

The Icelandic Food and Veterinary Authority (MAST) Fields of work and legal basis

Act No 167/2007, passed by the Icelandic Parliament on 14 December 2007, provides for the establishment of the Icelandic Food and Veterinary Authority. The Act lays the foundation for the merger of authorities and services dedicated to food and agriculture related inspection and administration into a single inspection and administrative body, the Icelandic Food and Veterinary Authority. From 1 January 2008 the primary roles of the Authority are:

- a. *to administer the duties assigned to the Environmental and Food Agency of Iceland according to Act no. 93/1995 on Foodstuffs and the Act on Communicable Diseases no. 19/1997;*
- b. *to administer the duties assigned to the Icelandic Directorate of Fisheries according to Act no. 55/1998 regarding Handling, Processing and Distribution of Marine Products and Act no. 33/2002 on the Raising of Exploitable Marine Stocks;*
- c. *to administer the duties assigned to the Agricultural Authority of Iceland according to Act no. 66/1998 on Veterinarians and Animal Health Services; Act no. 25/1993 Governing Animal Diseases and Preventive Measures Against Them; Act no. 96/1997 on the Raising and Health of Slaughter Animals, Slaughtering, Processing, Health Inspection and Quality Grading of Slaughter Products; the Foodstuffs Act, no. 93/1995; Act no. 22/1994 on Surveillance of Feed, Fertilizer and Seed; the Animal Protection Act, no. 15/1994; the Communicable Diseases Act, no. 19/1997; the Icelandic Civil Protection Act, no. 94/1962; Act no. 67/1990 on the Institute for Experimental Pathology of the University of Iceland at Keldur; Act no 54/1990 on Importation of Animals; Act no. 103/2002 on Animal Husbandry, Etc.; Act no. 60/2006 on Preventive Measures Against Fish Diseases: the Medicinal Products Act, no. 93/1994; Act no. 33/2002 on the Raising of Exploitable Marine Stocks; Act no. 6/1986 on Highland Pastures, Mountain Boundaries, Etc.; and Act no. 55/2002 on Exportation of Horses; Act no. 51/1981 on Preventive Measures Against Pest and Diseases Affecting Plants;*
- d. *to administer the duties carried out by the Agricultural Authority of Iceland and the Farmers' Association of Iceland in accordance with Article 38, Paragraphs 1 and 2; Article 39, Paragraph 4; Article 42, Paragraph 1(a); Article 44, Paragraph 2; Article 53, Paragraphs 1 and 3; Article 54, Paragraph 2; and Article 82, Paragraph 2 of Act no. 99/1993 on the Production, Pricing and Sale of Agricultural Products; and Articles 4, 11 and 13 of Act no. 103/2002 on Animal Husbandry, Etc.;*
- e. *to administer the duties assigned to the Agricultural Authority of Iceland in accordance with Articles 4 and 5 of the Organic Agricultural Products Act, no. 162/1994.*

With the entry into force of the Act the Icelandic Food and Veterinary Authority has taken over the tasks and duties of the Agricultural Authority of Iceland and the food safety and food control tasks and duties of the Environmental and Food Agency of Iceland and the Icelandic Directorate of Fisheries.