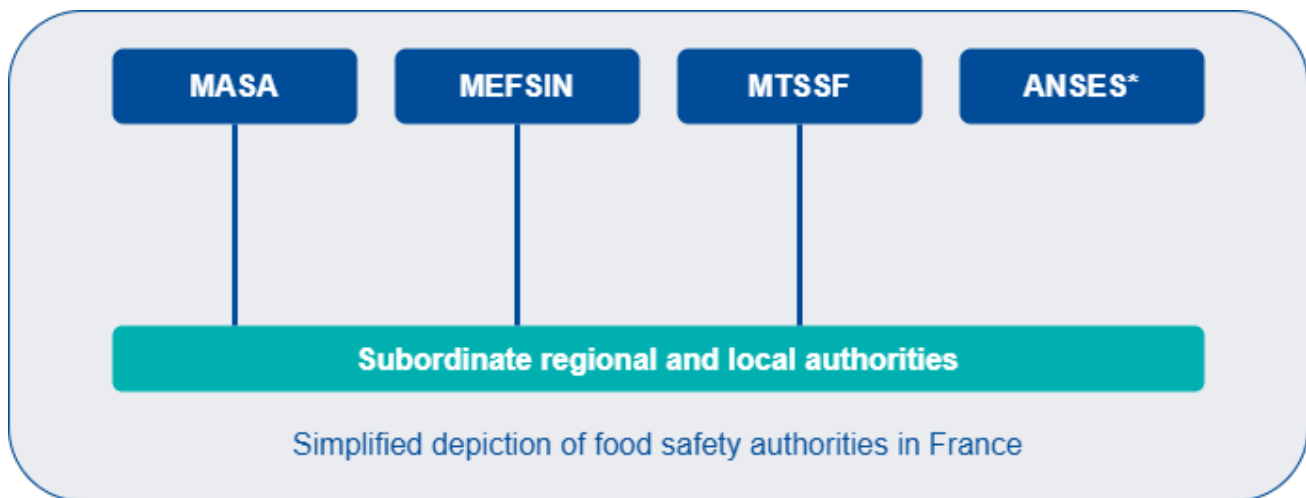


France:France

Last updated on 19 December 2023.



* Host institution of the national EFSA Focal Point. For information on the EFSA Focal Point network, please see the EFSA website.

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Regulation (EC) No. 178/2002 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 28 January 2002 laying down the general principles and requirements of food law is the central foundation for food legislation in Europe and in France.

Government measures with regard to food safety take into account scientific knowledge and more particularly scientific risk assessments.

In France, for food safety, there is a clear distinction between risk assessment and risk management. Risk assessments and scientific opinions are conducted by the French Agency for Food, Environmental and Occupational Health & Safety (ANSES) and are publicly available through publication on its website (unless prohibited by statutory provisions). In addition to addressing a wide range of risks to human health and the environment, ANSES conducts and funds research, it takes part in several national schemes (vigilance schemes and surveillance networks and platforms) that enable it to detect warning signals and take effective action against diseases and harmful exposures.

Risk management is mainly under the authority of the Directorate General for Food (DGAL) in the Ministry of Agriculture and Food Sovereignty (MASA). The Directorate General for Health (DGS), in the Ministry of Health and Prevention (MSP) is responsible for protecting the health of the population through the various uses of water. The Directorate General for Competition Policy, Consumer Affairs and Fraud Control (DGCCRF) in the Ministry of Economy, Finances and industrial and digital Sovereignty (MEFSIN) is responsible for the safety of food contact materials and packaging.

ANSES issues and withdraws marketing authorisations for veterinary medicinal products, plant protection products, fertilisers and biocides. It does this after assessing their effectiveness and the risks they pose to human health and ecosystems.

The ministries use risk assessments prepared by ANSES as the scientific foundation for risk management measures.

These general directorates have a dual responsibility:

- 'political' – through the development of regulations at the national level and also through a central administration that ensures French representation in international and European authorities.
- 'operational' – through decentralised services located in each region and department in France whose mission is to control the implementation of health and food regulations.

Risk communication is conducted by the ministries and by ANSES when relevant. The Codex Contact Point in France is located at the Secrétariat général des affaires européennes (General Secretariat for European Affairs), which is under the authority of the Prime Minister.

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Ministry of Agriculture and Food Sovereignty

Name	Ministry of Agriculture and Food Sovereignty
Acronym	MASA
Activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Agricultural policy, food safety • Risk management • Risk communication • RASFF contact point
Responsibilities	
Location	Paris
URL	http://agriculture.gouv.fr


In the field of food safety, the Ministry of Agriculture and Food Sovereignty (MASA), Directorate General for Food (DGAL) is responsible for agricultural policy, for the safety of the entire food chain, including animal feed. MASA prepares draft legislation in this area and is also responsible for controls and inspection. MASA is also responsible for fighting food crime.

MASA's portfolio encompasses plant protection products, including residues, veterinary

medicinal products, GMOs and zoonoses.

The area of work of MASA extends beyond food safety to include plant health, plant protection, animal health and animal welfare. In France there are two RASFF contact points, one is at MASA and the other at MEFSIN (for its field of competence).

Ministry of Economy, Finances and Industrial and Digital Sovereignty

Name	Ministry of Economy, Finance and Industrial and Digital Sovereignty
Acronym	MEFSIN
Activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Consumer policy, food safety• Risk management• Risk communication• RASFF contact point
Responsibilities	
Location	Paris
URL	http://www.economie.gouv.fr

The Ministry of Economy, Finances and Industrial and Digital Sovereignty (MEFSIN), Directorate General for Competition Policy, Consumer Affairs and Fraud Control (DGCCRF) is responsible for consumer policy. In the area of food safety, MEFSIN is responsible for food contact materials and packaging.

Ministry of Health and Prevention

Name	Ministry of Health and Prevention
Acronym	MSP
Activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Health policy, food safety• Risk management• Risk communication
Responsibilities	 
Location	Paris
URL	http://www.sante.gouv.fr

The Ministry of Solidarity and Health (MSP), Directorate General for Health (DGS) deals with public health policy, food safety, and mineral and drinking water. MSP defines objectives and priorities for public health policy, sets the legislative and regulatory framework, develops public health plans and national health programmes and ensures their implementation. In collaboration with MASA, MSP is in charge of investigations on foodborne diseases.

French Agency for Food, Environmental and Occupational Health & Safety

Name	French Agency for Food, Environmental and Occupational Health & Safety
Acronym	ANSES
Activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Risk assessment • Risk management • Risk communication • EFSA Focal Point • Research, scientific & technical support
Responsibilities	
Location	Maisons-Alfort
URL	https://www.anses.fr/en

Created on 1 July 2010, the French Agency for Food, Environmental and Occupational Health & Safety (ANSES) is a scientific body active in the fields of food safety, occupational and environmental health, animal health and welfare, and plant health. ANSES's core activity is to conduct independent and pluralistic expert assessments in order to evaluate health risks and provide the competent authorities with scientific data and recommendations that are essential to take the necessary measures preserve public health. These assessments are carried out with the support of 15 scientific expert committees and related ad hoc working groups involving more than 800 external scientific experts.

In compliance with the European regulatory framework for GMOs, ANSES participates in the assessment of GMO dossiers.

The Agency also assesses the effectiveness and risks of veterinary medicinal products, plant protection products, fertilisers, growing media and their adjuvants, as well as biocides, with a view to delivering marketing authorisations. It also provides assessments of chemicals within the framework of the European REACH regulations.

ANSES reports to five ministries, three of which have responsibilities in the area of food safety (MASA, MEFSIN, MSP). These ministries use risk assessments prepared by ANSES as basis for risk management measures.

ANSES conducts monitoring, alert, vigilance, research and reference activities. It also defines, implements and funds scientific and technical research programmes. The agency relies on a network of nine reference and research laboratories which operate in three main areas: animal health and welfare, food safety (chemical and microbiological), and plant health and hold numerous reference mandates (more than 60 national mandates, 13 EU mandates, and more than 20 international mandates from WHO, FAO, and WOA).)

Regional and local levels

France consists of 18 regions and 101 departments (including five departments and regions located overseas) plus other overseas territories with special status. Feed and food inspections are carried out by the decentralised services (regional and local offices) of the three ministries in charge of food and feed safety.

Article 36 institutions

Institutions involved in the EFSA network pursuant to Article 36 Reg. (EC) No. 178/2002

1. French Agency for Food, Environmental and Occupational Health & Safety (ANSES) (EFSA Focal Point)
2. French Agriculture Research Centre for International Development (CIRAD)
3. French Alternative Energies and Atomic Energy Commission (CEA)
4. National Veterinary School of Alfort (EnvA)
5. National Veterinary School of Toulouse (ENVT)
6. French Research Institute for Exploitation of the Sea (Ifremer)
7. French National Research Institute for Agriculture, Food and Environment (INRAe)
8. Institut Pasteur de Lille (IPL)
9. National Metrology and Testing Laboratory (LNE)
10. National College of Veterinary Medicine, Food Science and Engineering (Oniris)
11. Joint Service of the Laboratories of the Ministry of Economy, Finance and Industry (DGCCRF and DGDDI) (SCL)
12. University of Burgundy (uB)
13. University of Western Brittany (UBO)
14. University of Clermont-Auvergne (UCA)
15. University of Reims Champagne Ardenne (URCA)
16. University of Rouen Normandy (URN)
17. Institute for Higher Education and Research in Food, Animal Health, Agronomic and Environmental Sciences (VetAgro Sup)

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