition of the use of certain substances having a hormonal or thyrostatic effect and β-agonist substances in breeding animals;
- GD no. 195 of 24.03.2011 approving the Regulation on measures and procedures establishing maximum allowable limits of residues of pharmacologically active substances in food products of animal origin;
- GD no. 298 of 27.04.2011 approving the Sanitary and Veterinary Norm on measures of supervision and control of certain substances and their residues in live animals and their products, as well as residues of veterinary medicines in products of animal origin;
- GD no. 93 of 15.02.2012 on approval of Rules of good practice for production of veterinary medicines;
- Order of the MAFI no. 18 of 05.02.2004 on approval of the Sanitary and Veterinary Norm on sanitary and veterinary conditions of organization and functioning of veterinary pharmaceutical establishments;
- Order of the MAFI no. 176 of 06.11.2012 approving the Sanitary and Veterinary Norm on the model of medical prescription for issuance of veterinary medical products and methodological norms of their use;
- Order of the NFSA no. 216 of 08.09.2014 on development of the veterinary pharmacovigilance guide;
• Order no. 226 of 05.12.2013 on approval of evaluation sheets for veterinary pharmaceutical establishments and operators of feed;
• Order no. 87 of 13.04.2016 on organization and functioning of the Veterinary Medicine Commission.

16.2. Organizational Structure of Supervision
The Veterinary Pharmaceutical and Feed Supervisory Department (VPFSD) of the Agency is responsible for supervising testing, approval, registration, manufacture, storage, export, marketing and use of veterinary medicaments in Moldova. In its surveillance activity the VPFSD complies with the relevant legal and normative framework and the Regulation of organization and operation, the major powers of which are as follows:

• Development and provision of implementation of regulations, and instructions, for the field of veterinary pharmaceuticals, feed and by-products of animal origin not intended for human consumption;
• Surveillance of the whole system of homologation, registration, manufacture, transportation, storage and marketing of veterinary pharmaceuticals;
• Participation in drafting of draft normative acts transposing the EU legislation, in accordance with the veterinary Acquis with specialized Departments of the Agency;
• Supervision of correctness of state controls performed by TSFSs in the field of veterinary pharmaceuticals and feed through the State Register of controls and monthly district reports;
• Surveillance of compliance with legal provisions on circulation and use of veterinary medical products through regular reports of TSFSs;
• Evaluation of pharmacovigilance in the distribution chain of veterinary medical products, based on reports of pharmacovigilance;
• Participation together with officials in charge from TSFSs in performance of pharmaceutical veterinary controls;
• Participation in the meetings of the Veterinary Medicine Commission;
• Drafting and implementation of general/specific procedures/work instructions/manuals for its area of responsibility.

Annually the VPFSD submits to the Department of the central administration responsible for the development of the Program for monitoring of residues of food products, information on veterinary medicines used in treatments of animals of economic interest.

Locally veterinary pharmaceutical surveillance is carried out by the Animal Health and Welfare section of Territorial Subdivisions Food Safety, aggregating duties and responsibilities with the area of animal health and welfare.

The basic responsibilities of the division referred above include:
• approval of establishments producing, storing and marketing veterinary medicines;
• performance of planned inspections of authorized veterinary pharmaceutical activities;
• sanitary-veterinary surveillance of the activity of establishments that produce, store, market, export and use veterinary medicines;
• surveillance of the use of veterinary medicines locally, especially in animal breeding establishments.
• monthly, quarterly and annual reporting to the VPFSD of the information required from central level. Reporting of performed controls specific to the given area. The reports include in tabular form the activities carried out in the period of monitoring, and namely:
- number of inspections,
- number of issued prescriptions,
- number of drafted protocols,
- discontinued activities,
- amount of antibiotics used in the area of professional animal breeders,
- number of prescriptions issued by private veterinarians.

Another specific direct responsibility of inspectors from animal health sections of TSFSs is monitoring of activity of authorized, contracted and non-contracted private veterinarians and the manner or correctness of application of animal treatments and issuance of veterinary medical prescriptions. The fact whether veterinarians providing veterinary assistance are authorized, attested, have capabilities or facilities to provide veterinary assistance is checked likewise.

The certificate of professional attestation is issued by the Agency under the decision of the Commission of Attestation for a 5 year period. The Commission is headed by the Deputy General Director of the NFSA and includes heads of Departments of the NFSA and representatives of the university staff in the field of veterinary medicine. Work of the Commission includes studying the dossier submitted by applicant and organization of interview.

Locally, prevention of admission of pharmacologically active substances prohibited for animals in marketing or treatment of animals, is supervised.

**Figure 17. Scheme of the control system of veterinary pharmaceutics**
16.3. Procedure of Registration of Veterinary Medicine Products

Registration of veterinary pharmaceuticals is performed by the Agency based on the decision of Veterinary Medicine Commission. The Commission operates under a Regulation approved by the General Director of the NFSA. The Commission consists of 10 members:

- Five persons are delegated by the NFSA,
- Two persons are delegated by the Academy of Sciences of Moldova,
- Two persons are delegated by the State Agrarian University of Moldova,
- One person is delegated by the RCVD.

Veterinary pharmaceuticals may be marketed, used in veterinary medicine and imported only after their registration in the State Register of Veterinary Pharmaceuticals, with a certificate of registration. The certificate of registration is issued for veterinary pharmaceuticals, which meet the quality, efficacy and safety requirements.

To initiate registration of the veterinary pharmaceutical, the applicant shall submit to the Republican Center for Veterinary Diagnosis the full administrative, regulatory, technical documentation, as well as samples of product, presented in packaging to be marketed and used in veterinary medicine in the quantities necessary to enable check of quality parameters indicated in quality specification and according to the methods given in the chemical, pharmaceutical and biological documentation.

The period of time for completion of the procedure for registration of veterinary pharmaceuticals is up to 2 months from the date of payment of the fee established by law. Experts of the Republican Centre for Veterinary Diagnosis check the control methods described in the technical administrative and normative documentation and carry out laboratory investigations of veterinary pharmaceutical, following which they issue the laboratory report of product quality.

The laboratory report of quality of pharmaceutical veterinary products and reports of evaluation of experts of the Republican Centre for Veterinary Diagnosis, with administrative, regulatory, technical documentation are transmitted to the Veterinary Medicine Commission in order to analyze compliance of the pharmaceutical veterinary product with the requirements in force and issuance of decision on acceptance or rejection of its registration.

Based on the decision of the Veterinary Medicine Commission, the Director of the Agency issues an order on registration of the pharmaceutical veterinary product in the State Register of Veterinary Pharmaceuticals, and the applicant is issued the certificate of registration containing identification data of the product concerned. The issued certificate of registration of the veterinary pharmaceutical has a term of validity of five years.

The entity responsible for registration and deregistration of veterinary pharmaceutical in/from the State Register of Veterinary Pharmaceuticals is the Republican Centre for Veterinary Diagnosis, and the relevant Department from the Agency monitors the whole process.
16.4. Methods of Surveillance and Control Activities

The VPFSD monitors internal/local production of veterinary medicines through the quarterly reports from TSFSs that have authorized sanitary-veterinary the establishments producing veterinary medicines.

The VPFSD monitors imports of veterinary medicines through the border post coordination Department of the central administration of the NFSA as a result of the reports made.

Authorization of establishments. Authorization of establishments producing, storing and marketing veterinary pharmaceuticals is performed based on the Law no. 221, and the specific requirements to operation of these establishments contained in the Order of the MAFI no. 18 of 2004 on approval of the Sanitary-Veterinary Norm on sanitary-veterinary conditions of organization and functioning of veterinary pharmaceutical establishments.

Veterinary pharmaceutical authorization is issued to:
1. Veterinary pharmacy;
2. Veterinary pharmaceutical point;
3. Veterinary pharmaceutical warehouse;
4. Manufacturer of veterinary medicines.

In the area of veterinary assistance authorizations are issued to:
1. Veterinary cabinets;
2. Veterinary clinic.

The authorization is performed at territorial level by the 37 TSFSs, while inspector goes to the establishment and fills in the technical report.
**Inspection of establishments.** Inspectors from Territorial Subdivisions for Food Safety verify pharmaceutical establishments to verify conformity of effective legal provisions on pharmaceutical activity and quality of veterinary pharmaceuticals and other veterinary products by retailers and wholesalers, manufacturers and by other authorized individuals and legal establishments dealing with veterinary pharmaceuticals and other veterinary products. Procedures for inspection of establishments are listed on p.16.6.

In case of inspection inspector checks:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Subject to check</th>
<th>Purpose</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>General</td>
<td>hours of operation; establishment of a pharmaceutical entity; medicines are issued only by item, self-service, division</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Premises</td>
<td>are easily cleaned, are functionally related to each other without being scattered inside the building, maintained in permanent state of cleanliness and with necessary conditions of light, temperature, humidity and ventilation; are provided with shelves, cupboards and refrigerators, specific furniture and refrigerators, are connected to water supply, sewerage and electricity supply systems, have their own sources and own appropriate accommodation;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Staff</td>
<td>qualification of working staff, staff wears protective equipment;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Veterinary products</td>
<td>are placed on shelves or cabinets, by action groups under the terms provided in the instructions or on labels of products, there are official accompanying documents, stating the product name, serial number, validity term, manufacturer, certificate of quality; marketed veterinary medicinal products are registered in Moldova, Nomenclature of veterinary medical products in force, availability of expired products;</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Inspectors following official controls, draw up inspection report and issue, as appropriate, prescriptions. Inspection reports and prescriptions are recorded in registers. Inspection reports are filled in on site during the control where veterinary compliance is described.

Where a non-conformity is identified, inspector shall take measures to remedy the situation. When deciding on actions to be taken, the competent authority shall take into account the nature and history of nonconformity of operator in terms of nonconformities.

Such actions include, where appropriate, the following measures:

- sanitation procedures or any other measures deemed necessary to ensure compliance with domestic laws;
- restricting or prohibiting marketing of veterinary pharmaceuticals and other veterinary products;
- supervision of and, where appropriate, ordering recovery, withdrawal and/or destruction of veterinary pharmaceuticals;
- suspension of activity of the pharmaceutical establishments concerned, until removal of non-conformities.
TSFS inspectors issue reports on the results of their official controls. Accuracy of the reported information is checked by specialists of the relevant Department going to the site concerned and reviewing control and relevant documents.

Since administration of hormonal products, thyrostatic substances, beta agonists and anabolics in animals making products of animal origin for purposes other than treatment specific to the breeding and pathology of breeding, is prohibited, official veterinarians check in the course of inspection compliance with this legal provision.

**Sampling for monitoring of residues of medicines.** Annually the Department for surveillance of animal origin food processing establishments develops a National Plan for Monitoring of Residues (according to the Government Decision no. 298 of 27.04.2011 approving the Sanitary and Veterinary Norm on measures of supervision and control of certain substances and their residues in live animals and their products, and residues of veterinary medicines in products of animal origin), which is submitted for approval and publication to the GD SANTE (Health and Food Insurance) by the end of March of each year. The process is described in Chapter 13 of this document.

16.5. Planning of Inspections. Frequency of Inspections.
Official veterinarian doctors of TSFSs regularly carry out official controls at approved establishments. The number of controls is determined by each TSFS based on the number of authorized economic operators, but not less than once a year. Inspections are performed based on an Inspection Plan drawn up by each TSFS separately, then numerical control plans are developed with distribution of inspections per months. In case of nonconformity or failure to follow the prescriptions TSFS may increase the frequency of inspections.

**Table 14. Type of establishments and frequency of inspections in the control system of veterinary products**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>No.</th>
<th>Veterinary Pharmaceutical Establishments</th>
<th>Total establishments per country</th>
<th>Urban establishments</th>
<th>Rural establishments</th>
<th>Frequency of inspections</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Veterinary pharmacies</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Veterinary pharmaceutical points</td>
<td>244</td>
<td>197</td>
<td>47</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Veterinary pharmaceutical warehouses</td>
<td>39</td>
<td>39</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Factories of veterinary medicines</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Veterinary clinics</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Zooshops</td>
<td>33</td>
<td>33</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td><strong>336</strong></td>
<td><strong>287</strong></td>
<td><strong>49</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

16.6. Documentation of Supervision and Control
Standard documents:
- Inspection report;
- Prescription;
✓ Checklists;
✓ Protocol;
✓ Register for record and issuance of medical prescriptions;
✓ Medical prescription;
✓ Register of treatment.

Procedures:
✓ Specific procedure for sampling of immunological veterinary products;
✓ Specific procedure for check of veterinary pharmaceutical points;
✓ Specific procedure for inspection of warehouse of veterinary products;
✓ Specific procedure for verification of veterinary pharmacies.

Checklists for inspecting:
✓ veterinary pharmacies;
✓ veterinary pharmaceutical points;
✓ veterinary pharmaceutical warehouses.

16.7. Human Resources and Technical Equipment
The VPFSD has 5 employees. Official controls at TSFS level involve about 200 animal health inspectors. All inspectors have a degree in the field and an appropriate professional experience. All inspectors have the status of civil servant and official veterinarian.

TSFS inspectors are provided with personal protective equipment and partly with measurement and sampling instruments required for official controls in the field of pharmaceutical and veterinary activity. The NFSA territorial subdivisions have service cars used for inspection and control.

16.8. Staff Training
The topics of trainings and their planning are prepared and carried out by employees of the central administration of the NFSA depending on risks, recommendations of international missions, amendments and implementation of domestic legislation, etc. The most frequently taught topics:

- sampling of biological products imported into the country;
- rules of good practice for production of veterinary medicines;
- conditions for organization and operation of veterinary and pharmaceutical establishments;
- forms of medical prescriptions for veterinary medicinal products and methodological norms for their use;
- veterinary pharmacovigilance guide;
- specific control procedures for veterinary pharmaceutical supervision;
- current problems of antibiotic resistance;
- statutory labelling requirements for veterinary pharmaceuticals.

Annually about 100 official veterinarians are trained centrally by employees of the central administration of the NFSA in the field of surveillance of pharmaceutical activity. In turn, they train veterinarian doctors in the relevant territorial subdivision by submitting minutes of instruction and lists of participants.

16.9. Information Systems and Databases
The Agency has a database of veterinary medicines legally allowed for import, production, distribution, marketing and use in the country. RCVD (Department of Veterinary Medicine Quality Control) is responsible for updating the State Register of Veterinary Pharmaceuticals from Moldova. The Register is updated on a monthly basis, and the VPFSD is responsible for monitoring. The Register is made available on the NFSA website in Word version or as an online
system enabling searching for veterinary medicine, which in total makes up 1,000 products. The system also allows viewing the label and instruction of each preparation.

16.10. Collaboration with Other Institutions and Organizations
Cooperation with other institutions and organizations is participation in development, modification, harmonization, endorsement, coordination of draft legal acts on sanitary-veterinary requirements for testing, homologation, registration, production, storage, transport, marketing, use, import, export and marketing of veterinary medical products. Most often cooperation is carried out with:

- Ministry of Agriculture and Food Industry,
- Ministry of Health,
- National Center for Public Health
- International Organization for Animal Health,
- National Sanitary Veterinary and Food Safety Authority from Romania.

16.11. Priorities and Strategic Objectives for 2016-2020

- Increasing efficiency of TSFS inspections in authorized veterinary pharmaceutical establishments.
- Identification of possibility to improve control over import, production and marketing of veterinary pharmaceuticals.
- Full implementation of the pharmacovigilance program.
- Ensuring a normative framework by developing, updating the legal and operational veterinary pharmaceutical framework.
- Raising awareness of domestic manufacturers of veterinary pharmaceuticals to meet the requirements of good manufacturing practice and to prepare for certification respectively.
- Identification of the possibility to improve the database on the State Nomenclature of Veterinary Pharmaceuticals in Moldova.

Chapter 17. Control System Animal Feed and Nutrition

17.1. Relevant Legislation

- Law no. 221 of 19.10.2007 on sanitary-veterinary activity;
- Law no. 50 of 28.03.2013 on official controls for verification of compliance with the legislation on food for animals and food products, and with the norms of health and welfare of animals;
- Government Decision no. 1405 of 10.12.2008 Sanitary-Veterinary Norm on hygiene of feed and content of undesirable substances in feed;
- Government Decision no. 311 of 21.05.2012 on approval of the Regulation on establishment of conditions governing preparation, marketing and use of medicated feed;
- Government Decision no. 686 of 13.10.2012 on approval of some methods of analysis for control of feed;
- Government Decision no. 462 of 02.07.2013 on approval of some requirements to feed;
- Government Decision no. 1081 of 22.09.2008 on approval of the Sanitary and Veterinary Norm on establishment of rules of control and supervision of some transmissible spongiform encephalopathies;
- Order of the Ministry of Agriculture and Food Industry no. 172 of 14.07.2006 on approval of the Sanitary and Veterinary Norm on sanitary and veterinary conditions for production,
marketing with European Union member states and import from countries of some food and raw edible products for pets;

- Order of the National Food Safety Agency no. 226 of 05.12.2013 on approval of evaluation sheets for pharmaceutical establishments and operators of feed.

### 17.2. Organization and Structure of Control

The entity responsible for control of food for animals and feed is the Service for surveillance of feeds and other products of the Veterinary Pharmaceutical and Feed Supervision Department and consists of two people.

The relevant Service ensures state control of quality, sanitation, production procedure, storage and distribution of feed materials for animals of economic interest, medicated feed and feed for pets. The main functions of the Feed Supervision Service include:

- implements state policy and coordinates supervision of feed;
- supervises correctness of official feed controls made by TSFSs.
- receives and submits alert messages reported through the Rapid Alert System and coordinates actions taken to address these situations;
- prepares and monitors implementation of the National Programme for Quality Monitoring of Feed. Prepares and submits to TSFSs the numerical plan;
- ensures preparation and annual updating of the list of economic operators working in the field of animal feeding, in accordance with the laws in force;
- develops information materials related to the field of activity;
- develops and implements general/specific procedures/work instructions/manuals, and all documents specific to the structure, in the system of internal/management control designed and implemented in the Agency;
- supervises total prohibition of feeding with protein of animal origin of animals susceptible to transmissible spongiform encephalopathies;
- ensures operation of information system on veterinary pharmaceuticals and animal nutrition with regard to premixes, feed additives, medicated feed and combined feed;
- prepares official list of feed additives, premixes and concentrates of proteins, vitamins and minerals or vitamins and minerals that can be used and included in feed, feed materials, combined feed, complete feed and supplemented feed, which is approved by order of the General Director and is officially published.

The control system of the feed for animal at local level is represented by official veterinarians (inspectors) of the Animal Health and Welfare Section, part of the Territorial Food Safety Subdivisions. In its work inspectors:

- authorize establishments manufacturing, storing, transporting and marketing feed for animals;
- perform scheduled and unscheduled official inspections at authorized sanitary-veterinary establishments dealing with feed for animals to verify compliance with rules of hygiene and traceability in production of feed and use of prohibited substances in feed;
- provide control of compliance with sanitary and veterinary requirements in permutations, exportation and importation of feed by issuing sanitary and veterinary certificate;
- sample in order to implement the feed safety monitoring program.
- certifies batches of feed for animals for internal transport or export by issuing the F2 and F4 document;
- prepares reports on its work and sends them to the central level of the NFSA.
17.3. Sanitary-Veterinary Authorization of Establishments

All of the establishments producing, storing, transporting or marketing feed for animals must have a sanitary-veterinary authorization/registered with Territorial Subdivisions for Food Safety so as to be able to work. The authorization procedure is described in Law no. 221 on sanitary-veterinary activity. The NFSA authorizes establishments:

- only after an on-side inspection by a team from territorial district/municipal subdivision, which is completed with a technical report.
- provided the establishment concerned meets the sanitary-veterinary requirements in terms of infrastructure and equipment, governed by the Government Decree no. 1405 of 10.12.2008.

To obtain the sanitary-veterinary authorization, economic operators submit an application to TSFS with attached copies and original documents: certificate of state registration of enterprise, title deed or contract on rental of premises, contract of employing a private veterinarian. Holders of sanitary-veterinary authorization are required to apply for a new sanitary-veterinary authorization for operation, if there are subsequent changes in the technological process, modernization, expansion or change in the profile of activity.

Mixers (mills) at animal farms, which produce feed for own needs are not authorized separately because a farm normally has already a sanitary-veterinary authorization, the feed producing entity is only recorded in internal registers of the territorial subdivision concerned and is monitored. To
activate mixers minimum conditions of hygiene, records and traceability for feed are needed. Mixers may have a sanitary-veterinary authorization if they are separated from livestock farms. Mixers are subject to official control at the time of control of farm and therefore a checklist has been developed.

Establishments producing, storing, transporting or marketing feed for animals are subject to control by official veterinarians pursuant to the annual schedule of controls of TSFS, but not less than once a year.

Table 15. Type of authorized establishments by area of animal feeding and frequency of inspections

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Type</th>
<th>No. of authorized establishments</th>
<th>No. of inspections per year</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Factory of combined feed</td>
<td>36</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Farm owning mixers</td>
<td>146</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Feed warehouse</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Feed store</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Feed carriers</td>
<td>39</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stores with feed for animals</td>
<td>38</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL</strong></td>
<td><strong>385</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

17.4. Methods and Techniques of Control

**Inspection.** Official control is performed using methods and techniques of control such as inspection, sampling and laboratory tests. Inspections in establishments operating with feed is carried out by official veterinarians of animal health sections of TSFS in accordance with the procedures described in p. 17.7. These are organized in several stages:

- preparation of inspector for a legal and efficient inspection, accumulation of sufficient information on the topic of control, information about the objective and preparation of materials required for inspection,
- record in the register of controls of the district/municipal Department;
- record in the register of controls of economic operator;
- check of documents;
- whether samples were collected pursuant to the strategic program for the current year;
- certificates of quality, conformity, veterinary certificates for import raw material;
- register of inputs/outputs of feed in/from entity;
- records of disinfection, disinfection and deratization;
- program of self-control, records;
- reports of water quality analysis;
- preparation of evaluation sheet;
- preparation of the certificate of control, as appropriate, prescription, minutes;
- transmission of copies of documents of economic operator.
- possibly, sampling.

In particular, the following is inspected:

- installations, machinery, location of equipment, means of transport of feed;
- raw materials, ingredients, and other products used for preparation and production of feed for animals;
- labelling;
- cleaning and maintenance products and procedures;
system of self-control used by operators;
conditions of hygiene.

Official controls at establishments working with feed for animals are carried out according to the plan of controls developed by each TFSS separately. Additionally, plans of monthly inspections are developed. Frequency of official controls can be increased as a result of detection of medium and serious nonconformity, failure to execute prescriptions drawn up at the time of inspection.

For efficient monitoring of safety of feed for animals for economic interest, the Veterinary Pharmaceutical and Feed Supervision Department prepares and implements on an annual basis a program for sampling of feed for animals: for Monitoring and Supervision of Feed Materials.

**Sampling.** Feed samples are taken for implementation of the Program for Monitoring and Supervision of Feed Materials, which is approved annually by the order of the Director General of the NFSA. The Program establishes groups of feed to be sampled, the type of establishments and frequency of sampling. Separately the substance is indicated for identification of which laboratory tests are carried out. These are: mycotoxins, heavy metals, aflatoxins, pesticides, nitrates, pathogen microorganisms, radiological parameters, etc. Laboratories involved in laboratory analysis are selected through tender procedure. Annually about 500-800 samples are taken and analysed. To sample feed qualitatively, the relevant Department developed a specific procedure of feed sampling (PS (D02/2B)-01/04). If batches of non-conformant feed are detected, necessary measures are taken in accordance with the normative requirements.

**Certification.** In accordance with the legislation in force, territorial subdivisions monitor the movement of feed materials throughout the Republic of Moldova and upon export. If feed is moved between districts, TSFS inspector issues a Sanitary and Veterinary Certificate (Form 2). The Certificate is issued for each batch of feed or feed raw material. To obtain the Sanitary-Veterinary Certificate, the manufacturer submits the analysis report of the feed and the sanitary-veterinary authorization of the establishments.

In the case of export of feed for animals/feed raw materials, the procedure is similar, i.e. TSFSs issue the Sanitary-Veterinary Certificate (Form 4) for the batch concerned.

**17.5. Analysis and Classification of Risks. Rapid Alert System of the UE.**
Analysis of risks emerging from feed for animals is currently performed on a simplified scale. Thus it was established for inspection at surveilled establishments to be performed once a year, and in the case of suspicions and information reported, they shall be subject to higher frequency of inspections.

Operational procedure on notifications of the Rapid Alert System for Food and Feed (RASFF) at central level of the NFSA was developed. This procedure aims to define the process of receiving/processing and managing notice of the Rapid Alert System for Food and Feed at central level of the NFSA in order to avoid food safety risks, before them causing problems to consumers and eliminating gaps identified following detection of nonconformities.

**17.6. Measures in case of non-conformity.**
If inspector identifies a nonconformity, measures are ordered for the operator to remedy the situation. Indications are included in prescription following the official control. When decision is made on actions to be undertaken, the inspector shall take into account the nature of nonconformity
and past records of nonconformity of that operator. Most often sanitary and sanitation measures are required. In case of revealing certain non-conformant batches of feed as a result of sampling based on the Feed Quality Monitoring Program all possible measures are taken to prevent that batch getting in feed of animals of economic interest. In this regard dilution of the non-conformant batch with another conformant batch may be ordered until the laboratory result confirms harmlessness, thermal treatment or use of feed for purposes other than originally planned ones.

17.7. Documented Procedures, Guides and Instructions
The Veterinary Pharmaceutical and Feed Surveillance Department developed and implemented specific procedures on:

- inspection of establishments producing combined feed/medicated feed/feed additives/pre-mixes of feed additives PS (D02/2B) -02/01;
- inspection of establishments producing feed for farm animals for exclusive needs of own farm (farm with mill, own mixer, feed mixer) PS (D02/2B) -02/02;
- inspection of establishments storing/marketing feed PS (D02/2B) 02/03;
- sampling of feed PS (D02/2B)-01/04.

Also, according to the order of the NFSA no. 226 of 05.12.2014 approving checklists for pharmaceutical establishments and feed operators, checklists were approved for feed operators and namely:

- checklist for establishments packaging feed for farm animals;
- checklist for establishments producing combined feed/medicated feed/feed additives/pre-mixes of feed additives;
- checklist for establishments producing feed for farm animals for exclusive needs of own farm – farm with mill, own mixer, mobile feed mixer;
- checklist for establishments storing/marketing feed additives, pre-mixes of additives, combined feed and feed materials (warehouses, stores, intermediary economic operators that do not keep feed in buildings/premises/own facilities/transport means).

To facilitate understanding of the normative sanitary-veterinary requirements to be complied with or met by operators dealing with feed for animals, the relevant Department developed the Guide for good manufacturing and hygiene practices for feed production.

17.8. Human and Technical Resources
Territorial Food Safety Subdivisions have 37 heads of animal health sections, and about 70 inspectors.

For performance of feed-related duties, 37 sets of protective equipment (gloves, boots, masks, coats) shall be purchased, 37 manual tapered concentric wells with one opening for sampling of feed, 37 manual tapered concentric wells with several openings for sampling of feed, 37 wells for samplings of sacks, 37 soffits for sampling of feed, sampling bags, seals, wire, filling marks.

17.9. Staff Training
Professional development is carried out by organizing and participating in training with local official veterinarians on the legislation on feed, which are performed by specialists in the field from the NFSA after which local official veterinarians hold seminars and train official veterinarians.
At meetings with official veterinarians from TSFSs that should be held in the form of presentations several issues are proposed. In turn the Veterinary Pharmaceutical and Feed Supervision Department by the end of the year approves the annual Plan of professional development of the staff of the Department taking into account demanded themes. For 2016 the following themes were proposed:
- requirements to medicated feed;
- requirements to feed. Feed safety;
- implementation of specific procedure for authorization and official control at feed producing establishments.
About 90 official veterinarians are trained every year, who in turn train private veterinarians. Providers of internal training are employees of the Department.

17.10. Cooperation with other Institutions and Organizations
The Veterinary Pharmaceutical and Feed Supervision Department works with other institutions and ministries, especially with the Ministry of Agriculture and Food Industry, the PE Republican Centre for Veterinary Diagnostic and other organizations.

Representatives of the Department participate jointly with the above ministries to round discussions on the development, modification, approval, cooperation, coordination of some normative acts.

17.11. Priorities of Official Control for the period 2016-2020
- Use of international expertise to develop conditions governing the preparation, marketing and use of medicated feed.
- Establishing frequency of official controls at establishments dealing with feed based on risks.
- Preparation of an official list of feed additives authorized for import, marketing and use in Moldova.
- Purchase and provision of inspectors with protective clothing and sampling tools.

Chapter 18. Control System of Animal Origin By-Products

18.1. Relevant Legislation
Sanitary-veterinary rules on by-products of animal origin not intended for human consumption in the collection, transport, storage, handling, processing, use or disposal and their marketing is governed by the Government Decision no. 315 of 26.04.2010 approving the Sanitary and Veterinary Rules on by-products of animal origin not intended for human consumption.

18.2. Current Situation. Number of Surveilled Establishments
By-products of animal origin appear mainly during the slaughter of animals for human consumption, during manufacturing of products of animal origin, disposal of dead animals and disease control measures. Regardless of their source, they expose public and animal health and the environment to a potential risk. This risk needs to be adequately controlled, either by directing such products towards safe means of disposal or by using them for different purposes, provided that strict measures, which minimize health risks concerned, are applied.

Currently in Moldova most by-products of animal origin, in particular animal carcasses are buried near farms or are destroyed in Bekary pits. Only a small part of them are incinerated or processed
at specialized enterprises. There are currently 125 Bekary pits. In some districts there is no any Bekary pit. The only plant specialized in processing of by-products of animal origin is SRL Terafix in Straseni town, which holds a sanitary-veterinary authorization and has a processing capacity of 7 tons/day.

Table 17. Number of establishments subject to control of by-products and frequency of inspections

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>No.</th>
<th>Type of establishment</th>
<th>Number of establishments</th>
<th>Frequency of control/year</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Cattle farms</td>
<td>140</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Pig farms</td>
<td>201</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Sheep and goat farms</td>
<td>142</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Poultry farms</td>
<td>53</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Rabbit farms</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Slaughterhouses</td>
<td>140</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Meat processing establishments</td>
<td>104</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>By-products processing establishments</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

18.3. Laboratories
Currently there are three national laboratories in Moldova - Veterinary Diagnosis Center, Animal Health Laboratory in Drochia and Animal Health Laboratory in Cahul. There are also laboratories at the Territorial Subdivisions for Food Safety, but their equipment and capabilities are poor. At the moment (August 2016) we have no accredited laboratory in the field of animal health.

At central level of the NFSA, the control system of by-products of animal origin not intended for human consumption is the responsibility of the Sanitary-Veterinary Department and the Department for Surveillance of Establishments Processing Products of Animal Origin. The first coordinates the activity of territorial subdivisions on animal health and welfare, and the second coordinates activity of territorial subdivisions on safety of food of animal origin, in particular by supervising their processing.

Locally inspectors from both sections of territorial subdivisions are involved in the control of by-products. In particular inspectors (official veterinarians):
1. Authorize establishments where by-products are obtained or dead animals are recorded,
2. Inspect livestock farms, slaughterhouses, by-product processing enterprises,
3. Certify by-products transported to processing,
4. Take biological samples from dead animals,
5. Through the Head of territorial subdivision, empower private doctors involved in official control and certification of products and by-products.
Figure 20. Scheme of control system of by-products of animal origin

In the current control system the NFSA pursues several objectives, and respectively, performs:
1. Control of the non-spread of infectious diseases in livestock and birds.
2. Control of proper disposal or use of animal carcasses and other types of by-products of animal origin, to protect environment and reduce risks to human and animal health.
3. Control of traceability of by-products at all stages (farms, slaughterhouses, processing establishments) to be re-assured by contraposition of data from different types of controls.

Authorization. All livestock farms and establishments processing meat and by-products are authorized in the animal health control system and in food safety control systems. During the control of by-products of animal origin, by-product processing enterprises are authorized. Thus, as of the date of the current multi-annual control plan, just one enterprise in Moldova is authorized to carry out this type of activity.

Livestock farms are authorized under the Law no. 221 on sanitary-veterinary activity, but Bekary pits at the moment are not regulated by any document, which would stipulate any conditions for them. Respectively there is no Bekary pit control system.

Inspection in livestock farms is carried out once a year by inspectors of territorial subdivisions in charge of the animal health and welfare section. At the same time samples are taken from fallen animals. More frequent inspections with express sampling are performed in cases where a farm records a high mortality or where there are suspicions that an outbreak occurred at a farm. Even if owners do not notify the NFSA, inspectors may conduct unannounced inspections to find the nature of mortality and to control undertaking of measures required.
In this control at farms the Register of mortality, which must contain all information about each case of death of animals including necropsy report, diagnosis established and laboratory analysis results of samples taken from fallen animals, is verified. There are no plans for inspections of farms only for the by-product control system: inspections are carried out with inspections for control of animal health, and sampling is performed only upon receipt of notices and own observations about increased mortality of animals in a particular farm. Accurate sampling procedures are not developed.

During inspections at establishments processing raw materials of animal origin and at establishments where inedible by-products are used, all (input and output) registers are checked to obtain traceability and improve in this way transparency of movement of by-products, which limits the risk of spread of contagious animal diseases.

_Certification._ Each batch of by-products which goes for processing is accompanied by a sanitary-veterinary certificate issued by official veterinarians from territorial subdivision. In this case the Sanitary-Veterinary Certificate Form no. 2 is issued.

The certificate cannot be obtained for sending for processing/use of animals fallen as a result of highly contagious diseases such as rabies, anthrax, avian influenza, etc.

A part of by-products of animal origin from Moldova are exported, including to the EU market. These constitute the majority of raw skins, which are part of Category III of by-products. To export these products, they are accompanied by sanitary-veterinary certificate, the form which is coordinated with the EU authorities and/or authorities from the country of destination.

18.5. Documented Procedures, Guides and Instructions
By-products control process at the moment is not included in a separate procedure. It is included in several procedures related to control system of animal health and welfare. By the time the Sanitary-Veterinary Surveillance Department has developed specific procedures for inspection, of which 7 are designed directly for assessment of compliance with sanitary-veterinary requirements in livestock farms, procedures that are already locally implemented.

18.6. Measures in case of Non-Conformity
The Contravention Code stipulates measures to be taken by the competent authorities for illegal actions. For the current control system, in case of unauthorized burial of animal carcasses or organs, a fine shall be applied. The NFSA inspector fills in a nonconformity protocol to be sent to the court, and the decision of which establishes the fine.

18.7. Cooperation with other Institutions
The NFSA cooperates with the State Ecological Inspectorate to establish places where animal carcasses and by-products may be buried and where they cannot be buried, both in terms of environmental protection.

18.8. Priorities for the period 2016-2020
- Improvement of the by-product control system, including by classifying establishments subject to this control and establishing the frequency of inspections based on risks,
- Encouraging construction of new incinerators and by-products processing establishments not intended for human consumption, thus contributing to Development of infrastructure for use of animal carcasses and by-products.
• Tightening the legal framework for economic operators to be more responsible to use of by-products.
• Development of procedures for the by-product control system.
• Contribution to inclusion in the domestic legislation of provisions of Community legislation:

Chapter 19. Control System of Imports of Live Animals, Plants and Food Products

19.1 Relevant Legislation
• GD no. 838 of 17.12.2009 on certain conditions for authorization of import and transit of animal intestines,
• GD no. 1099 of 29.09.2008 on sanitary and veterinary rules on sanitary and veterinary controls upon import of animals,
• GD no. 1208 of 27.10.2008 on approval of the Sanitary and Veterinary Norm on marketing eggs for human consumption,
• GD no. 711 of 28.08.2014 on approval of the Sanitary and Veterinary Norm on establishing conditions of animal health and public health and sanitary and veterinary certification of imports of raw milk, milk products, colostrum and colostrum-based products intended for human consumption,
• GD no. 1406 of 10.12.2008 approving the Sanitary and Veterinary Norm on labelling system for bovine meat and bovine meat products,
• GD no. 1408 of 10.12.2008 on approval of some sanitary and veterinary rules,
• GD no. 48 of 27.01.2009 on approval of the Sanitary and Veterinary Norm on animal and public health conditions and sanitary and veterinary certification for import in the Republic of Moldova of certain live animals and fresh meat from these animals,
• GD no. 137 of 10.02.2009 on approval of the Sanitary and Veterinary Norm on animal health conditions and sanitary and veterinary certification of import of registered equidae and equidae for reproduction and production,
• GD no. 103 of 18.02.2011 approving the Sanitary and Veterinary Norm on requirements to import and marketing of aquaculture products
• GD no. 435 of 28.05.2010 on approval of Specific Rules of Hygiene of Food Products of Animal Origin
• GD no. 1112 of 06.12.2010 approving the Sanitary and Veterinary Norm of organization of specific official control of food products of animal origin
• GD no. 175 of 02.03.2009 on approval of the Sanitary and Veterinary Norm on animal health conditions and sanitary and veterinary certification of imports of equidae for slaughter,
• GD no. 357 of 01.06.2012 approving the Sanitary and Veterinary Norm on marketing and import of poultry and hatching eggs,
• GD no. 1113 of 06.12.2010 on approval of the Sanitary and Veterinary Norm for import and marketing of live animals of aquaculture and products derived from them,
• GD no. 696 of 04.08.2010 on approval of the Technical Regulation on Meat-Raw Material. Production, import and marketing,
• GD no. 839 of 17.12.2009 approving some Sanitary and Veterinary Norms on non-commercial movement of pets,
• GD no. 438 of 16.07.2009 approving the Sanitary and Veterinary Norm on animal health conditions and veterinary certification for imports of bees and bumble bees,
• GD no. 1093 of 08.102007 approving the Regulation on procedures and documents related to the Animal Identification and Traceability System,
• GD no. 793 of 22.10.2012 approving the Sanitary and Veterinary Norm on protection and welfare of animals during transport,
• GD no. 189 of 03.17.2014 approving the Sanitary and Veterinary Norm on animal health upon import and transit of certain live ungulate animals,
• Law no. 228 of 23.09. 2010 on plant protection and phytosanitary quarantine,
• Law no. 119 of 22.06. 2004 on phytosanitary products and fertilizers,
• GD no. 1073 from 19.09.2008 on optimization of crossing the state border by cars with goods and passengers, amendment and repeal of certain normative acts,
• GD no. 1279 of 17 November 2008 on approval of the Technical Regulation of packaging, transport and storage of fruits, vegetables and fresh mushrooms,
• GD no. 356 of 31 May 2012 approving some normative acts on implementation of Law no. 228 of 23.09. 2010 on plant protection and phytosanitary quarantine
• GD no. 572 of 06.08.2012 on approval of the Norm on establishing a procedure for the notification of interception of a cargo or a harmful organism from other countries and presenting an imminent phytosanitary danger;
• GD no. 594 of 02.08.2011 on approval of special requirements for introduction and movement of plants, plant products and other objects throughout the Republic of Moldova;
• GD no. 557 of 22.07.2011 on approval of the Norm on surveys to be carried out in order to recognize protected areas in the Republic of Moldova and the Norm of movement of certain plants, plant products or other objects through a protected area;
• GD no. 558 of 22.07.2011 on urgent phytosanitary measures to prevent introduction and spread of quarantine organisms in the Republic of Moldova;
19.2 Organization and Structure of Control
The NFSA is the competent authority responsible for the control of imports of live animals, plants and food in Moldova

At the central level – the Department for coordination of border inspection posts consists of the International Marketing Section and Service for Coordination of Sanitary-Veterinary and Phytosanitary Control Posts. This particularly:

- Supervises the control system (through border inspection posts) of live animals, food, feed, veterinary medicines in order to protect animal health, public health, prevent introduction of epizootic diseases in the country;
- Performs phytosanitary control of food, plants, seeds and pesticides,
- Coordinates and manages the activity of sanitary-veterinary and phytosanitary control points;
- Coordinates and monitors compliance with food safety legislation on the import, export and transit, at the level of reporting structures,
• Elaborates instructions and procedures applicable to the control points as regards the control of import, export and transit of live animals, food, feed, plants, plant protection products,

• Coordinates and controls the work of sanitary-veterinary and phytosanitary inspection posts as regards the control of transport of individuals and legal establishments with prohibited food brought to the Republic of Moldova;

• Supervises implementation of all legislative acts governing the import, export and transit of goods subject to sanitary and veterinary and phytosanitary control to prevent penetration from abroad of sick animals and other goods subject to the state sanitary and veterinary control in non-conformant state;

• Collects and analyzes data to allow monitoring of risks, which have a direct or indirect influence on food safety;

• Ensures prevention of penetration in Moldova of infectious and contagious diseases;

• Complies with the sanitary and veterinary conditions of animals, sanitary and veterinary certification required by the importing country and existence of notice of acceptance of import from its part and from the competent veterinary authorities of transit countries;

• Issues permits and other permissive documents required for international trade.

Sanitary-veterinary inspectors and phytosanitary inspectors work at border inspection posts. The control post carries out a complex of measures aimed at protecting the territory of Moldova from entering or introduction from other states of:

• products that do not meet sanitary-veterinary requirements, assurance of traceability of these products, preventing the spread of infectious and contagious diseases, control over export and import of animals, products and raw materials of animal origin and feed;

• dangerous and quarantine pests, pathogens of diseases of plants, weeds and location, destruction of objects of quarantine and application of phytosanitary measures depending on the phytosanitary risk.

Table 18. List of sanitary-veterinary and phytosanitary border control posts

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>No.</th>
<th>Sanitary-veterinary and phytosanitary control posts</th>
<th>Maximum number of employees</th>
<th>Schedule/Intern Hours of work</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1.</td>
<td>Criva, Briceni</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>Ukraine 24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.</td>
<td>Giurgiulesti, Galati/Port/Reni, Cahul</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>Romania 24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.</td>
<td>Otaci, Ocnita</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>Ukraine 24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.</td>
<td>Valcinet, Ocnita</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>Ukraine 24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5.</td>
<td>Tudora, Palanca, Stefan Voda</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>Ukraine 24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6.</td>
<td>Leuseni, Hincesti</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>Romania 24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7.</td>
<td>Sculeni, Ungheni</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>Romania 24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8.</td>
<td>Ungheni, Ungheni</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>Romania 24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9.</td>
<td>Airport (8), Railway (2) and post (1), Chisinau</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>Internal 24/8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10.</td>
<td>Chisinau, Chisinau (terminal)</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>Internal 8</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

| Total | 110 |

In particular, at the Border Inspection Points inspector:
- Checks documents accompanying the batch of plants, products or live animals,
- Checks identity of goods in batch,
- Performs physical control (clinical in case of live animals),
- Samples foods, plants or biological material and sends samples to the laboratory for determination of compliance with the requirements and legislation,
- Allows import only for shipments of products complying with veterinary and phytosanitary requirements. Retains or rejects transport, as appropriate,
- Orders through prescriptions measures of sanitation, quarantine and other measures required
- Makes entries into registers of control pursuant to the control procedure.

**Figure 22. Scheme of control system at border inspection posts**

The Republican Veterinary Diagnosis Center with its territorial subdivisions is the laboratory engaged in analytical laboratory activity of sanitary-veterinary control at the border. Official laboratory that performs tests as part of the phytosanitary control is the National Center for Verification and Certification of Plant Production and Soil (phytosanitary laboratory).

19.3 Methods and Techniques of Control

Import and export of goods subject to state sanitary-veterinary and phytosanitary surveillance is allowed based on the Sanitary-Veterinary Permit of import/export and the Declaration of intent of import of goods subject to phytosanitary control.

Thus the import control system begins with the Sanitary-Veterinary Permit of import/export, which will be issued prior to the import and has a term of validity of 20 days. The Agency, depending on the epizootic situation in the exporting country, issues the Sanitary-Veterinary Permit of import/export of goods subject to state sanitary and veterinary control of applying
economic agents. To obtain the permit the economic operators submit to the NFSA (central level) the following sets of documents (copies and original version):

- for import of production/reproduction animals or animals for slaughter: application and a copy of the certificate of state registration of entity;
- for importation of food products of animal origin and by-products of animal origin: application, test report issued by an accredited laboratory in the country of origin, indicating the composition, physico-chemical and microbiological indices for each type of product, according to the registration of product in the country of origin, a copy of the sales contract;
- For import of material of germination, hatching eggs: application test report issued by an accredited laboratory in the country of origin, indicating the composition of physico-chemical and microbiological indices for each type of product according to the standards of the court of origin;
- for import of feed, feed materials, feed for pets and exotic animals, feed milk powder, fishing bait, cotton, other products and materials that can influence animal and public health: application and product test report, from the country of origin, where appropriate, indicating the origin and composition of the protein, the species from which the protein derives, physicochemical, toxicological and microbiological indices.

Primary and secondary control is performed in the import control system in Moldova. The primary sanitary-veterinary and phytosanitary control is carried out by inspectors of the border inspection post directly upon crossing the state border. It consists of checking documents and identity of goods. Final control is carried out by sanitary-veterinary or phytosanitary inspectors during unloading of the transport unit at authorized sanitary-veterinary customs warehouses. Final phytosanitary control is performed by inspectors of internal specialized control post, in other cases by phytosanitary inspector of territorial subdivision during the unloading of the transport unit at customs warehouses or at warehouses authorized accordingly.

Verification of documents. Documentation control provides for examination by official veterinarian (inspector) of the sanitary-veterinary and phytosanitary control post of the Sanitary-Veterinary Permit of import/export or Declaration of intention to import goods subject to phytosanitary control, sanitary-veterinary or phytosanitary certificates and other documents confirming the quality, harmlessness and origin of goods and accompanying a vehicle with cargoes subject to sanitary-veterinary supervision. All documents accompanying a batch of goods subject to state sanitary-veterinary and phytosanitary surveillance shall be submitted for control in original by the person responsible for the batch concerned. In this control it shall be decided whether the batch is or is not to be sampled, based on sampling frequency algorithm, depending on the product category (described below). Document control is mandatory for all batches entering the customs.

Verification of identity of goods. Identity of each batch is checked by means of a visual inspection to ensure that products correspond to the information in the sanitary-veterinary certificates or other accompanying documents. Identity control of goods is carried out for all batches that reach customs.

This procedure assumes that:

- the records in the sanitary-veterinary and phytosanitary certificates or documents offer the guarantees required by domestic and international laws;
- the ID number the transport unit is identical to the number mentioned in documents;
- the seal is intact and it has the same number as mentioned in the accompanying documents;
- the name of products subject to sanitary-veterinary and phytosanitary control corresponds to the information given in the certificates or accompanying documents;
• the stamps, official marks and health marks identifying the country and the enterprise of origin are present and conform to those specified in the certificate or other accompanying document;
• labels correspond to the product and information given in the accompanying documents (or packaged or pre-packaged products).

**Physical control of loads.** By physical control the NFSA gets sure that imported products still meet the purpose mentioned in the sanitary and veterinary/phytosanitary certificate or in accompanying documents.

This control is performed at the internal warehouses where goods are unloaded. The current border inspection posts do not have facilities and conditions to download goods and take samples, for this reason the control is performed in warehouses of importer. Only 2 of the 10 border inspection posts (Criva and Tudora) will conduct full control and sampling at the border since September 2016, and 2 posts (Leuseni and Giurgiulesti) since 1 January 2017.

Guarantees of product origin provided by manufacturer are verified in the course of control to ensure that subsequent transport of products has not altered its original state mentioned in the sanitary-veterinary certificate, which is performed by the following methods:
• control of the means of transport to identify in particular any shortcomings or breaks in the cold store system;
• comparing actual weight of the batch with that indicated in the veterinary and sanitary certificate and the number of packages, weighing the whole batch, if applicable;
• check of packages and all markings (stamps, labels) thereon, compliance with the accompanying documents, date of manufacture, shelf life, country of origin, manufacturer, including commodity code,
• check of temperature, to ensure compliance with it during transport;
• organoleptic examination (smell, color, consistency, taste);
• simple physical or chemical testing (cutting, thawing, cooking).
• clinical control of animals;
• verification of conditions for transport of animals.

Organoleptic examination and physical or chemical tests are carried out on a range of samples taken from the entire batch, examination covers at least 1% of the number of packages in the batch. In case of reasonable suspicion official veterinarian may order more extensive controls.

**Physical control in the phytosanitary area** is inspection of the imported and transited products subject to phytosanitary quarantine. Physical control of products and objects subject to physical control in import and transit is performed according to the procedures for each product. It provides:
• Sampling, packaging and labeling of samples for performing laboratory expertise of plants, imported plant products in accredited specialized laboratories. Drawing of samples is performed at the rate of 100% of consignments with planting and seed material,
• Drawing up of restraint reports where non-conformities are detected;
• Drawing up of return reports affixing red triangular stamp on the phytosanitary certificate (certificate canceled) and stamp IMPORT PROHIBITED in case of detection of quarantine pests and those upon which measures of destruction, removal cannot be applied or in cases of detection of other non-conformities that cannot be removed;
Additionally, the following is performed at the border inspection post:
- Drawing up of physical control reports for the imported and transited production, as well as of financial documents for services rendered in strict accordance with effective legislation and works executed;
- Keeping of registers set for consignments subject to phytosanitary quarantine such as Register of imported and transited goods and Register of selected samples.
- The control over fulfillment of phytosanitary measures, as well as disinfection or processing with plant health products of the imported production, as appropriate, in accordance with phytosanitary norms of the Republic of Moldova.

Table 19. Product groups and frequency of physical sanitary-veterinary inspections when importing products of animal origin

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Product groups</th>
<th>Frequency of the physical control (%)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| I        | Fresh meat including: internal organs and products of bovine, ovine, caprine, swine and equine species  
Fish products stored in sealed containers, so as the requirements to temperature are stable, fresh and frozen fish and dried and/or salted fishery products  
Whole eggs  
Fat and rendered fats  
Animal casings  
Hatching eggs | 20 |
| II       | Poultry meat and poultry meat products  
Rabbit meat, (wild/farm) venison meat and products thereof  
Milk and milk products for human consumption  
Egg products  
Processed animal protein for human consumption  
Other fishery products  
Honey | 50 |
| III      | Semen  
Embryos  
Manure  
Milk and milk products (not for human consumption)  
Gelatin  
Snails  
Bones and bone products  
Hides and skins  
Bristles, wool, hair and feathers  
Horns and hooves  
Apiculture products  
Hunting trophies;  
Processed pet food  
Raw material for pet food  
Raw material, blood, blood products, glands and organs for pharmaceutical use  
Blood products for technical use  
Pathogens  
Hay/straw | Min 1, Max 10 |
Sampling. Samples are taken according to the methodology approved by the NFSA, packed according to sanitary-veterinary norms, sealed and delivered to the Republican Veterinary and Diagnosis Center or to other assigned laboratory, accompanied by a record completed according to the requirements in two copies and signed by the representative of the operator responsible for the batch of goods. One copy accompanies samples to the laboratory, the second one is kept at the sanitary-veterinary inspection post.

Depending on the product and on the risk assessed by the inspector, samples will be subject to physical-chemical, microbiological tests for heavy metals, residues of veterinary medicines etc. Sampling takes place for the purpose of assessing compliance of products with the requirements of the effective legislation. Frequency of sampling is described in the table above. In this case, the costs of laboratory analyses of samples taken are borne by the importer. This control is performed in accordance with the Law no. 50 /2013.

Sampling is also performed in the phytosanitary area within the Program for Monitoring and Surveillance in the area of plant health and safety of food of non-animal origin that is developed annually and approved by the NFSA Order. Within this program, samples of fruits, vegetables, planting and seed material are taken.

During performance of laboratory investigations, the batch of goods remains under restrictions of any handling under the responsibility of the operator, under the supervision of the NFSA (rayon/municipal) territorial subdivision where the authorized warehouse is located.

The importing operator is responsible for storing products of animal origin in the warehouse authorized by the NFSA during the laboratory investigation. Depending on the results of laboratory analyses, the decisions on sale of goods or other measures are taken by inspectors of territorial subdivisions, where goods are located.

Actions in case of non-conformities. If during sanitary-veterinary inspection carried out in the place of destination of the consignment of animal origin products or during transport, the presence of a disease or any other similar case that represents a high risk to animals or humans is stated, or it is stated that products come from an area where an epizootic disease develops, the inspector directs the consignment of animal origin products to be destroyed or used for other purposes, and the costs related to the destruction of the consignment to be borne by the consignor or its representative. Goods can be returned (except for EU countries), if the exporter decides to export it as an alternative to destruction. If it is stated that the sanitary-veterinary certificate does not correspond or documents contain irregularities, a period of grace is given to the consignor before resorting to this last possibility.

19.4 Documentation of the official inspection
1. Operational procedures:
   - The sanitary-veterinary inspection at the border of animals of bovine, ovine and caprine species imported.
   - The sanitary-veterinary inspection at the border of imports of fresh meat.
   - The sanitary-veterinary inspection of animals of porcine species imported.
   - Checking plant health when importing – wood packaging material
   - The control when importing as to plant health (products).
   - The control when importing as to plant health (seeds).
   - Requirements to issue of import phytosanitary permits;
• Completion and issue of a report on physical control of plants, products and related goods imported.

2. The NFSA’s internal documents:
• Regulation of the Department for the coordination of posts at the border.
• Regulation for operation of sanitary-veterinary and phytosanitary inspection posts at the state border of the Republic of Moldova.
• General rules for sampling goods subject to the sanitary-veterinary inspection.
• Regulation for drawing up norms on sanitary-veterinary certificates and standard forms
• Methodical instruction for drawing of samples within the physical control and phytosanitary expertise when importing products of plant origin.

3. Documents issued/processed by the NFSA:
• Import/export sanitary-veterinary notice (the procedure is described above)
• Common Veterinary Entry Document (CVED) is a document issued by border inspectors where conclusion is made after control, if commodity is consistent and can be accepted. Commodity can continue the procedure for customs clearance in import mode only with this document.
• Record of sampling.
• Disinfection certificate.
• Physical control certificate
• Restraint report.
• Return report

4. Registers (on paper medium):
• Register of goods imported
• Register of goods exported
• Register of goods transited
• Register of shift delivery

19.5 Cooperation with Customs Service and other institutions
Cooperation with Customs Service takes place in accordance with the provisions of the Government Decision no. 1073 dated 19.09.2008. The document states that:
• Customs bodies will authorize import/export/transit of goods subject to the control only after termination of the sanitary-veterinary or phytosanitary inspection. CVED is issued in this regard.
• Customs bodies ensure sanitary-veterinary and phytosanitary border inspection posts with service premises within the customs posts organized in state border crossing points, empowered with customs clearance of respective goods.
• Customs bodies ensure permanent access of the NFSA inspectors to information on the crossing the state border of goods subject to the control. Access to information is performed by access (with password) to the system Asycuta World. The NFSA inspectors can view the entire package of documents online, only for goods from customs codes that are subject to sanitary-veterinary and phytosanitary supervision.

19.6 Training of inspectors
Training of inspectors takes place according to the NFSA annual plan for professional development and within the training projects in the areas of activity organized by international
institutions. The training plan is developed by the Department for the coordination of posts at the border and subsequently integrated into Annual training plan of the NFSA. Trainings are delivered by specialists from the Department for the coordination of posts at the border as well as collaborators from other Departments of the NFSA and specialists from abroad. All inspectors are trained annually on topical themes.

19.7. Available human, material and technical resources
110 persons work currently in 10 border inspection posts. Only two of 10 border inspection posts are close to EU standards in terms of physical infrastructure. Criva post and Tudora post were built and equipped within the World Bank project. Posts included in this project are new and modern in full. Currently, sanitary-veterinary and phytosanitary inspection posts are provided with the minimum necessary equipment for performing sanitary-veterinary inspection:

- General (furniture, computers and communication equipment internet connection, automobiles)
- Laboratories (refrigerators, coats, tools and instruments, scales and thermometers)
- Inspection (photo camera, containers for samples, samplers, special furniture, syringes etc.)

These posts will start operating in October 2016. Criva and Tudora posts will perform also the control of live animals’ import. The other posts perform only the control of documents and control of the identity of goods.

19.8 Information systems and databases.
Currently, sanitary-veterinary and phytosanitary inspection posts are connected in part to the Module MULTY AGENCY of the Integrated Customs Information System (ICIS) Asycuda World. Using this system, collaborators of posts can view in detail customs export declaration as well as documents that are attached to declaration of goods from codes that are subject to sanitary-veterinary supervision. Goods subject to the sanitary-veterinary inspection under the export customs procedure can be validated by the Customs Service only after validation thereof by the collaborators of sanitary-veterinary and phytosanitary inspection posts.

Moldova was connected to the system TRACES, which allows viewing movement of goods subject to the sanitary-veterinary inspection from the date of taking out of service/factory and accompanying documents. Sanitary-veterinary certificates for export are issued in this system by the inspectors of the NFSA territorial subdivisions.

19.9 Priorities of the import control system for the period of 2016-2020
- Commissioning of four sanitary-veterinary and phytosanitary border inspection posts and operation thereof in accordance with the national legislation.
- Training and ability of border inspectors to use the TRACES system.
- Training of inspectors of sanitary-veterinary and phytosanitary border inspection posts on applying best practices of border control in EU countries.
- Adjusting the national legislation to EU standards in terms of the border control.
Chapter 20 – System of plant health and plant protection products control. Control of seed material.

20.1. Related effective legislation

- Law no. 228 dated 23 October 2010 on plant protection and phytosanitary quarantine;
- Law no. 119 dated 22.04.2004 on phytosanitary and fertilizing products,
- Law no. 68 dated 05.04.2013 on seeds;
- Law no. 39 dated 29.02.2008 on protection of plant varieties;
- Law no. 57 dated 10.03.2006 on vine and wine;
- Law no. 658 dated 29.10.1999 on nut crops;
- Law no. 728 dated 06.02.1996 on horticulture;
- Law no. 131 dated 08.06.2012 on state control of entrepreneurship
- GD no. 1073 dated 19.09.2008 on optimization of crossing the state border by motor vehicles with goods and passengers, amendment and abrogation of some normative documents;
- GD no. 356 dated 31.05.2012 for approving normative documents regarding the implementation of the Law no. 228 dated 23 September 2010 on plant protection and phytosanitary quarantine;
- GD no. 572 dated 06.08.2012 on approving the Norm of establishing a procedure for the notification of interception of a vehicle or a harmful organism from other countries and presenting an imminent phytosanitary danger;
- GD no. 594 dated 02.08.2011 on approving the special requirements for importation and circulation of plants, plant products and other objects in the territory of the Republic of Moldova;
- GD no. 558 dated 22.07.2011 on emergency phytosanitary measures to prevent introduction and dissemination in the Republic of Moldova of some quarantine organisms;
- GD no. 970 dated 17.11.2014 on approving the Regulation on establishment and functioning of the single window for issuing the phytosanitary certificate for export/re-export;
- GD no. 1045 dated 05.10.2005 for approving the Regulation on import, storage, sale and use of phytosanitary and fertilizing products
- GD no.600 dated 18.07.2014 on quality and sale of seeds of spiked cereals;
- GD no. 43 dated 15.01.2013 on testing and entering the species into the Catalogue of plant varieties of the RM;
- GD no. 415 dated 21.06.2013 on production, control, certification and sale of the material for reproduction and planting of fruit crops;
- GD no. 713 dated 12.09.2013 on production and sale of seeds and planting material of vegetables;
- GD no. 915 dated 07.12.2011 on quality and sale of seeds of oleaginous plants and for fibers;
- GD no. 836 dated 11.11.2011 on quality and sale of seeds of fodder plants;
- GD no. 189 dated 17.03.2010 on the minimum requirements to sale of seed potatoes;
- GD no. 418 dated 09.07.2009 on production, control, certification and sale of the material for reproduction and planting of vinicultural crops;
- GD no. 1211 dated 29.10.2008 on technical regulations for seed material of maize and sorghum.
20.2. Levels of organization and management of official inspections
Control function in this area is performed through rayon and municipal food safety subdivisions and is coordinated centrally by the NFSA. In total, 180 inspectors work at the territorial level and over 20 employees of the central level of the agency.

Out of 180 inspectors, 37 inspectors are responsible for the control of plant protection products and fertilizers, and other 72 inspectors have, among responsibilities, supervision of manufacturers of seed material, as well as certification of seed material manufactured and imported in Moldova, the other 71 inspectors are responsible for plant health.

The Department for plant health from the central level has the task to organize activities for health and protection of plants, including phytosanitary quarantine, as well as activities for controlling compliance with the requirements to quality of fresh fruits and vegetables throughout the country, according to a unitary concept that ensures plant health cultivated, forests, pastures, natural meadows and other forms of useful vegetation, as well as of agricultural products stored.

Additionally, the Department is responsible for:

- Promotion of state policy in the area of phytosanitary;
- Development of operational and specific procedures, instructions, regulations on applying provisions of the effective legislation, international standards, specific requirements in this area;
- Implementation of state comprehensive programs substantiated scientifically and of special measures for prevention and liquidation of dangerous and quarantine pests;
- Protection of the territory of the Republic of Moldova from intrusion or introduction from other states of pests, pathogens of diseases of plants and weeds that can cause considerable damage to the national economy;
- Determination of phytosanitary and quality rules, unique and binding for all natural or legal persons holding agricultural crops and other forms of useful vegetation, as well as for those who store, transport and use plants and plant products.
- Development of proposals on change, update of the legal framework in the area of protection and plant health;
- Development, approval and implementation of special programs for forecasting, prevention, control and liquidation of nidi of pests and quarantine organisms;
- Taking some emergency measures on detection and prompt liquidation of nidi and/or invasions of pests.

The Department for the control of plant protection products and fertilizers is a regulatory authority in the area of management of plant protection and fertilizing products, a specialized body of the National Food Safety Agency. There is an inspector responsible for management of plant protection products and fertilizers (PPPF) in each rayon/municipal food safety subdivision. The NFSA is empowered by law:
- to require from enterprises, institutions and organizations that manufacture, import, transport, store, sell and use plant protection products and fertilizers to observe the area-related legislation;
- to have free access to enterprises, institutions, organizations engaged in the manufacture, import, transportation, storage, sale and use of plant protection products and fertilizers control them, including to take samples for investigations to determine their quality;
- to prohibit import, sale and use of plant protection products and fertilizers that do not meet national standards, phytosanitary, sanitary-hygienic regulations and other technological normative documents, processing and sale of agri-food products and use of water in case of
detection of residues of plant protection products and fertilizers over the maximum allowable limits;
• to require dismissal of persons involved in activities with phytosanitary and fertilizing products that were not subject to medical examination and were not trained in occupational safety for these activities;
• to receive from ministries, departments, enterprises, institutions, organizations, natural and legal persons involved in activities with phytosanitary and fertilizing products statistical and other information required for supervision and state control in the area;
• to state contraventions and to draw records on violation of this law and other legislative documents on phytosanitary and fertilizing products;
• to have free access to production of plant origin at the site of manufacture, storage, packaging or sale to take samples to determine the maximum allowable limits (MAL) of residues of pesticides and nitrates.

Figure 23. Diagram of the system for controlling plant health, plant protection products and seed material

As to the control of seeds, the NFSA:
• implements state policies in the area of production, processing, quality control and sale of seeds;
• performs, for the purpose of certification of seeds, field inspections to determine compliance of the varietal identity with biological purity, cultural value, phytosanitary condition;
participates in development of normative acts in the area of production, processing and sale of seeds;

develops or updates guides to field inspection and certification of seeds; maintains Register of registered operators for production and/or processing, and/or sale of seeds;

performs registration or suspension of registration of operators under this law;

issues certificates of registration for production and/or processing, and/or sale of seeds;

approves:

- seed sectors and of hybridization of agricultural crops;
- vine plants, fruit-growing parent plantations, fruit bushes and strawberries,
- the list of inspectors responsible for inspection of seed sectors and of hybridization of agricultural crops, as well as for recognition of varietal purity in viticultural and fruit-growing nurseries.

Basic tasks of the inspector in the area of protection and plant health of the rayon or municipal Department for food safety are:

- Performs the control of plants, plant products and related goods subject to phytosanitary quarantine, at any stage of production, sale or circulation thereof. Fulfillment of physical control, including supervision, monitoring and inspection of pests, especially quarantine ones;
- Ensures the control of phytosanitary quarantine in compliance with provisions of the law;
- Issues the phytosanitary certificates for export and re-export of the production, materials and objects subject to phytosanitary quarantine;
- Registers and keeps record of manufacturers, importers, exporters, dispatch centers and collective warehouses for plants and plant products in the Official Register, specifying the name of the operator, its registration number, type of activity, addresses at which it operates, issuing certificate of registration, which model is presented in the Annex no. 6 of the Law 228;
- Draws records on establishing contraventions in the area of phytosanitary and refers cases to court;
- Takes samples for the purpose of determining phytosanitary condition, and, if necessary, for laboratory expertise of plants, plant products and related goods subject to phytosanitary quarantine imported, exported and re-exported.

20.3 Number of operators/units supervised. Control methods.

In accordance with the provisions of art. 24 of the Law no. 228 dated 23.09.2010 on plant protection and phytosanitary quarantine, about 1800 operators that declared several types of activity are registered.

Table 20. Number of operators registered in the phytosanitary area

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>No.</th>
<th>Category (type of activity)</th>
<th>Number</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Authorized warehouses and stores of PPPF</td>
<td>465</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Registered seed material manufacturer</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Agricultural manufacturer, holder of a collective warehouse and/or dispatch center; importer; exporter; user of phytosanitary and fertilizing products.</td>
<td>1235</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>TOTAL</td>
<td>1800</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
20.3.1. Control in the area of plant health

**Registration of operators.** Territorial subdivisions register and keep record of operators. Certificates of registration are issued after registration. Registered operators meet the following requirements:

- maintain records on locations where plants, plant products are cultivated, manufactured, stored, kept or used and phytosanitary and fertilizing products are used;
- maintain administrative, normative and technical documentation to deliver to the NFSA inspectors full information on the plants, plant products or other related goods, phytosanitary and fertilizing products they manage;
- perform visual observations during vegetation of plants or as much as required and in accordance with the NFSA recommendations;
- insure access of the NFSA inspectors to locations for performing controls, drawing samples and checking cases,
- inform subdivision about ongoing changes in the technical documentation or their activity.

**Certification.** Crop production for export is controlled at the exporter’s request after submitting an application for issuing the phytosanitary certificate. The phytosanitary certificate /certificate of export /of re-export is an official document certifying that plants, plant products and related goods subject to phytosanitary quarantine for export/re-export meet the phytosanitary requirements.

The phytosanitary certificate is issued to the exporter by the NFSA territorial subdivision, in which range the goods, subject to quarantine, are manufactured, to be presented to the competent phytosanitary authority from the importing country. To obtain the phytosanitary certificate, the exporter submits to the TSFS, at least 24 hours before dispatch:

- application for issuing the phytosanitary certificate;
- certificate on use of plant health products (at the request of the importing country)
- copy of the tax bill or of the consignment note;
- report on performing physical inspection (as appropriate),
- phytosanitary certificate of the country of origin (in case of re-export),

The validity of the phytosanitary certificate is 14 days from the date of issue.

**Inspection.** The purpose of a physical inspection is to confirm the presence or absence of some pests to plants and plant products, including the quarantine ones. In this context, the phytosanitary inspector performs supervision of agricultural lands, storage sites and storages of the plant production, vehicles these products are carried with. Considering the period of development of organisms harmful to plants, at least 3 phytosanitary inspections are planned during the vegetation period of plants. Physical inspection is performed, in a mandatory manner, at the production site and is applied to all plants and plant origin products cultivated, manufactured, used or otherwise present in the perimeter of the manufacturing facilities, as well as to the growing environment used in the facility.

Physical inspection is performed by:

- supervision of the implementation of economic and organizational, agronomic, biological and chemical measures for plant protection, of compliance with the rules of storage, transportation and use of plant protection means by the natural and legal persons, regardless of the type of ownership and legal form of organization;
- control of enforcement of and compliance with the legislation on production, storage, transportation, processing, sale and use of plants and plant products, as well as of plant health products, by the natural and legal persons, regardless of the type of ownership and legal form of organization;
establishing the mode of use of plant health products for protection of plants, plant products, wood and of wood products;

- inspection of nurseries for introductory quarantine, other nurseries, test plots for varieties, greenhouses for the production of seed and planting material;

**Sampling.** In the area of plant health, samples are taken in three cases:

1. For issuance of the phytosanitary certificate,
2. When performing laboratory expertise in order to identify quarantine organisms, when there are suspicions,
3. For the purpose of implementing the Program for Monitoring and Surveillance in the area of plant health and safety of food of non-animal origin. This is meant to ensure supervision of phytosanitary condition and to ensure the official inspection of the residues of plant protection products and fertilizers in plant products in terms of food safety, in toxicological control laboratories.

**20.3.2. Control in the area of phytosanitary and fertilizing products.**

The control is organized in two stages: Import of PPPF and Use of PPPF.

**Control of import of PPPF**

a) **Issue of import authorizations.** The Department for the control of plant protection products and fertilizers (DCPFP) is responsible for issuing the import authorization for Plant Protection products and Fertilizers (PPPF). The authorization is issued free of charge, based on the request of the importer, provided that the imported product is included in the State Register of PPPF permitted for use in the Republic of Moldova. The package of documents will include, among others, the license for import of PPPF, invoices, contracts and certificate of quality issued by the manufacturer.

The State Register of plant protection products and fertilizers permitted for use in the Republic of Moldova is developed by the State Center for Certification and Approval of PPPF, a specialized body subordinated to the Ministry of Agriculture and Food Industry. All changes in the Register (registration/cancellation/change in consumption rate etc.) are made when convening the Joint Commission composed of representatives of the National Food Safety Agency, Ministry of Agriculture and Food Industry, Ministry of Environment, Ministry of Health and research institutions.

After issue of the authorization, data are recorded in the ‘Register of traceability of import of PPPF’, electronically and on paper. Recording date, name of the operator, manufacturer /registrar, trade name of products, quantities and number of the Import authorization are entered in the Register.

Each operator holding a license in the area, is required to keep record of PPPF in the ‘Register of import, sale and stock of PPPF’. Data from the register with reference to quantities imported/purchased from the territory of the republic/sold/ and the remaining stock are sent quarterly to the NFSA.

b) **Authorizing the warehouse.** Storage of PPPF is allowed in specially arranged warehouses, authorized as established by the NFSA. Specialized stores and warehouses, areas relating to them, arranged and equipped with necessary inventory, according to the sanitary-hygienic norms, requirements of environmental protection and fire regulations in force, are authorized by the NFSA based on the record attached to the operating authorization, drawn up by the joint commission composed of representatives of authorized subdivisions of the
Ministry of Health, Ministry of Environment, NFSA and Ministry of Internal Affairs for a period of 5 years.

Use and storage of plant protection products and fertilizers in conditions of domestic agriculture has a seasonal character, implying the need for performing the annual control of the premises meant for this type of production during the period from March to May.

465 specialized warehouses and stores are currently authorized. About 650 controls of the authorization of agricultural warehouses and stores are performed annually.

II. Control of operation and use of PPPF

a) Inspection of use of PPPF. Inspection in terms of use of plant protection products and fertilizers provides checking relevant documents and compliance with the requirements for labeling and packaging. To ensure the implementation of best agricultural practices in order to obtain harvests harmless in terms of residues of pesticides, the NFSA inspectors verify that:

- Agricultural manufacturers / users of PPPF apply treatments only with products approved and registered in the State Register.
- Approved PPPF are applied in strict accordance with terms of application and corresponding maximum number of applications.
- Dose of the applied product and rate of consumption of working solution of pesticides and fertilizers used is observed.
- Waiting time before harvesting the agricultural production phytosanitary treatments were applied to is observed.
- Use of plant protection products and fertilizers is performed only for the purposes for which they were approved
- Phytosanitary treatments, application of fertilizers are entered in the Register of use of phytosanitary and fertilizing products.

b) Declaration on own responsibility concerning observance of rules of use of PFP. Agricultural manufacturer or person carrying out phytosanitary works or providing services in the area of plant protection is required to keep record of use of plant protection products and fertilizers in the Register of use of PPPF. The Register sealed by the territorial subdivision and receipts of tax bills confirming the purchase of plant protection products and fertilizers from holders of the license in the area are attached to the Declaration on own responsibility concerning observance of rules of use of plant protection products and fertilizers received by territorial subdivisions. For agricultural products, including grapes intended for export, the name of active substances of all products used during the vegetation period is specified in the declaration.

c) Food safety certificate. Based on the Certificate on observance of rules of use of PPPF and results of laboratory tests, territorial subdivisions issues the Food safety certificate for each lot of agricultural raw material, food and animal feed of plant origin placed in the market. For monitoring and supervision of issuing the abovementioned certificates, the NFSA territorial subdivisions present operational information monthly, quarterly and annually to the Department for the control of PPPF, which is analyzed, generalized and presented to the management of the Agency.
20.3.3. Control in the area of seed material.
According to the provisions of the Law on seeds, policy in the seed sector is performed by the Ministry of Agriculture and Food Industry, National Food Safety Agency, State Commission for Varieties Testing, which provide organizational framework and conformity with legal provisions.
on the production, processing, control and certification of quality relating to sale of seeds and planting material.

The NFSA territorial subdivisions have a direct task to supervise and certify the identity and quality of seeds, to record and monitor manufacturers and suppliers of seeds and material planting at all stages of production, processing and sale.

Throughout the entire cycle of production of seeds, the NFSA accurately tracks the origin of seeds, also follows that each declaration of multiplication contains information relating to basic seeds, these declarations are stored before issue of certificates in the final phase. Territorial inspectors are primarily responsible for following the process of production and certification, while the Department for seed control supervises the production of seeds at the national level, verifies conformity thereof and keeps records of all seeds ever produced, for which certification was required and offered. Annually, on 1 June and 30 December, the Department from the central level of the NFSA, collects reports from subdivisions on the amount of seeds and planting material produced.

**Registration of operators.** To produce seeds for placing them in the market, operators must be registered in the Register operators for production and/or processing, and/or sale of seeds. Within 5 working days from the application on registration, following the site visit, the inspector draws up a record, in which it proposes, as appropriate, registration or refusal of registration of the operator.

If the registered operator does not meet conditions of activity specified in certificates of registration, the NFSA suspends its registration. Suspension of registration of the operator is performed in accordance with the provisions of the Law no. 68 on seeds based on the record drawn up by the inspector.

**Inspection.** The NFSA performs field inspections for the purpose of certification of seeds to determine compliance with varietal identity, biological purity, value for cultivation and phytosanitary conditions. Inspections are performed by the NFSA territorial inspectors through procedures for inspection and examination established according to the provisions of legislation. Registered manufacturers appoint a representative responsible for conformity of processes of production at all levels for conditioning seeds and placing them in the market.

The control of seed sectors (field inspection) is performed by the inspectors nominated annually by order of the Director of the Agency, based on the declarations on multiplication presented. The inspector is empowered to carry out the control of seed sectors (nurseries), seeds, to downgrade and to reject seed sectors and of production of planting material in case the technology of production of seeds and planting material is violated.

To ensure tracking of each check and inspection, the Department of seed control publishes a decree concerning inspections of fields producing seeds that states, specifically, from: the list of procedures, seeds for which certification was required and names of inspectors and supervisors who perform inspections of those lots.

Several field inspections are carried out in accordance with the OECD Seed Schemes, and the inspection report and the final document that allows the termination of the certification process for the land lot are issued following each inspection.

**Certification of seeds.** The NFSA issues the following certificates:

a) certificate of quality for export of seeds;
b) certificate of quality for import of seeds;
c) certificate of quality/analysis report for seeds for internal use;
d) certificate of biological value;
e) certificate for material for reproduction and for vine, fruit-growing and bacciferous planting material.

The first two certificates in the list are issued at the central level of the Agency, and the other certificates are issued in territorial subdivisions. Certification of quality of seeds is performed at the request of the operator, which has to submit:

- a laboratory sample taken by the state inspector in accordance with the national or international requirements;
- a record of sampling drawn up by the state inspector and signed by both parties;
- a document on field inspection or certificate of quality issued previously;
- documents certifying the origin of seeds imported.

If seeds correspond to the specific requirements, the Certificate of quality of seeds for the consignment of seeds is issued, including based on the results of tests from approved laboratories of territorial subdivisions (for internal use) and the ISTA approved laboratory – for export of seeds.

**Control of import and export of seeds.** Seeds of plant varieties entered in the Catalog of varieties are admitted to import only. After import of seeds based on the certificate of quality for import, the NFSA inspectors perform the control and certification of batches of seeds and issues to the operator the certificate of quality for seeds or analysis report for seeds for internal use.

To authorize the import of seeds, the following documents are required:

a) Certificate of temporary import issued by the NFSA (Department of seed control);
b) Phytosanitary certificate issued by the exporting country.

Imported seeds are admitted for sale if certificates specified above were issued. Seed importers are required to present to the NFSA a written report about all seeds imported, up to a certain date, depending on the type of seeds. Besides, importers who resell the entire production must keep registers with inputs and outputs of seeds. Those registers must be presented to inspectors when requested.

Export and re-export of seeds is admitted only after certification of batches of seeds. Operators perform export of seeds based on the following documents:

- phytosanitary certificate of an international model for seeds export, issued by the National Food Safety Agency;
- certificate of quality for seeds export (orange paper) and for planting material export (white paper) issued by the National Food Safety Agency;
- export contract specifying each lot of seeds and the test report of an accredited laboratory based on which the certificate is issued.

Issue of the certificate of quality for export seed is performed based on the certificate of biological value issued to the manufacturer by the NFSA.

**20.4 Internal procedures**
The following procedures are developed and approved in the area of plant protection:

- ✓ PO - (D-03/1C) – 03/01: Completion and issue of a report on physical inspection of plants, products and related goods for export;
- ✓ PO - (D-03/1C) – 02/01: Inspection of the production for export;
✓ PO - (D-03/1C) – 01/01: Issue of phytosanitary certificates for export and re-export;  
✓ PS – (D-03/1B) – 01/01: Development and publication of forecasts on dissemination of pests and main diseases of agricultural crops. Preparation and dissemination of warning bulletins.

As to the seed control:
✓ PO – 01/03 dated 04.08.2014 ‘Certification of fructiferous planting material’
✓ PS - (D03/03A)-01/01 dated 26.09.2014 ‘Receipt, check and registration of declarations on multiplication of seeds’
✓ PS – (D03/03A) – 01/02 dated 29.09.2014 ‘Field inspection in sectors of production of seeds and issue of field inspection document’
✓ PS – (D03/03A) – 01/01 dated 27.10.2014 ‘Certification of nursery transplants of vegetables’
✓ PS – (03/03A) – 01/04 dated 30.03.2015 ‘Specific procedure for drawing of samples of seeds for post-control’
✓ PO – (D03/03B) – 02/01 dated 26.01.2015 ‘Registration of operators on production and/or processing and/or sale of seeds’
✓ PS – (03/03A) – 01/03 dated 29.08.2014 ‘Issue of the Certificate of quality of seeds’
✓ PO – (03/03A) – 02/02 dated 02.04.2015 ‘Issue of the certificate of quality when importing seeds’
✓ PO – (D03/03B) – 01/01 dated 15.12.2014 ‘Issue of the certificate of quality for import, for fruit-growing, vine-growing, bacciferous and decorative planting material for reproduction’
✓ PO – (D03/03B) – 01/02 dated 29.10.2015 ‘Issue of the certificate of quality for export, for fruit-growing, vine-growing, bacciferous and decorative planting material for reproduction’
✓ PS – (D03/03A) – 02/03 dated 02.04.2015 ‘Issue of the certificate of quality when exporting seeds’
✓ PO – (D03/03B) – 02/02 dated 28.10.2015 ‘Certification of vine planting material’

As to the control of PPPF:
✓ Procedure for authorizing the warehouse for storage of phytosanitary and fertilizing products
✓ Procedure for issuing the certificate on observance of rules of use of plant protection products and fertilizers Cod: PS(D 03/2A)-03/01
✓ Procedure for issuing the import authorization for phytosanitary and fertilizing products. PS (D 03/2B)-02/01
✓ Procedure for inspection of managers of phytosanitary and/or fertilizing products COD: PSCGPUFF-01
✓ Procedure for drawing of samples of pesticides.

The procedures are also being developed as follows:
✓ Procedure for inspection at sites of unloading, customs clearance of batches of phytosanitary and/or fertilizing products for import.
✓ Procedure for controlling vending in phytosanitary and fertilizing products.

20.5. Planning controls. Monitoring programs.
Territorial subdivisions develop annual graphic charts of planned controls which are sent to the appropriate Department at the NFSA central level to be generalized in a joint graphic chart. According to the legislation, the minimum number of inspections per year is determined, and in cases of suspicions or major risks, several inspections in establishments and in fields are planned and performed.

Thus, the NFSA may decide to perform unforeseen inspection out of graphic chart of controls of a person, based on risk assessment, as well as if it has evidential truthful information about the existence of cases of breaches of the related legislation.
In the current control system, the Program for Monitoring and Surveillance in the area of plant health and safety of food of non-animal origin is approved and performed annually. The Program provides drawing of samples and laboratory analyses for the purpose of supervision of products as to the safety and harmlessness index.

20.6 Contingency plans
By GD no. 558 dated 22.07.2011 on emergency phytosanitary measures to prevent introduction and dissemination in the Republic of Moldova of some quarantine organisms, several contingency plans were approved. When the phytosanitary inspector confirms the presence of a quarantine pest, he/she reports to the NFSA central level. The central level decides to start actions according to the contingency plan. In case of pests, which can generate major hazards, by the decision of the Government of the Republic of Moldova, local and, as appropriate, national authorities get involved. The list of plans available currently is presented below.

1. Provisional phytosanitary emergency measures to prevent introduction and dissemination in the Republic of Moldova of Anoplophora chinensis (Forster);
2. Provisional phytosanitary emergency measures to prevent introduction and dissemination in the Republic of Moldova of Phytophthora ramorum Werres, De Cock & Man int Veld sp. nov;
3. Emergency measures to prevent dissemination in the Republic of Moldova of Diabrotica virgifera Le Conte;
4. Protective measures to prevent dissemination in the Republic of Moldova of Pseudomonas solanacearum (Smith) Smith;
5. Measures to prevent introduction and dissemination in the Republic of Moldova of Pepino mosaic virus;
6. Measures to prevent introduction and dissemination in the Republic of Moldova of pine wood nematode;
7. Provisional emergency measures to prevent introduction and dissemination in the Republic of Moldova of Dryocosmus kuriphilus Yasumatsu;
8. Measures to combat and prevent dissemination in the Republic of Moldova of San Jose Scale;
9. Provisional phytosanitary emergency measures to prevent introduction and dissemination in the Republic of Moldova of Rhynchophorus ferrugineus (Olivier);
10. Measures to combat potato cyst nematodes in the Republic of Moldova;
11. Measures to prevent introduction and dissemination in the Republic of Moldova of potato spindle tuber viroid;
12. Provisional emergency measures to prevent introduction and propagation in the Republic of Moldova of Gibberella cincinata Nirenberg & O’Donnell;
13. Measures to combat potato ring rot in the Republic of Moldova;
14. Measures to combat bacterium Ralstonia solanacearum (Smith) Yabuuchi et al. in the Republic of Moldova;
15. Measures to combat potato wart disease in the Republic of Moldova;

20.7 Laboratories involved in control.
During control, the phytosanitary inspector performs visual inspection and sampling. If there are symptoms of damage or organisms as such, the inspector, using the available laboratory equipment (magnifying glass, disinfection kit, microscope, etc.) and teaching material (collection, phytosanitary records, operational and specific procedures, etc.), identifies the organism detected. If there are suspicions that the organism is quarantine one, the sample is sent to the SE ‘National Center for Verification and Certification of Plant Production and Soil’ (4 M. Manole str., Chisinau). The sample is packaged in a safe packet with a unique number and accompanied by the sampling record specifying the organism to be identified. The laboratory mentioned above has
national accreditation (of the National Accreditation Center ‘MOLDAC’) and international accreditation (Romanian National Accreditation Body ‘RENAR’).

Since 2009, Moldova has a laboratory accredited for testing seeds according to the requirements of the Standard SM SREN ISO/CEI 17025:2006 and international accreditation – ISTA, called the State Enterprise ‘State Center for Certification of Seed Material’ (SE ‘SCTSM’).

In the area of the control of phytosanitary and fertilizing products, services of the Laboratory for Pesticide Certification and Quality Control at the State Center for Certification and Approval of Pesticides are used.

20.8 Available human and technical resources
Over 180 people work within rayon and municipal subdivisions in the area of phytosanitary quarantine and phytosanitary monitoring, seed control and control of PPPF. Phytosanitary inspectors have:
- sampling kits;
- microscopes (10 subdivisions were equipped with modern microscopes with video camera, photo cameras, grain samples, thermometers, saws etc with the support of the ACED Project (USAID) in the period of 2014-2015. The other subdivisions operate less advanced equipment)
- tool kit required for performing the control of fresh fruits and vegetables as to quality indices;
- phytosanitary records;
- collections and herbariums with symptoms of damage of plant pests;
- methodical instructions on phytosanitary supervision and observations of development of plant pests.

20.9 Staff training
Personnel training is performed according to the Annual plan for professional development of staff, which is developed based on proposals of NFSA central level departments and on analysis of training needs that is based on the findings during site visits by the NFSA management and reports of internal audit service.

Annual training courses are organized by the NFSA in cooperation with other organizations and agencies involved in research in the area of agriculture, education and production of seeds.

In the area of seed control trainings are offered by inspectors on a set of standard operating procedures based on OECD and ISTA guidelines. These refer to the process of registration and official recognition of manufacturers of seeds, to registration of parcels of seeds and parcels intended for certification, control procedures, sampling of seeds for the period of post-control, etc.

20.10 Reporting systems.
Reporting in the area of phytosanitary is performed monthly by submitting for archiving of the 2nd copy of the phytosanitary certificates, issued from the territorial subdivisions to the central level. At the same time, information on export of goods subject to physical inspection is presented with division by groups of countries (CIS, European Union, Russian Federation) for the previous month.

Data are collected from databases on issue of phytosanitary certificates and physical inspection reports. Rayon databases are accessed by employees of the Department for plant health of the central level, which summarizes, analyzes them and generates reports. At the same time data on
development of plant harmful organisms are presented weekly. Information received forms the basis of preparing the Forecast of dissemination of the main pests and diseases of agricultural crops and recommendations to combat them.

Findings of the control as of plant protection products are recorded in a special accountable form. An Evaluation sheet is attached to each inspection report, according to the activity the manager of plant protection products and fertilizers is carrying out: use, storage and sale. If the entity liable to control works in several areas listed above, respective sheets will be attached also to the control document.

In case of non-presentation of the Quarterly report on import, sale and storage of phytosanitary and fertilizing products, the inspector hands over a notification to the importer/trader of PPPF. In case of finding observance of all PPPF management rules or in case of detection of minor infringements, for which elucidation a verbal recommendation is sufficient when performing the control, conformity with the requirements of the effective legislation will be stated. All data about operator and PPPF movement are entered in the registers and databases described in p. 20.11

With the submission of the declaration on multiplication for approval to the Department for seed control, initial information received is stored in an Excel spreadsheet, which generates a label number, thanks to which any error in record keeping is excluded. All the information generated in certification and official inspection of the process of seed production is distributed and completed by the following entities:

- Representative of the authorized supplier;
- Territorial inspector;
- General inspector of the Department for seed control;
- Laboratory testing the quality of seeds.

Records are stored in the computers of the Department for seed control online, as well as printed and archived. To qualify for official seed certification, manufacturers of seeds must obtain the authorization for this type of activity, which stipulates that operators intending to produce and sell the planting material must be first registered by the NFSA, which is confirmed by issuing the Certificate of registration.

20.11 Databases and information systems
The following registers and databases exist in the area of phytosanitary control:

- Database of phytosanitary certificates issued, with online access from the central level
- Register of operators,
- Register of operators from the seed system.

The database is completed by inspectors who carry out physical inspection and are empowered by the NFSA Order for issue of phytosanitary certificates. The central level staff has access to database for analysis and systematization of information.

Several databases and registers are used in the current PPPF control system:

- Register PPPF import traceability (online). Data are updated when issuing PPPF import authorization.
- Register of controls carried out.
- Register of registers for import, sale and stock of PFP.
- Register of registers for use of PFP.
• Register of issuing certificates of observance of PPPF use rules
• Register of issuing authorizations for operation of the warehouses for storing PPF.

20.12 Cooperation with other departments and other organizations
Cooperation with other departments and organizations is performed nationally and externally.
At the national level with:
• Ministry of Agriculture and Food Industry;
• Customs Service;
• agricultural research institutions;
• associations of manufacturers and exporters of the production of plant origin.

At the international level:
• International bodies to which the Republic of Moldova is a party (International Plant Protection Convention, European and Mediterranean Plant Protection Organization);
• national organizations in the area of plant protection and quarantine from different countries;

20.13 Priorities of the official inspection for the period of 2016-2020
• Acquiring accreditation of phytosanitary inspection in accordance with ISO 17020;
• Development and implementation of the Action plan on development of the phytosanitary system for the period of 2016-2020;
• Organization of the control of compliance as to quality indicators of fresh fruits and vegetables.
• Development of operational procedures:
  o for phytosanitary inspection of places of storage, warehousing and sorting of the production of plant origin,
  o for physical inspection of agricultural lands,
  o on phytosanitary passports,
  o on the control at sites of unloading/customs clearance of consignments with pesticides,
  o on combating unauthorized trade in PFP,
    o for drawing of samples of plant health products for the purpose of the quality control,
• Implementation of the National Action Plan for Sustainable Use of Pesticides.
• Implementation of the National Plan of Monitoring the Quality of Pesticides.

Chapter 21. Laboratories control and management system

21.1. The relevant legislation
• Law no. 235 dated 01.12.2011 on accreditation and conformity assessment activities
• Law no.221 dated 19.10.2007 on sanitary-veterinary activity.
• Law no. 228 dated 23.09.2010 on plant protection and phytosanitary quarantine
• Law no. 119 dated 22.06.2004 on phytosanitary and fertilizing products
• Law no.50 dated 28.03.2013 on official control for the purpose of check of compliance with the fodder and nutritional legislation and the rules concerning health and wellbeing of animals.
• Law no.113 dated 18.05.2012 on establishing general principles and prescriptions of the legislation on safety of foodstuffs.
• GD no. 221 dated 16.03.2009 on approval of Rules on microbiological criteria for foodstuffs.
21.2. Selection and designation of laboratories involved in the official control

Selection and designation of laboratories is performed by public auction and based on the Operational procedure ‘Designation of laboratories to perform testing of samples taken during the official inspection on plant health, safety of food of animal and non-animal origin and animal feed’. The procedure provides designation of national laboratories, but many principles included in the procedure are applicable also to the designation of international laboratories.

The procedure provides setting up a Commission of assessment and designation of laboratories that verifies documents of applying laboratories and takes the decision on acceptance or refusal of designation. The Commission consists of 4 persons from the central level of the NFSA and is composed at the level of the Head of the Department for laboratory management and risk assessment.

Subsequently, letters notifying the laboratories signed by the Director General of the NFSA are issued. In 2016, the NFSA had designed 10 laboratories that are involved in the official inspection: 7 national laboratories and 3 foreign laboratories. The list of laboratories and areas of accreditation thereof is set forth in para. 21.3. During the year, the Laboratory control department of the NFSA performs working visits and monitors the activity of laboratories designated.

When laboratories outside the NFSA system are selected, the Commission only develops the requirements and criteria for selection the laboratory. Subsequently, the Public Procurement Agency organizes auction and determines laboratories awardees.

Laboratories from other countries can be contracted directly and the price of services is defined by direct negotiations. When NFSA is supported by donors that bear costs of testing abroad, the NFSA delegates a representative to the commission for selection of the donor, who decides on laboratories that will offer testing services.

A number of requirements are imposed to designated laboratories that can perform the analyses of samples taken within the official inspection and national supervision plan. These conditions are set out explicitly in the international standard ISO/CEI 17025:2006.

Accreditation of the laboratory is a mandatory factor but not sufficient. Within the assessing, the attention is paid to development of the personnel and results of proficiency tests laboratories must perform regularly. For proficiency tests, there is cooperation with laboratories from European Union countries. For the area of animal health, tests are performed in cooperation with laboratories designed by the OIE as reference laboratories for certain diseases, such as Avian Influenza or Newcastle disease.
To fulfill the National plan for monitoring residues in products of animal origin and National programs for monitoring and supervision, the National reference laboratory I.P. RVDC subordinated administratively and technically to the NFSA is designed.

21.3. List of laboratories involved in the official control

**Table 21. Laboratories involved in the official control and accreditation areas**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name of the laboratory</th>
<th>Methods accredited, accreditation area</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| TL for food of animal origin of the Republican Veterinary and Diagnosis Center, Chisinau, Moldova | 1. Determination of moisture (meat products, milk products, honey)  
2. Determination of dry substances (milk products)  
3. Determination of fat (meat products)  
4. Determination of the content of chlorides (meat products, milk products)  
5. Determination of the content of starch (meat products)  
6. Determination of protein (meat products)  
7. Determination of acidity (milk products)  
8. Determination of free acids (natural honey)  
9. Determination of mass fractions of invert sugar and sucrose (natural honey)  
10. Determination of hydroxymethyl furfural (natural honey)  
11. Determination of diastatic index (natural honey)  
12. Determination of mass fractions of nitrites (meat products) |
<p>| National accreditation MOLDAC | |</p>
<table>
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<tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>13.</td>
<td>Determination of the content of arsenic (meat, fish, milk)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14.</td>
<td>Determination of the content of radionuclides: Cesium-137; Strontium-90 (meat, milk, eggs, fish, honey)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15.</td>
<td>Determination of tetracycline (meat, milk, natural honey)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16.</td>
<td>Determination of streptomycin (meat, milk, natural honey)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17.</td>
<td>Determination of chloramphenicol (meat, milk, natural honey)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18.</td>
<td>Determination of nitrofurans (meat, milk, natural honey)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>19.</td>
<td>Determination of heavy metals Cd, Hg, Pb (meat, fish, eggs, milk, honey)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20.</td>
<td>Determination of sulphamid (natural honey)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>21.</td>
<td>Determination of purity of fats (milk products)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>22.</td>
<td>Determination of Salmonella (meat and meat products, milk and milk products, fish and fish products, eggs and egg products)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>23.</td>
<td>Determination of Listeria monocytogenes (meat and meat products, milk and milk products, fish and fish products, eggs and egg products)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>24.</td>
<td>Aerobic colony count at 30°C (meat and meat products, milk and milk products, fish and fish products, eggs and egg products)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25.</td>
<td>Determination of Staphylococcus aureus (meat, milk, eggs)</td>
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<tr>
<td>26.</td>
<td>Determination of Escherichia Coli (meat, milk)</td>
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<tr>
<td>27.</td>
<td>Determination of Enterobacteriaceae (meat, milk, eggs)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>28.</td>
<td>Determination of Sulfitreducing clostridia (meat products)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>29.</td>
<td>Industrial sterility (canned meat)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**TL for food of the Republican Veterinary and Diagnosis Center Donduseni, Moldova**

- Items 1-12; 24; 25; 26; 27; 28; 29; 31 from the list above, additionally:
  - Determination of solubility index (natural honey)
  - Determination of density (milk and milk products)
  - Determination of phosphatase (milk and milk products)
  - Determination of sodium bicarbonate (milk and milk products)
  - Determination of yeast and mold (meat and meat products, milk and milk products, fish and fish products)

**National Center for Verification and Certification of Plant Production and Soil, Chisinau, Moldova**

- Determination of residues of organochlorine, organophosphate pesticides and other types of pesticides by liquid chromatography MS/MS-Products of non-animal origin;
- Macro- and microscopic identification of seeds of quarantine and non-quarantine weeds – cereals, cereal mixes, cake, mixtures thereof, soil, fodder products;
- Isolation and cultivation in culture media of quarantine bacterium Erwinia amylovora – Leaves, flowers, branches, plants Rozaceae;
- Determination of Plum pox virus by enzyme linked immunoassay ELISA – leaves, flowers, fruits and branches of species Prunus spp.;
- Macro- and microscopic identification of quarantine and non-quarantine pests – Products of non-animal origin subject to phytosanitary quarantine;
- Isolation and cultivation in growth media, detection of phytopathogenic fungus Monilinia fructicola – leaves, flowers, fruits and branches of Rozaceae;
- Determination of nematodes Ditylenchus destructor and Ditylenchus dipsaci, Morphological and morpho-biometric identification – seeds, bulbs and tubers.

**Center for Standardization and Experimentation of Quality of Canned Production, Chisinau; Moldova**

- Determination of several indicators in canned meat and meat with plants, canned fish and fish with plants, products prepared from vegetables, fruits and other edible parts, nuts, sugar and sugar products, vegetable oils, natural honey, fresh fruits and vegetables, dried fruits and vegetables,
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Accreditation Moldac</th>
<th>quick-frozen fruits and vegetables, coffee, tea, cocoa and spices, cereals, cereal grains.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| National Center of Alcoholic Beverages Testing, Chisinau, Moldova | 1. Organoleptic analysis – alcoholic products;  
2. Determination of total dry extract. Determination of dry substances - French brandy, ardent-spirit Ethyl alcohol Soft drinks;  
3. Determination of relative density - Wines, must and concentrated must;  
4. Determination of ethyl alcohol - Alcoholic beverages (distillates, French brandy, brandy, rum, whisky, schnaps, vodka, gin, liqueurs, balms, cocktails, appetizers etc.) Soft drinks Wine and wine-based products Low-alcohol beverages Must and concentrated must, liqueurs, beer;  
5. Determination of relative density - alcoholic products;  
6. Determination of total acidity - Grape must and concentrated must Wine and wine-based products Alcoholic beverages (liqueurs, balms, appetizers etc.) Ethyl alcohol Beer Soft drinks;  
7. Determination of volatile acidity - Wine and wine-based products Alcoholic beverages and raw material for the production thereof (French brandy, brandy, distillates etc.);  
8. Determination of alkalinity – Vodka;  
9. Determination of sugars - Wine and wine-based products Alcoholic beverages (French brandy, brandy, liqueurs, balms, cocktails, appetizers etc.);  
10. Determination of free and total sulfur dioxide - Wine and wine-based products Alcoholic beverages and raw material for the production thereof (wine and fruit distillates), must and concentrated must;  
11. Determination of aldehydes - Alcoholic beverages and raw material for the production thereof (distillates, French brandy, brandy, whisky, schnaps etc.);  
12. Determination of esters - Alcoholic beverages and raw material for the production thereof (distillates, French brandy, brandy);  
13. Determination of tanning substances - French brandy and wine distillates;  
14. Determination of pH - Alcoholic beverages and raw material for the production thereof (wines, distillates, French brandy, brandy) Grape concentrated must;  
15. Determination of water soluble substances - Grape concentrated must;  
16. Determination of total extract - Alcoholic beverages (liqueurs etc.) and low-alcohol beverages;  
17. Determination of pressure - Sparkling, effervescent, aerated, semi-sparkling wines. Carbonated alcoholic beverages;  
18. Determination of iron - Alcoholic beverages and raw material for the production thereof;  
19. Determination of optical density (OD), color - French brandy and distillates, brandy, beer;  
20. Determination of arsenic Alcoholic beverages and soft drinks;  
21. Determination of Folin Ciocalteu index Concentrated must;  
22. Determination of lead - Alcoholic beverages and soft drinks;  
23. Determination of copper Alcoholic beverages and soft drinks;  
24. Determination of radionuclids: Cesium-137, Strontium-90 - Alcoholic beverages and soft drinks; |
| Laboratory testing center of the National Center for Public Health Chisinau; Moldova | 1. Determination of toxic metals: (Pb, Cd, Cu, Zn) Iron Nickel - Food Oils and fats Oils and fats Food additives, dietary supplements;  
2. Determination of toxic metals: Mn, Pb, Ni, Cu, Zn, Cr, Cd, Fe, Ca, Mg, Sr - Mineral and potable water;  
3. Determination of mercury - Food;  
4. Determination of nitrites - Meat and meat products, eggs infant food (up to 1 year) Mineral and potable water;  
5. Determination of the content of pesticides derivatives of dithiocarbamic acid (mancozeb, etc.) - Tobacco and tobacco products Fruits, vegetables, berries and their derivatives, juices; | 1. Determination of Avian Influenza  
2. Determination of Newcastle disease | Note: areas contracted by the NFSA are specified only |
| 25. Determination of malvidin diglucoside - Rose, red wine and musts;  
26. Determination of ochratoxin A Wines, juices and musts;  
27. Determination of residues of phthalates (DBP) - Alcoholic products;  
28. Determination of methanol and higher alcohols - Alcoholic beverages and raw material for the production thereof (distillates, French brandy, brandy, whisky, schnaps etc.);  
29. Determination of microimpurities - Alcoholic beverages (vodka, schnaps etc.);  
30. Determination of organic acids: malic acid lactic acid tartaric acid citric acid acetic acid Wine and wine-based products Raw materials for wines and distillates Alcoholic beverages and low-alcohol beverages;  
31. Determination of preservatives (sorbic acid, benzoic acid - Wine and wine-based products Low-alcohol beverages and soft drinks;  
32. Determination of total dry extract - Wine and wine-based products;  
33. Content in extract - in malt must Beer;  
34. Physicochemical stability: - tendency to protein disorders - tendency to crystalline disorders - tendency to reverse colloidal disorders - the presence of a gelatin overdose in Wine material and treated wine French brandy, brandy Soft drinks;  
35. Presence of synthetic dyes - Wine and wine-based products;  
36. Presence of furfural - Ethyl alcohol;  
37. Microscopic analysis of sediment in wine - Wine and wine-based products;  
38. Purity test - Refined ethyl alcohol;  
39. Oxidability test - Refined ethyl alcohol. | Institute for Diagnosis and Animal Health. Bucharest, Romania | Accreditation RENAR | 1. Determination of residues of veterinary medications in food of animal origin. | Note: areas contracted by the NFSA are specified only |
| Institute for Hygiene and Veterinary Public Health Bucharest, Romania | Accreditation RENAR | If laboratories of the RM have not analytical facilities for laboratory tests required, it is decided to contract laboratories from abroad that are designed according to a procedure similar to the one for designation of national laboratories. |

In addition to the specified above, sanitary-veterinary expertise laboratories operate within the NFSA territorial subdivisions. The goal of bacteriology and serology sections of laboratories is
detection, prevention and liquidation of diseases in animals, and quality and safety of food of animal and plant origin is determined by express methods within laboratories placed in agri-food markets (which are divisions of territorial laboratories), conditions of storage and sale thereof are checked, as well as accompanying documents for food arrived for sale in markets are checked.

21.4. National reference laboratories
Moldova has a National reference laboratory designed by Law no. 221. This is the Republican Veterinary and Diagnosis Center that is the National reference laboratory in the area of veterinary and food safety, subordinated administratively and technically to the National Food Safety Agency.

21.5. System for controlling laboratories
Laboratory Management Service of the Department for laboratory management and risk assessment exercises control of laboratories. Specifically:

- Develops mandatory norms and instructions for laboratories in the area of animal health, plant health, safety of products of animal and non-animal origin;
- Approves regulations of organization and functioning developed by testing laboratories subordinated to the NFSA relating to the area of animal health, plant health, safety of products of animal and non-animal origin and submits them for approval of the NFSA Director General;
- Rates testing laboratories subordinated to the NFSA, municipal and rayon Departments relating to the area of animal health, plant health, safety of products of animal and non-animal origin;
- Drafts and updates annually the list of laboratories approved in accordance with the effective legislation;
- Monitors the Proficiency Tests results and directs measures to eliminate non-conformities;
- Monitors and centralizes the periodic reports on activity carried out by testing laboratories subordinated to the NFSA;
- Implements all policies and procedures to ensure achieving objectives determined at the level of structure within the Department for laboratory management and risk assessment;

The measures listed above are implemented in accordance with the GD no. 51 dated 16.01.2013 on the organization and functioning of the National Food Safety Agency and in accordance with the Department Regulation. The procedure for monitoring designed laboratories is under development.

21.6. Available human and technical resources
The National Food Safety Agency has within a single laboratory: Republican Veterinary and Diagnosis Center, being accredited in the area of food of animal origin as to the standard SM SR EN ISO/CEI 17025:2006 by the National Accreditation Center of the Republic of Moldova ‘MOLDAC’.

I.P.RVDC, with branches in Donduseni, Drochia, Cahul, according to the staffing list for 2016, has within 139 employees. 133 persons are employed in 37 territorial sanitary-veterinary diagnostic laboratories.

The Department for laboratory management and risk assessment and specialized audit with total human capacity of 10 persons is involved in assessing laboratories subordinated administratively to the NFSA and laboratories of territorial subdivisions.
21.7. Staff training
In this control system, training is organised at two levels: for the personnel from the NFSA central level and for the personnel of laboratories subordinated to the NFSA.

Specialists of the Department of the central level are trained according to the Annual training plan, in addition the staff benefit from trainings provided by partners from other countries, European and international organizations.

Employees of I.P. RVDC benefit from trainings with various topics, both within the country and abroad, financed by both RVDC and some international organizations. Participation in the training courses is confirmed by acquiring certificates of participation.

There is a training plan developed according to the management system of the standard ISO 17025. The plan is developed by the representative of the RVDC quality management, approved by the IP RVDC Director. The list of trainings for the IP RVDC employees is presented at the end of each year.

21.8. Information systems and databases
Organigram of the information system LIMS (Laboratory Information Management System) was developed and a working group for the implementation of the system LIMS was created within the laboratory of IP RVDC.

The Laboratory Information Management System is designed to manage in full the activities of sanitary-veterinary and food safety laboratories and is an essential element in the quality of analytical act and processing of laboratory information.

The system will allow input of data at the local level (laboratories / national institutes) and availability thereof at the national level. It will provide a fully paperless flow through the collection, processing, storage, transmission and presentation of data.

Since July 2016, the system LIMS has been already running in the area of food safety. National laboratories involved in the official inspection enter data related to the results of tests of samples taken accordingly. Reporting on implementation of Strategic Measures for Animal Health has to begin in 2016.

Implementation of the Laboratory Information Management System is one of the conditions required for accreditation of the NFSA laboratories, according to ISO 17025. Integrated national information system will be the main provider of information for substantiating development decisions and policies, both at the central and local level. It must become in time a fully integrated electronic system without paper records.

21.9. Cooperation with other organizations
In the area of laboratory management, the NFSA cooperates mostly with the National Center for Public Health of Moldova and its subdivisions. The NFSA has established cooperation with the Institute for Diagnosis and Animal Health (IDAH) in Bucharest. The cooperation aims to rendering services annually:

2015 contract for providing services by the IDAH for training persons appointed by the RVDC on topics required
contract for providing services by the IDAH for furnishing laboratory tests to the RVDC as to schemes of proficiency tests required by the RVDC with topics organized by the IDAH

21.10. Priorities for developing official laboratory control system during 2016-2020
Ensuring operation of the official specialized laboratory system, including by:

- providing laboratories of the system for animal health, plant health and food safety with supplies and other equipment required for performing laboratory tests in accordance with the requirements to export in EU and import in the Republic of Moldova;
- personnel training for respective areas of activity;
- developing and implementing the management system according to the international standard ISO/IEC 17025:2006 ‘General requirements for the competence of testing and calibration laboratories’, and accrediting laboratories as to the mentioned international standard.
- Commencing the laboratory work at border inspection posts, which will perform a number of tests as per 2017 and as per few indices only.
- Renovating zone laboratories in Balti and Cahul.
- Modernizing the laboratory network in the area of plant health and safety of products of non-animal origin.