



REPUBLIC OF BULGARIA  
MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE  
BULGARIAN FOOD SAFETY AGENCY

[www.bfsa.bg](http://www.bfsa.bg)

**BULGARIAN FOOD SAFETY AGENCY**

# **Functions and structure, System for fraud prevention and quality control in Bulgaria**





## **BULGARIAN FOOD SAFETY AGENCY (BFSA)**

- is the Competent state authority in the Republic of Bulgaria for official controls on the entire agri-food chain.
- was established in the beginning of 2011 with the aim to unify the control based on the principle “from farm to fork”;
- is managed by an executive director assisted by 3 deputy executive directors and chief secretary. The executive director is also CVO of Bulgaria.



## STRUCTURE

The Agency performs its activity at Central and Regional level

### CENTRAL LEVEL

➤ **Headquarters include:**

- General administration
- Specialized administration
- General Directorate “Verification of the official control”

**Within BFSA there are specialized structures for research, laboratory and diagnostic activities:**

- National Diagnostic and Research Veterinary Institute
- Central Laboratory for Veterinary Control and Ecology;
- Central Laboratory for Chemical Testing and Control
- Central Laboratory for Plant Quarantine;
- Central Laboratory for Qualification of grain and feed

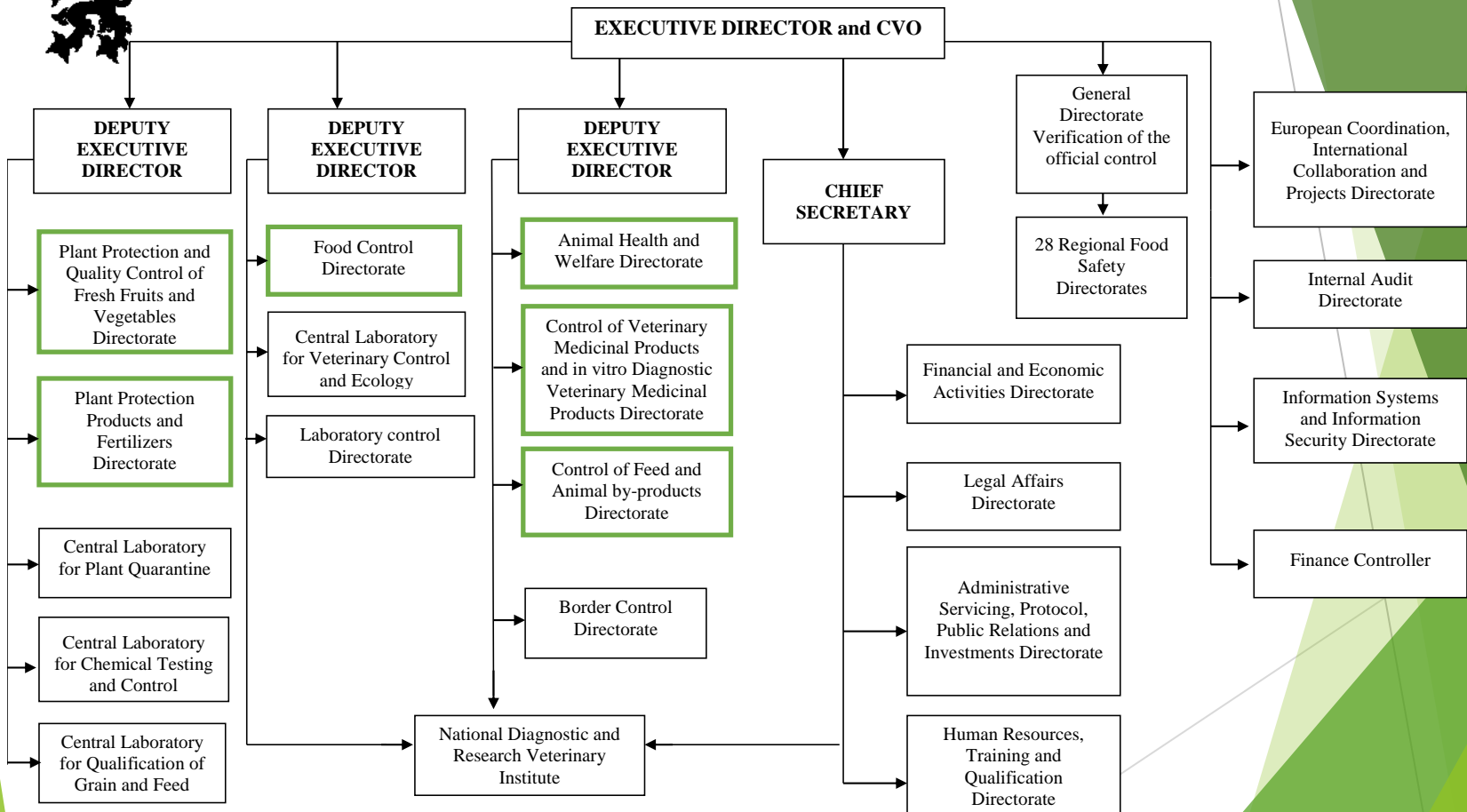


## REGIONAL LEVEL

- The territory of Bulgaria is divided into 28 regions. In each region BFSA has a Regional Food Safety Directorate (RFSD) responsible for the implementation of the official controls at regional level;
- In each RFSD there are Food Safety Department and Animal health and welfare Department
- 9 Regional Testing Laboratories on the territory of the country.



# Bulgarian Food Safety Agency





## FUNCTIONS

### **BFSA performs official controls on:**

- animal health and welfare, animal identification;
- food and food-contact materials;
- feed and animal by-products (ABP);
- veterinary medicinal products (VMP);
- border control;
- phytosanitary activities;
- plant protection products and fertilizers.



## **LEGISLATION related to food fraud:**

- ✓ **Regulation (EC) No 178/2002** laying down the general principles and requirements of food law, establishing the European Food Safety Authority and laying down procedures in matters of food safety
- ✓ **Regulation (EU) 2017/625** Official control regulation
- ✓ **Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2019/1715** laying down rules for the functioning of the information management system for official controls and its system components (the IMSOC Regulation)
- ✓ **Regulation (EU) No 1308/2013** establishing a common organization of the markets in agricultural products
- ✓ **Regulation (EU) No 1169/2011** on the provision of food information to consumers
- ✓ **Commission Regulation (EC) No 543/2008** laying down detailed rules for the application of Council Regulation (EC) No 1234/2007 as regards the marketing standards for poultry meat
- ✓ **Commission Regulation (EEC) No 2568/91** on the characteristics of olive oil and olive-residue oil and on the relevant methods of analysis
- ✓ **Regulation (EC) No 1924/2006** on nutrition and health claims made on foods



## LEGISLATION related to food fraud:

- ✓ Agri-food chain management law
- ✓ Food law
- ✓ Law on the Implementation of the Common Organization of Agricultural Markets of the European Union
- ✓ Ordinance 7 on the sampling rules for food
- ✓ Ordinance № 12/2021 on the specific requirements for distance trade with food
- ✓ Ordinance on the requirements for labeling and presenting food





## LEGISLATION related to food fraud:

- ✓ Ordinance on the requirements for the composition and characteristics of salt for food purposes
- ✓ Ordinance on the specific requirements for milk and dairy products
- ✓ Ordinance on the requirements for honey intended for human consumption
- ✓ Ordinance on the requirements for cocoa and chocolate products
- ✓ Ordinance on the requirements for fruit jams, jellies, marmalades, jelly marmalades and sweetened chestnut puree
- ✓ Ordinance on the requirements for fruit juices and certain similar products intended for human consumption
- ✓ Bulgarian State Standards (BSS), approved standards (AS) and industry standards (IS).



## FOOD FROUD PREVENTION

At central level of the Bulgarian Food Safety Agency by order of the Executive Director is appointed a contact unit for the Food Fraud System of the European Commission.

The unit includes experts from all specialized directorates:

- Food Safety Directorate
- Animal health and welfare Directorate
- Feed and ABP control Directorate
- Laboratory control Directorate
- Plant Protection and Quality Control of Fresh Fruits and Vegetables Directorate
- Plant Protection Products and Fertilizers Directorate
- Control of Veterinary Medicinal Products Directorate
- Border Control Directorate



## **FUNCTIONS of the unite:**

- To analyze the information received through the Food Fraud (FF) platform by the National Contact Point (NCP) in the Ministry of agriculture and to send the information to RFSD for the necessary checks and measures;
- To render methodological assistance to the RFSD;
- To process and analyze the information received from the RFSD and to prepare the follow up information which is uploaded in FF platform by the NCP;
- To prepare the information and documentation for outgoing notifications in case of suspicion for food fraud;
- To maintain electronic registers of incoming and outgoing notifications



## STANDARD OPERATING PROCEDURE FOR FIGHT AGAINST FRAUD IN THE AGRICULTURAL CHAIN

In the beginning of 2022 the unit prepared a STANDARD OPERATING PROCEDURE FOR FIGHT AGAINST FRAUD IN THE AGRICULTURAL CHAIN

In the scope of the procedure are:

- Preparation of a national plan for monitoring and control of fraud in the agri-food chain;
- Actions in case of receipt of information about fraudulent practices;
- Actions in case of suspicion of fraudulent practices that occurred during the official control.



## Preparation of a national plan for monitoring and control of fraud in the agri-food chain - risk criteria

- ❖ History of product fraud – cases from FF platform, findings during the official controls;
- ❖ Economic factors: product availability (the lower the product availability, the greater the risk); existence of variety (the more options there are on the market from one product, the greater the risk / e.g. extra virgin olive oil, bee honey)
- ❖ Difficulty in committing fraudulent activity: cost and complexity of the process (the more complex and expensive the process, the lower the risk); staff participation (the more staff involved, the lower the risk); manner of distribution of the product (if the product is distributed in bulk, without packaging and label, the risk is higher)

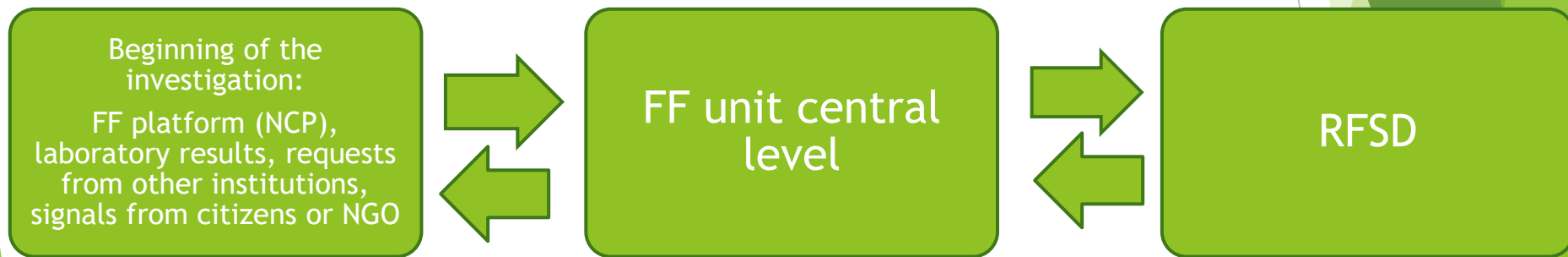


## Preparation of a national plan for monitoring and control of fraud in the agri-food chain - risk criteria

- ❖ Complexity of the supply chain: geographical origin (the longer the distance from the source to the market, the greater the risk); number of organizations in the supply chain (the greater the number of participants, the greater the risk); number of participants within the supplier organization (the greater the number of production sites within one supplier organization, the greater the risk);
- ❖ Data on non-compliances under the Food Quality Control Program;
- ❖ Product characteristics: level of processing (the more complex the processing, the higher the risk); physical nature of the product (better homogenization of ingredients liquids pose the highest risk); number of ingredients in the final product (the more ingredients, the greater the risk).



## Actions in case of receipt of information about fraudulent practices





## Actions in case of suspicion of fraudulent practices that occurred during the official control







## Factors that are a prerequisite for suspicion of fraud in the agri-food chain

- ❖ Economic benefit - lower price than usual for the product;
- ❖ Availability on the market- mass products that are usually bought by consumers;
- ❖ Suppliers - frequent change of suppliers for the same product;
- ❖ Complexity of the supply chain - the product goes through multiple suppliers before reaching the final user;
- ❖ Data from the FF platform.

Examples of high risk products: honey, olive oil, spices, dairy products, organic food, products with protected denominations.



## Other activities

With the adoption of the new Food Law, an obligation is introduced for the registration of operators who conduct electronic trade with food.

Cooperation with the EU authorities (operation “From the heavens”, OPSON)

Meetings were held with representatives of the Ministry of Interior, the Commission for consumer protection and the National Revenue Agency in connection with the control of electronic commerce and clarification of the powers of the individual competent authorities.

An investigation of illegal trade with food of animal origin in Facebook is on going.



## QUALITY CONTROL

From 2016, samples are taken according to national standards.

Since 2019, a National Program for Control of Quality Characteristics of Foods is developed and implemented in Bulgaria.

The program aims to ensure effective and systematic official control in order to monitor the quality characteristics of foods for which there are requirements in legislation or standards and physicochemical indicators from technological documentation.



# QUALITY CONTROL

## The program covers:

- ❖ foods produced according to national, approved and industry standards;
- ❖ table salt;
- ❖ bee honey;
- ❖ the energy value of food;
- ❖ dairy products for non-dairy fats and physicochemical parameters according to the manufacturer's documentation;
- ❖ frozen whole poultry carcasses and chilled and frozen poultry cuts for absorbed water;
- ❖ olive oils;
- ❖ foods with nutritional claims.



**THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION!**

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