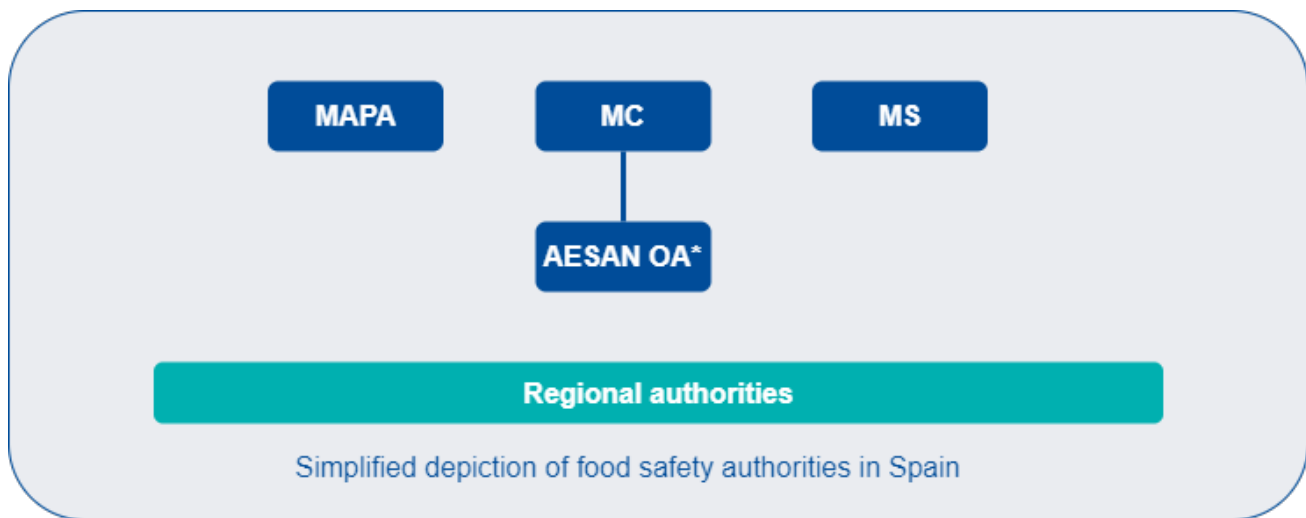


Spain

Last updated on 4 September 2024.



* 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, together with Law 17/2011 of 5 July on food safety and nutrition, are the foundations of food safety in Spain.

The Spanish Food Safety and Nutrition Agency (AESAN OA), together with the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food (MAPA) and the Ministry of Health, is responsible for the coordination of the food safety control systems at national level. Regional authorities are responsible for the implementation of official controls of food safety within their territory.

All the information regarding the organization of the food control system in Spain is included in the Spanish Multiannual National Control Plan, called Plan Nacional de Control Oficial de la Cadena Alimentaria (PNCOCA 2021-2025), available in English in [this link](#).

AESAN OA is an autonomous body belonging to the Ministry of Consumer Affairs and functionally reports to the Ministry of Consumer Affairs, the Ministry of Health, and the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food.



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Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food

Name	Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food
Acronym	MAPA
Activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Agricultural policy, health in primary production• Risk assessment• Risk management
Responsibilities	
Location	Madrid
URL	https://www.mapa.gob.es/en/

The Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food (MAPA) is responsible for agricultural policy, animal health, food safety in primary production, plant health, animal welfare, food quality and fraud control in the food industry. MAPA prepares draft national legislations and is responsible for the coordination of official controls, including import and export controls within the scope of its competency.

MAPA is the national contact point for food fraud and for the RASFF (feed), and is a user of the Administrative Assistance and Cooperation System (AAC system).

MAPA is also responsible for the preparation of the risk assessments of plant protection products residues and animal feed, and is also in charge of regulating the use of plant protection products.

The scope of MAPA's competencies also covers national decisions on GMOs, through the Interministerial Council on GMOs, on zoonoses as well as on the distribution, prescription, dispensing and use of veterinary medical products. It is also the regulatory authority for pesticides (registration, authorisation and monitoring of use). However, before MAPA authorises the use of pesticides, AESAN OA is consulted with regard to residues in foods, the Ministry of Health is consulted to assess the safety of the user, and MAPA assesses the efficacy of the pesticide in question and its safety for the environment.

MAPA has four National Reference Laboratories, in compliance with Regulation (EU) 2017/625:

- Central Veterinary-Animal Health Laboratory (Algete), hosting 71 national reference mandates and 1 EU reference mandate for African horse sickness and Bluetongue.
- Central Veterinary-Molecular Genetic Laboratory, hosting 3 national reference mandates.
- Central Animal Health Laboratory (Santa Fe), hosting 27 national reference mandates.
- National Plant Health Laboratory (Lugo), hosting 1 national reference mandate.

Ministry of Health

Name	Ministry of Health
Acronym	MS
Activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Public health policy • Risk management
Responsibilities	
Location	Madrid
URL	https://www.mscbs.gob.es/en/sanidad/portada/home.htm

The Ministry of Health (MS) deals with public health policy. Furthermore, the Sub-Directorate General of Foreign Health, a dependent body in this Ministry's General Directorate of Public Health and Health Equity, is responsible for food safety concerning imports and exports of food, including products of animal and non-animal origin and composite products, food contact materials, and animal by-products for the manufacture of pharmaceuticals, cosmetics and medical devices for medical purposes.

The regulatory authority for medicines and medical products for human and veterinary use is the Spanish Agency for Medicines and Health Products, a dependent body in the Ministry of Health.

Ministry of Social Rights, Consumption and Agenda 2030

Name	Ministry of Social Rights, Consumption and Agenda 2030
Acronym	MDSCA
Activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consumer protection
Responsibilities	
Location	Madrid
URL	https://www.dsca.gob.es/es

The Ministry of Social Rights, Consumption and Agenda 2030 is responsible for consumer protection, the development of consumer affairs policies, and defending the rights of the consumers. It also drafts national legislation and is the contact point for RAPEX and a user of the Administrative Assistance and Cooperation System (AAC system). Within the Ministry of Consumer Affairs, AESAN OA is responsible for all matters relating to food safety.


The Ministry of Social Rights, Consumption and Agenda 2030 is responsible for the proposal and execution of the National Government's policy on consumer affairs, consumer rights protection and gambling activities at national level.

The General Secretariat of Consumer Affairs and Gambling of the MDSCA is made up of three bodies: The General Directorate of Consumer Affairs, the General Directorate for the Regulation of Gambling and AESAN OA., an autonomous body which is organically attached to this general secretariat. The Head of the General Secretariat is also the President of AESAN OA.

The General Directorate of Consumer Affairs (DGC) is responsible for consumer rights protection and the development of consumer affairs policies. It establishes and promotes consumer protection policies in coordination with the autonomous communities (Spanish

regions). The DGC is a user of the Administrative Assistance and Cooperation System (AAC system) for non-compliances regarding food mislabeling and food quality and AAC-FF for food fraud cases, both systems integrated in the iRASFF system. It is also the contact point of Rapid Exchange of Information System (RAPEX) for unsafe consumer products and consumer protection.

Spanish Agency for Food Safety and Nutrition

Name	Spanish Agency for Food Safety and Nutrition
Acronym	AESAN OA
Activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Risk assessment • Risk management • Risk communication • Codex Contact Point • EFSA Focal Point • RASFF Contact Point
Responsibilities	
Location	Madrid
URL	https://www.aesan.gob.es/en/AECOSAN/web/home/aecosan_inicio.htm

The Spanish Agency for Food Safety and Nutrition (AESAN OA) is the competent authority for the coordination of food safety and nutrition risk assessment and risk management and communication. AESAN's field of work extends beyond food safety and healthy and sustainable nutrition to physical activity and healthy eating habits.

AESAN OA is supported by a Scientific Committee comprised of 20 independent external experts in the area of food and nutrition who are commissioned to draft risk assessment reports. The Scientific Committee issues scientific reports on biological, chemical, technological and nutritional hazards. Risk assessments reports are published in Spanish and English on AESAN's website.

AESAN OA is responsible for the risk management of biological, chemical and nutritional hazards, and is the competent authority for all draft legislations relating to food safety and nutrition in Spain, which include the transposition of EU directives into domestic legislation and the preparation of draft legislations at national level.

It is also the competent authority for the coordination of official controls in Spain, and for the coordination and programming of official controls on food safety and nutrition. It also prepares the Multiannual National Control Plan of Spain in coordination with other authorities involved in food safety, called Plan Nacional de Control Oficial de la Cadena Alimentaria (PNCOCA), available in English in this link, and also drafts its corresponding annual report.

AESAN OA acts as the national contact point for RASFF and is a user of the Administrative Assistance and Cooperation System (AAC system).

The remit of AESAN OA also includes the design and management of communication strategies in relation to food safety and nutrition, establishing precise mechanisms that facilitate transparent communication of food safety and nutrition risks to the general public, the scientific community and other involved or interested groups.

AESAN OA has two Reference Laboratories in compliance with Regulation (EU) 2017/625. These are the National Reference Laboratory (National Centre for Food (CNA)) and one

Reference Laboratory for Marine Biotoxins (RLMB) which also acts as a European Reference Laboratory.

Regional and local levels

From an administrative point of view, Spain is organised in 17 autonomous communities, two autonomous cities (Ceuta and Melilla) and 52 provinces. Some regional food safety authorities conduct risk assessments at regional level. The implementation of official controls for food and feed, animal health, animal welfare and plant health is the responsibility of the regional authorities.

Article 36 institutions

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

1. Autonomous University of Barcelona
2. Canary Health Service
3. Centre for Agro-Food Economics and Development
4. Complutense University of Madrid
5. ELIKA- Basque Foundation for Agrofood Safety
6. Institute of Agrifood Research and Technology
7. Institute of Health of Health Carlos III
8. Ministry for Agriculture, Fisheries and Food
9. Ministry of Health
10. NEIKER-Basque Institute for Agricultural Research and Development
11. Polytechnic University of Cartagena
12. Rovira i Virgili University
13. Spanish Agency for Food Safety and Nutrition
14. Spanish National Research Council
15. University Carlos III of Madrid
16. Universitat Politècnica De València
17. University Jaume I
18. University of Alicante
19. University of Almeria
20. University of Barcelona
21. University of Burgos
22. University of Castilla- La Mancha
23. University of Cordoba
24. University of Granada
25. University of La Rioja
26. University of Las Palmas de Gran Canaria
27. University of Leon
28. University of Lleida
29. University of Murcia
30. University of Oviedo
31. University of Santiago de Compostela
32. University of Seville
33. University of the Balearic Islands
34. University of the Basque Country
35. University of Valencia
36. University of Vigo
37. University of Zaragoza
38. Valencian Institute for Agricultural Research
39. Gaiker
40. Rey Juan Carlos University

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