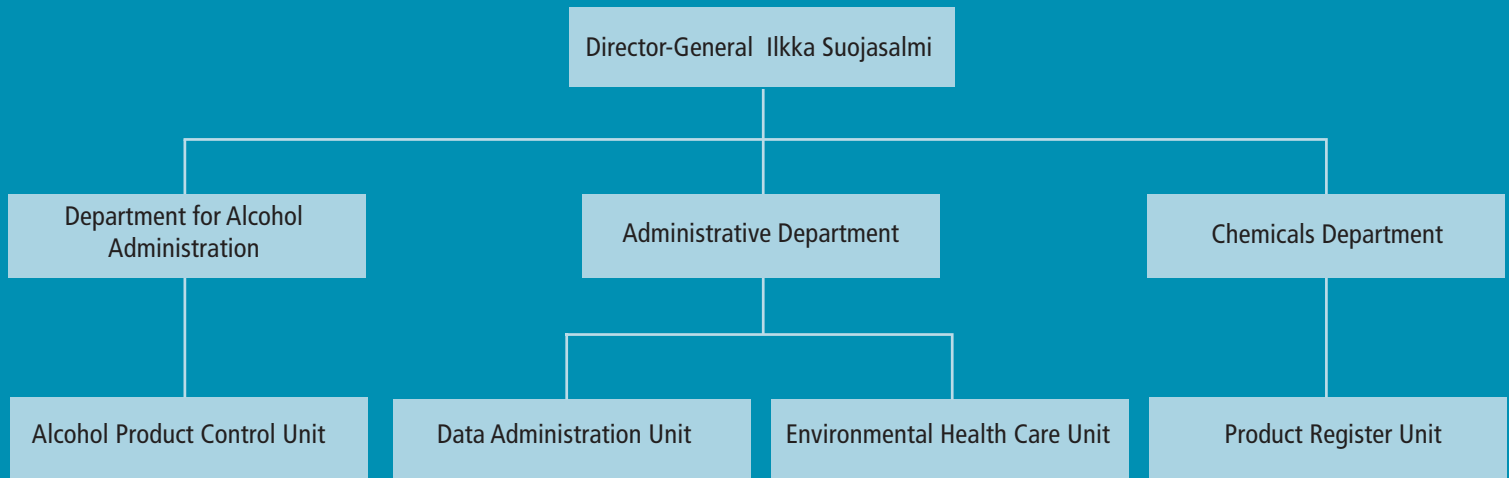


**National Product Control Agency for  
Welfare and Health**

**STV**

*The National Product Control Agency's (STTV) guiding principle is to prevent health and social detriments caused by alcoholic products, tobacco and chemicals and to promote a safe and healthy environment. STTV is responsible for overseeing and steering the implementation of the Alcohol Act, the Chemicals Act, the Tobacco Act and the Health Protection Act at national level, and for supervisory activities according to the Gene Technology Act. The Product Control Agency is a central office which operates under the Ministry of Social Affairs and Health.*

## National Product Control Agency for Welfare and Health



## Supervision of the Alcohol Act prevents detriments caused by alcohol

*STTV steers the implementation of the Alcohol Act at regional and local level. STTV implements the national alcohol programme and coordinates the alcohol industry's activities in order to prevent and reduce health, social and societal problems caused by alcohol; the overall aim is to contribute to a downward trend in the overall consumption of alcohol. The Alcohol Administration Department is responsible for the supervision of alcohol administration.*

STTV works to prevent grey economy and financial crimes within the alcohol industry with an aim to attain a functional market and the commitment of the traders to observe the statutory provisions which guide their activities and which call for social responsibility. With its actions STTV prevents unhealthy competition and promotes the development of the alcohol industry's and traders' own readiness for prevention.

STTV supervises the State Alcohol Monopoly and ensures that it treats the producers of alcoholic beverages equally. STTV also supervises the alcoholic beverage sales on vehicles in international traffic.

### Product control regarding alcohol

Product control regarding alcohol ensures that the products in the market are safe and legally produced and imported. The Alcohol Product Control Unit is in charge of the supervision of alcoholic beverage produc-

tion and wholesale and that the products' composition, quality and labelling meet the statutory requirements.

STTV grants licences for production, wholesale and use of industrial alcohol and supervises importing of spirits above 80% ABV. It steers and supervises the alcohol producers' and importers' initial and in-house control. STTV is also the competent authority regarding product control issues in the framework of the EU.

Industry, traders and educational and research institutes can use spirits above 80% ABV, alcoholic beverages and alcohol preparations for justifiable means under a licence for use granted by STTV. Alcohol bought using this licence is normally free of alcohol tax.

### Supervision of alcohol advertising

Advertising strong alcoholic beverages is forbidden. It is permitted to advertise mild alcoholic beverages within the preconditions stated in the Alcohol Act. STTV supervises alcohol advertising together with the State Provincial Offices.

### Alcohol data system and alcohol statistics

STTV maintains the alcohol data system (ALLU) co-shared with the State Provincial Offices which contains information regarding the traders in the alcohol industry and alcohol licences. For monitoring purposes, STTV also collects information on alcohol deliveries between licence holders and the activities of licensed premises. Extensive alcohol statistics are maintained with the data system. Data Administration Unit is in charge of the alcohol data system and alcohol statistics.

## Chemicals control protects human health

*STTV's task is to prevent health risks and fire and explosion hazards caused by chemicals. Chemicals Department is responsible for new substances' notification procedures, existing substances' risk assessment, authorisation of biocides, evaluation of the health effects of pesticides, wood preservatives and slimicides, approval of GLP test facilities, enforcement of chemicals legislation and also maintaining chemicals product register (KETU).*

*STTV's tasks are defined in the Chemicals Act and Pesticides Act which are mainly based on EU legislation.*

### Enforcement of legislation on chemicals

Dangerous chemicals must be classified according to their dangerous properties, properly packed, and labelled. The manufacturer or importer is responsible for the appropriate labelling. The manufacturer or importer is also responsible for other obligations defined in the legislation such as complying with bans and restrictions regarding chemicals and various permits and notifications.

STTV is in charge of enforcement which aims to prevent from adverse health risks and fire and explosion hazards. The purpose of enforcement is to ensure that the chemicals placed on the market in Finland fulfil the obligations set by the chemicals legislation.

The enforcement is carried out in close cooperation with State Provincial Offices, the Occupational Safety and Health Inspectorates, the Finnish Environment Insti-

tute and the other EU member states. Municipal authorities are responsible for local enforcement activities.

### New and existing substances

The European Inventory of Existing Commercial Substances (EINECS) includes circa 100,000 substances which are called existing substances. In 1993 the EU initiated a risk assessment programme for these substances. STTV shares the assessment and competent authority duties concerning the existing substances with the Finnish Environment Institute.

In the EU those substances which are not listed in the EINECS inventory are called new substances. These substances have to be notified to STTV. The notification procedures ensure that the notifier clarifies the properties of a new substance before it is placed on the market.

### Advance approval of chemicals

Using certain chemicals is subject to a licence or registration. Those chemicals that require an advance approval include biocides and pesticides. STTV evaluates these products' health risks and their physico-chemical properties and defines whether these products are acceptable for the intended use. The use of these chemicals can be restricted if necessary.

Biocides are products which are meant to destroy, control and prevent detrimental organisms and their effects. STTV and the Finnish Environment Institute act as competent authorities in approval procedures. STTV gives statements for national approval to the Finnish Environment Institute regarding the health risks and safe use of wood preservatives, slimicides and antifouling products.

Plant protection products which control insects, weeds or fungal diseases or their effects are pesticides. Insecticides, rodenticides and repellent products are also pesticides. A company applies to register the pesticide with Plant Production Inspection Centre before the product is placed on the market. STTV gives a statement regarding the product's health effects and participates in the decision-making as a member of the Pesticide Committee within the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry.

### **Risk assessment and risk management of chemicals**

STTV participates in the EU risk assessment programmes for chemicals and plant protection products. The responsibility for the risk assessment work belongs in Finland to several authorities. STTV's duty is to evaluate the health risks of chemicals to consumers and employees.

Based on the risk assessment of the biocide or plant protection product, it is evaluated whether the substance in question can be accepted for use within the EU. Based on the risk assessment of an existing substance or new substance, substance-specific risk reduction procedures are proposed if necessary. The use of the substance can be restricted or completely banned if the substance is estimated to cause significant risk to human health.

Bans and restrictions on chemicals are harmonized across the EU. STTV participates in the preparatory work for risk assessment and risk management in the EU.

### **GLP**

GLP (Good Laboratory Practice) is a quality system for test facilities carrying out non-clinical safety studies. GLP guarantees the reliability of studies used by au-

thorities in decision-making and promotes the reciprocal approval of test results in different countries. The aim of the GLP quality system is to avoid unnecessary repetition of studies and to protect laboratory animals.

Test facilities can apply for GLP approval from STTV. With regard to safety studies on medicines, STTV cooperates with the National Agency for Medicines.

### **Product register of chemical register**

Product register (KETU) of chemical register consists of information regarding chemicals produced in and imported to Finland. The register includes information regarding the chemicals' composition, classification, labelling, health and environmental effects, safe usage and annual production or importation amounts. The Finnish company who first places the chemical on the market or for use in Finland is responsible for submitting the information to the register .

Product register can be used by authorities, the Poison Information Centre and by certain research institutes. The information in the register is used f.ex for treating poisoning, preparing legislation and as an instrument for the enforcement of chemicals legislation.

### **The REACH regulation**

In 2003 the EU Commission has issued a draft regulation regarding chemicals. The aim of the REACH regulations is to collect information regarding chemicals in order to control risks. The central elements of the regulation are **R**egistration, **E**valuation and **A**uthorisation of **C**hemicals. REACH will bring considerable changes to the control of chemicals in EU.

## Environmental health care protects health from dangers within the environment

*STTV coordinates the national supervision and guidance of environmental health care legislation and develops the supervisory activities. Environmental Health Care Unit is in charge of the supervision of the environmental health care legislation.*

STTV is in charge of steering the Tobacco Act, steers its execution and acts as the expert in issues regarding the application of the Tobacco Act. STTV guides the execution of the Health Protection Act and manages the expert duties and development projects concerning health protection and environmental health care services in general. STTV is also largely in charge of controlling the Gene Technology Act.

The expert duties in environmental health care are an extensive part of the social and health sector's expertise. STTV works in close cooperation with different ministries and central agencies and regional and local executive authorities.

### **Supervision of the Tobacco Act prevents health detriments**

The aim of the execution of the Tobacco Act is to prevent the health hazards and risks caused by smoking and to reduce their occurrence. STTV controls that the ban on advertising of tobacco products is complied with, and it controls the tar, nicotine and carbon monoxide content produced through smoking tobacco products and the additives contained in tobacco products as well as the test laboratories and labelling.

STTV supervises State Provincial Offices and municipalities in issues regarding compliance on tobacco sales and smoking restrictions and cooperates with different organisations with an aim to reduce smoking in the society.

On a local level, municipalities have the responsibility to implement the Tobacco Act; they supervise tobacco sales and advertising and that smoking bans are complied with.

Occupational health and safety officials steer that bans on smoking are complied with in work communities.

### **Supervision of the Health Protection Act promotes the safety of the environment**

STTV acts as the executing and expert authority of the Health Protection Act and participates in the implementation of the national waste strategy. STTV's aim is to protect individuals' health and prevent, reduce and eliminate such factors in the environment which might cause health detriments.

STTV develops evaluation methods for health risks connected to the environment and acts as the expert agency for risk management. STTV provides general instructions for the prevention of health detriments for such issues as quality requirements for drinking water, waste management, disinfecting wastewater, dealing with dead wild animals and the hygiene requirements for toilet construction.

STTV instructs State Provincial Offices and municipalities in the execution and supervisory duties regarding the Health Protection Act. The health protection

officials of provinces and municipalities supervise within their region activities which are subject to notification, drinking water and water plants, beaches, swimming pool water, waste, wastewater, toilets, houses and flats and other premises, public places, buildings and factories as well as destroying microbes and harmful animals.

### **Controlling of the usage of genetically modified organisms protects health and environment**

The aim of control is to protect human and animal health and the environment from possible harmful effects of the usage of genetically modified organisms (GMO) in contained use (laboratories or greenhouses) and in deliberate release as field trials or products.

The control is based on the Gene Technology Act and is carried out by document scrutiny and inspection visits. Notifications made by the research institutes and companies including e.g. risk assessment and other legislative requirements are the basis of this work.

STTV is in charge of controlling contained use of GMOs, and deliberate release concerning health issues. STTV also acts as an expert authority for issues regarding genetic engineering. STTV maintains an electronic register consisting of notifications and applications regarding the usage of GMOs and control documents.



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