


The Icelandic Food and Veterinary Authority

On 1 January 2008 the Icelandic Food and Veterinary Authority (MAST) commenced operation as an inspection and administrative body and as the Competent Authority (CA) in Iceland in the field of food safety, animal health and welfare, control of feed, seed and fertilisers, plant health and water for human consumption. The primary roles of the Authority (Icelandic name: Matvælastofnun – MAST) are:

- Food safety legislation and control
- Control of primary production of animal products, including fish products
- Import and export control of all foodstuffs
- Supervision of domestic food control by municipal authorities
- Veterinary services
- Plant protection services
- Feed, seed and fertiliser services
- Meat classification services
- Administration and management

MAST is assigned to carry out various inspection and administrative tasks pursuant to law and has taken over the tasks that have been carried out by the following authorities:

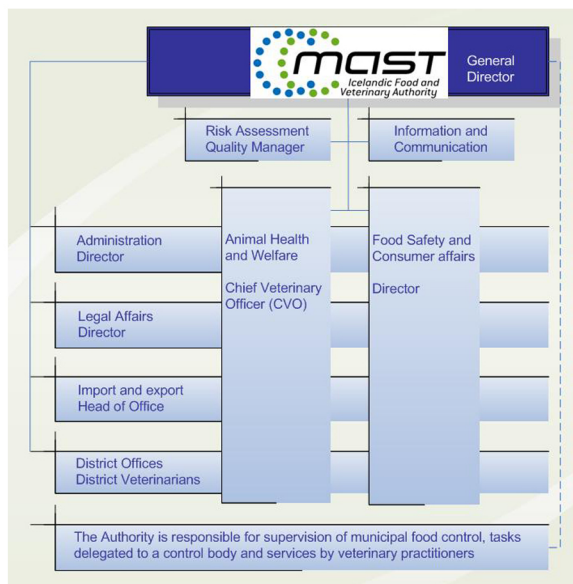
- The Agricultural Authority of Iceland (Chief Veterinary Officer (CVO), Feed, Seed and Fertiliser Services, Meat Grading, Plant Protection Service, Organic production, Administrative tasks carried out by the Farmers' Association of Iceland)
- The food division of the Environmental and Food Agency of Iceland
- The food division of the Icelandic Directorate of Fisheries



The Icelandic Food and Veterinary Authority's role is to promote the health and welfare of animals, plant health and the safety and quality of food by enforcing legislation and providing education and services to the fisheries and agricultural sectors, businesses and consumers.

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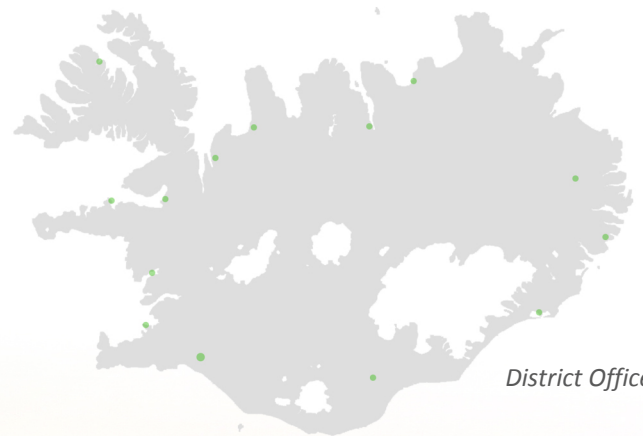
The Authority is responsible to the Ministry for Fisheries and Agriculture, which started operation as of 1. January 2008, by a merger of the Ministry for Fisheries and the Ministry for Agriculture. From that time, the Ministry of the Environment is no longer responsible for implementation or application of food legislation. Iceland is one of the Contracting Parties to the European Economic Area, hereinafter referred to as the EEA Agreement, which is an agreement between the EFTA States and the Community and the EU Member States. Consequently, Iceland is implementing the EU legislation on veterinary matters, foodstuffs, feed and other food chain related issues. The obligations of Iceland, like other EFTA States, which are parties to the EEA Agreement, include also the application of this legislation by the Icelandic Food and Veterinary Authority (CA) in Iceland and the municipal food control authorities (LCAs). With respect to the EEA Agreement, the Authority will be the CA for the legislation applicable to Iceland in Annex I to the EEA Agreement, and the food legislation in Chapter XII of Annex II to the Agreement. The same will apply to the EEA legislation on water for human consumption.



Organisational Chart

The Icelandic Food and Veterinary Authority seeks to protect the health of plants and animals, to ensure the quality of fish and agricultural products and to promote food safety and consumer awareness in a global market where rapid development and innovation call for adaptability and vigilance.

The head office of MAST is in Selfoss, about 50 km east of the capital city of Reykjavík. The Authority has 14 District Offices around Iceland where District Veterinarians and Official Veterinarians render services in accordance with the relevant legislation. At the District Office in the capital area MAST is responsible, in addition to veterinary services, inter alia, for services to individuals and businesses engaged in import and export. MAST is also responsible for the operation of several Border Inspection Posts (BIPs) for control of import of foods from third countries (non EEA States).



District Offices