

GENERAL CRISIS MANAGEMENT PLAN IN THE AREA OF FOOD/FEED SAFETY

Decree №547 of the Government of Georgia of October 23, 2015 - website, 27.10.2015

Article 1. Crisis Management Plan

1. The crisis management plan should provide the actions the implementation of which are necessary in the case prevention, reduction to the acceptable level or elimination of a direct or indirect risk to human health emerged from food/feed has failed as a result of implementation of the special measures provided by Article 51 of the Food/Feed Safety, Animal and Plant Protection Code.
2. The legal entity of public law - the National Food Agency (hereinafter - Agency) prepares the crisis management plan in the area of food and feed safety and submits it to the Ministry of Agriculture of Georgia for approval.
3. The crisis management plan should define:
 - a) crisis;
 - b) creation of a crisis management group and its functions;
 - c) actions and measures that are necessary for crisis management;
 - d) the level of risk, the prevention, elimination or reduction to acceptable level of which are related to certain difficulties;
 - e) the grounds for the use of the crisis management plan;
 - f) crisis management group's role in the decision-making process;
 - g) procedures for the dissemination of information during the crisis;
 - h) transparency and proportionality principles.

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Article 2. Crisis

1. The crisis can be of two types:
 - a) a situation, which contains a serious direct or indirect risk to human health;
 - b) a condition which contains the potential risk and the latter can transform into a serious risk.
2. To determine the crisis under subparagraph "a" of paragraph 1 of this Article there must be taken into account the measure of probability of risk spread to a large

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part of the country's territory and/or its spread from the country's territory to the territories of other countries.

3. In the case provided by subparagraph "a" of paragraph 1 of this Article, it is necessary to create a crisis management group.
4. In the case of a crisis determined by subparagraph "b" of paragraph 1 of this Article the Ministry of Agriculture of Georgia shall approve the appropriate measures to ensure effective management of this condition (without creating a crisis management group), which shall be implemented by the Agency.

Article 3. Grounds for Use of Crisis Management Plan

The grounds for the use of the crisis management plan are:

- a) notification received from the rapid alert system for food and feed;
- b) notification received from other countries;
- c) the information received from the respective international organizations;
- d) the information available to the Agency;
- e) any other information (provided by an individual and/or legal entity in case of their identification and media).

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Article 4. Creation of Crisis Management Group

1. In case of a crisis provided by subparagraph "a" of paragraph 1 of Article 2, under an individual administrative-legal act of the Minister of Agriculture of Georgia (hereinafter – the Minister) the composition of crisis management group is determined, the member of which, if necessary, may be the representative of the scientific circle invited for scientific advice.
2. The decision on implementation of the measures relating to elimination of the causes of the crisis or reduction of a risk to the acceptable level shall be made by the Minister, under the recommendations elaborated by the crisis management group.
3. The Minister's decision on the measures relating to elimination of the causes of the crisis or reduction of a risk to the acceptable level shall be executed by the Agency in cooperation with respective authorities.

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4. If necessary, the information on the measures relating to elimination of the causes of the crisis or reduction of a risk to the acceptable level shall be disseminated by the Agency in cooperation with respective authorities.
5. The terms of reference of crisis management group terminates after elimination of the causes of the crisis or reduction of a risk to the acceptable level.

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Article 5. Powers of Crisis Management Group

1. The crisis management group shall be entitled to:
 - a) with the purpose of elimination, mitigation and prevention of a risk of impact on the human and animal life and health, plant health and the environment, timely and effective implementation of management activities, collect and evaluate all the relevant data and identify necessary measures and actions for crisis management;
 - b) disseminate the information about the crisis-causing risks and the implemented measures.
2. The crisis management group is responsible to provide the materials obtained on the crisis-causing risks and the measures implemented to the Minister.
- 2¹. In the area of the food/feed safety, in case of necessity of launching the national response mechanisms taking into account the scale of the risk to human and animal life and health, plant health and environmental risk, the Crisis Management Group shall using any method of instant communication (phone, e-mail, etc.), provide the information about the current situation to the National Center for Crisis Management of the State Security and Crisis Management Council staff.
3. The crisis management group shall cooperate with the contact persons of the Rapid Alert System for Food and Feed.
4. If necessary, the Crisis Management Group shall cooperate with the international organizations and stakeholders, including the relevant authorities to ensure obtaining of all the necessary information.
5. *(Repealed - 23.10.2015, №547).*

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Article 6. Information Dissemination Procedures during Crisis

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1. The Crisis Management Group will develop procedures for the dissemination of information during the crisis.
2. The procedures for dissemination of information during a crisis shall provide the information about the crisis to crisis and the actions required for its dissemination, which shall be submitted to the Minister.
3. The information dissemination procedures provide dissemination of the information inside the country and identification of those countries that are directly affected by the crisis, the need for the establishment of cooperation with them as well as the terms for providing the information.

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Article 7. Principle of Transparency

1. The Crisis Management Group should be guided by the principle of transparency.
2. The information obtained by the Crisis Management group should be public, except as provided by law.