



Industry assurance schemes third party certification, and official controls

A view from the FVO

FAMI_{QS} 10 years anniversary

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Health and
Consumers

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Who are we?

- Directorate F, the Food and Veterinary Office (FVO), of the Health & Consumers Directorate General (DG SANCO)

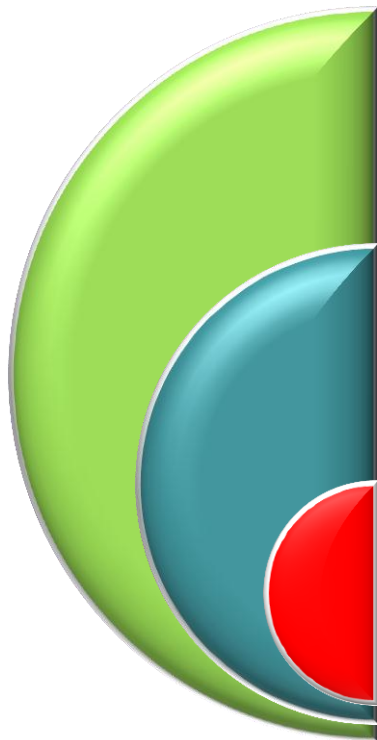


What do we do?

- We verify compliance with (or equivalence to) EU legislation/standards in the areas of
 - **food and feed safety, animal and plant health, animal welfare**
 - **organic farming, protected denominations**
 - **medical devices, active pharmaceutical substances**
- We do not do policy

Where are we in the process?

3 layers of responsibility:



FVO

- verify how the competent authorities ensure enforcement of EU standards, and their functioning in practice

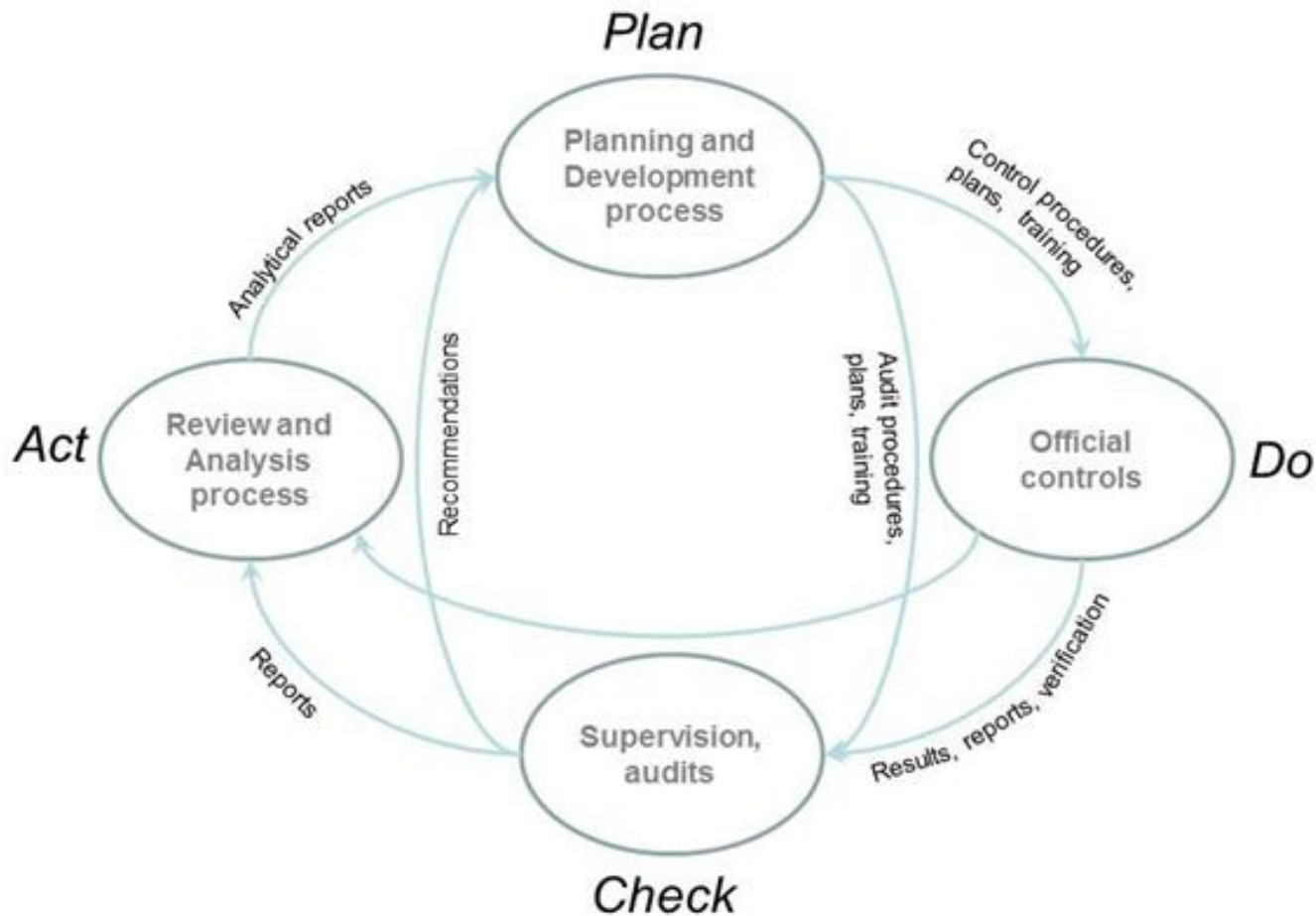
National
Authorities

- carry out official controls to enforce EU standards

Operators

- apply EU standards (primary responsibility)

We aim at effective systems for official controls



Assurance schemes and official controls: a marriage of convenience?



Context: things that have happened

- Dioxins crises → critical role of
 - non-traditional part of the feed sector
 - feed sourcing/labelling
- Financial crises
 - efficiency gains in official controls
 - added value for operators

Main issue for competent authorities: efficiently organising risk-based controls



Can assurance schemes and their third party certification be of help?

Benefits of collaboration

- Avoid duplication of efforts
- Seek synergies
- Understand others' perspective and avoid misunderstandings

Advantages for the authorities (I)

- Better use of dwindling resources
- Recognition of operators' best practice
- Availing of expertise in specific areas
- Knowledge about the entire feed chain (i.e. beyond classical operators)
- Access to a wider "risk" database

Advantages for the authorities (II)

- Better understanding of risks:
 - knowing the reality of operators and the chain
 - being aware of the external environment (e.g. costs associated with products)
- Awareness about emerging risks

→ **Full use of Article 3 of Reg. 882/2004**

Advantages for schemes

- Partnership and recognition
- Policing of use of logos
- Reduce administrative burden for operators (added value from adherence to the scheme)
- Reality check about the work of third party certification audits

Challenges (I)

- Dialogue difficulties: commercial vs safety?
- Level of representation of schemes in different countries
- Scope of certification /adherence to scheme
- Performance (and independence) of third party certification bodies
- Transparency issues

→ **TRUST**

Challenges (II)

- Leading to the idea that assurance schemes are a replacement of official controls
- Abstaining to carry out certain official controls

General elements of trust for the competent authorities

Assurance scheme governance

- Setting body
- Standards: legislation and guidance

Certification bodies

- Accreditation
- Monitoring the performance of auditors: trainings, desk and on-the-spot

Trust: sharing of data (I)

- Membership of the scheme and scope of certification
- Collated data on own-checks → facilitates the targeting of official monitoring
- Content and schedule of certification audits

Trust: sharing of data (II)

- Suspension from the scheme
- Repeat non-conformities affecting the management of risks
- Immediate threats to public/animal health
 - trigger points
- Alerts
 - There are confidentiality issues ... but mechanisms have to be established !!!

Thanks for your attention!

Any question?