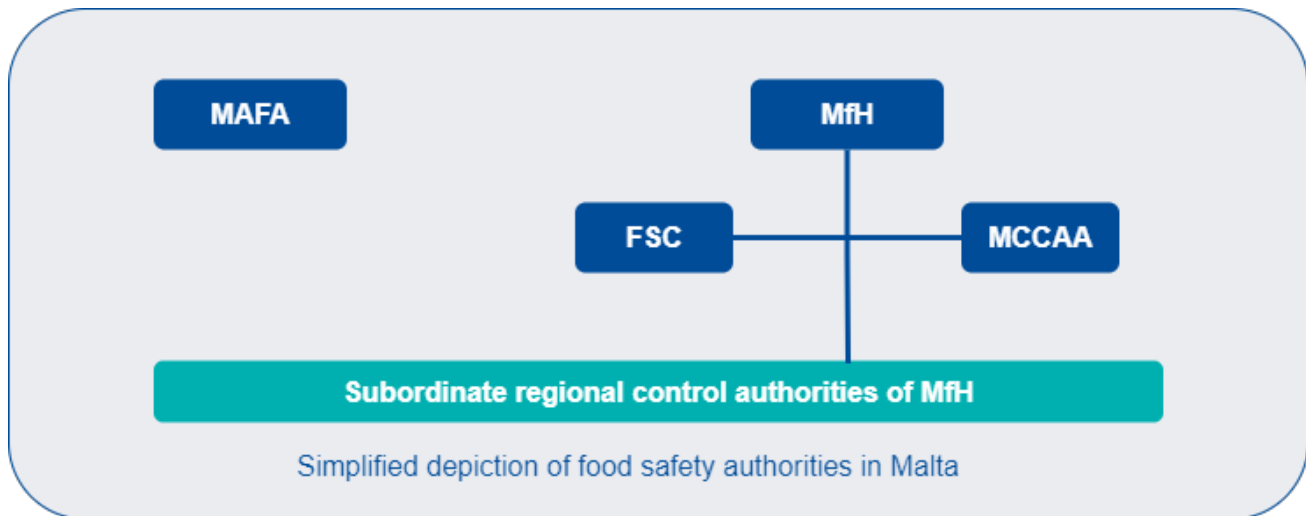


# Malta

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The Food Safety Act is the central legal foundation for food legislation in Malta. Infringement of food regulations can lead to measures under criminal law and consumer damage claims under civil law, whereby the final decision rests with the courts. Government measures with regard to food safety are often based on scientific risk assessments. However, the final decision on the legality of governmental measures rests with the courts.

In Malta, risk assessment is institutionally separated from risk management. Risk assessments are not published.

Generally speaking, Malta has a national centralised system. Due to the small scale of the services, the offices at the central level are responsible not only for policy and coordination, but also for direct implementation of controls.

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## Ministry for Agriculture, Fisheries and Animal Rights

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<b>Name</b>	Ministry for Agriculture, Fisheries and Animal Rights
<b>Acronym</b>	MAFA
<b>Activities</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Agricultural policy, food and feed safety</li> <li>• Risk management</li> </ul>
<b>Responsibilities</b>	
<b>Location</b>	Santa Venera
<b>URL</b>	<a href="http://agriculture.gov.mt">http://agriculture.gov.mt</a>

The Ministry for Agriculture, Fisheries and Animal Rights (MAFA) deals with agricultural policy and, more particularly, food and feed safety in Malta. It is the competent authority for controls of food of animal origin. The MAFA is responsible for guidance, approval and inspection of all types of establishments for food of animal origin and for import controls on food of animal origin and feed.

The portfolio of the MAFA includes feed, genetically modified organisms (GMOs), zoonoses, and residues of plant protection products and veterinary medicinal products. The MAFA is the regulatory authority for veterinary medicinal products in Malta. The MAFA's area of work extends beyond food safety to include, for instance, plant health, animal health and animal welfare.

## Ministry for Health

<b>Name</b>	Ministry for Health
<b>Acronym</b>	MfH
<b>Activities</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Social and health policy, food safety</li> <li>• Risk management</li> </ul>
<b>Responsibilities</b>	
<b>Location</b>	Valletta
<b>URL</b>	<a href="https://deputyprimeminister.gov.mt/">https://deputyprimeminister.gov.mt/</a>

The Ministry for Health (MfH) deals with social policy, health policy and food safety in Malta. It is responsible for controls of foodstuffs and food hygiene as well as for supervising and coordinating the implementation of controls. The actual controls are carried out by seven regional bodies. The portfolio of the MfH includes hygiene, novel foods, food supplements, mineral water and drinking water.

The MfH's scope of work extends beyond food safety to include, for instance, nutrition.

## Food Safety Commission

<b>Name</b>	Food Safety Commission
<b>Acronym</b>	FSC
<b>Activities</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Risk communication</li> <li>• Risk management</li> <li>• Codex Contact Point</li> <li>• RASFF contact point</li> <li>• Research</li> </ul>
<b>Responsibilities</b>	
<b>Location</b>	Santa Venera
<b>URL</b>	<a href="https://deputyprimeminister.gov.mt/en/environmental/Pages/Food-Safety-Commission/Duty-of-Food-Safety-Commission.aspx">https://deputyprimeminister.gov.mt/en/environmental/Pages/Food-Safety-Commission/Duty-of-Food-Safety-Commission.aspx</a>


The Food Safety Commission (FSC) is an independent government coordinating body which reports to the MfH. The FSC is responsible for risk management and risk communication. The FSC is the coordination office for issues related to food safety and provides a forum for

cooperation between the MAFA, MfH and the Malta Competition and Consumer Affairs Authority (MCCAA), as well as other entities involved in food safety. The FSC is responsible for the registration of all food establishments.

In Malta, the Public Health Laboratory is the National Reference Laboratory pursuant to Regulation (EC) No. 882/2004. It draws on the services of National Reference Laboratories in other EU Member States.

## Malta Competition and Consumer Affairs Authority

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<b>Name</b>	Malta Competition and Consumer Affairs Authority
<b>Acronym</b>	MCCAA
<b>Activities</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Risk assessment</li><li>• EFSA Focal Point</li></ul>
<b>Responsibilities</b>	
<b>Location</b>	Blata l-Bajda
<b>URL</b>	<a href="http://www.mccaa.org.mt">http://www.mccaa.org.mt</a>

The Malta Competition and Consumer Affairs Authority (MCCAA) is a government-appointed authority within the portfolio of the Ministry for Tourism and Consumer Protection. The Food Safety Act assigns specific responsibility for risk assessments to the MCCAA. MCCAA risk assessments are used by the MAFA and MfH as the basis for management measures in the field of food safety. The MCCAA assesses risks, identifies new health risks and prepares risk reduction recommendations. The MCCAA provides technical and scientific advice to the FSC. The remit of the MCCAA includes novel foods, food supplements, health and nutrition claims and natural mineral water. The MCCAA is the regulatory authority for plant protection products in Malta. The scope of work of the MCCAA extends beyond food safety to include, for instance, cosmetics, biocides and consumer products.

## Regional and local levels

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Food inspections are implemented by seven regional control bodies which are subordinate to the MfH. Coordination of food and feed inspections is carried out at the Food Safety Commission level.

## Article 36 institutions

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

1. Malta Competition and Consumer Affairs Authority (EFSA Focal Point)
2. Ministry for Agriculture, Fisheries and Animal Rights

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This page was last edited on 22 November 2022, at 14:03 from Tramsen.