

# National Market Surveillance Plan

2015

SWEDEN

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## **Introduction**

Market surveillance shall establish satisfactory protection of consumers, employees, public health, the environment and other aspects of protection in the public interest, as well as fair competition between businesses.

Market surveillance means activities carried out and measures taken by public authorities to ensure that products on the market comply with applicable legislation. The authority shall take action against economic actors whose products do not meet the requirements imposed. Measures that may come into question are, for example, prohibition of sales, withdrawal of products from the market, or recall of products from end users.

Market surveillance is carried out in the form of informational activities, planned inspections at manufacturers, importers or distributors or reactions to reported accidents, complaints from the public or warnings from public authorities in other countries. Market surveillance does not cover pre-market inspection or inspection of products in use.

Each member state in the EU shall draw up, carry out, and follow up on market surveillance plans. In Sweden, the Market Surveillance Council has been given the task of drawing up a national market surveillance plan through the Regulation (2014:1039) on market surveillance of goods. This national plan is supplemented by sector-specific market surveillance plans that are drawn up by every central market surveillance authority. This year's national plan is based on the Commission's new template for a national market surveillance program according to Article 18.5 of Regulation (EC) No. 765/2008 and focuses on joint activities by public authorities to make the Swedish market surveillance and the Market Surveillance Council more effective and also more visible.

### **1 The market surveillance authorities and their areas of responsibility**

The Swedish market surveillance is carried out by around 20 public authorities and 290 municipalities. The government authorities are in most cases also the regulatory authorities for the products or product characteristics for which they have market surveillance responsibility. In Regulation (2014:1039), the Government has specially indicated 16 public authorities as responsible for market surveillance. These authorities, and their areas of responsibility and ministerial affiliation, are listed in the appendix.

## **2 Coordination and cooperation among national market surveillance authorities**

Swedac, the Swedish Board for Accreditation and Conformity Assessment, has overall responsibility for coordinating the Swedish market surveillance. This responsibility includes serving as chairman and maintaining the secretariat for the Market Surveillance Council, a body consisting of the 16 market surveillance authorities above, as well as the Swedish Customs and the Swedish National Board of Trade.

According to the Swedish Regulation on Market Surveillance, the tasks of the Market Surveillance Council are to:

- act as a national coordinating body for issues relating to market surveillance;
- promote cooperation and efficiency;
- organise a continuous exchange of experiences;
- be responsible for disseminating information on market surveillance;
- facilitate contacts between the general public and the business sector and the market surveillance authorities;
- promote cooperation with market surveillance authorities in other EU member states; and
- annually prepare and implement a national action plan for market surveillance.

The work consists to a great extent of information exchange, legislative work, interpretation and method development.

The Market Surveillance Council has adopted its own rules of procedure. These govern the tasks of the chairman and the secretariat, the process for appointing members and alternates, working methods and decision-making. According to the rules of procedure, the Council shall (for example) hold ordinary meetings at least four times per year and decisions shall be made by a simple majority. Apart from ordinary meetings, the Council's work include continuous contacts and activities, sometimes via working groups that investigate and propose guidelines for and solutions to common questions and problems. The majority of the working groups are of a temporary character. One working group reporting to the Market Surveillance Council, however, the "Forum for Customs-Related Issues" is permanent.

Representatives from the Government Offices' coordinating ministries on market surveillance issues, the Ministry for Foreign Affairs and the Ministry of Finance, participate in ordinary meetings of the Market Surveillance Council. Representatives from business, consumer and employee organisations participate in every other ordinary meeting.

The Swedish Consumer Agency has general responsibility for the Product Safety Act (2004:451), which together with the Product Safety Regulation (2004:469) implements the EU Directive on General Product Safety (2001/95/EC). The Swedish Consumer Agency is also the contact point for RAPEX and has coordinating responsibility towards other market surveillance authorities that belong to the RAPEX network, in accordance with Regulation (1993:1322) and Regulation (2014:1039).

Swedac is the national administrator of ICSMS in accordance with Regulation (2014:1039), which supplements EU Regulation 765/2008 on accreditation and market surveillance.

The Swedish National Board of Trade is the contact point in accordance with Regulation (2014:1039), which supplements EU Regulation 764/2008 on mutual recognition.

### **3 Cooperation between market surveillance and customs authorities**

The Market Surveillance Council consists of representatives of market surveillance authorities, the Swedish National Board of Trade, and Swedish Customs. The Council has also appointed a permanent working group for cooperation, called “Forum for Customs-Related Issues” where both practical and theoretical issues are discussed. The Forum convenes twice a year and is open to all authorities in the Council. The Forum has also developed a model for cooperation based on articles 27–29 of EU Regulation 765/2008 and a template for planned control operations. Swedish Customs and Swedac participate in the European Commission’s expert working group on product safety and compliance checks for imported goods (EWG), which is a joint group for customs and market surveillance authorities.

### **4 RAPEX**

RAPEX is the EU Commission’s alert system for products with serious risks. The Swedish Consumer Agency is the national contact point for RAPEX. Ten market surveillance authorities actively participate in the national network, as do the Swedish National Board of Trade and Swedish Customs. Starting in 2014, national RAPEX network meetings will be arranged in connection with national ICSMS network meetings.

The Swedish Consumer Agency sends out a newsletter regularly (every week), with links to the EU Commission’s compilation of dangerous products: the RAPEX Weekly Report. Its recipients are market surveillance authorities, consumer organisations and economic operators on the Swedish market.

The market surveillance authorities are responsible for investigating if the RAPEX-notified products are available on the Swedish market. In those cases where corrective measures are taken in Sweden, the authorities send their reactions to RAPEX.

The Swedish Consumer Agency, as national contact point, participates in European network meetings held by the EU Commission in Brussels.

## 5 ICSMS

ICSMS is the EU Commission's information and communication system for market surveillance, based on a product database. Sweden is one of the original founders of the system, which has been available to the Swedish market surveillance authorities since 2000. The activity in the system, however, has been limited during the time the system has been voluntary. A number of training courses have been conducted nationally over the years for ICSMS users.

Swedac is the national administrator for ICSMS and contact point in relation to the EU Commission. Swedac also takes part in the Commission's IMP-ICSMS (*Internal Market for Products – Information and Communication System for Market Surveillance*) expert work group. Starting in 2014, national ICSMS network meetings will be arranged in connection with national RAPEX network meetings.

The internal portal of ICSMS is available to the authorities in the Market Surveillance Council, i.e. the 16 market surveillance authorities, the Swedish National Board of Trade and Swedish Customs. Continuous feedback from activity as regards reported products is provided at the Market Surveillance Council's meetings as a link in motivating the market surveillance authorities to be more active.

The extent to which Swedish authorities use ICSMS to study the information registered by authorities in other member states is not known.

## 6 General principles for market surveillance

The Swedish market surveillance authorities normally base their supervision on risk assessment, i.e. they target their efforts towards the product/product properties/economic operators that may be suspected of not meeting applicable requirements. Such information can originate from previous inspections, complaints, accident reports, information from RAPEX and ICSMS and so on. The authorities' sector plans shall contain an overall accounting of how the risk assessment has been performed.

The authorities shall also report on the approximate distribution, in percentage figures, between proactive and reactive inspections for their respective sectors, on how complaints or notifications are handled and on principles for when documentary checks, physical checks, testing etc. shall be carried out.

As insufficient compliance very often depends on ignorance of applicable legislation among economic operators, the Swedish authorities attach great importance to information, education and regular dialogue. Regular surveillance normally focuses on the operators who consciously violate legislation.

With few exceptions, the Swedish market surveillance authorities lack their own laboratories, and procure accredited testing services on the private market.

The authorities have a number of different possibilities of sanctions at their disposal, from administrative measures such as deciding on prohibition of sales, corrections, withdrawals, recalls, payments of penalties and sanction fees to penal measures such as fines and – in serious cases – even imprisonment. Today the authorities' powers and possibilities for sanction vary for different reasons, which will very likely be the object of a national review in the form of a special governmental inquiry.

## **7 Cooperation with other member states and countries outside the EU**

Sweden attaches great importance to international cooperation for the purpose of developing market surveillance.

Swedac, the Swedish Consumer Agency, the Swedish National Board of Trade and Swedish Customs are the authorities that participate in non-sector-specific networks and working groups at the EU and global level in the sphere of market surveillance, and work to promote cooperation among the national authorities and their counterparts in other member states within various sectors.

Swedac's commission also includes, for example, serving as the Swedish representative on the European Commission's expert working groups for market surveillance issues, such as IMP-MSG (*Internal Market for Products-Market Surveillance Group*) and IMP-ICSMS (*Internal Market for Products-Information and Communication System for Market Surveillance*). Swedac participates alongside the Swedish Customs Agency in the European Commission's working group on cooperation between customs and market surveillance authorities (*EWG*) and alongside the Swedish Consumer Agency in the Prosafe (*Product Safety Enforcement Forum of Europe*) general assembly. Swedac and the Swedish National Board of Trade participate in the UN Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE), in the working party for regulatory cooperation and standardisation policies (*WP.6*) as well as the working group for market surveillance (*MARS*).

Swedac and the Swedish National Board of Trade also organise and participate in programmes/courses on market surveillance for third countries, including within the framework of international development.

The Ministry of Finance participates in OECD's market surveillance and product safety work.

Cooperation with other member states and third countries within different sectors are discussed in the sector-specific market surveillance plans.

## **8 Evaluation and reporting**

There is no general method for evaluation of market surveillance in Sweden. Evaluation of Swedish market surveillance primarily occurs through the follow-up of

the market surveillance plans within various sectors. Government authorities shall, for example, account for the results of activities that were carried out and that were not carried out. The follow-ups, according to the Market Surveillance Council's own guidelines, shall be finished by the end of March each year and submitted to Swedac. After that, they are published on the web site of the Market Surveillance Council. In addition, market surveillance projects can be part of a special government assignment or of a joint EU action. In such cases, the evaluation and reporting takes place as part of these activities.

According to EU Regulation 765/2008, the member states shall regularly—at least every fourth year—review and assess market surveillance. This has occurred once (in 2014) and in accordance with the Commission's guidelines. Similar processes exist for individual sector specific pieces of legislation.

## **9 Planned activities**

The following activities are primarily grouped according to the duties given to the Market Surveillance Council in the Regulation (2014:1039) on market surveillance.

### **9.1 Organise a continuous exchange of experiences**

One prerequisite for effective market surveillance is that public authorities are given opportunities to meet and exchange experiences. The basis of the Market Surveillance Council's work is the ordinary meetings. At such Council meetings, information of general interest is communicated, such as legislative work at national and EU level. Various issues of interpretation and implementation are also discussed.

- **The Market Surveillance Council shall hold at least four ordinary meetings**

Close and regular dialogue between public authorities and business, consumer and employee organisations is an important part of the authorities' market surveillance.

- **The Market Surveillance Council shall invite representatives from business, consumer and employee organisations to two of the Council's ordinary meetings**

From a market surveillance perspective, the most effective way is to stop products that do not comply with the requirements of the legislation already at the external borders of the EU, i.e. before they are placed on the market. In order to increase the effectiveness of the market surveillance, it is important to develop the cooperation between the customs and the market surveillance authorities, so that in the longer term it becomes a natural part of the national market surveillance work. The Market Surveillance Council's forum for customs-related issues is, from this perspective, an important constituent in the development of effective market surveillance in Sweden.

- **The Market Surveillance Council shall arrange two meetings of the Forum for customs-related issues**

In recent years, annual evaluations have been carried out of the Market Surveillance Council's tasks, working practices, composition, etc., which have provided good input for continuous improvement to achieve the overall goals. A questionnaire sent to all public authorities participating in the Market Surveillance Council, representatives of business, consumer and employee organisations and the Government Offices has formed the basis for this evaluation. These annual evaluations should therefore continue.

- **The Market Surveillance Council shall carry out an evaluation of its tasks, working practices, composition, etc.**

## **9.2 Support public authorities that exercise market surveillance**

The free movement of goods on the internal market is one of the fundamental principles of the EU. In order to safeguard fair competition and good user protection, European cooperation on market surveillance issues is a prerequisite. "20 actions for safer and compliant products for Europe: a multi-annual action plan for the surveillance of products in the EU" (COM (2013) 76 final) was presented in 2013 by the European Commission as a part of the package on product safety and market surveillance that also includes a proposal for a regulation on market surveillance (COM (2013) 75 final) and a proposal for a regulation on consumer product safety (COM (2013) 78 final). The proposed regulations have been subject to negotiations in the Council and the Parliament during 2013, but have been put on ice for a large part of 2014. The action plan, however, has been continuously discussed in the Commission's expert groups, IMP-MSG (*Internal Market for Products – Market Surveillance Group*) and the GPSD Committee (*General Product Safety Directive, 2001/95/EC*). The implementation of the action plan began in 2013, continued during 2014, and will continue during 2015.

- **The Market Surveillance Council shall contribute to the implementation of the EU's multi-annual action plan for market surveillance**

Most public authorities participate in working groups or similar at the EU level where issues relating to interpretation and implementation of various legal product acts are discussed. Issues of horizontal interest are often raised, and these should become known to the entire Market Surveillance Council. Each authority shall therefore undertake to send agendas and reports from such meetings to the secretariat which, in consultation with the authority concerned, identifies issues that should be taken up for discussion at the Market Surveillance Council's ordinary meetings or in another manner.

- **The Market Surveillance Council shall inform about issues of horizontal interest from the respective working groups**

Both national and international cooperation requires well-functioning IT solutions. Since 2008, Swedac has been financing a web-based system that functions as the Market Surveillance Council's internal system for information exchange and document management. The system and the technical support are provided by an external supplier. The system is not felt to be optimal by the authorities, and it is also costly. Swedac shall therefore, in consultation with the other authorities in the Market

Surveillance Council, review different alternative solutions for internal information exchange and document management.

- **The Market Surveillance Council shall review various solutions for its internal information exchange**

According to EU Regulation 765/2008 on accreditation and market surveillance, all market surveillance authorities are obliged to enter information about products in ICSMS (*International Communication System for Market Surveillance*). Swedac, which is the national administrator of ICSMS, shall arrange training courses and all authorities shall ensure that they have the required knowledge in-house to use the system.

- **The Market Surveillance Council shall organise and take part in ICSMS training courses**

The market surveillance authorities shall also, via the RAPEX (*Rapid exchange of information*) system, inform other member states and the Commission of dangerous products. The Swedish Consumer Agency, the national contact point for RAPEX, shall arrange network meetings for use of the system. These network meetings shall take place in connection with network meetings for ICSMS.

- **The Market Surveillance Council shall participate in joint RAPEX and ICSMS network meetings**

Even if the internal cooperation at the respective authorities functions properly, exchanging experiences across sectoral and authority boundaries is equally important. This takes, to a great extent, place within the Market Surveillance Council, where the participants often have good contacts. It is, however, also important that people other than the representatives of the Council who also work with market surveillance at the authorities are given opportunities to meet and exchange experiences.

- **The Market Surveillance Council shall prepare the “Market Surveillance Day 2016”**

The evaluation of the Swedish market surveillance conducted for 2010–2013 that was carried out in accordance with EU Regulation 765/2008 indicated weaknesses in some parts, which could be explained by insufficient knowledge in evaluation methodology. The Swedish Agency for Public Management should be able to contribute to the development of such a methodology. This authority is tasked by the Government to investigate, evaluate and monitor publicly funded activities and general issues about the functioning of public administration. This includes analysing activities and authorities from an efficiency perspective, reporting on the effects of public actions, and providing a basis for review.

- **The Market Surveillance Council shall work for the Swedish Agency for Public Management to evaluate Swedish market surveillance and shall assist the agency in this work**

Market surveillance is faced with several challenges linked to innovation and digitalisation. For example, 3D technology changes the conditions for production both as regards localisation and aspects of sustainability. From the viewpoint of regulation, a development of this kind leads to certain challenges regarding risks with the nature

of the products and their usage. The legislation has not yet been adapted to this development, but with the rise of new proposals for regulation, the Council should have a common view of this technological development.

- **The Market Surveillance Council shall investigate the possibility of establishing a platform for issues of the future and innovation, where both theoretical and practical issues can be discussed.**

### 9.3 Information and contacts

In order for the market surveillance authorities to have the best possible conditions for carrying out its tasks, it is important that the principals are well informed. The Market Surveillance Council has identified a need to arrange special meetings for concerned government officials and for members of the Swedish Parliament and its committee offices to inform them about market surveillance and to discuss topical issues.

- **The Market Surveillance Council shall meet government officials**
- **The Market Surveillance Council shall meet members of the Parliament and its committee offices**

Good dialogue between public authorities and the business sector facilitates a common objective of safe products and fair competition. All market surveillance authorities should maintain continuous contacts with the sector organisations concerned. In addition, there is a need for input at a more overall level in terms of product legislation, the obligations of economic operators and the role of the authorities. In 2013, the Market Surveillance Council, together with the Swedish Trade Federation and the Swedish Engineering Companies' Employers Federation, arranged a full-day seminar "Your Product, Your Responsibility aimed at manufacturers, importers and distributors. The seminar was well-attended and appreciated. Therefore, the Market Surveillance Council has decided to hold these types of seminars regularly, at least every other year. In 2014, the Market Surveillance Council appointed a working group to prepare a seminar to be held in 2015.

- **Market Surveillance Council shall organise the "Your product, Your responsibility 2015" seminar**

The presentation at the political week in Almedalen could receive major media notice, which market surveillance needs. In 2014, the Market Surveillance Council organised a seminar on market surveillance in Almedalen and will do so in 2015 as well. For this purpose, a working group will be appointed within the Market Surveillance Council.

- **The Market Surveillance Council shall arrange a market surveillance seminar during the Almedalen week**

Today, information is primarily sought out on the Web. It is therefore important to ensure that good, topical information is available on the Market Surveillance Council's joint website, [www.marknadskontroll.se](http://www.marknadskontroll.se) and especially to attract visitors to it. In 2014, guidelines for publishing information on the Council's web site were drawn up and several authorities, but not all, follow them today.

- **The Market Surveillance Council shall to a greater extent contribute with information to the web site**

Market surveillance shall ensure satisfactory protection for consumers, employees, public health, the environment and other aspects of protection in the public interest, as well as fair competition between businesses. The authorities' focus in most cases lies on the former objective, while the latter is often either forgotten or given lower priority. It is important to remember that improperly functioning market surveillance can also lead to a situation where businesses that follow all the requirements of the legislation are subjected to unfair competition from less serious businesses. This threat to serious businesses risks leading both to lost job opportunities and to weakened Swedish and European competitiveness and growth. This aspect should be made clearer and further concretised. The Swedish Competition Authority, is the public authority for issues of competition, and has been tasked by the Government to work towards efficient competition in private and public activities for the benefit of consumers. There is a council attached to the Authority, –the Council for Research Issues, which is tasked with stimulating research in the field of competition and procurement.

- **The Market Surveillance Council shall investigate the opportunities for cooperation with the Swedish Competition Authority**

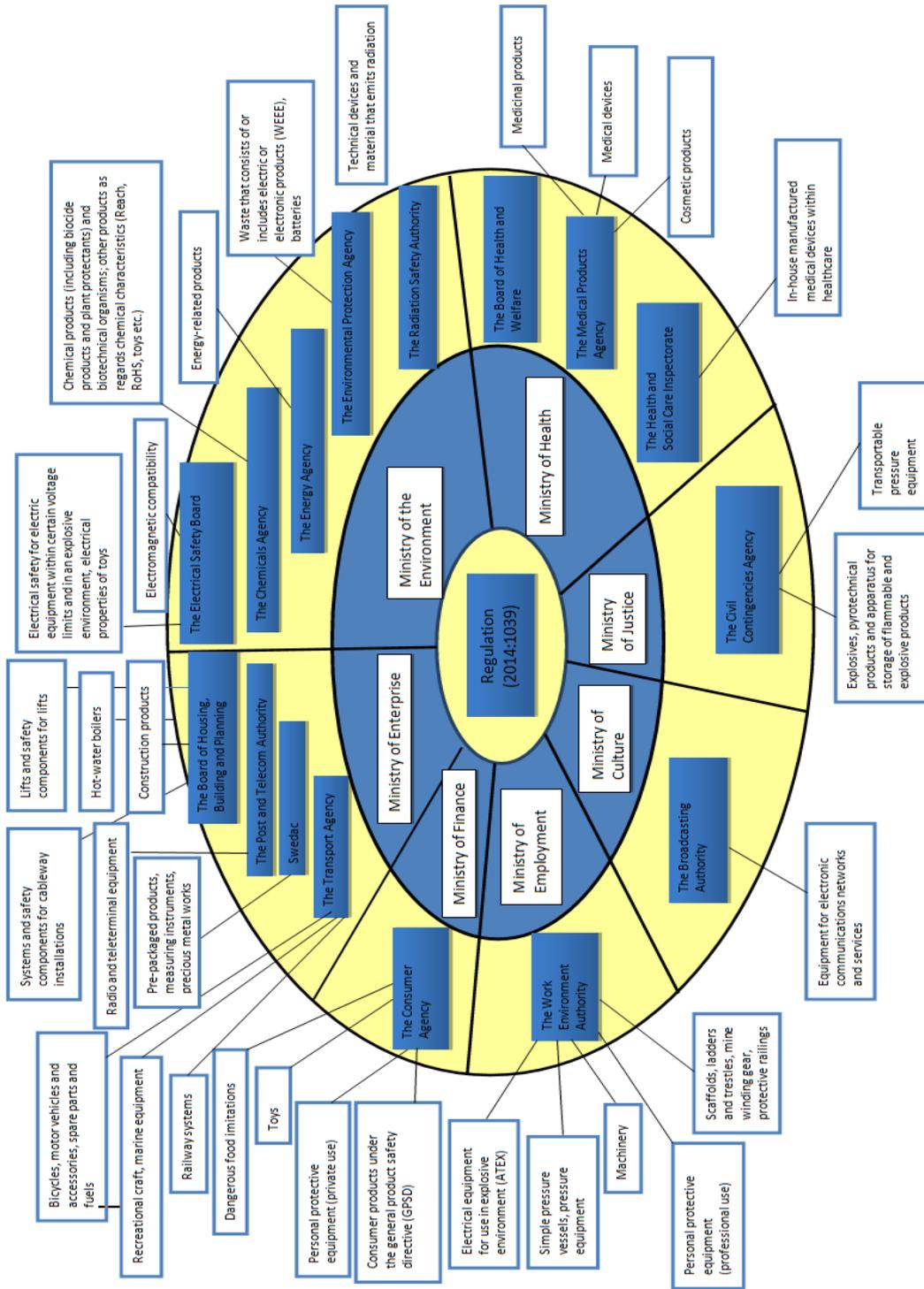
## Appendix 1 The market surveillance authorities and their areas of responsibility

|  |   |
|--|---|
| The Swedish Work Environment Authority                                 | Equipment for use in explosive environments (ATEX), simple pressure vessels, pressure equipment, machinery, personal protective equipment for professional use, scaffolds, ladders and trestles, mine winding gear, protective railings |
| The Swedish National Board of Housing, Building, and Planning          | Construction products, subsidiary systems and safety components for cableway installations designed to carry persons, lifts and safety components for lifts, certain hot-water boilers  |
| The National Electrical Safety Board                                   | Electrical equipment for use in in explosive atmospheres (ATEX), electrical equipment within certain voltage limits and, as well as for the electrical properties of toys, electromagnetic compatibility                                |
| The Swedish Energy Agency  | Energy-related products   |
| The Health and Social Care Inspectorate                                | In-house manufactured medical devices within healthcare   |
| The Swedish Chemicals Agency   | Chemical products (including biocide products and plant protectants) and biotechnical organisms; other products (with certain exceptions) related to chemical characteristics (Reach, RoHS, toys etc.)                                  |
| The Swedish Consumer Agency  | Toys, personal protective equipment for private use, dangerous food imitations, consumer products and services under the General Product Safety Directive (2001/95/EC)  |
| The Medical Products Agency  | Cosmetic products, medicinal products, medical devices  |
| The Swedish Environmental Protection Agency                            | Waste that consists of or includes electric or electronic products (WEEE), batteries  |
| The Swedish Post and Telecom Authority                                 | Radio and tele terminal equipment   |
| The Swedish Broadcasting Authority                                     | Equipment for electronic communications networks and services   |
| The Swedish Civil Contingencies Agency                                 | Explosives, pyrotechnical products, certain apparatus for storage of flammable and explosive goods, transportable pressure equipment  |
| The Swedish National Board of Health and Welfare                       |   |
| The Swedish Radiation Safety Authority                                 | Technical devices and material that emits radiation   |
| The Swedish Board for Accreditation and Conformity Assessment (Swedac) | Pre-packaged products, measuring instruments, precious metal work   |
| The Swedish Transport Agency   | Bicycles, motor vehicles and accessories, spare parts and fuels for these, recreational craft, marine equipment, railway systems  |

## Appendix 2 The market surveillance authorities and their ministerial affiliation

| Ministry   | Agency  |
|--|---|
| Ministry of Employment                             | The Swedish Work Environment Authority  |
| Ministry of Finance                                | The Swedish Consumer Agency   |
| Ministry of Justice                                | The Swedish Civil Contingencies Agency  |
| Ministry of Culture                                | The Swedish Broadcasting Authority  |
| Ministry of the Environment                        | The National Electrical Safety Board<br>The Swedish Energy Agency<br>The Swedish Chemicals Agency<br><br>The Swedish Environmental Protection Agency<br><br>The Swedish Radiation Safety Authority                            |
| Ministry of Enterprise, Energy, and Communications | The Swedish National Board of Housing, Building, and Planning<br><br>The Swedish Post and Telecom Authority<br><br>The Swedish Board for Accreditation and Conformity Assessment (Swedac)<br><br>The Swedish Transport Agency |
| Ministry of Health and Social Affairs              | The Medical Products Agency<br><br>The Health and Social Care Inspectorate<br><br>The Swedish National Board of Health and Welfare  |

# Appendix 3 Organization Chart





Styrelsen för ackreditering och teknisk kontroll  
Swedish Board for Accreditation and Conformity Assessment

**Huvudförvaltning** | **Stockholmskontor**  
Österlånggatan 5 | Klarabergsviadukten 70, D7  
Box 878, 501 15 Borås | Box 733, 101 35 Stockholm  
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