

**REPUBLIC OF LATVIA  
FOOD AND VETERINARY SERVICE**

**CONTINGENCY PLAN  
FOR ERADICATION OF  
ANIMAL INFECTIOUS  
DISEASES**



**RIGA, 2004**

# CONTINGENCY PLAN

**DOCUMENT:**

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## I. LEGAL PROVISIONS

**In Republic of Latvia, the animal infectious disease prevention and control is a significant public function. Its implementation is provided for by an appropriate legal basis, specific institutions and structures, relevant staff and logistical resources. Increasing government funding is allocated each year for maintenance and development of the said resources, for professionalization and effective use thereof in application of animal infectious disease prevention measures, and, in case of outbreaks of the said diseases – for implementation of specific measures in accordance with the Contingency Plan in order to achieve operative eradication of outbreaks and their consequences.**

1. Republic of Latvia "Law on Veterinary Medicine" prescribes that the **animal infectious disease control is a significant state function the implementation of which is compulsory**. The same law lays down the obligations and rights of the state institutions, local community bodies and persons in this field [1.] \*

2. The animal infectious disease prevention and control is organized by **Food and Veterinary Service (FVS): a specific state administrative institution supervised by the Ministry of Agriculture**, which, provided with national and local (territorial) level structures, implements one of basic tasks of official veterinary surveillance – control of animal infectious diseases [1]

3. **The Republic of Latvia Chief State Food and Veterinary Inspector (CVO) is Director General of Food and Veterinary Service who, in accordance with authorisation and competency provided for and delegated by the Law, manages and co-ordinates the official veterinary surveillance, including the programming of measures under Contingency Plan. In cases of disease outbreaks, CVO exercises large powers in implementation of measures under Contingency Plan and securing of implementation of rules of procedure in respect of activities prescribed by the Contingency Plan [1.]**

4. **Food and Veterinary Service organizes and provides for a unified, professional and permanent official surveillance and control of animal infectious diseases on the basis of Republic of Latvia Regulatory enactments (laws, Cabinet Regulations, Orders of CVO, etc.) harmonized with the EU requirements and guidelines.**

5. **Cabinet Regulations (No. 323.; No.127.) lay down the A group animal infectious diseases, characterised by extensive morbidity and swift spread, causing major social and economic losses, restrictions in international trade in animals and animal products, and the surveillance and control of which is entirely performed by the state [4.,5.]**

- 1) Foot and mouth disease
- 2) Vesicular stomatitis
- 3) Swine vesicular disease
- 4) Rinderpest
- 5) Peste des petits ruminants
- 6) Contagious pleuropneumonia
- 7) Lumpy skin disease
- 8) Rift valley fever
- 9) Bluetongue
- 10) Sheep pox and goat pox

- 11) African horse fever
- 12) African swine fever
- 13) Classical swine fever
- 14) Avian Influenza
- 15) Newcastle disease

6. The regulatory enactments prescribe a **compulsory notification of suspicion of an outbreak of the above diseases [1.; 5].**

7. To provide for the prevention and control of the infectious animal diseases under official surveillance and to establish the eradication strategy of the said diseases, **Food and Veterinary Service has elaborated a surveillance and control program of animal infectious diseases under the official surveillance including the Contingency Plan [1.].**

8. **Contingency Plan** is a document elaborated by Food and Veterinary Service and approved by State Chief Veterinary Inspector – **an action plan prescribing the procedure of implementing measures in case of outbreaks of especially dangerous animal infectious diseases in order to operatively eradicate the outbreak and consequences thereof [1.].**

9. **The said documents are updated annually** in accordance with the ruling situation in Latvia, EU and the world and adapted to the increase of capacities and possibilities of the FVS .

10. **The Cabinet annually approves** of the animal infectious disease surveillance and control **program and includes the budgetary resources allocated for this program in the draft budget [1.].**

11. **Eradication of epizootic outbreaks and prevention of hazards is carried out pursuant to Cabinet Regulations**, prescribing the specific eradication measures of epizootic outbreaks, programming thereof, competency of institutions and persons, restrictions of movements of persons and animals, rules of procedure in respect of notifying and implementing orders, handling of animal products and dead bodies of animals, wild animal hunting provisions, provision of logistical resources, procedure of cleaning and disinfection of transport vehicles, as well as procedure for determining and revocation of quarantine [1.; 5].

12. Pursuant to Orders issued by CVO, **all structural units of FVS** involved in the prevention and control of infectious animal diseases, **have received instructions and action plans to be carried out in case of outbreaks of animal infectious diseases.** Regular training activities are carried out to this end, including simulation exercises of disease eradication. [8.,9.,10.,11.,12.,13 ].

13. **In cases of outbreaks of animal infectious diseases**, physical and legal persons (private practising veterinarians, animal owners, police, State Border Control Service) **are additionally involved in disease control. [1.,2., 3.]**

14. **The Procedure of eradication of outbreaks of animal infectious diseases (epizooties) and the implementation of measures thereof is provided for in Cabinet Regulations No. 127 (19.03.2002., amended by Cabinet Regulations No. 84. 17.02.2004.). The basic requirements of the said Regulations are incorporated in the respective sections of Contingency Plan [5.]**

15. **The operative management structures of eradication of animal disease outbreaks, the procedure of establishment and activities of the State Emergency Situations Operational Committee (SESOK) is laid down by the Law „On Civil Protection” and Cabinet Regulations No.247 [2.,3.]**

16. **Republic of Latvia regulatory enactments prescribe the procedure of notification on animal infectious disease outbreaks, eradication process and implemented measures to the European Commission [5.]**

17. **The funding for eradication of epizooties and consequences thereof and for compensation of losses to owners of animals and animal products is allocated from the government budgetary funds committed for this purpose in accordance with the specifically elaborated programs: animal infectious disease or threats thereof eradication program and Program of Compensation of losses incurred by animal infectious diseases. The funding for the said programs is provided under the annual government budget as long term government liabilities [1.]**

18. **In accordance with Law „On Veterinary Medicine”, in case of epizootic outbreak, the animal owners, having complied with requirements laid down in the relevant Cabinet Regulations, are entitled to compensation of losses [1., 7.]**

19. **The procedure for granting and receiving the compensation in case of epizootic outbreaks, is laid down in Cabinet Regulations [7.]**

## 2. FINANCIAL PROVISIONS

Activities of the state surveillance of the group A infectious animal diseases are financed from the state budget as provided for in the legislation of the Republic of Latvia. Maintenance and development of the system of the state surveillance of the infectious animal diseases is one of the basic tasks of the Food and Veterinary Service (FVS) which is financed by the state.

**Financial resources necessary for the management of emergency situations are allotted from the emergency reserve fund provided for in the state budget.**

**Financing of the state surveillance measures of the group A infectious animal diseases is provided by the following regulatory documents:**

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### **Law on Veterinary Medicine**

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- The Cabinet of Ministers prescribe the list of those infectious animal diseases and epizootics being under the state surveillance, whose eradication and prophylaxis are compulsory and organised by the state (Article 15).
- Resources necessary for elimination of outbreaks of the group A infectious animal diseases and eradication of their consequences, and indemnification of losses for animal owners and owners of the products of animal origin are allotted from the state budget resources prescribed for that purpose (Article 33).
- Authorities of the FVS use the resources allocated for eradication of outbreaks of the group A infectious animal diseases for the following purposes:
  - purchase of biological substances and disinfection agents;
  - purchase of veterinary tools and other materials;
  - salary payments to veterinarians;
  - covering of transportation expenses (Article 34).
- As per Article 33, in the event of outbreak of the group A infectious animal diseases, animal owners are authorised to receive the reimbursement on:
  - compulsory slaughtered and destroyed animals;
  - destroyed carcasses and the products of animal origin;
  - destroyed animal feedingstuffs and equipment;
  - losses incurred as a result of disinfection of animal holdings;
  - losses incurred due to restrictions imposed on commercial activity and prohibition to sell products;
  - emergency vaccination costs.
- The procedure of allocation and receipt of reimbursement in the event of outbreak of the group A infectious animal disease is prescribed by the Cabinet of Ministers (Article 35).

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### **Law on Civil Protection (Article 18)**

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- State emergency and rescue services, the system of the state communication, announcement and observation is financed from the state budget;
- State authorities, municipalities, enterprises, institutions and organisations allocate the necessary resources from their own budget funds for carrying out the tasks of civil protection.

**Regulations of Cabinet of Ministers "Regulation on the State Emergency Situations Operational Committee"**

- The task of the State Emergency Situations Operational Committee is to allocate the necessary financial resources for eradication of consequences resulting from unexpected occasions and to carry out the control over the use of funds.

**Cabinet Regulations No.293 "The Procedure of Granting of Compensations and Payment of Damages to Animal Owners in Connection with Epizooties or Losses Incurred during Eradication Measures of Animal Infectious Diseases under Official Surveillance"**

- The procedure has been prescribed on granting compensations and payment of damages to animal owners in connection with epizooties and eradication measures of infectious animal diseases under official surveillance: outbreaks of Transmissible Spongiform Encephalopathy, Tuberculosis, Brucellosis and Bovine Enzootic Leucosis.

**Compensation Payment Procedure**

**Legal basis:**

Law on Veterinary Medicine (Article 35);  
Cabinet Regulations No.293

**Principles and Procedure:**

Latvia has provided for a uniform standard payment for losses caused by epizootic diseases. In accordance with the above Regulations No.293, compensation is intended for compulsory slaughtered/killed animals, feed destroyed by enemy forces, damaged inventory and premises. In order to receive the compensation, the owner should submit an application to Rural Support Service and provide all the necessary documents required by Regulation No. 293. The owner is provided with a statement, describing all the measures carried out in the farm during the outbreak issued by Veterinary inspector of Food and Veterinary Service.

**Animal Evaluation Method**

The value of compensation is determined in accordance with Cabinet Regulations No.293, and it is constant.

Animals are evaluated by a veterinary inspector.

**Compensation of Losses for Emergency-Slaughtered or Destroyed Animals**

No.	Species and category of animals	Compensation (LVL/per animal)
1	2	3
1.	Cow under recording program (recording and surveillance system of individual animals, securing the reception of productivity and production quality data for the determination of genetic value of the animal)	300
2.	Cow, outside the category listed under point 1 of this Annex, heifer and bull over 1 year of age	200

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1	2	3
3.	Certified sire bull	500
4.	Young animal up to one year of age	100
5.	Farmed deer, over one year of age	150
6.	Farmed deer up to one year of age	80
7.	Sheep or ram, goat or buck	100
8.	Other adult breeding animals (sheep, ram goat or buck), falling outside the category provided under point 7 of this Annex	70
9.	Young animal (lamb, kid), over 6 months of age	50
10.	Young animal (lamb, kid) up to six months of age	20
11.	Sow or boar under recording programme	120
12.	Other adult breeding animals (sows, boars), falling outside the category provided under point 11	100
13.	Gilt or feeder pig over five months of age	100
14.	Piglet up to five months of age	25
15.	Other adult farmed cloven-hoofed animals	100
16.	Other young farmed cloven-hoofed animals	60
17.	Certified breeding stallion	900
18.	Certified breeding mare	700
19.	High class sports horse	2000
20.	Young horse between one and two years of age	250
21.	Fowl up to 12 months of age	150
22.	Fowl up to six months of age	60
23.	Other horses over two years of age	400
24.	Adult donkey, pony	400
25.	Fowl of donkey or pony, up to 12 months of age	100
26.	Other adult solipeds (e.g. zebras, mules)	300
27.	Other young of solipeds up to 12 months of age	50
28.	Adult laying bird (hen, quail)	2,50

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1	2	3
29.	Adult bird (duck, goose, turkey, farmed wild bird)	6
30.	Chick	0,35
31.	Poult	2,50
32.	Gosling, quail chick and farmed chick of wild bird	1,70
33.	Young bird (duck, goose, turkey, farmed wild bird)	4
34.	Young bird (hen, quail)	1
35.	Imported bird, introduced not earlier than three years before the spread of infectious disease	100 % of purchase value

### 3. NATIONAL DISEASE CONTROL CENTRES. LOCAL DISEASE CONTROL CENTRES

#### 3.1. National (state) level institutions, bodies and authorities incorporated in control of outbreaks of animal infectious diseases.

##### 3.1.1. Food and Veterinary Service – Competent Authority in respect of infectious animal disease official surveillance and control.

In Republic of Latvia, the official surveillance and control of animal infectious diseases including the A group diseases is performed by Food and Veterinary Service – government administrative body supervised by Ministry of agriculture. The Competent Authority status and basic functions of FVS are laid down by regulatory enactments

Food and Veterinary Service (see Fig. No.1) performing the functions delegated by the state: food circulation official surveillance and official veterinary surveillance (the essential part of which is official animal infectious disease surveillance and control) – carries out activities and co-ordinates measures on two levels:

- a) national (state) level;
- b) local (territorial) level.

**State Chief Food  
and Veterinary  
Inspector –  
Director General of  
FVS**

The State Chief Food and Veterinary Inspector (CVO) – Director General of Food and Veterinary Service is the highest professional official in country managing and co-ordinating animal infectious disease control measures, incl. Requesting of summon of the State Emergency Situations Operational Commission (SESOC) taking part in activities thereof, adopting decisions on the strategies and tactics of implementation of tasks, providing for the efficient and professional activities of the official veterinary surveillance structures in disease eradication.

**FVS Central Office**  
Veterinary  
Surveillance  
Department  
incorporating Animal  
Infectious Disease  
Surveillance Division  
and Risk Management  
Division

FVS Central Office is a co-ordination structure of management and task implementation, providing for the management of food circulation and veterinary official surveillance on the national level. In order to manage the animal infectious disease official surveillance, including the control of outbreaks and elimination of consequences of the said diseases in accordance with Contingency Plan, specific professional structures have been established in the Central Office: „Animal Infectious Disease Surveillance Division of Veterinary Surveillance Department” and „Risk Management Division”.

**FVS Sanitary Border  
Inspection**

**Sanitary Border Inspection (SBI)** is an FVS structure:

- Performing permanent control of consignments to preclude the introduction of animal infectious diseases through import/transit transactions;
- In crises situations (outbreaks of animal infectious diseases), performs additional measures (expanded control, disinfection, etc.).

**FVS State  
Veterinary  
Medicine  
Diagnostic  
Centre**

State Veterinary Medicine Diagnostic Centre is a structural unit of FVS, performing the National Reference Laboratory functions in respect of animal infectious disease official surveillance and control. SVMDC, making use of its highly specialized structural units (see Fig. 8, 9) perform strategic assignments (e.g. monitoring) and operative assignments in respect of laboratory control and diagnostics of animal infectious diseases. In cases of outbreaks of animal infectious diseases, SVMDC secures the performance of all the necessary diagnostic examinations for diagnosis confirmation, effectivity control of the implemented measures, etc.

**FVS  
Operational  
Group**

FVS Operational group has been set up of 8 staff members in accordance with Order of CVO No 101 from 12 March 2004.

Its functions are the following:

- a) Co-ordination and control of notification and control measures of especially dangerous animal infectious diseases in FVS structures in cases of outbreaks or dangers of outbreaks of the said diseases.
- b) Prepare and submit professional information to other institutions and officials involved in the control of disease outbreak, inform the public on topical disease control measures.

**3.1.2. Other institutions, Structures, Functions thereof**

**State  
Emergency  
Situations  
Operational  
Committee  
(SESOC)**

**Function of the Committee: perform the national level emergency situation operational management, involving the resources of government, local communities and establishments in emergency response measures, co-ordinating the activities of state legislative, administrative and regional self-government bodies, organizing and implementing measures to relieve the potential danger and losses, eliminate the emergency situation.** The SESOC is drawn up and called together in a concrete emergency situation by the Prime Minister, who, on the basis of notification provided by the State Chief Food and Veterinary Inspector, proclaims the emergency situation in the state or in part thereof, in compliance with the law On Civil Protection, by establishing a special regime in the territory subject to emergency situation, as well as is responsible for the activities of the civil protection system and execution of its tasks.

The Committee, chaired by the Minister of the Interior, consists of accordingly authorised officials from different ministries. The State Chief Food and Veterinary Inspector is the member of the Committee who manages and co-ordinates the fulfilment of professional assignments related to animal infectious disease control. The Minister of the Interior, following the report on emergency situation provided by the members of the institutions involved in internal affairs and the Service or the Committee (State Chief Food and Veterinary Inspector), makes the decision on summoning the members of the Commission competent in the relevant situation.

**Emergency Situations Management Centre** is set up to secure the activities of the Commission. It comprises the aggregate logistical resources (premises, communications, transport vehicles, hardware, equipment, accoutrements, documentation). The permanent stand-by status of the Emergency Situations Management Centre and preparation of the Commission members for work is provided by the Commission Secretary – Head of State Fire-fighting and Rescue Service.

### 3.2. Local (territorial) Level Structures and Institutions, Functions thereof

#### 3.2.1. FVS Local (Territorial) Structures and Officials

**FVS Territorial  
Structural Units  
-District Offices  
of Food and  
Veterinary  
Service.**

**Territorial structural units of FVS** - District Veterinary Offices carry out the functions of FVS in respect of surveillance, control, prevention and eradication of the infectious animal diseases in a definite part of territory of the Republic of Latvia. There are 27 territorial structural units of FVS (26 District Offices + Riga City FVS Office). State Senior Veterinary Inspectors and State Veterinary Inspectors are responsible for the state surveillance of the infectious animal diseases in the District Veterinary Offices. The State Senior Veterinary Inspector manages and co-ordinates the animal infectious disease outbreak control measures in the relevant territory, takes part in the activities of Emergency Situations Operational Committee on the local (territorial) level and co-operates with the national level FVS structures.

**State Senior  
Territorial  
Veterinary  
Inspector**

**Food and  
Veterinary  
Service  
Territorial  
Working Group**

Provides for and controls the implementation of the prescribed measures in case of disease outbreak or suspicion thereof in the relevant surveillance territory (information notification, sampling, epidemiologic examination, assessment of susceptible animals and holdings, application of measures and control of implementation thereof in the affected point, protection and surveillance zone, etc.).

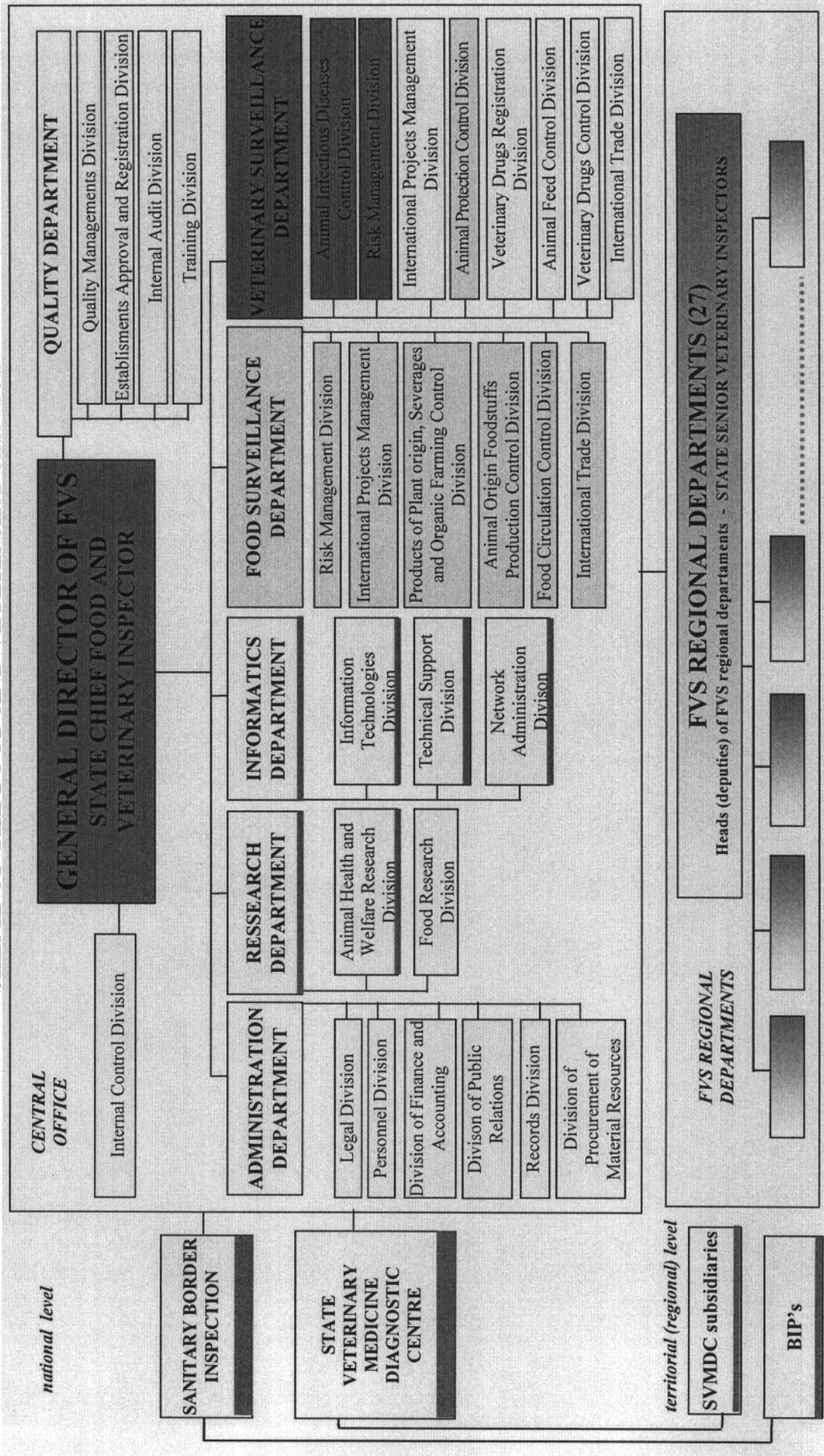
#### 3.2.2. Other Institutions, Structures, Functions thereof

**Territorial  
Emergency  
Situations  
Operational  
Committee**

Territorial (district, city) Emergency Situations Operational Committee organizes and co-ordinates the measures of animal infectious disease outbreak control and elimination of consequences thereof in the respective territory under the guidance of the State Senior Veterinary Inspector – member of Territorial Operational Committee .

Fig. 1

**HEME OF THE FOOD AND VETERINARY SERVICE**



- units participating in state veterinary surveillance

## 4. CHAIN OF COMMAND

In the event of outbreak of the group A infectious animal diseases, or in the event of threats thereof, the above institutions which act on national (state) and territorial (regional) levels pass over to a special regime of activity, which requires particular and definite actions to be taken by relevant officials of the FVS. These are the schemes of notification which are defined and approved in advance, also the functional units (the FVS Operational Group, Emergency Situations Operational Committee of different levels, etc.) which are especially designed for ensuring the immediate and effective actions to be taken to tackle the outbreaks of the group A infectious animal diseases and the operations which are activated whenever there is a need for specific action.

Regulations on notification and eradication of the group A infectious animal diseases provide for actions and sequence thereof which ensure operations requiring the immediate and appropriate action in respect of notification of threats or outbreak of the infectious animal diseases, if such occur, and would prevent the introduction or spread of the infectious disease, as well as would immediately isolate the seat of the disease and eradicate it.

### 4.1. National (state) level

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#### 4.1.1. Director of FVS – State Chief Food and Veterinary Inspector:

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- Activates FVS Operational Group and Expert Group;
- informs the Minister of Agriculture, the State Emergency Situations Operational Committee (SESOC) on the outbreak of the infectious animal disease, begins the work in the committee as its member, provides proposals and guidelines on actions to be taken;
- co-ordinates the actions and gives orders to the FVS operational group and the District Veterinary Offices;
- in the event of outbreak of the infectious animal diseases, immediately establishes the quarantine, as well as lifts the quarantine following the execution of all the necessary disease eradication measures;
- in the event of threats of spread of animal infectious disease, is authorised to establish:
  - in respect of animals – a special procedure of registration or identification, compulsory treatment or vaccination, compulsory diagnostic examinations and sampling, containment, reinforced observation and supervision, stamping out and methods of disposal of carcasses and locations thereof;
  - with regards to the products of animal origin, feedingstuffs, bedding and other materials likely to be contaminated with the pathogenic agent of the disease – sampling for laboratory examinations, heat-treatment, rendering or disposal, disinfection;
  - with regards to premises housing animals and people which have come into contact with the infected or possibly infected animals, as well as with regards to equipment – cleaning, washing, disinfection, deratization, disinsectization;
- if necessary, following the proposal of the FVS Operational Group, issues the order on commencement of compulsory vaccination of animals and restrictions connected with the vaccination of animals.

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#### 4.1.2. FVS Operational Group:

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- **activates the operation (called together by the State Chief Food and Veterinary Inspector);**
- co-ordinates the eradication and threat prevention measures of the infectious animal diseases in the Republic of Latvia under the management of the State Chief Food and Veterinary Inspector;
- carries out the analysis and evaluation of the current epizootic situation;
- prepares proposals for the State Chief Food and Veterinary Inspector in respect of management of the emergency situation;
- if necessary, visits the affected place collecting the epidemiological information, and evaluating the overall situation in the affected holding;
- provides the information to the mass media, animal breeding associations and other interested natural persons and legal entities;
- provides notification to the EU Commission, the O.I.E., the neighbouring countries etc., on the epizootic situation and its development in country.

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#### **4.1.3. State Emergency Situations Operational Committee (SESOC):**

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- **activates the operation** (called together by the Prime Minister following the notification provided by the State Chief Food and Veterinary Inspector to the Minister of agriculture). The operations of the SESOC, under the guidance of the Minister of the Interior are ensured by the STATE FIRE FIGHTING AND RESCUE SERVICE.
- **ensures the operational management of emergency situations on regional and national levels, by involving the resources of the state institutions, municipalities and establishments in actions to combat the disease, as well as by harmonising the activities and co-operation of the state authorities and administrative institutions and municipalities, by organising and carrying out the measures which would reduce the possible danger and losses, and eliminate the consequences caused by emergency situations.**

#### **4.2. On Local (district ) Level**

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##### **4.2.1. Head of the territorial FVS Departments and/or the State Senior Veterinary Inspector in charge of the affected territory**

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- receives the notification on the suspected case of contracting the disease of animals and registers the necessary information on suspicion of highly dangerous infectious animal diseases in the Registration Book;
- transfers the information in respect of suspicion and case of contracting the disease further in accordance with the FVS Instruction "On notification of highly dangerous infectious animal diseases";
- summons the territorial working group with the purpose to carry out activities in the event of possible outbreak of disease;
- participates in activities as member of Emergency Situation Operational Committee on territorial level, participates and makes recommendations at the District Emergency Situations Committee Meetings, discussing issues of the performance of necessary protection and disease control measures and adopting decisions thereof, institutions and resources to be involved, co-ordinated the implementation of measures on the territorial level;
- receives and implements the instructions and orders given by the State Chief Food and Veterinary inspector;

- co-operates with the FVS Operational Group, FVS Expert Group and the State Chief Food and Veterinary Inspector on the implemented activities and evaluation results of the epizootic situation;
- subject to co-ordination with State Veterinary Medicine Diagnostic Centre (SVMDC) Working Group, organises sampling for laboratory examinations
- supplies the veterinarians with disinfectants, disinfection equipment and special clothing;
- if necessary, involves the state authorised veterinarians and private veterinary practitioners to carry out the measures of restriction and eradication of the disease. .

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#### **4.2.2. Territorial Food and Veterinary Service Working Group**

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Carries out and controls the execution of the prescribed activities in the event of suspicion or outbreak of the disease within the territory of its surveillance (notification of information, sampling, epidemiological examination, awareness of the susceptible animals and holdings, introduction of activities and the control of their implementation in the affected place, protection and surveillance zones, etc.)

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#### **4.2.3. Territorial (regional, city) State Fire Fighting and Rescue Service**

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Following the notification on the case of contracting an A group infectious animal disease, provided by the State Senior Veterinary Inspector, the Head of the Regional (city) State Fire Fighting and Rescue Service:

- summons the district (city) **Emergency Situations Operational Committee** and organises the measures for the prevention and eradication of the consequences resulting from the outbreak of the disease, by taking into account the instructions provided by the member of the Committee – the FVS State Senior Veterinary Inspector;
- proclaims the emergency stand-by of the civil protection system for a time period necessary to prevent the emergency situation.

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#### **4.2.4. Head of the territorial municipality**

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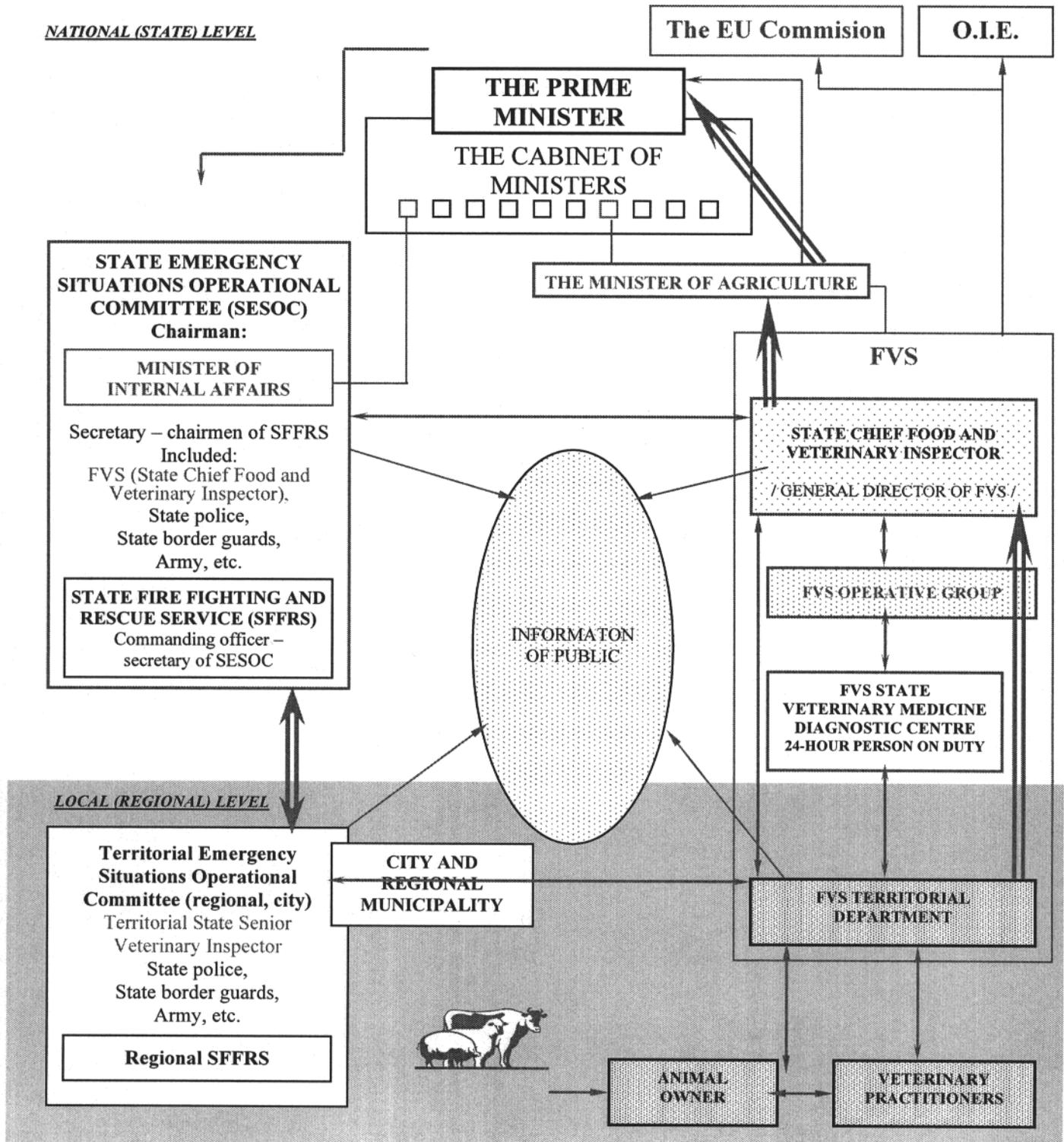
Following the proposal submitted by the head of the city or district department of the Fire Fighting and Rescue Service, establishes the special temporary regimes and measures that are necessary for the normalisation of emergency situations. The measures include the following:

- establishment and maintenance of the 24-hour control posts in the affected area, protection and surveillance zones;
- ensuring the presence of the necessary number of people at the 24-hour control posts;
- furnishing of special carriages and tents at the 24-hour control posts;
- indicating of the bypass and setting of the road signs around the affected area, protection and surveillance zones;
- arranging of one driveway to and one gateway out of the affected area where the disinfection barriers, mats for the transport vehicles and sanitary hygienic entrance and exit points for people are installed;
- the measures of slaughtering of animals, disposal of animal carcasses and infected **materials (incineration, burying)**.

The circulation of information and the co-ordination of activities of the above officials and units are given in the Fig.2.

Fig. 2

COOPERATION BETWEEN VARIOUS INSTITUTIONS  
CHAIN OF COMMAND



## 5. EXPERTS

Experts – high-level specialists in issues concerning detection of the disease origin, clinical signs and diagnosis, as well as assessment and management of situation, etc. are particularly used in emergency situations, i.e. in the event of suspected contamination or outbreak of the group A infectious animal diseases. The experts of the state veterinary surveillance of emergency situations are of high qualification and great experience in the above-mentioned theoretical issues and practice. The membership is gathered from the Food and Veterinary Service, as well as scientific and educational staff. Experts are informed about their responsibilities in emergency situation and the consent is received on accomplishment of these duties by them.

The list of experts involved to control emergency situations is approved by the state chief food and veterinary inspector. There are 7 experts in the current list (see Annex 2).

Experts are starting to work as soon as the order is issued by the state chief food and veterinary inspector.

Experts are also used in different training activities with regards to prophylaxis, notification and eradication of the group A infectious animal diseases organised for the officials of the Food and Veterinary Service, veterinary practitioners, animal owners and other involved persons.

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## 6. PERSONELL AND LOGISTICAL RESOURCES OF A GROUP ANIMAL INFECTIOUS DISEASE OFFICIAL SURVEILLANCE SYSTEM

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### 1. Personnel Resources

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**The total number of employees working at the FVS is 1168**, of which 98 employees are working in the Central office; CO staff comprises veterinarians, food technologists, doctors, livestock experts, computer experts, accountants, finance experts, secretaries, drivers, etc. There are 27 territorial food and veterinary departments subordinate to the FVS which employs 551 persons, 264 employees are working in the State Veterinary Medicine Diagnostic Centre and 255 – in the Sanitary Border Inspection.

**359 officials of the FVS are involved in the state surveillance of the infectious animal diseases.**

For implementation of measures envisaged under animal infectious disease official surveillance program, state authorised veterinarians are involved (670).

**For emergency situation management, the Service, on the basis of Law on Veterinary Medicine, is able to involve additionally privately practicing veterinarians.**

Detailed information on FVS authorities (names, last names addresses, telephone and fax numbers) are provided in the Annex 3.

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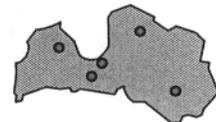
### 2. Logistical Resources

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The FVS Central Office and territorial food and veterinary departments are furnished with the necessary material resources to be able to effectively carry out the measures of control and eradication of diseases (stationary and cellular telephones, electronic mails, facsimile machines, photocopiers, motor vehicles, etc.).

There are 54 portable disinfection devices (in every territorial food and veterinary department and laboratory) and 5 mobile, complex washing and disinfection equipments which are located in five regions of Latvia (Talsi Regional Food and Veterinary Department, Valmiera Regional Food and Veterinary Department, Preiļi Regional Food and Veterinary Department, Jelgava Regional Food and Veterinary Department and the State Veterinary Medicine Diagnostic Centre).

Disinfection equipment  
distribution:



FVS structure incorporates State Veterinary Medicine Diagnostic Centre equipped with up-to-date facilities and highly qualified personnel fully capable of performing obligations under animal infectious disease state surveillance program in disease diagnostics and control.

An important part of logistical resources is made up by information systems, technical support and software (computers, registers of surveillance units, epidemiology data of animal infectious diseases, etc.)

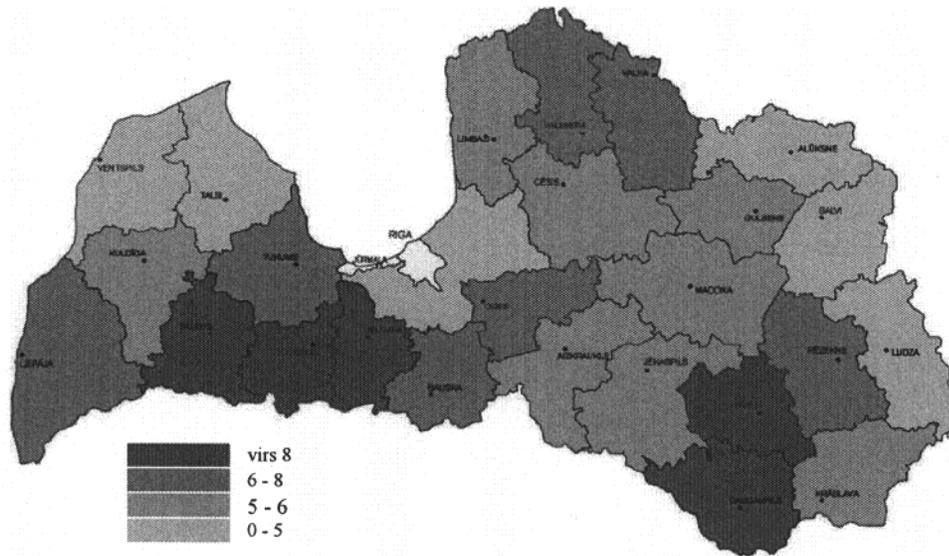
State Veterinary Service (Food and Veterinary Service) Order No.90 of April 10, 2001 (see Annex 4) and Food and Veterinary Service Order No. 34 from 20 February 2003 (see Annex 5) provides for the territorial food and veterinary departments to set up the basis of logistical resources in order to be able to react duly in the event of emergency situations. The list of necessary logistical resources is provided in the Annex to the Order.

The FVS has elaborated and submitted the Ministry of the Interior the list of the necessary logistical resources - The Ministry of the Interior Order No.340 "On temporary mobilisation assignment of the FVS and the state emergency stocks" of May 21, 2002., by indicating the list of necessary logistical resources in the Annex of the Order (See Annex 6).

### 6.3. Population of animals

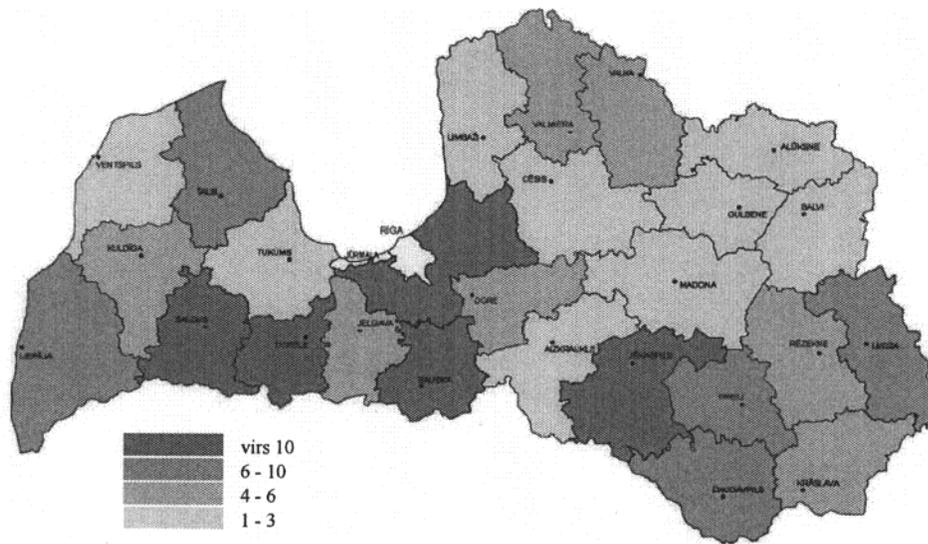
Cows per km<sup>2</sup>

Fig. 3



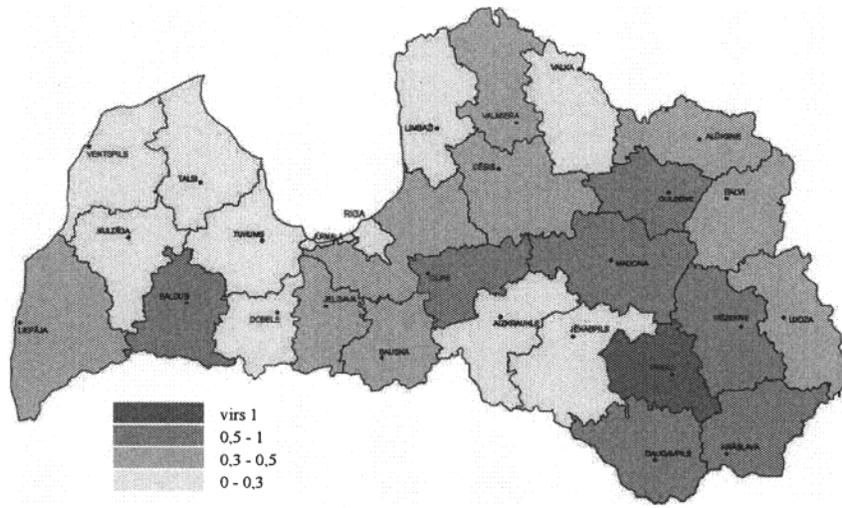
Pigs per km<sup>2</sup>

Fig. 4



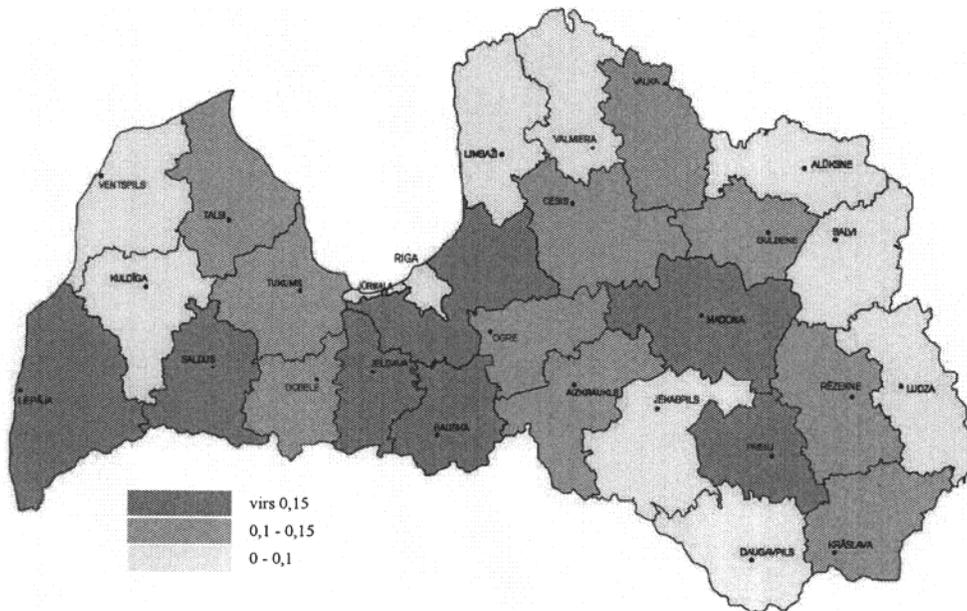
Sheep per km<sup>2</sup>

Fig. 5



Goats per km<sup>2</sup>

Fig. 6





### Animal density per regions km<sup>2</sup>

No.	Region	Size of Region, km <sup>2</sup>	Number of animals				Number of animals/km <sup>2</sup>			
			Cow*	Pig,**	Sheep**	Goat**	Cow	Pig	Sheep	Goat
1	Aizkraukles	2567	13960	8666	594	370	5.44	3.38	0.23	0.14
2	Alūksnes	2246	8659	2979	980	197	3.86	1.33	0.44	0.09
3	Balvu	2381	10682	4945	985	85	4.49	2.08	0.41	0.04
4	Bauskas	1881	13308	20226	690	545	7.07	10.75	0.37	0.29
5	Cēsu	3062	17289	10597	1448	343	5.65	3.46	0.47	0.11
6	Daugavpils	2526	20693	16026	1607	178	8.19	6.34	0.64	0.07
7	Dobeles	1631	14690	24829	153	169	9.01	15.22	0.09	0.10
8	Gulbenes	1877	9620	4270	1009	225	5.13	2.27	0.54	0.12
9	Jelgavas	1605	13469	7970	670	241	8.39	4.97	0.42	0.15
10	Jēkabpils	2998	15546	36519	549	148	5.19	12.18	0.18	0.05
11	Krāslavas	2288	12929	9960	2137	228	5.65	4.35	0.93	0.10
12	Kuldīgas	2500	13628	13861	419	131	5.45	5.54	0.17	0.05
13	Liepājas	3594	26366	32431	1454	596	7.34	9.02	0.40	0.17
14	Limbažu	2580	13595	6416	756	177	5.27	2.49	0.29	0.07
15	Ludzas	2412	8257	14577	1044	184	3.42	6.04	0.43	0.08
16	Madonas	3349	17807	7014	2669	648	5.32	2.09	0.80	0.19
17	Ogres	1843	12430	9576	958	248	6.74	5.20	0.52	0.13
18	Preiļu	2042	19704	20143	3885	341	9.65	9.86	1.90	0.17
19	Rēzeknes	2655	18522	10812	1511	323	6.98	4.07	0.57	0.12
20	Rīgas	3059	13131	48958	1031	629	4.29	16.00	0.34	0.21
21	Saldus	2182	17526	39060	1390	684	8.03	17.90	0.64	0.31
22	Talsu	2748	13496	19054	673	289	4.91	6.93	0.24	0.11
23	Tukuma	2447	18888	5997	241	310	7.72	2.45	0.10	0.13
24	Valkas	2440	14681	11765	416	266	6.02	4.82	0.17	0.11
25	Valmieras	2373	17376	10240	1001	104	7.32	4.32	0.42	0.04
26	Ventspils	2462	7372	7703	296	92	2.99	3.13	0.12	0.04
27	Rīgas pilsēta	307	79	60	50	18	0.26	0.20	0.16	0.06
<b>Total:</b>		<b>64055</b>	<b>383703</b>	<b>404654</b>	<b>28616</b>	<b>7769</b>	<b>5.99</b>	<b>6.32</b>	<b>0.45</b>	<b>0.12</b>

\* Data from Data Base

\*\* Data from FVS on 01.01.2004

## 7. ESTABLISHMENT OF QUARANTINE IN THE EVENT OF OUTBREAK OF LIST A DISEASES

- The quarantine is established on the basis of order issued by the State Chief Food and Veterinary Inspector immediately after the diagnosis of the disease has been officially confirmed by laboratory.
- Quarantine – a special regime of strict measures imposed upon a definite area to prevent the spread of the infectious disease or its introduction in any as yet unaffected area.
- The quarantine applies to:
  - the affected place (the place containing the infected animal or herd);
  - the protection zone – the territory with the radius of not less than 3 km around the affected place;
  - the surveillance zone - the territory with the radius of not less than 10 km around the affected place.
- In case of outbreak of African Horse Sickness, the protection zone is established with the radius of not less than 100 km, but the surveillance zone – with the radius of not less than 150 km round the affected.
- In order to establish the above zones, geographical, meteorological, epidemiological and administrative factors likely to affect the size thereto are taken account of.
- If a quarantine zone includes parts of the territory of some other country, the state veterinary service of the country concerned shall be informed and the common measures shall be organised with the purpose to control and eradicate the disease.
- The quarantine shall be lifted on the basis of order issued by the state chief food and veterinary inspector after completion of eradication measures of the infectious animal diseases, or ceasing of threats of new disease outbreaks, when, in compliance with the provided requirements, the final cleaning and disinfection have been carried out.
- The public announcement in respect of establishment and lifting of quarantine shall be provided.

## 8. VACCINATION OF ANIMALS

- Prophylactic animal vaccination against the group A infectious animal diseases, except the Newcastle disease, is prohibited in the Republic of Latvia.
- In the event of outbreak of the group A infectious animal diseases, the state chief food and veterinary inspector shall make the decision and issue the order on emergency vaccination of animals thereof.
- Decision on introduction of emergency vaccination shall be approximated with European Commission.
  
- The FVS operational group shall estimate and provide proposals to the state chief food and veterinary inspector on:
  - the territory where vaccination shall be carried out;
  - animal species to be vaccinated;
  - the age of animals to be vaccinated; what age to start vaccination with;
  - the duration of the vaccination campaign;
  - the necessary number of specialists and material resources required for the immediate and effective vaccination;
  - the identification procedure of the vaccinated animals;
  - the conditions for the movement and use of vaccinated animals;
  - the conditions for the use of products of the vaccinated animals.
  
- The state chief food and veterinary inspector, on the basis of proposals provided by the operational group, shall issue the order stating the actions mentioned above.
- The FVS operational group shall ensure the ordering and receipt of vaccines from the international fund of vaccines, as well as secure the storage and delivery of vaccines and necessary equipment to the territorial food and veterinary departments, in the territory of which the emergency vaccination of animals shall be carried out.
- The state senior veterinary inspector in charge of the relevant territorial food and veterinary department shall be responsible for carrying out the vaccination on territorial level.
- If necessary, the state authorised veterinarians shall be involved in the vaccination campaign.
  
- The territorial food and veterinary department:
  - shall ensure the necessary number of veterinarians and other specialists to be involved in the vaccination campaign, by taking into account the size of the territory subject to vaccination and the number of animals within it;
  - shall provide with the means of transport for the transportation of vaccines and the necessary equipment to the places where vaccination shall be carried out;
  - shall inform the FVS operational group about the vaccination process by the telephone every day;
  - shall collect the materials (vials, syringes, etc.) used in the vaccination campaign from the veterinarians and carry out the disinfection of materials and equipments used in the vaccination campaign; shall ensure the disposal of the unused vaccines and throw away materials by the method applied in cases to annihilate high-risk materials.
  
- Following the receipt of vaccines, the veterinarians shall ensure their storage in compliance with the conditions provided by the instructions on the use of vaccines. The vaccination is carried out in accordance with the instructions on the use of vaccines.

- Prior to vaccination, veterinarians shall carry out the clinical examination of animals. In case the veterinarian notices any signs characteristic to the disease during the clinical examination, the vaccination has to be discontinued and the measures applicable to the event of suspicion of the presence of disease shall be carried out.
- By carrying out the vaccination, veterinarians shall comply with the standards of hygiene in order to prevent the spread of the pathogenic agent of the disease from one animal holding to another.
- The rest of vaccines, empty vials, syringes and other materials and utensils used in the vaccination campaign, shall be returned to the territorial food and veterinary department.
- More detailed information and documents which shall be filled in when distributing vaccines and carrying out vaccination is located in Annexes to instruction of each disease.

## 9. LABORATORY DIAGNOSTICS OF LIST A INFECTIOUS ANIMAL DISEASES

- The State Veterinary Medicine Diagnostic Centre (SVMDC), i.e. the national reference laboratory for the diagnostics of the infectious animal diseases in the Republic of Latvia (see Scheme No. 5 and No.6.), is the only authorised institution to examine the group A infectious animal diseases. The Animal Diseases Diagnostic Laboratory of the SVMDC has obtained the accreditation in compliance with the requirements of standard LVS EN ISO/IEC 17025.
- The SVMDC carries out the following tasks in respect of laboratory control and diagnostics of the animal infections:
  - carries out the diagnostics of the group A infectious animal diseases and, if necessary, ensures the delivering of test material to the EU reference laboratory;
  - carries out the epizootic (monitoring) examinations of the group A infectious animal diseases in compliance with the “Annual plan of the state surveillance of the group A infectious animal diseases”;
  - secures the delivery of test material to a laboratory by the use of special means of transport from the SVMDC or regional laboratories designed for the transportation of samples;
  - the staff of the SVMDC is trained to carry out the laboratory diagnostics of diseases. The staff has been trained in the reference laboratories of the Office International des Epizooties (O.I.E.) and the European Union, as well as within different collaboration projects;
  - the laboratory diagnostics of the groups A and B infectious animal diseases is carried out in compliance with the Office International des Epizooties (O.I.E.) Manual “On standards of diagnostic examinations and vaccines”;
  - ensures the training activities for veterinarians with regards to diagnostics of the infectious animal diseases and sampling, etc.
- The SVMDC has professional contacts with foreign laboratories; in complicated cases the SVMDC benefits from the opportunity to have the assistance from the leading laboratories in the United Kingdom, Germany, Italy, Spain, etc.
- SVMDC employs 7 staff members in Serology Division and, in emergency cases; it is possible to involve another 5 staff members to increase the total number to 12. Virology Division employs 6 staff members.
- The capacity and turn-over times of laboratory examinations in the SVMDC\*

Name of disease	Method	Number of samples per day	The necessary time for acquisition of results
<i>1</i>	<i>2</i>	<i>3</i>	<i>4</i>
Foot and mouth disease	anv-IFA	1000-2000	2d.
	ang-IFA	200-500	1-2 days
Classical swine fever	anv-IFA	1000-2000	1d.
	ang-IFA	100-200	1-2 days
	VN-NPLA	18-30	6-10 days
	Virus isolation	4-8	5-15 days
Avian influenza	anv-IFA	1000-2000	1d.
	HAAR	500-800	1d.
Newcastle disease <sup>1</sup>	anv-IFA	1000-2000	1d.
	HAAR	500-800	1d.

The capacity of examinations (the number of samples to be examined a day) is calculated as in emergency situations when there is a **suspicion of an outbreak of the relevant O.I.E. group A infectious animal disease** and the whole staff of the Serology Division and Virology Division of the FVS SVMDC is involved.

Newcastle Disease<sup>1</sup> – in Latvia birds are vaccinated, therefore the detection of antibodies with IFA and HAAR methods characterizes the post-vaccination infection vigour. The circulation of possibly pathogenic virulent strains may be detected by isolating the virus in chicken embryos and examining their intra-cerebral pathogenity index (ICPI), which is not performed at SVMDC. The samples are sent to O.I.E. reference laboratory for diagnostics.

- In case of necessity to diagnose other A group diseases, SVMDC shall secure the transfer of test samples to relevant EU or OIE reference laboratories.
- See Annex 7 – agreement between SVMDC and Danish Veterinary Institute.

Fig. 8

THE STRUCTURE OF THE FVS STATE VETERINARY MEDICINE  
DIAGNOSTIC CENTRE

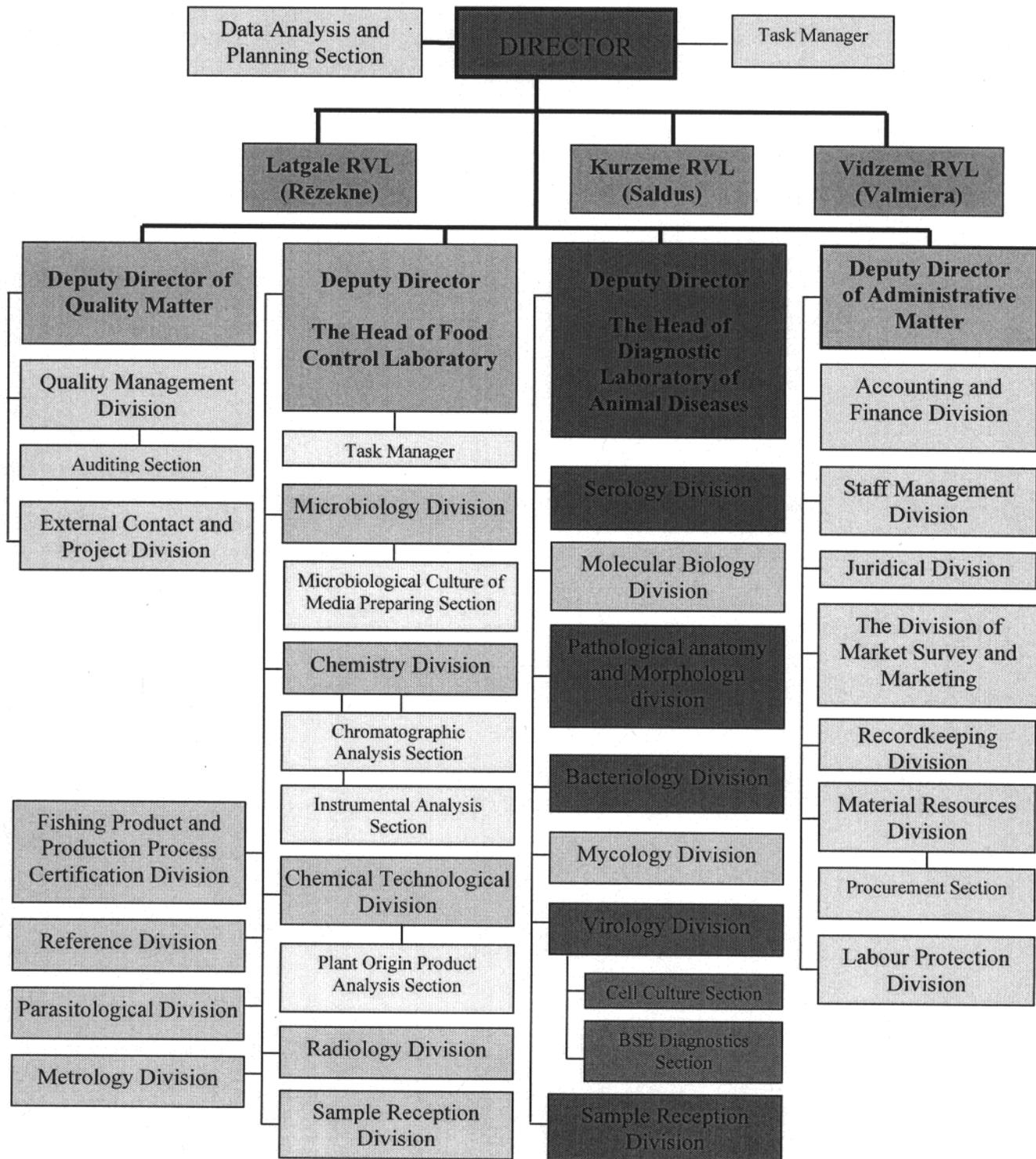
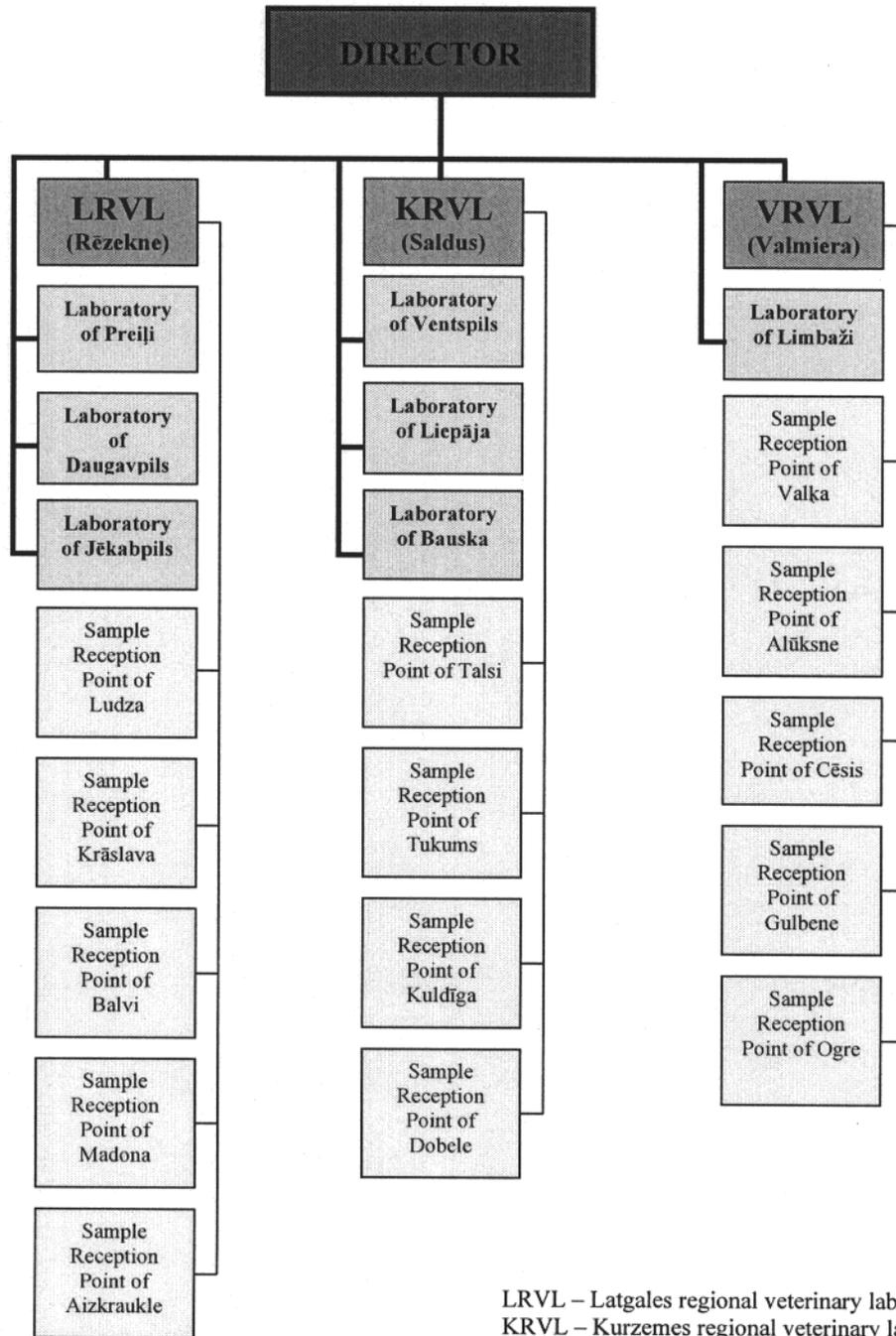


Fig. 9

THE STRUCTURE OF THE FVS SVMDC ANIMAL DISEASES  
DIAGNOSTICS LABORATORY



LRVL – Latgales regional veterinary laboratory  
KRVL – Kurzemes regional veterinary laboratory  
VRVL – Vidzemes regional veterinary laboratory

## 10. TRAINING ACTIVITIES IN RESPECT OF PREVENTION, NOTIFICATION AND ERADICATION OF A GROUP ANIMAL INFECTIOUS DISEASES

Taking into account the significant impact of the infectious animal diseases on animal health, the safety of foodstuffs, the state economic activities and other important social and economic factors, as well as the active position of the EU and international veterinary organisations (the O.I.E.) in respect of control and eradication of the infectious animal diseases, **a significant element in the operation of the FVS is the timely and professional training of officials and experts in order that the activities provided by the system of the official surveillance of the infectious animal diseases were carried out professionally and in compliance with the existing requirements and recommendations of the EU.** Different types of training activities are used, and both local and foreign branch experts of different professions are involved in training activities.

Training activities organised by the FVS:

### 1) One-time activities:

- the specialists of the SVMDC have been trained in laboratory diagnostics of the group A infectious animal diseases in different EU laboratories and institutions within the framework of PHARE MCVP (multi-country veterinary project);
- the videos on clinical symptoms, post-mortem changes and laboratory diagnostics of the group A infectious animal diseases have been received within the framework of PHARE. Copies of the videos are also available in all the territorial food and veterinary departments and they are demonstrated when training new experts;
- the simulation exercise of the outbreak of Foot and Mouth Disease was organised on July 13 and 14, 2001 and the heads in charge of the territorial food and veterinary departments and officials from the Central office of the FVS and the SVMDC participated;
- the Food and Veterinary Service in co-operation with TAIEX organised the simulation exercises of Classical swine fever on September 2002 and the state veterinary inspectors, the officials of the SVMDC and Central Office of the FVS, the students from the Faculty of Veterinary Medicine of the Latvian University of Agriculture and representatives from the biggest pig-breeding farms in the Republic of Latvia took part;

### 2) Regular Training:

- the FVS in co-operation with the Faculty of Veterinary Medicine of the Latvian University of Agriculture organises the training session for the experts of the territorial food and veterinary departments on the issues concerning the infectious diseases, their aetiology, prophylaxis, pathogenesis, clinical symptoms, diagnosis, differential diagnostics, treatment, eradication, etc. once a year
- the professional efficiency courses with regards to infectious animal diseases, including the group A diseases are organised for the state authorised veterinarians once in two years;
- the SVMDC organises the seminars on laboratory diagnostics of the group A infectious animal diseases for the experts of the territorial food and veterinary departments twice a year

### 3) General Training Program:

- The National Training Concept was approved by Director of FVS in 24 January 2003 envisaging introduction of a complex training system for FVS staff members. And National Training Concept for year 2004 also is elaborated. The said concept involves also courses of specific training in A group animal disease prevention and eradication including simulation exercises.

## II. PUBLIC AWARENESS

The public understanding of the significance of the infectious diseases is a relevant factor which motivates the public to get actively and properly involved in the process of prevention and eradication of the disease.

There is the Social Relations Department\* within the Food and Veterinary Service which is responsible for informing the public and various institutions on the current events taking part in the FVS. Events, such as outbreaks of the infectious animal diseases are made known to the public by the use of mass media (the press, broadcasting and radio). For the accomplishment of this purpose, the press conferences of the FVS and other informative activities are organised.

The Food and Veterinary Service regularly organises seminars for animal breeders and other interested persons in every region of Latvia. These seminars provide information on what action to take in the event of suspected contamination or approved outbreak of the disease. The video materials on clinical signs of the disease are demonstrated in these seminars as well.

FVS officials have prepared information booklets on separate infectious diseases, clinical signs and the notification regime thereof.

There is the home page of the Food and Veterinary Service on the Internet: [www.pvd.gov.lv](http://www.pvd.gov.lv) which is regularly up-to-dated with topical information. The home page comprises documents developed by the FVS, laws of the Republic of Latvia, the Cabinet of Ministers Regulations, instructions and orders issued by different authorities, as well as a section for questions and answers, providing a dialog between the FVS and general public, Food and Veterinary Service operates a confidence phone, No: 7027402 accepting justified claims on the quality of food acquired and the observed irregularities in respect of storage or display of food at establishments trading in food, providing for an opportunity to leave maximally detailed messages on products, irregularities thereof and the food trading point in question in the answering machine.

\* Public Relations Division  
phone./fax 7321792  
Head: I. Vilne, cell. Phone: 6499668

### PĀRTIKAS UN VETERINĀRĀ DIENESTA CENTRĀLAIS APARĀTS

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