**QUESTIONNAIRE**

FOR

A desk study on FOOD SAFETY ofcountries from which EXPORTing of Food products into the kingdom of saudi arabia are permitted

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| --- |
| **Note to the competent authority** |
| This questionnaire should be completed and returned to the Saudi Food and Drug Authority officially through the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. |
| *the information requested should be sent electronically (word) to email* [*ICD@sfda.gov.sa*](mailto:ICD@sfda.gov.sa) |

**From:**

**The competent authority in the exporting country ………**

**To:**

Director of Executive Department of International Cooperation

Saudi Food and Drug Authority

Kingdom of Saudi Arabia

**COUNTRY FOOD SAFETY EVALUATION**

**Questionnaire**

**COUNTRY FOOD SAFETY EVALUATION**

**Explanatory note:**

The evaluation shall provide to the KSA a comprehensive description under which kind of legal conditions food in the exporting country is produced. The results of the evaluation of the questionnaire will have influence on:

1. The listing of a country for the import of a specific product category
2. The frequency of onsite assessments of establishments and competent authorities through Saudi Food and Drug A
3. The guarantees to be provided by the exporting country by issuing specific certificates for a specific product
4. The physical inspection frequency of the products from a specific country at the border
5. The frequency of laboratory checks on the imported product
6. The conditions for bans and lifting of bans for products in certain situations

The general chapters (column 2 of the questionnaire table) of the questionnaire may, depending on the type of product, intended for import, include:

A Organization of Legal Bodies, general empowerments for the Food Safety Controls

B Organization General

C Organization in Detail

D Qualification of staff

E Training

F Food safety Rules

G Food Hygiene Rules

H Animal health

I Veterinary Medical and Biotechnical products

J Animal Identification and control of animal movements

K Animal by Products

L Plant Health

M Plant protection Products and Agrochemicals

N Primary Production

O Feeding Stuff

The competent Authority is asked to indicate for each different topic (column 3) of the chapters (column 2) whether rules/regulations are available (yes/no/partially) (column 4) and where the answer can be verified (column 5).

Additional explanations could be provided on a separate sheet.

**Each question under the chapters A – O is further explained in a Footnote reference!**

|  | **Column 2** | **Column 3** | **Column 4** | **Column 5** | **Column 6** |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **A** | **Organization of Legal Bodies, general empowerments** | **Rules/regulations/working procedures are available for:** | **Available and implemented**  **(Yes/No/started but incomplete)** | **Please indicate how the implemented requirement can be verified ( e.g. the source of publication or other verification means)** | **Comments** |
|  | A1 – A 12 |  |  |  |  |
| 1 |  | Empowerment of legal bodies[[1]](#footnote-1) |  |  |  |
| 2 | Duties of inspection bodies and persons [[2]](#footnote-2) |  |  |  |
| 3 | Certification of animals/plants and products[[3]](#footnote-3) |  |  |  |
| 4 | official controls on Food (control and surveillance of Food Chain)[[4]](#footnote-4) |  |  |  |
| 5 | official inspection tasks which are outsourced [[5]](#footnote-5) |  |  |  |
| 6 | ensuring the independence of private veterinarians/auxiliaries carrying out official duties[[6]](#footnote-6) |  |  |  |
| 7 | Food Crisis Handling and emergency procedures[[7]](#footnote-7) |  |  |  |
| 8 | Data recording and Information system for official controls[[8]](#footnote-8) |  |  |  |
| 9 | Rapid Alert System[[9]](#footnote-9) |  |  |  |
| 10 | Fee structure for official controls  (fees for control’s)[[10]](#footnote-10) |  |  |  |
| 11 | Official controls on primary production [[11]](#footnote-11) |  |  |  |
| 12 | Notification of Food poisoning and other food borne diseases[[12]](#footnote-12) |  |  |  |
| **B** | **Organization General** | **Describe the organization of Food and Feed Control:** | **Please attach the referring documents to the questionnaire** |  |  |
| **1** |  | Structure and organization of Animal health (AH), Plant health (PH)and Food safety (FS)and their relation to each other[[13]](#footnote-13) |  |  | |
| **2** | Structure and organizational chart of each service (Central Competent Authorities) (animal health, plant health, food safety); [[14]](#footnote-14) |  |
| **3** | Organization of laboratory services [[15]](#footnote-15) |  |
| **4** | Presentation of number and location of local inspection units, Border Posts and laboratories[[16]](#footnote-16) |  |
| **5** | Organization and management of risk assessment, risk communication and risk management (including competences of the different bodies, if there are)[[17]](#footnote-17) |  |
| **C** | **Organization in Detail** | **Describe the organization of Food and Feed Control:** | **Please attach the referring documents to the questionnaire** |  |  |
| **1** |  | Name, responsibilities and contact details of the Directors of:  Animal Health Services  Public Health Services (food safety)  Controls on veterinary medicines and medicated feedstuffs  Laboratory Services[[18]](#footnote-18) |  |  | |
| **2** | Approximate number of permanent staff (academic, administrative, technical) available for inspection services:   * animal health * Food safety\ * Laboratory services[[19]](#footnote-19) |  |
| **3** | Budget available for the different tasks, e.g.   * operation of inspections * animal health control programs * residue monitoring [[20]](#footnote-20) |  |
| **4** |  | Rules for professional activities of the permanent officials regarding activities outside of the service[[21]](#footnote-21) |  |  | |
| **D** | **Qualification of Staff** | **Rules/regulations/working procedures are available for:** | **Available and implemented**  **(Yes/No/started but incomplete)** | **Please indicate how the implemented requirement can be verified ( e.g. the source of publication or other verification means)** |  |
| 1 |  | qualifications of staff for entering official services   * academic staff * administrative staff * technical staff[[22]](#footnote-22) |  |  |  |
| **E** | **Training** | **The following requirements are realized** | **Available and implemented**  **(Yes/No/started but incomplete)** |  |  |
| **1** |  | Training plan for continued professional development of official staff theoretical knowledge.[[23]](#footnote-23) |  |  |  |
| **2** |  | Training plan for the continuous development of private veterinarians/inspectors carrying out official duties. [[24]](#footnote-24) |  |  |  |
| **F** | **Food Safety Rules[[25]](#footnote-25); [[26]](#footnote-26)** | **Rules/regulations/working procedures are available for:** | **Available and implemented**  **(Yes/No/started but incomplete)** | **Please indicate how the implemented requirement can be verified ( e.g. the source of publication or other verification means)** |  |
| 1 |  | Labeling of Food stuff |  |  |  |
| 2 | Quality of drinking water including quality of water to be used in food (chemical and microbiological requirements) |  |  |  |
| 3 | Materials & Articles (M&A) in contact with Food |  |  |  |
| 4 | Prohibition of certain additives in food |  |  |  |
| 5 | Traceability of Food stuff |  |  |  |
| 6 | Novel Foods and GMO |  |  |  |
| 7 | GMO traceability and labeling |  |  |  |
| 8 | Maximum Levels of   * Contaminants * Pesticides on fruit & vegetables * Erucic acid in oils and fats * Pesticide residues in Food of animal origin * Radioactive contamination * Pesticide residues in Foodstuff of plant origin * Veterinary medicinal products residues in Foodstuff of animal origin |  |  |  |
| 9 | Food additives and extraction solvents |  |  |  |
| 10 | Good Manufacturing practice for materials in contact |  |  |  |
| 11 | Radiation of foodstuff |  |  |  |
| 12 | Monitor substances & residues in animals & animal products |  |  |  |
| 13 | Sampling & analysis methods for Heavy metals in Food |  |  |  |
| 14 | Detection of residues of substances having hormonal or thyrostatic action |  |  |  |
| 15 | Migration testing of plastic material constituents |  |  |  |
| 16 | Sampling methods for different microbial and chemical analyses |  |  |  |
| 17 | Identification system for packaging material |  |  |  |
| 18 | visual inspection for  the purpose of detecting parasites in fishery products |  |  |  |
| 19 | Infant formulae and follow-on formulae |  |  |  |
| 20 | Processed cereal-based foods and baby foods for infants and young children |  |  |  |
| 21 | Composition and labeling of foodstuffs suitable for people intolerant to gluten. |  |  |  |
| 22 |  | General Product safety [[27]](#footnote-27) |  |  |  |
| **G** | **Food Hygiene Rules[[28]](#footnote-28)** | **Legal provisions are available for :** | **Available and implemented**  **(Yes/No/started but incomplete)** | **Please indicate how the implemented requirement can be verified ( e.g. the source of publication or other verification means)** |  |
| 1 |  | General hygiene of Food products[[29]](#footnote-29) |  |  |  |
| 2 | Meat and Meat Products (slaughter, hygiene, ante and post mortem inspection, storage and transport, …)[[30]](#footnote-30) |  |  |  |
| 3 | Meat for Poultry and rabbits (slaughter, hygiene, ante and post mortem inspection, storage and transport, …)[[31]](#footnote-31) |  |  |  |
| 4 | Registration and licensing of Establishments [[32]](#footnote-32) |  |  |  |
| 5 | Milk hygiene [[33]](#footnote-33) |  |  |  |
| 6 | Fish hygiene [[34]](#footnote-34) |  |  |  |
| 7 | Aquaculture products and Best Aquaculture Practices (BAP)  **[[35]](#footnote-35)** |  |  |  |
| 8 | Egg and Egg products  **[[36]](#footnote-36)** |  |  |  |
| **H** | **Animal Health** | **Legal provisions are available for:** | **Available and implemented**  **(Yes/No/started but incomplete)** | **Please indicate how the implemented requirement can be verified ( e.g. the source of publication or other verification means)** |  |
| 1 |  | List of notifiable diseases[[37]](#footnote-37) |  |  |  |
| 2 |  | Rules for notification of animal diseases[[38]](#footnote-38) |  |  |  |
| 3 |  | The control of Foot and Mouth Disease[[39]](#footnote-39) |  |  |  |
| 4 | TSE prevention, monitoring, control and eradication |  |  |  |
| 5 | Laboratories approved and or accredited for Animal Health diagnosis[[40]](#footnote-40) |  |  |  |
| 6 | Eradication of brucellosis,  tuberculosis and leucosis in cattle[[41]](#footnote-41) |  |  |  |
| 7 | Control of Avian Influenza[[42]](#footnote-42) |  |  |  |
| 8 | Control of Newcastle diseases[[43]](#footnote-43) |  |  |  |
| 9 | Control of fish diseases[[44]](#footnote-44) |  |  |  |
| 10 | Monitoring and control of zoonoses and zoonotic agents e.g.  Salmonella  Anthrax  Rift Valley Fever[[45]](#footnote-45) |  |  |  |
| 11 | Test (s) used for TSE monitoring[[46]](#footnote-46) |  |  |  |
| **I** | **Veterinary medical and biotechnical products** | **Rules are available for:** | **Available and implemented**  **(Yes/No/started but incomplete)** | **Please indicate how the implemented requirement can be verified ( e.g. the source of publication or other verification means)** |  |
| **1** |  | Use of Veterinary Medicinal products **part 1** (marketing authorization, manufacture and imports, labeling, ) [[47]](#footnote-47) |  |  |  |
| **2** | Use of Veterinary Medicinal products **part 2** (possession, distribution and dispensing of veterinary medicinal products, pharmacovigilance, supervision and sanctions) [[48]](#footnote-48) |  |  |  |
| **3** | Control of Veterinary pharmacies and treatment on farms ( e.g. Systematic records of veterinary treatments )[[49]](#footnote-49) |  |  |  |
| **4** | MRL's of Veterinary Medicinal products in foodstuffs of animal origin[[50]](#footnote-50) |  |  |  |
| **5** | Drugs prohibited for use in Food Production Animals[[51]](#footnote-51) |  |  |  |
| **6** | Vaccine and sera products[[52]](#footnote-52) |  |  |  |
| **J** | **Animal ID and Movement control** | **The following systems are legally installed and operational** | **Available and implemented**  **(Yes/No/started but incomplete)** | **Please indicate how the implemented requirement can be verified ( e.g. the source of publication or other verification means)** |  |
| 1 |  | Bovine identification system[[53]](#footnote-53); |  |  |  |
| 2 | Ovine/caprine identification system[[54]](#footnote-54) |  |  |  |
| 3 | Beef labeling system [[55]](#footnote-55) |  |  |  |
| 4 | Control and sanctions for the animal identification system[[56]](#footnote-56) |  |  |  |
| **K** | **Animal By Products** | **Legal provisions are available for:** | **Available and implemented**  **(Yes/No/started but incomplete)** | **Please indicate how the implemented requirement can be verified ( e.g. the source of publication or other verification means)** |  |
| 1 |  | Animal by-products (ABPs) and derived products not intended for human consumption (restrictions, disposal, processing, transport, identification, traceability)[[57]](#footnote-57) |  |  |  |
| **L** | **Plant health** | **Legal provisions are available for:** | **Available and implemented**  **(Yes/No/started but incomplete)** | **Please indicate how the implemented requirement can be verified ( e.g. the source of publication or other verification means)** |  |
| 1 |  | Official controls to ensure plant health[[58]](#footnote-58) |  |  |  |
| 2 | Protective measures against pests of plants[[59]](#footnote-59) |  |  |  |
| **M** | **Plant Protection products and Agrochemicals** | **Legal provisions are available for:** | **Available and implemented**  **(Yes/No/started but incomplete)** | **Please indicate how the implemented requirement can be verified ( e.g. the source of publication or other verification means)** |  |
| 1 |  | Use of Plant Protection Products **part 1** (approval of active substances, criteria, authorization of PPP and adjuvants)[[60]](#footnote-60) |  |  |  |
| 2 | Use of Plant Protection Products **part 2** (packaging, labeling and advertising of plant protection products and adjuvant, monitoring and controls)[[61]](#footnote-61) |  |  |  |
| **N** | **Primary Production** |  | **Available and implemented**  **(Yes/No/started but incomplete)** | **Please indicate how the implemented requirement can be verified ( e.g. the source of publication or other verification means)** |  |
| 1 |  | Systematic production records  ( e.g. medical treatment at farms, use of PPP in primary production, records for post-harvest treatments,…)[[62]](#footnote-62) |  |  |  |
| **O** | **Feeding stuff** | **Legal provisions are available for:** | **Available and implemented**  **(Yes/No/started but incomplete)** | **Please indicate how the implemented requirement can be verified ( e.g. the source of publication or other verification means)** |  |
| 1 |  | Control of Feed (organization of official inspections in the field of animal nutrition)[[63]](#footnote-63) |  |  |  |
| 2 | Feeding of proteins derived from animals in order to prevent the dissemination of transmissible spongiform encephalopathy’s (TSEs) to animals.[[64]](#footnote-64) |  |  |  |
| 3 | Additives in feedstuff[[65]](#footnote-65) |  |  |  |
| 4 | Undesirable substances in animal nutrition[[66]](#footnote-66) |  |  |  |
| 5 | GMO in Feed, traceability and labeling [[67]](#footnote-67) |  |  |  |

The competent Authority states that the specifications and information as provided above are true and correspond with the real situation. It is understood that false or non-retrievable statements may affect:

* The listing of a country for the import of a specific product category
* The frequency of onsite assessments of establishments and competent authorities through SFDA.
* The guarantees to be provided by the exporting country through certificates for a specific product.
* The physical inspection frequency of the products from a specific country at the borders of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.
* The conditions for banning and lifting of bans for products in certain situations.

The data as provided can be verified by the SFDA on site.

Signature

1. Which bodies (ministries, Authorities, other legal bodies,…) are legally empowered to implement the legal framework for Food safety; By which legal text this empowerment is fixed? [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. Is there a legislation available describing the duties of inspection bodies? [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. Are there rules for the issuing of official certificates or written instructions made available to certifying officials (controls over printing, storage, distribution of blank certificate, procedures for the completion and signatures of certificates, who is responsible for signature? procedures for the withdrawal or amendment of signed certificates) [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
4. Is there a legislation defining the official controls in the Food Chain? [↑](#footnote-ref-4)
5. what kind of inspection tasks are outsourced and conducted by third parties (Non-Governmental Organizations); How is the surveillance of the outsourced tasks. [↑](#footnote-ref-5)
6. In case that private veterinarians or organizations are carrying out official duties ( e.g. meat inspection in Slaughterhouses) how their independence is ensured ; any rules on this? [↑](#footnote-ref-6)
7. Are there rules or working procedures for handling Food Crisis and emergencies? Where are these rules or procedures published? [↑](#footnote-ref-7)
8. Data recording of official controls; how is it done? Any rules, working procedures available? [↑](#footnote-ref-8)
9. Is there a system for the notification of food hazards to other authorities or inspection bodies in place? [↑](#footnote-ref-9)
10. In case that fees are charged for official controls, how are theses fees structured, are rules or regulations on charging fees in place? [↑](#footnote-ref-10)
11. Are there any official legal controls on the primary production. if Yes how are the controls called and where are the legal conditions for those controls fixed. [↑](#footnote-ref-11)
12. Is notification of food borne diseases mandatory? legal basis? [↑](#footnote-ref-12)
13. Please provide an overview of the general structure of the organization of AH, PH and FS and their relation. [↑](#footnote-ref-13)
14. Please provide the organizational chart of each service involved in animal health, plant health and food safety. The procedures for co-ordination and co-operation between the above services should be given. The management lines from central to regional to local services should be clearly indicated [↑](#footnote-ref-14)
15. Number of official laboratories, type of quality assurance system, distribution in the country, number and type of reference laboratories, Laboratory network and embedment of the laboratories in the Food Administration; [↑](#footnote-ref-15)
16. How many local inspection units exist, how distributed in the country, average number of personnel in each unit [↑](#footnote-ref-16)
17. Who is competent for the risk management, risk assessment and risk communication? Are there different bodies, interrelationship of the bodies; [↑](#footnote-ref-17)
18. Naming of web sources of the information possible [↑](#footnote-ref-18)
19. Approximate number is sufficient [↑](#footnote-ref-19)
20. Indicate the proportion of the budget provided by government, and that provided by other sources (the status of any other sources should be clearly

    indicated)., [↑](#footnote-ref-20)
21. For example: how are side jobs regulated, with or without approval of superiors, [↑](#footnote-ref-21)
22. Are qualification requirements regulated; Describe the minimum qualifications (and years of experience, where appropriate) [↑](#footnote-ref-22)
23. Give details of routine or special training programmes available for newly recruited and established academic and technical staff. [↑](#footnote-ref-23)
24. Give details of the arrangements for continued professional development of private veterinarians/inspectors, who carry out official duties [↑](#footnote-ref-24)
25. Are Food safety rules/regulations or working procedures available for the topics F1 – F22. Are these rules implemented and supervised? [↑](#footnote-ref-25)
26. Do the food safety rules follow CODEX Guidelines/Standards of other Legislation/Standards (e.g. EU or US legislation/standards) [↑](#footnote-ref-26)
27. “Product safety” refers to the physical health and safety of citizens with regards to **non-food products**, such as toys, household appliances, cars and cosmetics. [↑](#footnote-ref-27)
28. Do the Food Hygiene Rules comply with CODEX Guidelines/Standards or with another framework e.g. EU Aquis [↑](#footnote-ref-28)
29. Is there a regulation available containing rules for the hygiene of all those food products which in particular not fall under specific vertical regulations? [↑](#footnote-ref-29)
30. Vertical regulation existent, implemented and supervised? I no vertical regulation exist, where is the subject regulated? [↑](#footnote-ref-30)
31. Vertical regulation existent, implemented and supervised? [↑](#footnote-ref-31)
32. Is the registration and/or licensing of establishments mandatory? Do establishments have to fulfill conditions for getting a license. Legal provisions? [↑](#footnote-ref-32)
33. Vertical regulation existent, implemented and supervised? [↑](#footnote-ref-33)
34. Vertical regulation existent, implemented and supervised? [↑](#footnote-ref-34)
35. Vertical regulation existent, implemented and supervised? [↑](#footnote-ref-35)
36. Vertical regulation existent, implemented and supervised? [↑](#footnote-ref-36)
37. Which diseases are notifiable? List available? [↑](#footnote-ref-37)
38. Regulation on notifiable diseases available? [↑](#footnote-ref-38)
39. How is Foot and Mouth Disease controlled? Vaccination? stamping out? Freedom of FMD? national regulations? [↑](#footnote-ref-39)
40. Number of laboratories and type of tests accredited for. [↑](#footnote-ref-40)
41. Is an eradication program implemented? What is the actual stand of play? [↑](#footnote-ref-41)
42. Legal provisions for the control of avian influence available and implemented? [↑](#footnote-ref-42)
43. Legal provisions for the control of avian influence available and implemented? [↑](#footnote-ref-43)
44. Which fish and aquaculture diseases are under official control? [↑](#footnote-ref-44)
45. Are programs in place for the monitoring of zoonotic diseases in food animals [↑](#footnote-ref-45)
46. Is the test used for TSE Monitoring in line with OIE requirements? [↑](#footnote-ref-46)
47. Are veterinary medical products regulated, are the provision supervised? [↑](#footnote-ref-47)
48. Is possession, distribution, dispensing regulated and supervised? [↑](#footnote-ref-48)
49. Who is doing controls, control frequencies? Legal provisions available? [↑](#footnote-ref-49)
50. Corresponds with question F8: maximum levels; do legal MRLs exist, does a monitoring program exist, what are the results in the past 3 years; [↑](#footnote-ref-50)
51. List available implemented and supervised? [↑](#footnote-ref-51)
52. Legal provisions on production, distribution and use available and implemented? [↑](#footnote-ref-52)
53. Legal provisions for the identification and movement control of bovine animals are available, implemented and supervised. Explain the cornerstones of the system (e.g. ear tags, cattle passports, databases, individual registers at holdings….) [↑](#footnote-ref-53)
54. Legal provisions for the identification and movement control of ovine/caprine animals are available, implemented and supervised. [↑](#footnote-ref-54)
55. Is the beef labeling system compulsory or voluntary? Are there legal provisions regulating the labeling of the origin, raising and slaughtering of cattle? How is it supervised? Can beef be traced at all stages of the food chain. Do same rules apply for imported beef? [↑](#footnote-ref-55)
56. Responsibilities for the control of the animal identification system, control frequency? Measures in case of irregularities? [↑](#footnote-ref-56)
57. Are legal Provisions available, implemented and supervised? Do the provisions contain rules for Production, Collection, Transport, Storage, Use and Disposal of ABPs? [↑](#footnote-ref-57)
58. Please provide an overview of the general structure of the organization competent for plant health control; The management lines from central to regional to local services should be clearly indicated [↑](#footnote-ref-58)
59. What are the legal protective measures against quarantine pests and quality pests. [↑](#footnote-ref-59)
60. Regulation of Plant Protection Products available implemented and supervised? Is the regulation taking into account supranational standards (e.g. CODEX, ..) Exist a list of approved active substances? [↑](#footnote-ref-60)
61. Implemented and supervised? [↑](#footnote-ref-61)
62. Guide of good hygiene practice in primary production available? Is primary production controlled? Records? [↑](#footnote-ref-62)
63. Please provide an overview of the general structure of the organization of Feed Control; The management lines from central to regional to local services should be clearly indicated [↑](#footnote-ref-63)
64. Ban on feeding animal protein to Ruminants? how are the rules supervised? If so exemptions? [↑](#footnote-ref-64)
65. Is there a re register of Feed Additives? If so , supported by CODEX or other supranational Standards? [↑](#footnote-ref-65)
66. Regulation on undesirable substances in Feed including maximum levels to limit as far as possible the presence of undesirable substances and products ; how is it implemented and supervised; [↑](#footnote-ref-66)
67. What are the regulations on GMO in Feed, its traceability and labeling requirements? [↑](#footnote-ref-67)