



Federal Agency
for the Safety
of the Food Chain

National Reference Laboratories within the policy of the Food Safety Agency

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1. Policy of the Belgian Food Safety Agency

- Business Plan, CEO and Management Plan DG
- A competent network of NRLs linked with the corresponding CRLs
- Based upon European and/or national legislation
- Comprehensive contracts between FASFC and the NRLs
- Transparency



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2. Criteria for becoming an NRL

- Designated by Competent authority based upon Royal Decree, European Directive, European Regulation
- Competent both in techniques and personnel
- Be at the top of your class
- By preference not a FASFC lab, but Scientific organisations (ISP, ILVO, CRA-W, CODA, ...)



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3. Tasks of NRLs

- Assistance to Competent Authority (FASFC)
- Assistance to control labs (procedure will be available by the end of 2006)
- PT-schemes
- Validation of methods
- Contacts with EFSA and CRL
- Follow scientific and technological developments



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4. Partnership between FASFC and NRLs

- Contract
- Publication: matrix/parameters/legal basis/NRL/CRL/contacts on FASFC website: 2006/12/01: more then 40 combinations
- About 6,5 million €
- KPI's are necessary
- Evaluation every 6 month: steering committee
- Transparency and publications towards control labs



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5. List of abbreviations

- CEO: Chief Executive Officer
- CODA: Centrum voor Onderzoek in Diergezondheid en Agronomie
- CRA: Centre Wallon de recherches Agronomiques
- CRL: Community Reference Laboratory
- DG: Director-general
- EFSA: European Food Safety Agency
- FASFC: Federal Agency for the Safety of the Food Chain
- ILVO: Instituut voor Landbouw- en Visserij-onderzoek
- ISP: Institut Scientifique Santé Publique
- NRL: National Reference Laboratory
- PT: Proficiency Testing
- WIV: Wetenschappelijk Instituut Volksgezondheid



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6. Contact

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