



# Risk assessment in food safety

Ministry of Agriculture

Veterinary and Food Safety Directorate

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# Regulation (EZ) No. 178/2002 (I)

## REGULATION (EC) No 178/2002

A high level of protection of human life and health should be assured in the pursuit of Community policies.

The free movement of food and feed within the Community can be achieved only if food and feed safety requirements do not differ significantly from Member State to Member State.

### Ensures:

- a high level of protection of human health and consumers' interest
- free movement of food and feed within Community
- unique approach to food and feed safety system
- consumers' confidence

# Regulation (EZ) No. 178/2002 (2)

- considers all aspects of the food production chain
- Principles:
  - responsibility
  - traceability
  - transparency
- independence of the institutions protecting health and other interests.
- measures based on risk analysis: risk assessment, risk management, risk communication

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**Science | Policy**

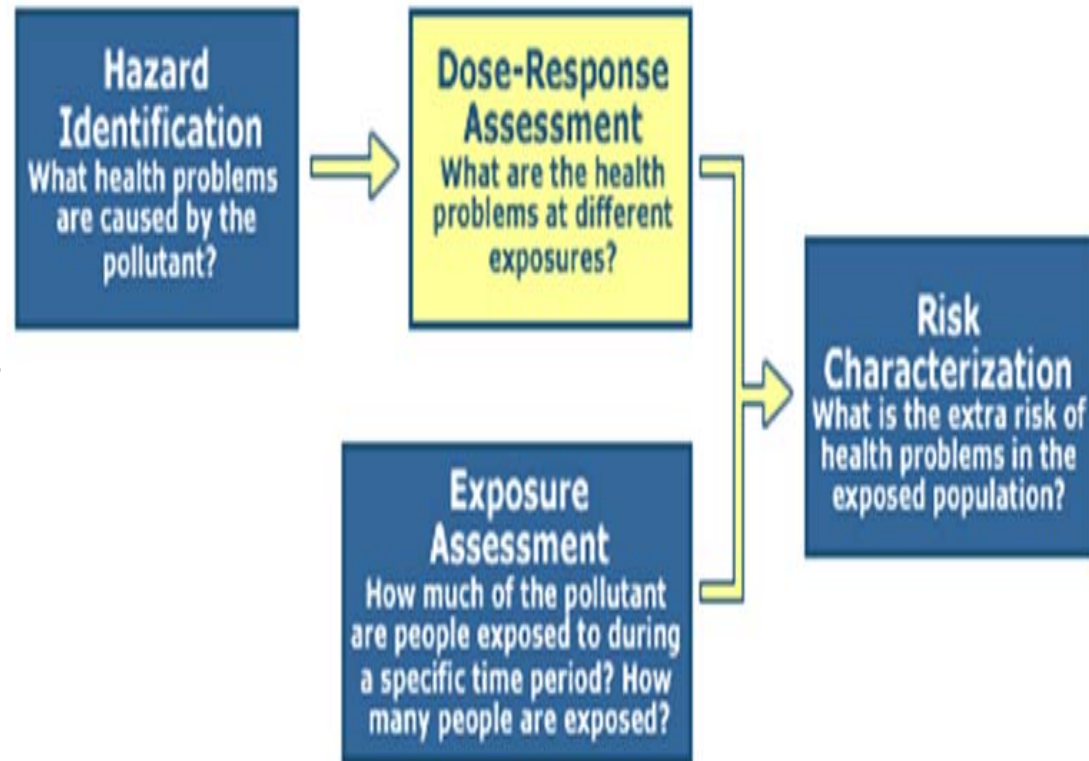
## Risk Analysis Framework



# Definitions – Reg. (EZ) 178/2002

- „**risk assessment**” - means a scientifically based process consisting of four steps:
  - hazard identification,
  - hazard characterisation,
  - exposure assessment and
  - risk characterisation-

## The 4 Step Risk Assessment Process



# Risk assessment

- reviewing scientific data and studies
- most relevant to the national context
- use available quantitative information to the greatest extent possible





# Risk management

RISK PERCEPTION

RISK ASSESSMENT

RISK MANAGEMENT



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# Risk management

- Process of weighting control alternatives by government (and international standard-setting bodies) in consultation with interested stakeholders, taking into account scientific information on risks to consumers as well as other relevant inputs (e.g. economics, technical feasibility, societal preferences), and choosing and implementing measures as appropriate
- In food safety – goal is to protect public health by **controlling such risks** as effectively as possible through the selection and implementation of appropriate measures





# Risk manager

- Competent authorities/governmental organizations ...



- with authority to decide on the acceptability of risk levels associated to foodborne hazards

# Structured approach of risk management

- risk assessment
- risk management option assessment
- implementation of management decision
- monitoring and review



# Risk management ↔ Risk assessment

## Manager

- establishing risk assessment policy
- providing alternative management options to be evaluated
- evaluate proposed options

## Assessor

- risk assessment
- examine the impacts of different control options and approaches
- providing with data to allow more objective evaluation proposed options.

Process continues until one or more risk management options achieving the desired level of protection are identified

**Decision implementation**

## Decision elements

- Scientific information on risk for consumers
- Consultation with all interested parties
- Economical inputs
- Experience of other relevant institutions
- Other relevant information

# Risk management

## Includes

- Early inclusion of major stakeholders in the risk evaluation process (that might be affected by the decisions/measures of risk management)
- successful risk communication
- monitoring and review – gathering and analysing of data so as to give an overview of food safety and consumer health



# Risk management

## Process

- transparent
- consistent
- fully documented



*Necessary to establish interactive communication with consumers and other interested parties in all aspects of the process*



# Risk management

- Responsibility of the competent authority  
=> cooperation => results





**Thank you for your attention!**