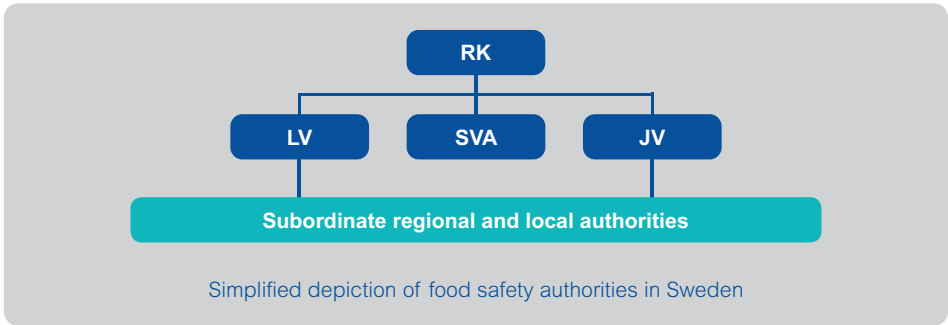


3.27 Sweden



The Food Act is the central legal foundation in food legislation in Sweden. 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 assessment. However, the final decision on the legality of governmental measures rests with the courts.

In Sweden there is no institutional separation of risk assessment from risk management. Risk assessments are published on the Internet unless there are statutory provisions that prohibit this.

**RK**  
**Ministry of Rural Affairs**

- ▶ Agricultural policy, food safety
- ▶ Risk management

Seat: Stockholm  
<http://www.regeringen.se/sb/d/1473>

The RK is responsible for agricultural policy and food safety in Sweden. The main focus of the RK’s work is risk management and the coordination of state tasks in the field of food safety. The work of the RK is supported by The National Food Agency (LV), the Swedish Board of Agriculture (JV) and the Swedish National Veterinary Institute (SVA).

The portfolio of the RK extends beyond food safety to plant health, animal health, animal feed and animal welfare.

### LV National Food Agency

- ▶ Risk benefit assessment
- ▶ Risk communication
- ▶ Risk management
- ▶ Codex Contact Point
- ▶ EFSA Focal Point
- ▶ RASFF Contact Point

Seat: Uppsala  
<http://www.slv.se>



The LV is an independent, non-ministerial government authority. Nonetheless, the LV is accountable to the government and the RK.

In the area of food safety, the LV is responsible for risk benefit assessment, risk communication and risk management. The LV prepares draft legislation on the basis of its own science-based risk assessments. It is also responsible for state food inspections and, if necessary, for the subsequent information of the government of the outcome of the control and inspection activities.

The remit of the LV includes novel foods, food supplements, GMOs, foodborne infections, contaminants mineral water, drinking water, residues of both plant protection products and veterinary medicinal products. However, the regulatory authority for plant protection products is the Swedish Chemicals Inspectorate and the regulatory authority for veterinary medicinal products is the Medical Product Agency (Läkemedelsverket).

The area of work of the LV extends beyond food safety to, for instance, nutrition.

### JV Swedish Board of Agriculture

- ▶ Risk assessment
- ▶ Risk communication
- ▶ Risk management

Seat: Jönköping  
<http://www.jordbruksverket.se>



The JV is an independent, non-ministerial government authority. Nonetheless, the JV is accountable to the government and the RK.

In the area of feed safety, the JV is responsible for risk assessment, risk communication and risk management. It prepares draft legislation on the basis of its own science-based risk assessments. It is also responsible for state feed inspections and if necessary, subsequent information of the government of the outcome of control and inspection activities.

The remit of the JV includes residues of plant protection products and GMOs in feed and extends beyond food safety to plant health, animal health and animal welfare.

### SVA Swedish National Veterinary Institute

- ▶ Risk assessment
- ▶ Risk communication

Seat: Uppsala  
<http://www.sva.se>



The SVA is subordinate to the RK and supports the work of the JV with laboratory analytical services, epidemiological and microbiological expertise. The SVA prepares science-based risk assessments particularly in the field of

zoonoses and animal health. The area of work of the SVA extends beyond food safety to animal health.

### Regional and local levels

The regional level in Sweden consists of 21 county authorities and the local level of 290 municipal authorities. The county authorities are responsible for the coordination of food inspections at the regional level. However, in some cases, activities of the regional authorities are steered by the government. Municipal authorities also carry out food inspections at farms, they work and take their decisions independently.

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

1. National Food Agency Sweden (EFSA Focal Point)
2. National Veterinary Institute
3. Swedish Chemicals Inspectorate
4. The Swedish Institute for Food and Biotechnology (SIK)
5. Swedish Museum of Natural History, Contaminant Research Group
6. Swedish Environmental Protection Agency
7. Swedish Institute for Infectious Disease Control
8. Karolinska Institute
- 8.1. Veterinary resources
- 8.2. Institute of Environmental Medicine-IMM
- 8.3. Microbiological and Tumor Biological Centre
9. Stockholm University
- 9.1. Department of Applied Environmental Science (ITM)
- 9.2. Department of Environmental Chemistry
10. Örebro University Hospital, Department of Occupational and Environmental Medicine
11. Swedish University of Agricultural Science, Department of Food Science, EFOP (the Environmental Fate and Pesticide Group), Faculty of Animal Science and Veterinary Medicine
12. Göteborg University, Department of Home Economics
13. MTM Research Centre at Örebro University
14. Lund University, Department of Food Technology, Engineering and Nutrition
15. Faculty of Natural Resources and Agricultural Sciences, SLU
16. Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences, (SLU), Dept. Plant Biology & Forest Genetics
17. Unit for Agricultural Entomology, Dept. of Ecology, SLU
18. Department of Crop Production Ecology, SLU
19. Uppsala University Department of Public Health and Caring Sciences/Clinical Nutrition and Metabolism
20. Linneaus University, School of Natural Sciences