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Challenge the Incident

The Food and Consumer Product Safety Authority

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VWA
Prinses Beatrixlaan 2
NL-2595 AL The Hague





History of the VWA

21-07-2001: Establishment of the Dutch Food Safety Authority

10-07-2002: Establishment Voedsel en Waren Autoriteit (VWA),

Replaces NVa integrates The Inspectorate for Health Protection and Veterinary Public Health (KvW) and the National Inspection Service for Livestock and Meat (RVV), under the Ministry of Health, Welfare and Sports.

23-05-2003: Formation of new government, VWA under the Ministry of Agriculture, Nature and Food Quality (LNV)

01-01-2006: One VWA



VWA

- The VWA is part of the central government
- Under full ministerial responsibility of the Ministry of Agriculture, Nature and Food Quality and the Ministry of Health, Welfare & Sports
- Independent agency
- Total number of fte as of 01-01-2009 appr. 1600
- Total annual budget appr. €149 million
- From food, via feed and animal health/welfare to consumer products



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Incidents in Feed



Incidents related to contamination of feed

- **Meat and bone meals and BSE (since 1981)**
- Citrus pulp pellets and Dioxin (1998)
- **Recovered vegetable oils and PCBs (1999)**
- Dried fodder, kaolinitic clays and Dioxin (1999)
- Sugar beet pulps and Fluorine (2000)
- Carbosan and Dioxin (2002)
- Organic Cereals and Nitrofen (2002)
- Shrimp meal and skimmed milk powder and chloramphenicol (2002)
- **Glucose syrup and MPA (hormone) in molasses (2002)**
- Animal fats and nitrofurans (2003)
- **Potato pulp and Dioxins (kaolinitic clays) (2004)**
- Bone fragments in feed materials (corn gluten feed, sugar beet pulps, feed additives (2004-2005)
- **pigbonefat/bone phosphates and Dioxins (2005)**
- Cadmium in Coppersulphate (2006)
- **Melamine in gluten products and organic soybean expellers (2006/2007 & 2008)**
- Monensin in dried, deactivated yeasts from cane sugar ethanol production (2008)
- **PCB's & Dioxins in breadmeal (2008)**



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Changing responsibilities

During Incidents



Responsibilities

- Till about 2004: Government responsible for the total management of an incident:
 - Tracking and tracing
 - Sampling
 - Blocking lots and farms
 - Destruction of condemned feed and food
 -



Responsibilities

General Food Law, art. 17

Food and feed business operators at all stages of production, processing and distribution within the businesses under their control shall ensure that foods or feeds satisfy the requirements of food law which are relevant to their activities and shall verify that such requirements are met.

Art. 20

If a feed business operator considers ..that a feed ..does not satisfy the feed safety requirements, it shall immediately initiate procedures to withdraw the feed .. from the market and .. destroy..



Changed responsibilities

- 2005: dioxin in fat:
 - FBO: tracking and tracing, blocked and recalled
 - Foodindustry took condemned pigs out of the market
 - Government: analysed feed, blocked farms, risk-analysis, analysed testanimals

- 2008: melamine in soyexpeller
 - FBO's blocked, recalled en destroyed feed
 - Government: contra-analysis, laboratorychecks, overall management



Changed responsibilities

- 2008:Ireland dioxin:
 - Foodindustry: tracking and tracing, analysing, recall
 - Government: contra-analysis, riskassessment (EFSA), contacts with Member States (esp. Ireland) and EC



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Challenges and Risks Related to Incidents



Challenges

- Give FBO's the time to take their responsibilities
- Exchange information in early stages
- Help them with the knowledge the Government has
- Use the existing networks (RASFF, or contacts) for information
- Cooperation with Quality Systems



RISKS

- Do we get enough time to work it out this way?
- Differences between big and small FBO's or even farms
- What to do with branch organisations?
- Do we rely on any laboratory-result?
- Who decides the end of the measures?
- National or European measures?
- Overall management of the incident: the Government?
- Who carries the political responsibility?
- Work with clear deadlines and measures: are they always clear?



Specific risks

- Controlling the measures in place:
 - Taking samples
 - If necessary: controlling laboratories
- Fraud
- FBO's taking no measures
- Who pays for the governmental tasks?
- Limiting resources for the government



Conclusion?

- New framework on dealing with incidents
- First responsibility for the FBO / Foodindustry
- Try to be open: have open communication government-industry
- Don't forget the European partners: EC and/or MS
- Not always easy: don't forget the tough ones
- Evaluate the incident: internally, but also with industry or EC
- This is just the beginning: learning process