

# **Contingency Plan (intervention)**

**The management of crisis in the field of  
animal feed**

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## **1. Introduction**

Animal Feed safety incidents have demonstrated the need to take corresponding emergency measures to ensure that all such products, regardless of their type and origin, are subject to appropriate measures in the event of a major risk to animal health and / or public health.

The recent crises in the field of animal feed have demonstrated the advantages of the existence of plans / procedures adapted to reality that focus on establishing the management and assurance of a fast and coordinated response of the structures with attributions in the field of crisis management. These organizational procedures must facilitate a better coordination of the efforts, the identification and application of the most effective measures based on the best scientific opinions.

In general, at population level, a crisis is accompanied by manifestations such as fear and insecurity, reactions that lead, very quickly, to the unjustified induction of panic with socio-economic impact. In return, they lead to the development of prevention and intervention actions under pressure and may prevent or delay the application of measures to limit and eliminate the crisis effects.

In this context, it is necessary to elaborate a plan for the management of crisis in the field of animal feed, including the responsibilities of the competent authorities in the field of animal nutrition and other institutions involved in solving the crisis.

In Romania, the National Sanitary Veterinary and Food Safety Authority (ANSVSA) is responsible for the elaboration of such plans / procedures on the management of crisis in the field of feed safety, respectively the Contingency Plan of Romania regarding the management of crisis in the field of animal feed.

The competent authorities in the field of animal nutrition and the other institutions involved must prevent and manage crises situations in conformity with their nature, type, intensity and extent, by applying packages of measures with a high degree of interdependence.

An effective management needs inter-institutional coordination of multidisciplinary competencies to reduce response time, limitation and prevention of adverse effects.

The contingency plan must provide for the types of situations that involve or could involve direct or indirect risks to animal health and / or public health, deriving from feed.

First of all, a distinction must be made between incidents, potential crises and actual crises. The term "crisis management" refers to the effective crisis management as well as to the prevention of the crisis occurrence.

This contingency plan for the management in the field of animal feed includes the guidelines of the process for the prevention and management of crises in this field at the level of competent authorities from the field of animal nutrition and of other institutions involved in solving the crises, the cooperation in such a situation with the other competent authorities involved in the specific field as well as with other authorities who should provide support functions.

The optimal institutional framework which could lead to the achievement of this desideratum constitutes the inter-institutional cooperation. The concept mainly focuses on the horizontal cooperation between the various state institutions with responsibilities in this field, in order to elaborate an integrated strategy for the prevention and management of crises.

The contingency plan provides the practical procedures necessary to manage crises / potential crises in this field, provides also the role and responsibilities of the Crises Cell, including the application of the transparency principles and communication strategy.

Also, there are established the criteria for the assessment of animal feed incidents, in order to classify them and apply the measures corresponding to the existing situation with a view to eliminating the potential risk.

The contingency plan represents the General Action Plan based on which, there are elaborated operational plans / manuals for particular situations, based on the identified risks, such as microbiological, chemical contamination, etc .

## **2. Objective**

The contingency plan establishes the framework necessary for the prevention and management of feed crises, including the responsibilities of competent authorities and other institutions involved in solving the crises, in the event of crises / potential crises to ensure that it can be managed in an adequate manner.

## **3. Legal basis**

### **3.1. Legal basis for the elaboration of the Contingency Plan (intervention) of Romania on the management of crises in the field of animal feed**

- The Regulation no. 178/2002 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 28 January 2002 laying down the general principles and requirements on food law, establishing the European Food Safety Authority and laying down procedures in the field of food safety, with further amendments and completions;
- The Regulation no. 625/2017 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 15 March 2017 on official controls and other official activities performed to ensure the application of food and feed law, rules on animal health and welfare, plant health and plant protection products, amending Regulations (EC) No 999/2001, (EC) No 396/2005, (EC) No 1069/2009, (EC) No 1107/2009, (EU) No 1151/2012, (EU) No 652/2014, (EU) 2016/429 and (EU) 2016/2031 of the European Parliament and of the Council, Council Regulations (EC) No 1/2005 and (EC) No 1099/2009 and Council Directives 98/58/EC, 1999/74/EC, 2007/43/EC, 2008/119/EC and 2008/120/EC, and repealing Regulations (EC) No 854/2004 and (EC) No 882/2004 of the European Parliament and of the Council, Council Directives 89/608/EEC, 89/662/EEC, 90/425/EEC, 91/496/EEC, 96/23/EC, 96/93/EC and 97/78/EC and Council Decision 92/438/EEC with further amendments and completions (Official Controls Regulation);
- The Commission Decision 2004/478/EC of 29 April 2004 adopting the general plan for the management of the food and feed crises;
- The MADR / ANSVSA / MS / ANPC Order no. 772/68/859/442 of 2005, approving the Norm on the Rapid Alert System for food and feed;
- The Regulation (EU) no. 16/2011 laying down measures for the implementation of the rapid alert system for food and feed;
- The Government Emergency Ordinance no. 21/2004 on the National Emergency Management System, approved with further amendments and completions by Law 15/2005;
- The Government Decision no. 557/2016 on the management of risk types.

### **3.2. Legal basis for the organization and responsibilities of the authorities and institutions involved in crises management in the field of animal feed**

- The Ordinance no. 42/2004 on the organization of the sanitary veterinary activity, with further modifications and completions;
- The Government Decision no. 1415/2009 on the organization and functioning of the National Sanitary Veterinary and Food Safety Authority and of the establishments under their subordination, with further amendments and completions;
- The Government Decision no. 520/24 July 2013 on the organization and functioning of the National Agency for Fiscal Administration, with further amendments and completions;
- The Law 346/2006 on the organization and functioning of the Ministry of National Defense;
- The Government Decision no. 1627/2003, with further amendments and completions, approving the Regulation on the organization and functioning of the National Commission for the Control of Nuclear Activities, with further amendments and completions.
- The Government Decision no. 1849/2004 on the organization, functioning and attributions of the National Administration of Penitentiaries, with further amendments and completions;
- The Government Decision no. 652 of May 27, 2009 on the organization and functioning of the Ministry of Justice with further amendments and completions;
- The Government Decision no. 725/2010 on the reorganization and functioning of the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development, as well as of some structures under its subordination, with further amendments and completions;
- The Government Decision no. 38/2015 on the organization and functioning of the Ministry of Environment, Waters and Forests;
- The Government Decision no. 1.000 / 2012 on the re-organization and functioning of the National Agency for Environmental Protection and of the public institutions under its subordination, with further amendments and completions;
- The Government Decision no. 1.005 / 2012 on the organization and functioning of the National Environmental Guard, with further amendments and completions.
- The Government Emergency Ordinance no. 30/2007 on the organization and functioning of the Ministry of Internal Affairs, with further amendments and completions
- The Government Emergency Ordinance no. 104/2001 on the organization and functioning of the Romanian Border Police with further completions and amendments;
- The Government Emergency Ordinance no. 105/2001 on the legal regime of the state border, with further amendments and completions
- The Government Emergency Ordinance no.1/2004 on certain measures in the field of emergency situations management, as well as for the amendment and completion of GEO no.2 / 2004 regarding the National System of Emergency Situations, approved by Law no.104 / 2014
- The Government Decision no. 1152/2014 on the organization, functioning and composition of the National Center for the Management of Public Order Actions
- The Government Decision no. 1419/2009, published in the Official Journal no. 842/ 07.12.2009, on the organization and functioning of the National Agency for Mineral Resources

## 4. Definitions and abbreviations

### 4.1. Definitions

- 'risk' - a function of the probability of a negative effect on health and the severity of that effect, determined by a hazard;
- 'danger' means a biological, chemical or physical agent in food products or animal feed or a condition thereof, with the potential to cause an adverse effect on health;
- "animal feed incident" means any event which, based on the information available, can lead to concerns with existing or suspected threats, involving the safety of an animal feed product and which would require intervention to protect animal health and / or public health;
- 'crises' - a situation caused by animal feed, which involves a direct or indirect risk to animal health and/or public health, considered or publicized as such, which cannot be adequately managed by applying the current legislation and procedures;
- "potential crises" - a situation in which the uncontrolled evolution of animal feed incidents could result in a crises animal feed situation and in which there must be applied urgent measures, properly coordinated, in order not to evolve into a crisis;
- 'coordination crisis cell' (CC) - the structure activated in the event of a serious, imminent risk, which may have a wide range, being an additional asset to ensure effective crisis management, through a better coordination and rapid actions;
- "committees for emergency situations" - inter-institutional management support bodies that meet semestrially and whenever the situation requires and which is composed of: the National Committee for Emergency Situations, the Ministerial Committees and other central public institutions for emergency situations, Bucharest Municipality Committee for Emergency Situations, county committees for emergency situations, local committees for emergency situations;
- "the ministerial committee for emergency situations" - also called "ministerial committee" - the structure established within the ministries and other central public institutions with responsibilities for the management of emergency situations operating under the leadership of ministers and respectively of heads of central public institutions, which is composed of decision-makers, experts and specialists from the central level of the ministry and from some institutions and establishments under its subordination, with attributions in the management of emergency situations. In the composition of the ministerial committee, at the request of that minister, there may be co-opted representatives of other ministries and institutions with attributions in the field;
- "operational centers for emergency situations" - also called "operational centers" - centers established at the level of ministries, of other central public institutions with responsibilities for the management of emergencies, of municipalities - except Bucharest municipality -, at the level of cities and communalities, that permanently accomplish the activities for monitoring, evaluation, notification, warning, pre-alarming, alerting and technical coordination of emergency situations at national level.

### 4.2. Notions on the crisis management

**Crisis management** – represents a set of measures and actions organized and carried out by authorities /institutions/persons, that facilitate the re-establishment of the exceptional occurred situation, as soon as possible, to prevent its expansion.

Under the situation where, the crisis is based on a risk with a wide geographical spread, there must be taken urgent, coordinated measures and there must be taken actions, allocating additional resources to restore normality.

1. The anticipatory crisis management involves the prevention of the crisis by applying and complying with certain measures, which include in particular:

- the identification of vulnerabilities,
- the elimination of possible risk sources,
- the installation and operation of certain alert systems,
- the development of a control infrastructure,
- the elaboration of contingency plans
- the identification of operational staff
- the training of the identified operational staff.

2. The active crisis management involves the acknowledge of the possible risks and being prepared to take possible emergency measures for the prevention of crisis;

3. The reactive crisis management involves all the measures that must be taken when the crisis occurs, in order to keep its consequences as low as possible.

These crisis management actions include, among others, collecting and assessing information, analyzing the situation, establishing goals, developing and comparing action options, implementing the selected option, and examining feedback.

Within the crisis management process there are identified five phases, as follows:

Phase 1: observing the indicators and warning about a potential or specific crisis;

Phase 2: assessing the crisis situation on the development and potential implications;

Phase 3: developing the recommended response options to guide the decision-making process;

Phase 4: planning and elaborating decisions;

Phase 5: returning to normal.

The crisis management approach is based on the following normes:

- the crisis are unavoidable;
- the crisis management must be planned, based on specific procedures, applied at the time of the crisis;
- the crisis management is an integral part of the responsibility of each manager.

### **4.3. Abbreviations**

ANSVSA	National Sanitary Veterinary and Food Safety Authority
DSVSA	County Sanitary Veterinary and Food Safety Directorate
CC	Crisis Cell at central level
MAI	Ministry of Internal Affairs
CNSSU	National Committee for Emergency Situations
CJSU	County Committee for Emergency Situations
MADR	Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development
ANF	National Fitosanitary Authority
MApN	Ministry of National Defense

DGV	General Directorate of Customs
MJ - ANP	Ministry of Justice – National Administration of Penitentiaries
MEWF	Ministry of Environment, Waters and Forests
GNM	National Environmental Guard
CNCAN	National Commission for Nuclear Activities Control
IGPF	General Inspectorate of Border Police
WHO	World Health Organization
EFSA	European Food Safety Authority
DG	General Directorate for Health and Food Safety
SANTE	
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations -

## 5. Characteristics and causes that can generate a crisis

The crisis can be described as the opposite of a normal situation. The occurrence and evolution of crisis situations are determined by causes of an objective nature. As a result, they do not resolve and cannot be resolved on their own.

The decrease in intensity of the factors that determine the crisis phenomenon or their removal can be achieved only by the intervention of the competent authorities in the field.

Crisis manifest themselves differently, depending on the situation that determines them and the field, with some common general characteristics:

1. The threat
2. Emergency
3. The element of surprise
4. Time pressure
5. Uncertainty
6. Intensity

In some situations, crisis may have other characteristics, such as:

- any crisis may be an unexpected event for one or all of the parties involved in this situation;
- during the crisis, the events are developed at a much faster rate than the reaction of the parties involved in its management;
- any crisis gradually reaches certain stages, having its own scale of escalate;
- the existence of certain interests of an economic, diplomatic, political, social, religious nature, etc. that may generate a lack of information or a unilateral information between the responsible institutions;
- internal crises can be monitored from the outside, and the institutions involved in their management focus their attention on short-term action planning;
- the mass-media intervention is focused on aspects of own interest, which may affect the public perception of the event.

Most of the time, crises do not have a clear beginning or a predictable end. Crises are evolving rapidly and there is great public interest in the situation and intervention of those responsible.

Crisis prevention is possible based on the awareness of the occurrence possibility. The identification of specific vulnerabilities and risks, which can become potential causes of the



crisis can be part of the awareness of the occurrence possibility. In addition, possible crisis scenarios need to be analyzed in particular in order to identify the potential evolution into a crisis at an early stage and to effectively initiate anti-crisis measures.

The causes of crises in the field of feed safety can be classified as follows:

**a. Direct and / or indirect contamination**

Accidents, disasters and natural disasters, the non-compliance with the good practices in the feed chain or terrorist activities can lead to direct or indirect contamination of feed.

In these cases, the crisis is triggered by an event that may or may not be identified in terms of time and space and that may represent a risk to animal health, public health and environmental protection.

**b. Fraud**

Intentional failure to comply with animal feed requirements, for profit

**c. The deterioration in quality of environmental factors (air, water, soil)**

It can have natural or anthropogenic causes and can cause direct or indirect contamination of animal feed.

**d. Incorrect public perception**

Within the public perception, a risk can constitute a significant threat to health, regardless of its size, especially in those cases where, the public easily concludes that the involved institutions do not pay enough attention to a subject.

The result may be a loss of confidence in decision-makers and in their measures taken by them on animal feed safety, especially if the crisis communication is limited to the dissemination of information that the incriminated product is safe from a scientifically point of view.

**e. Improper management of an incident**

Inadequate prevention of the risk due to the lack of intervention plans, the existence of inadequate, incomplete plans or the inadequate implementation of current plans can lead to poor incident management.

Poor management or communication can determine the fact that, a minor incident could lead to a potential crisis.

**f. New evidence**

The results of new scientific research or risk assessments can underline:

- a total new risk that has not been known before
- the change of the degree of an already known risk
- the change of the assessment on the exposure for a known risk.

In general, the increased risk rate may increase the probability of a crisis occurrence. For a successful management, it is important to focus on all causes equally.

## **6. Risk categories in the field of animal feed safety**

The categories / types of risks related to animal feed safety are:

1. Biological risks;
2. Chemical risks;
3. Physical risks

### **Biological risks**

**Bacteria** (Salmonella spp. and other genera of the Enterobacteriaceae, Brucella spp., Listeria spp., Escherichia coli verotoxigena (VTEC)) family

**Prions** (Processed animal proteins)

**Bacterial toxins** (Clostridium botulinum, C. tetani and C. perfringens, Vibrio cholerae, Staphylococcus aureus, Yersinia enterocolitica, Shigella dysenteriae)

**Parasites** (Trichinella spp., Toxoplasma, Taenia spp.)

**Viruses**

**GMO**

**New evidences / New risk assessments**

### **Chemical risks**

**Heavy metals and metalloids**

**Nitrites**

**Melamine**

**Mycotoxins**

**Plant-related toxins** (gossypol, prussic acid, solanine)

**Pesticides**

**Non-dioxin-like PCBs** (indicators)

**Dioxins and furans, dioxin-like PCBs**

**Coccidiostats and histomonostats**

**Antibiotics banned as feed additives**

**Tropane alkaloids**

**Authorized and banned veterinary medicines** (zeranol, thyrostatics, beta agonists, nitrofurans, nitroimidazoles, chloramphenicol, tranquilizers)

**New evidences / New risk assessments**

**Physical hazards**

**Botanical impurities (seeds containing glycosides and alkaloids)**

**Foreign bodies**

**Radioactivity**

**New evidences / New risk assessments**

**7. Classification of incidents**

The classification of incidents takes into account risk severity, incident complexity as well as public perception.

To determine whether or not an incident evolves into a "crisis", the following factors must be taken into consideration:

- the risk severity
- the whether the risk is known or not
- the number of affected consumers
- the distribution area
- the quantity of the incriminated products
- the number of reports / notifications / complaints
- feed chain segments involved
- traceability of the incriminated products
- history in similar cases, previous risk management decisions
- requested resources
- commercial, international implications
- the involved authorities
- public perception / mass media

Based on these criteria, incidents are classified into:

- **Minor:** incidents with an impact on animal feed safety, with localized effects and which are managed at territorial level (county);
- **Medium:** incidents that could affect animal health, public health and environmental safety, over an extended geographical area (regional level) involving management at the central level;
- **Major:** Severe incidents that can cause animals' or humans' death or illness, which tend to be complex, over a large geographical area (national and/or cross-border), with a large number of affected products, an increased level of resources necessary for the management of the incident, which could generate a high level of public and media concern; under these situations there is required the management from the central level.

In order to facilitate the proper classification of incidents, there shall be carried out an assessment of the situation, taking into account both above mentioned aspects and those provided in Annex no. 5.

**8. The operating method carried out by the structures involved in the crisis prevention and management**

The Operational Center for Emergency Situations within NSVFSA, hereinafter denominated as the Operational Center, receives primary information, by the specialized technical departments of public institutions and authorities, other operational centers, media, SRAAF, green line or other sources of information. This can determine a crisis.

Based on the received information, the Operational Center carries out a primary assessment and description of the incident. The primary assessment is carried out taking into account several aspects, some of them being presented in Annex no.1. The description of the incident shall be carried out using the sheet presented in Annex no. 2.

In case the incident is considered major (see chapter 7), the Operational Center suggests to the NSVFSA President the activation and convocation of the Crisis Cell at the central level, hereinafter mentioned as the Crisis Cell (CC). This is accomplished by the NSVFSA President Order by which, there is also established an operational coordinator, based on the incident specificity, who should coordinate the activity of the CC and represent the CC in other structures for emergency situations.

The CC is constituted, as an inter-institutional decision-making support body, of representatives from the NSVFSA departments/services and experts from the public administration authorities / institutions provided in this Contingency Plan. The structure and composition of the CC is presented in Annex no. 3.

The convocation of the CC members is carried out by the operational center that ensures the CC secretariat at the request of the CC operational coordinator.

The CC can be completed with representatives of other public administration authorities / institutions in areas of expertise needed to manage the crisis / potential crisis.

CC provides technical support for the management of the crisis / potential crisis and provides detailed information to crisis cells at the territorial level, hereinafter referred to as territorial CC, media and international bodies (EC, etc.) as well as to other structures involved in emergency situations, such as the Emergency Situations Committee of NSVFSA, CNSSU, etc.

Territorial CCs are activated from the disposition of the CC, by Decision at territorial level and are methodologically coordinated, during their entire functioning period by the CC.

The representation within the Crisis Cells at territorial level is ensured by the public administration authorities/territorial public institutions, established in the present Contingency Plan and can be created on the structure of the Technical Support Groups set up at the level of the counties / Bucharest municipality. The public administration authorities / public institutions represented in the CC and territorial CC have the obligation to ensure the continuity of representation within these crisis cells, in this context, they will make nomination proposals whenever there occur objective changes of the nominated persons. Based on the analysis of the information coming from the territorial / territorial CC, regarding the possibilities of eliminating the risk and the necessary measures that must be taken during the medium and long term, the CC proposes to the NSVFSA President the disruption of the crisis cells activity and their dissolution.

The disruption of the crisis cells activity is performed through the NSVFSA President Order at the proposal of the CC, by the operational coordinator, who shall communicate the decision to the territorial CC.

After the dissolution of all territorial CCs, there shall be carried out the dissolution of the CC, which shall elaborate a report of the entire activity.

Annex no. 4 presents the informational-decisional flow at inter-institutional level.

## **9. Tasks of the structures involved in the prevention and management of animal feed crises**

### **9.1. Tasks and competencies CC**

- performs an assessment of the existing situation, authorizes and approves the first emergency measures considered necessary;
- re-evaluates the measures that have already been implemented and makes proposals to the Committee for Emergency Situations of the NSVFSA on the management of the crisis / potential crisis, in relation to its specificity;
- if necessary, requests the participation in the prevention and management of the crisis in the field, of certain experts from the institutions and organizations that are not represented in the CC;
- organizes consultations with the academic / scientific forums with a view to finding the optimal solutions to limit the risk for the population's health;
- ensures the exchange of information between all those involved in solving a crisis or potential crisis: risk assessors, risk managers and risk communicators;
- ensures public communication on the evolution of the crisis;
- elaborates and proposes to the NSVFSA President, the draft General Operational Action Plan, for approval;
- submits the General Operational Action Plan to Territorial CC in order to elaborate and implement the Operational Action Plan at territorial level;
- ensures the coordination of the necessary measures at the level of the territorial CC;
- informs CNSSU, if necessary, through the Committee for emergency situations of the NSVFSA, on the evolution of the crisis and of the measures that must be applied;
- requests the convocation of the Committee for the Emergency Situations of the NSVFSA or, if necessary, of CNSSU, to declare the “alert state”, at the level of the affected areas, and / or the setting up of temporary restrictions, additional measures to ensure financial, human and material resources;
- ensures the submission of information, where necessary, to the European Commission, Member States, third countries and civil society;
- convenes meetings with economic operators and other stakeholders, as appropriate;
- approves the organization of specific working groups, including, if necessary, by involving the territorial CC coordinators from the most affected areas;
- requests, centralizes and analyzes the situations on the evolution of the crisis / potential crisis at territorial level;
- prepares and submits for approval the draft crisis report;
- archives, through the CC secretariat, the documents related to the CC activity;
- proposes the improvement of plans and procedures for the management of emergency crisis.

### **9.2. Tasks and competencies of the territorial CC**

- it certifies and approves first emergency measures;
- it establishes responsibilities within the territorial CC (including the communicator);
- it collects and evaluates the available data regarding the existing risk;
- it establishes and proposes the Operational Action Plan at territorial level, for approval, based on the existing data and the General Operational Plan received from the CC;
- it pursues the implementation of the Operational Action Plan at territorial level;
- it informs the CC and the other parties involved in the management of the crisis/of the potential crisis on crisis evolution;
- it re-evaluates the measures that have already been implemented in order to manage the crisis / potential crisis;

- if necessary, it requests the participation in the prevention and management of the crisis in the field of some specialists from institutions and organizations that are not represented in the territorial CC;
- it requests the convening of the County Committees for emergency situations and, if necessary, it proposes the establishment of additional measures or the declaration of the "state of alert";
- it ensures the flow of information between all parties involved in the prevention and management of crisis situations;
- through the designated communicator, it performs public information, based on instructions and coordination at the central level; it analyzes the need to set up a "call center" to take over the questions received from citizens and to develop a list of frequently asked questions;
- it convenes meetings with economic operators and other stakeholders;
- it draws up and approves the final report, which it sends to the CC, as well as to the County Committees for emergency situations.

### **9.3. Responsibilities of public authorities involved in crisis / potential crisis situations**

#### **I. GENERAL ATTRIBUTIONS**

- it ensures the implementing of the provisions of the contingency plan and it elaborates its own action procedures, on a case to case basis.
- it issues the orders / dispositions of the heads of the public administration authorities / public institutions in the specific field of activity, for the implementing of the measures established by the CC.
- it implements the NCES / CCES decisions in the specific field of activity
- it supports the structures set up for crisis management at national and territorial level, according to the competencies.
- it ensures the fulfillment of the alert and restriction measures and of the training of the own forces and means, provided in the contingency plan and in the operational action plans.
- upon the request of the CC, it participates with forces and means to ensure the prevention measures and to limit / eliminate the effects of crises in its field of competence.
- it ensures the presentation of the designated personnel in the crisis management structures set up at central, territorial level, in the established workplaces.
- it ensures the exchange of data and information between the components of crisis management structures.
- it collaborates with the specialized staff from other state institutions and / or with entities from the civil society, the private and academic environment.

#### **II. SPECIFIC ATTRIBUTIONS**

##### **II.1. Duties of The National Sanitary Veterinary and Food Safety Authority**

- it coordinates the entire activity of the sanitary-veterinary and food safety services technically and administratively, it organizes and controls the performance of the public sanitary-veterinary and food safety activities.
- it coordinates the activity of control in the field of feed safety;

- it cooperates and is responsible for the organizing and implementing of the necessary measures for the safety of animal feed, together with the central public administration authority
- it updates the contingency plan in the field of feed safety;
- it coordinates the measures required in emergency situations in the field of feed safety;
- it represents the national contact point and the national coordinator of the Rapid Alert System for Food and Feed - SRAAF
- it collaborates with other competent authorities with responsibilities in the field of feed safety, both nationally and internationally
- it notifies the international bodies WHO, EFSA, DG SANTE, FAO, with responsibilities in the field of food safety;
- it internationally cooperates with all organizations involved in the field of feed safety and in other related fields in order to keep Romania in the circuit of specific European and international policies;
- it verifies the application of the rules on feed safety at national and territorial level;
- it organizes, coordinates, manages and controls the activity of intra-union trade, import, export, transit and border inspection in the field of feed safety;
- it performs the risk assessment and establishes the measures required when it occurs a major problem that may endanger animal and public health;
- it ensures the supervision and control regarding the observance of the general conditions in the field of feed safety;
- it collects and analyzes data to enable the characterization and monitoring of risks that have a direct or indirect influence on food and feed safety;
- it organizes consultations with the academic / scientific forums in order to find the optimal solutions for limiting the risk;
- it participates in risk communication

## **II.2. Attributions of The Ministry of Internal Affairs**

- it participates in the identification and evaluation of crisis effects in the field, through the specialized personnel, at the request of structures involved and in collaboration with them;
- it sends relevant data and information to the specialized structures of NSVFSA;
- it ensures the personnel, the techniques and the specialized means established by the operational action plans elaborated for each situation;
- it applies the competent measures for maintaining and ensuring public order during the distribution of medicines, vaccines and of basic necessities to the population.
- at the request of the territorial structures of NSVFSA, it participates in the carrying out of planned controls, according to the common protocols
- through the structures with attributions in the field, it participates in the monitoring of the observance of the restrictions within the competence of the Romanian Police and it acts according to the law
- through the structures with attributions in the field, it participates in the monitoring of the observance of the restrictions;
- it ensures the establishment of action reserves for supplementing the staff involved in the implementation of public order and safety measures;
- upon request, it participates in research and decontamination actions of the personnel, techniques and field, through the structures of The General Inspectorate for Emergency Situations;

- it participates in ensuring the priority of movement of transport of forces and means intended for actions;
- it limits or prohibits the movement of vehicles or persons in certain areas or between certain hours;
- it implements specific measures to prohibit or restrict road, rail, maritime, fluvial and air traffic on certain routes, within the limits of its competences.
- it participates on the imposing of keeping quarantine measures in areas with epidemics and epizootics;
- under the coordination of the prefects, it ensures the implementing of the measures established by the structures set up for the management of the situation, at the level of the administrative - territorial units.
- upon request, the Medical Directorate of the Ministry of Interior, together with the representatives of the Ministry of Health shall participate in the elaboration of the list of medicines, sanitary materials and necessary equipments for the intervention, in order to ensure the pre-hospital phase;
- through the National Authority of State Reserves and Special Issues, it assures products and goods of strict necessity from the state reserve which are necessary for the operative interventions for the protection of the population, of the economy and of the national security;
- it ensures, manage, coordinate and monitor the operative intervention of the emergency medical structures, respectively of the county ambulance services and Bucharest / Ilfov ambulance service, of the emergency reception units / emergency reception compartments, as well as of the mobile emergency resuscitation and release services in order to restore normality.

### **II.3. Attributions of The Ministry of National Defense**

The attributions of the sanitary-veterinary and food safety inspectors within the National Defence Ministry.

Within the organization and coordination of the sanitary-veterinary and food safety inspection activity, the head of the Medical Department or the person to whom he has delegated the competence has the following attributions:

- to coordinate and organize the activity of sanitary-veterinary and food safety inspection in the units and structures within the Ministry of National Defence;
- to coordinate the elaboration of specific regulations for the sanitary-veterinary and food safety inspection in the military units;
- to issue sanitary-veterinary operating authorizations for all military units and structures within the Ministry of National Defence.;
- to control and monitor economic operators that carry out their activity in the areas belonging to the military institution;
- to ascertain and sanction the contraventions to the sanitary-veterinary norms;
- to represent the Ministry of National Defence in relation to similar structures belonging to national and international specialized bodies;
- to periodically draw up reports on the activity of sanitary-veterinary inspection;
- to draw up the annual inspection plan;

The attributions of the veterinary sanitary inspectors within the structures subordinated to the Medical Directorate:



- to supervise and to be responsible for the observance of sanitary veterinary and food safety hygiene norms;
- to elaborate the annual and monthly inspection plans to be submitted for approval to the Medical Directorate;
- to control and monitor the economic operators that carry out their activity in the spaces belonging to the military institution;
- to make proposals to the head of the Medical Directorate in situations with a major and imminent risk of illness of the army personnel,
- to stop, distort or condition the delivery of food products that do not correspond to the hygiene norms for collective consumption;
- to collect and seal the necessary samples for the identification and analysis of health risk, as well as countersamples;
- to provide special measures for sick animals, with suspicions of transmissible diseases or carriers of pathogens;
- to participate in specific activities in the military units in the area of responsibility;
- to draw up quarterly, semestrial, annual reports on the activity of sanitary veterinary inspection and to submit them to the Medical Directorate.

#### **II.4. Attributions of The General Customs Directorate**

- to periodically and jointly review the application of the relevant legislation and of the sanitary-veterinary and food safety measures to be taken by the customs sanitary-veterinary and food safety staff at border points where border inspection are being performed;
- to collaborate with the personnel with specialized inspection and control attributions within the sanitary-veterinary and food safety authority, in order to eliminate the risk of introducing the goods that do not meet the requirements established in the specific legislation in force in Romania / European Union;
- to allow the introduction in Romania / European Union of identified and selected transports of live animals, products of animal origin, food of non-animal origin, as well as other products and materials that are subject to sanitary-veterinary and food safety inspection and control, coming from countries third parties, based on the document (signed and stamped) provided in the legal regulations in force, issued by the official veterinarian / official inspector, as the case may be, only through the Romanian state border points where there are organized border inspection posts approved for import, export and transit, after performing official controls;
- in the customs offices where there are no border inspection posts of NSVFSA, The National Customs Authority prohibits the entry into the country of food products from third countries and directs the transports to the points where these posts exist;
- based on alerts, orders, risk profiles, suspicions that the above products are dangerous or non-compliant (even if they are stamped and signed by NSVFSA), The National Customs Authority may apply the control procedure.
- to ensure the fulfillment of the attributions regarding the objectives registered in the national strategies, their action plans, under the coordination of the competent national authorities.

#### **II. 5. Attributions of The Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development**

- it performs sampling of plants and plant products and performs analyzes in accredited laboratories, to determine the content of pesticide residues;
- it participates in the exchange of information within the SRAAF, according to the competencies and organizes inspections on areas of competence.
- it performs control and inspection actions to verify the composition and quality of food products, traditional products, ecological products, etc., according to the fields of competence

## **II.6. Attributions of The Ministry of Justice - National Administration of Penitentiaries**

The specific sanitary veterinary legislation elaborated by NSVFSA shall apply to the objectives of the Ministry of Justice subject to sanitary veterinary and food safety control; the legislation is adapted to the specificity of the Ministry of Justice by Orders of the Minister of Justice and Provisions of the Director General of the National Penitentiary Administration.

Through the sanitary veterinary inspection network in the field of food safety, The Ministry of Justice has an efficient system of official controls for monitoring and verifying the conformity of activities within the flow of food traceability, in accordance with the legislation on animal health and welfare.

According to the law, the official veterinarians from MJ - NPA are part of the unique sanitary veterinary state system, with attributions and competencies of doctors “official veterinarians” for all MJ - NPA units.

They perform the sanitary veterinary and food safety expertise of animal and non - animal products and byproducts within the MJ - NPA units, verifying the observance of the sanitary veterinary and food safety norms.

The official veterinarians shall carry out their activity in all the objectives of the MJ - NPA units, which collect, store, process and capitalize food products of animal and non - animal origin.

- whenever the epidemiological situation requires, they collaborate, with the NSVFSA, etc., participating in working groups as well as in the trainings organized on food safety issues;
- they analyze, evaluate and communicate the potential risk for the human and animal health identified through the guidance, support and control activities, to the decision makers from the Ministry of Justice and the NPA;

## **II. 7. Attributions of The Ministry of Environment, Waters And Forests**

The National Environmental Guard (NEG) - the specialized inspection and control body of the Ministry of Environment, Waters and Forests shall ensure the control of activities with an impact on the environment that can affect food safety.

Thus, The National Environmental Guard has attributions in:

- control of activities with an impact on the environment;
- control of activities that present major accident hazards and / or with significant impact on the environment, in order to prevent and limit pollution risks;
- participation in establishing the causes of pollution on environmental factors, including the cessation and / or suspension of certain assets for certain periods of time, if the health of the population is endangered or if the concentration of pollutants is exceeded beyond the limits allowed by legislation in force.

- the control of the observance of the provisions of the regulatory acts regarding the environmental protection and the verification of the measures established by compliance programs or the action plans for the economic-social activities;
- participation in the rapid exchange of information with the competent, national and international institutions and bodies on products, substances, technologies that pose a risk to the health and safety of citizens and the environment;

In the field of genetically modified organisms, for which the competent authority is the National Agency for Environmental Protection (subordinated to Ministry of Environment, Waters and Forests), in accordance with GEO no. 43/2007 on the deliberate introduction of genetically modified organisms into the environment, approved with amendments, by Law no. 247/2009 and GEO no. 44/2007 regarding the use of genetically modified microorganisms in conditions of isolation, approved with modifications, by Law no. 3/2008.

- it ensures the control and inspection of activities involving genetically modified living organisms and microorganisms, obtained through modern biotechnology techniques.

## **II. 8. Attributions of The National Commission for the Control of Nuclear Activities:**

- NCCNA shall approve, the response plans towards the radiological and nuclear emergency of the authorization holders, according to the law, and shall participate in the radiological and nuclear emergency response.
- it collaborates with the central authority for environmental protection and controls the development of the activities of the surveillance network of environmental radioactivity;
- it controls the application of the provisions of the international treaties and of the national regulations in force regarding the intervention in case of nuclear accidents, according to the law;
- it constitutes a national contact point for radiological emergencies;
- it approves all draft normative acts that have implications on the nuclear field.

## **10. Applied Measures**

According to the type of incident, the following measures shall apply in crisis / potential crisis situations, in order to eliminate the risk / potential risk on the population's health:

- identification of products likely to be contaminated, using traceability procedures;
- extension of sampling;
- official seizure of products likely to be contaminated;
- restricting or prohibiting the placing on the market of products likely to be contaminated;
- ordering the initiation of the procedures for the withdrawal / recall of products from the market, respectively their destruction as the case may be;
- authorizing the use of animal feed for purposes other than those for which it was originally intended;
- suspension or prohibition of the activity;
- public awareness through: actions of public information and warnings, distribution of informative materials, informative brochures regarding the associated dangers and risks; media and internet ads;
- informative meetings with the representatives of the professional associations;
- any other measures which the competent authorities consider appropriate.

The measures shall apply in these emergency situations, in a coordinated way, by the authorities / structures referred to in ch. 9 and with the allocation of additional funds, where appropriate.

In order to establish the specific necessary measures to be used in crisis / potential crisis situations generated by certain types of risks, specific plans / operational manuals can be elaborated.

## **11. Elaboration of the final report of the crisis**

Within a 3 days'time from the communication of the decision to cease the activity of the territorial CC, the final report shall be submitted to the CC at the level of the respective territory. Within a 10 days'time from its receipt, the CC shall prepare the final report of the crisis, including details on all incidents and measures taken, being made available to the institutions involved in order to:

- facilitate the evaluation of management actions;
- identify potential improvements in the response and management of crisis situations
- better structure procedures and operational plans for the "future" crises.

The continuous and correct evaluation of the crisis / potential crisis management, in real terms enables the improvement of the plans and of the working procedures. Thus, as a result of the evaluation of the final report, there can be settled to need to adapt / improve it.

A summary of this report shall be made public (eg in a press release), in order to present government actions in a transparent manner.

In order to prepare the final report of the crisis, the following issues shall be taken into account:

- The composition and responsibilities of the CC members and of the different structures
- Date of hazard identification and correct assessment of consequences
- Reaction speed according to the existing situation
- Achieving the objectives established according to the general, operational plans
- The actual legislation provides or does not provide support in order to establish and apply specific measures
- Resources allocated to interventions
- Evaluation of measures regarding control and monitoring activities
- Assessing the public's perception in the different phases of the crisis
- Media behaviour?
- Organizing crisis management in the form in which it was performed
- Weaknesses and strengths of crisis management
- Measures needed to improve crisis management
- The necessity to revise the plan / legislation and procedures in force, so as to improve crisis management
- Appointing the responsible persons for the re-evaluation / final evaluation of the incident after a period of 3 or 6 months?

## **12. Crisis communication**

Crisis management / potential crisis includes communication management, a key element, which involves communication between all parties implicated in crisis prevention and management, as well as communication to the public.

Stakeholders and the general public have the right to information on the actions and decisions of the CC. An open and transparent crisis management prevents the development of rumors and speculations, which can lead to escalation of the incident.

Clear responsibilities regarding the communication of the crisis shall be established within the CC activities. The people involved shall have responsibilities regarding:

- press monitoring;
- assessment of the situation in terms of communication (possibly the use of questionnaires)
- proposals on the communication strategy (communication channels, modalities)
- drafting press releases / information regarding the crisis / potential crisis; periodic editing of information from the CC in a form of general communication, easy to understand by the public;
- exchange of information between the communication managers of the institutions involved;
- participating in the preparation of the final report of the crisis.

The organization of activities for crisis communication shall be done by the CC, so that the message be unitary, appropriate.

In the process of carrying out the communication, the following indications may be key points in deciding the actions to be taken further:

- Are there already requests for information? If so, from whom?
- What are the information channels related to the incident? (daily press, specialized newspapers, electronic press, internet, etc.)
- Information on the responsibilities and competencies for crisis management;
- Is the press adequately informed on the progress made through the measures initiated?
- Establishing the way in which the information shall be made public
- Is this progress of the measures clearly perceived by the public?
- What other communication channels shall be considered?
- Has a list of topics of interest been drawn up?
- Has the "single voice" been established for the transmission of a unitary message?

### **13. Contact details in case of a crisis**

Within the NSVFSA and CSVFSD, there is a list of contacts of people with responsibilities in managing crisis situations or who may be involved in crisis management. For protection reasons, this list is not made public.

The contact details of the institutions involved in the management of a possible crisis shall be found in Annex no.6.

### **14. Ressources**

The public administration authorities / public institutions represented in the structures for the prevention and management of crises regarding animal feed have the obligation to ensure the

ressources that will be established through the operational action plans, within the limits of the legal attributions.

#### **14.1. Financial ressources**

The financial funds for the achievement and development of emergency management activities at central and territorial level shall be provided from the state budget and / or local budgets, as appropriate, as well as from other domestic and international sources, according to the law. In the case of exceeding the allocated organizational, financial and managerial capacities, it will be possible to request motivated funds for crisis management from the Intervention Fund available to the Government and the Budget Reserve Fund available to the Government.

#### **14.2 Staff ressources**

Human ressources are represented by the staff of the public administration authorities / public institutions from the central and territorial level, according to the fields of competence.

#### **14.3. Ressources of equipments and other facilities**

NSVFSA

The current and capital expenditures occasioned by the crisis management are financed from the NSVFSA budget.

At the territorial level, the SVFSD shall have rapid access and be able to rapidly provide protective equipments and material facilities, to ensure the implementation of the entire set of measures for the crisis control. Some of these equipments and materials shall be stored for cases of necessity at the level of SVFSD, and the rest shall be quickly available for purchase, under the conditions provided by the legislation on procurement from public or private sources in force. Consumable equipments shall be available at the level of SVFSD - food safety structures.

Stored equipments and materials shall be periodically checked for the assessment of damages, in order to perform replacing of parts.

#### **14.4. Laboratory capacities**

Details on national reference laboratories for each of the subdomains that are subject to official feed control, as well as the list of laboratories involved in the official feed control, details on accredited methods can be found in the National Multiannual Control Plans, developed in accordance with Regulation no. 625/2017 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 15 March 2017(Official Controls Regulation)

### **15. Staff training**

The training of the personnel designated to manage the Contingency Plan at the level of the involved authorities / institutions shall be carried out within their own training programs.

It is recommended that simulations shall be performed at least once a year, to verify the reaction of the staff involved in public authorities at central and territorial level, in emergency situations.

## **16. FINAL PROVISIONS**

This Plan has been prepared in \_\_ copies and may be amended and supplemented, with the agreement of the parties, by additional documents that will be an integral part of this plan. Annexes no. 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 are an integral part of this Plan.

The public administration authorities / public institutions represented in the crisis cells have the obligation to designate and communicate to NSVFSA and SVFSD the persons designated to manage at central and territorial level the Contingency Plan, respectively the CC representatives and the territorial CC.

The legal representatives of the institutions involved in intervention actions are responsible for the implementation of this plan and the elaboration of detailed procedures, as the case may be.

## **Annex no. 1**

### **Primary evaluation of information**

The NSVFSA Emergency Operations Center acts as a first filter and verifies whether the existing circumstances have the potential to generate a crisis:

- Can the incident be resolved by the application of certain measures by NSVFSA?
- Since when is the problem known?
- Does the message clearly indicate what happened, where and when?
- Is the information available from several sources?
- Is there a quick alert with detailed information available?
- After the incident, was the information promptly transmitted?
- Who discovered the problem?
- What pieces of information were disseminated?
- Which is the status of public perception / press articles?
- Were there similar cases?
- Is it necessary an expertise performed by experts from outside public authorities / scientific personalities?
- Can the potential size of the incident be quantified?
- Can the potential hazard be assessed with sufficient certainty or are other assessments required (toxicological, epidemiological reports)?
- Are further clarifications needed to assess health risks?
- Have all relevant decisions and available information for the first assessment been taken into account or it is necessary to obtain additional information such as:
  - The origin of the crisis and the evolution of the incident so far;
  - Affected products (what kind of supply chains can be identified? Is traceability possible?
  - Existing quantities in Romania and their location?
  - Availability of methods and analysis capacity?
  - The measures that have already been taken by SVFSD (withdrawal, recall)?
  - Effects on animals / population and symptoms (severe, chronic or latent health risk)?
  - The origin of the crisis / source of contamination?
  - What pieces of information are missing for a first legal characterization?
  - Has a maximum level or limit of legal tolerance been set and what can be the implementation actions?
- Does national or international legislation require the involvement of certain parties?
- Have concepts of initial solutions been developed?
- Shall emergency measures be taken? Who shall take them?
- Are examples of diseases of affected animals / affected people available and do they confirm the information?
- How many animals / people or segments of population are particularly affected or show particular risks?
- Are the means of distribution of the affected products known and kept under surveillance?
- What conclusions can be drawn from the analytical data?



- Who are the competent national experts for solving this issue? Is their involvement necessary?
- Have the first available analytical results been evaluated? Who provided these results? Is the methodology validated?

## Description of the incident for a first assessment of situation

<b>Date of incident occurrence</b>		<b>Date of notification of the Operating center</b>	
<b>Source / structure which informed the operational center</b>			
<b>Contact person</b>	Name:	Phone:	E-mail:
Short description of current situation			
<b>Information on animal feed involved in crisis</b>			
Type of product			
No. of consignment			
Date of fabrication			
Storage life			
Country of origin			
Product specificity			
The involved quantities			
The place where, the inspection took place			
Legal basis			
Name and address of the producer/importer			
The product distribution	Counties:	UE, Member State:	Third countries
<b>Information on risk</b>			
Type of risk			
Detected level		Maximum permitted level:	
<b>Already implemented measures</b>			
<b>Other relevant issues</b>			

**CC structure**

NSVFSA - Operational Coordinator / General Manager / Director

MARD - General Director of the National Phytosanitary Authority / Director -  
Specialized Directorate

MND - Specialists from the Center for Preventive Medicine

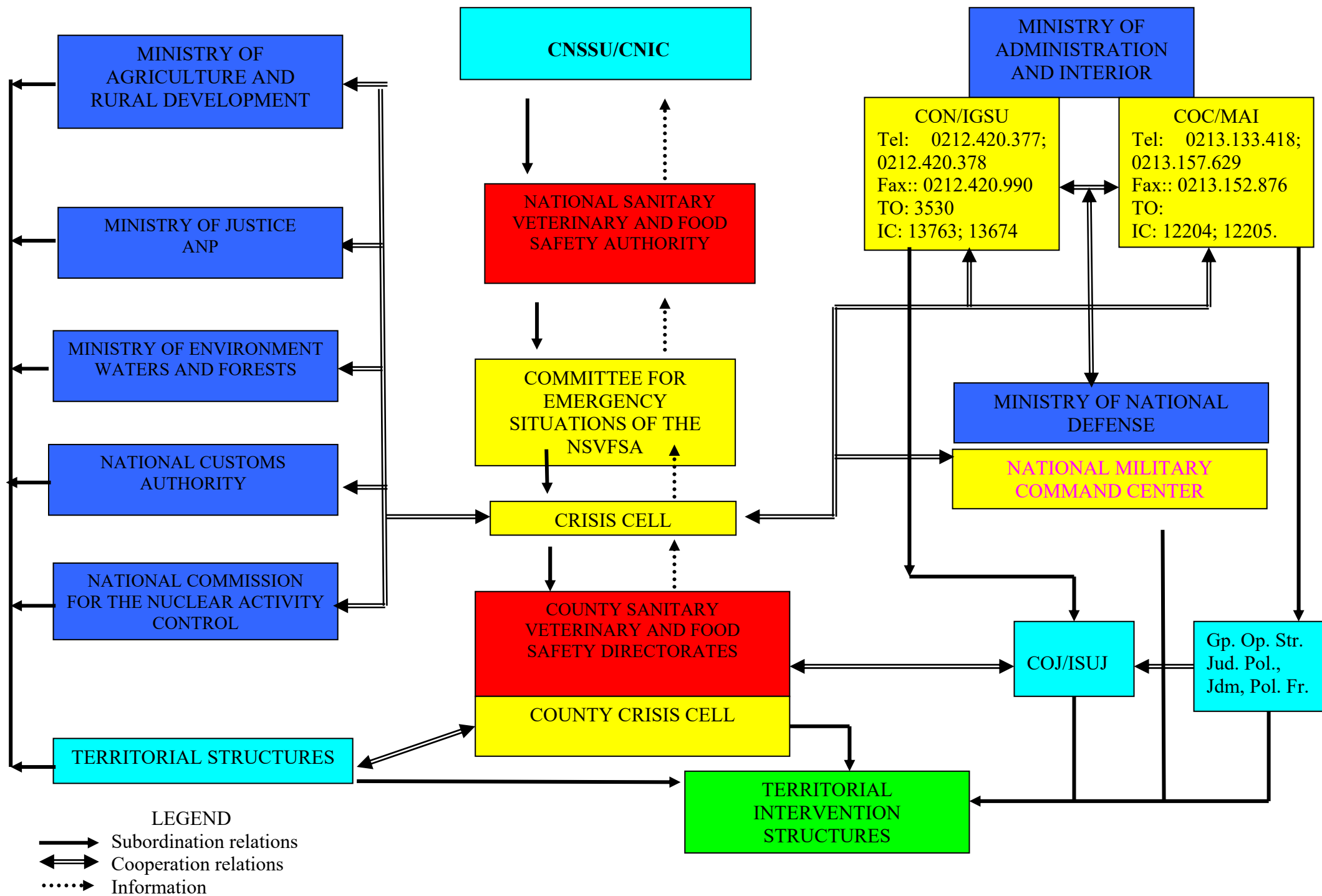
MEWF - MEWF Dispatch Center, fax: 021 3160282, phone: 0214083536

MJ - NAP - Dispatch Center - no.47, Maria Ghiculeasa Str, sector 2, Bucharest  
- tel. 021-208.61.50  
- fax. 021-242.05.05; 021-242.60.78; 021-242.81.82  
- e-mail: office@anp.gov.ro, anp-dea@anp.gov.ro

NCCNA - Director - Ionizing Radiation Use Authorization Department.

CGD - Director of the Customs Surveillance and Control Department.

MAI - specialists from the Medical Directorate



**Assessment of the situation**

- Are members of the crisis cell aware of the state of the situation?
- Does the composition of the crisis cell correspond to the current level of the incident?
- Were there any new incidents or pieces of information to be reported from the previous meeting? Which are these?
- Do these new incidents require a new assessment of the situation?
- What is the relationship between the pieces of information and the possibility of communicating it on the one hand and the danger and speed of spread on the other?
- What are the emergency measures to be taken internationally?
- Are there other concepts of alternative solutions?
- When can new pieces of information be available?
- Can the existing evaluations be accepted in this form?
- Does the current situation lead to the need to set up some working groups to clarify specific issues? If so, what are their goals?

**List of contact points from the institutions involved in the crisis management**

**NSVFSA** – Emergency Operations Center, Tel: 0374 150 200, Fax: 021-3124967

**MND** – National Military Command Center – NUCLEU CNMC (N)  
Izvor street, no.110, tel 0214107325 fax 0214113535 e-mail cnmc@mapn.ro

**MJ – NAP (National Administration of Penitentiaries)**

NAP. Dispatcher – Maria Ghiculeasa street no.47, sector 2, Bucharest  
- tel. 021-208.61.50  
- fax. 021-242.05.05 ; 021-242.60.78 ; 021-242.81.82  
- e-mail:[office@anp.gov.ro](mailto:office@anp.gov.ro), [anp-dea@anp.gov.ro](mailto:anp-dea@anp.gov.ro)

**CNCAN** – Emergency Operations Center, Telefon 021 351 50 89, Fax 021 351 50 88.

**MARD**

**Contact point- Emergency Operations Center**(e-mail: [centru.operativ@madr.ro](mailto:centru.operativ@madr.ro); tel:/fax: 0213078526) which shall submit the information received from the NSVFSA, on the incident occurrence, both to the State Secretariat including under its subordination the National Phytosanitary Authority as well as to the General Director of the National Phytosanitary Authority, responsible for the management of the Contingency Plan for the MARD.

**DGV** - the contact point is DGV , tel 021 315 58 58, fax 0213138251, email [vama@customs.ro](mailto:vama@customs.ro)

**MAI - CON/IGSU**, Tel: 0212.420.377; 0212.420.378, Fax: 0212.420.990, TO:3530, IC:13763; 13674

**COC/MAI**, Tel: 0213.133.418; 0213.157.629, Fax.: 0213.152.876, IC: 12204; 12205.

**MEWF** – MEWF dispatcher , fax: 021 3160282, tel: 0214083536

**(Ministry of the Environment, Waters and Forests)**