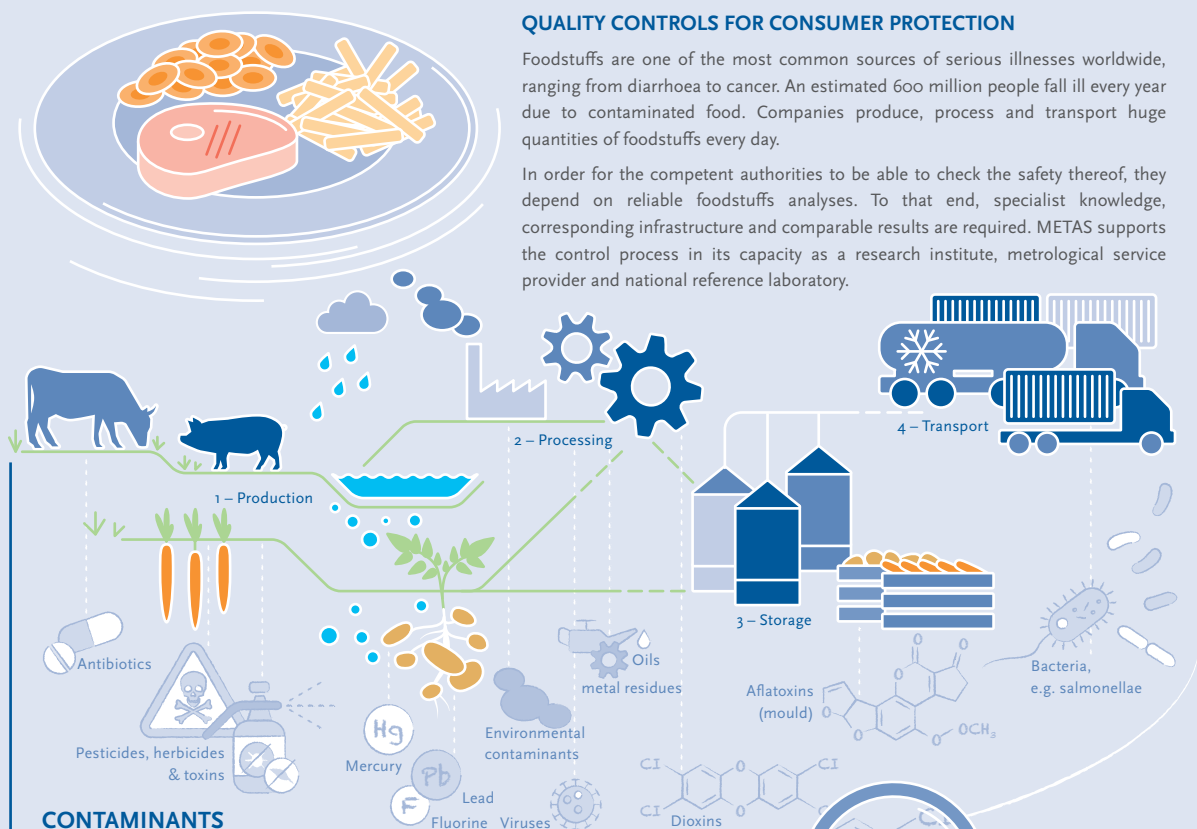


Metrology helps to ensure food safety

QUALITY CONTROLS FOR CONSUMER PROTECTION

Foodstuffs are one of the most common sources of serious illnesses worldwide, ranging from diarrhoea to cancer. An estimated 600 million people fall ill every year due to contaminated food. Companies produce, process and transport huge quantities of foodstuffs every day.

In order for the competent authorities to be able to check the safety thereof, they depend on reliable foodstuffs analyses. To that end, specialist knowledge, corresponding infrastructure and comparable results are required. METAS supports the control process in its capacity as a research institute, metrological service provider and national reference laboratory.



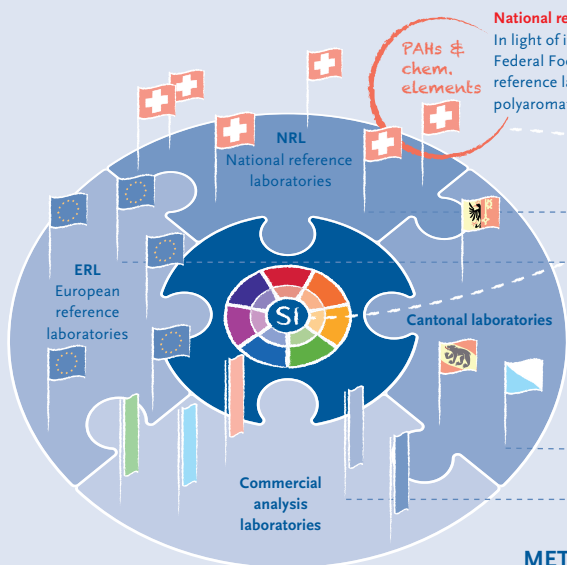
CONTAMINANTS

Chemical materials which unintentionally end up in food or feed pose a risk to the health of humans and animals. Such materials can end up in foodstuffs at various stages (production, processing, storage, transport) or result from environmental pollution. Biological contamination (fungi, bacteria, viruses) is just as varied as it is problematic.

ANALYTICS

National reference laboratory (NRL)

In light of its expertise, METAS has been nominated by the Federal Food Safety and Veterinary Office (FSVO) as the national reference laboratory (NRL) for chemical elements and polyaromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs).



Research and development

METAS carries out research and development for supervisory bodies, the Swiss foodstuffs industry and higher education institutions/universities of applied sciences:

- Validation of methods and calibration processes
- Assessment of the uncertainty of measurement (UoM)/ compilation of the UoM budget
- Establishment of traceability relationships
- Certification of reference materials
- Objective: certification of foodstuffs' authenticity

METROLOGICAL LABORATORY FOR SAFE FOODSTUFFS

In its capacity as the Swiss national metrology institute, METAS establishes traceability of measured values to the International System of Units (SI) and is the contact point for various enquiries relating to metrology in food safety.

www.metas.ch

Federal Institute of Metrology METAS

Illustration: Nadja Stadelmann