

Introduction

The Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (BEIS) Primary Authority Statutory Guidance document¹ details how a primary authority should submit national inspection strategy proposals to the Secretary of State for consent.

The Secretary of State will consult with the FSA as part of the national inspection strategy consent process.

Where the FSA considers a national inspection strategy for food meets both its National Inspection Strategy Primary Authority's Standard and guidance relevant to the specifics of the proposed national inspection strategy it will advise the Secretary of State and will recognise the national inspection strategy.

When the FSA recognises a national inspection strategy, we will instruct local authorities (enforcing authorities) to follow it and put in place arrangements to monitor this.

This document outlines how the FSA will assess food national inspection strategy proposals and the governance we'll put in place to provide for a consistent and transparent approach.

We advise that primary authorities seeking to develop a national inspection strategy for food engage with the FSA at the earliest opportunity to discuss their proposal and how they intend to demonstrate meeting the National Inspection Strategy Primary Authorities' Standard.

This draft Standard will be tested and further developed when the first national inspection strategy proposals are received by the FSA, to ensure that it is fit for purpose. The opportunity to provide feedback on this document remains open to all stakeholders, and constructive feedback is welcomed by the FSA. The email address for providing feedback is primaryauthoritiesupport@food.gov.uk.

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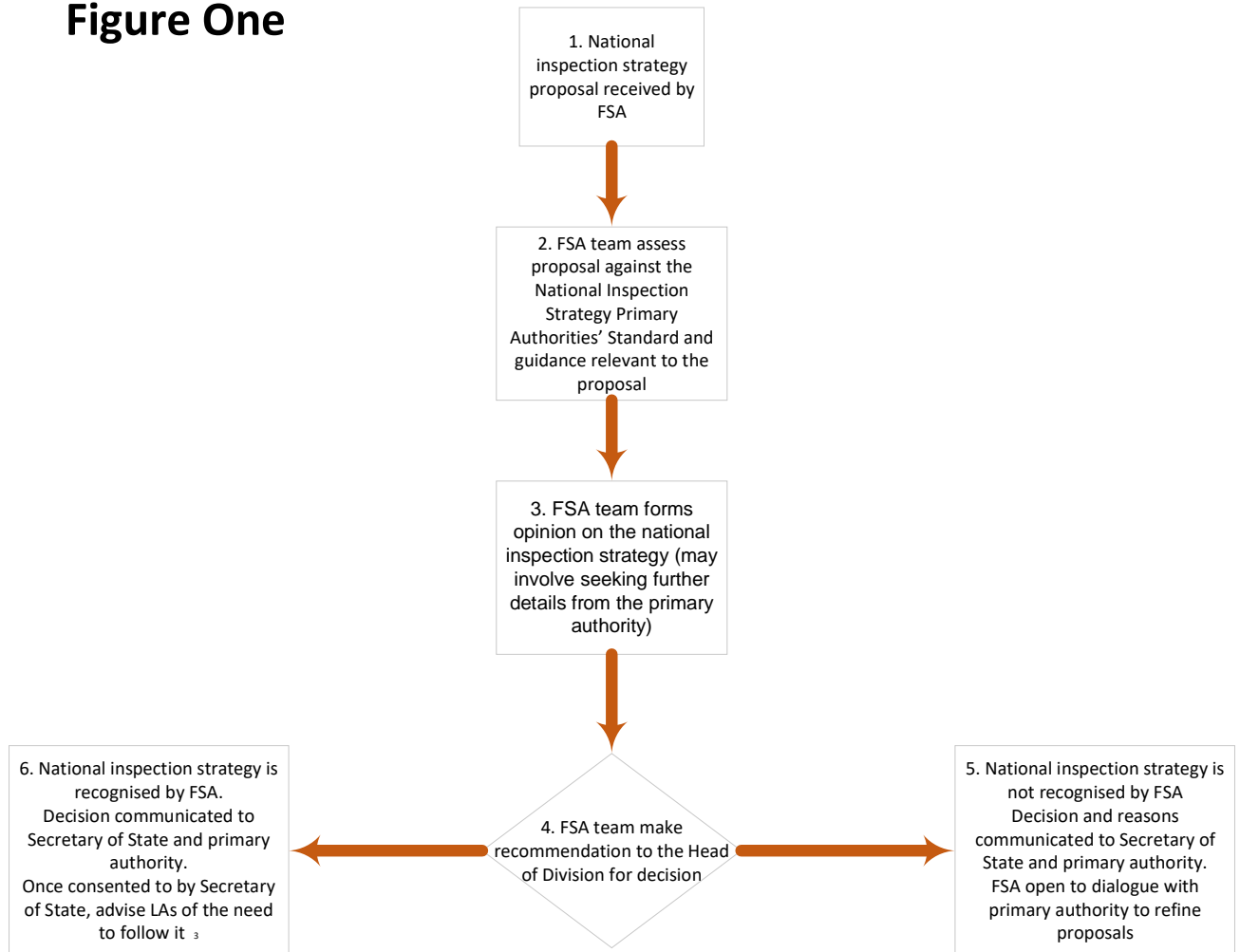
https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/707382/primary-authority-statutory-guidance-2017.pdf

National Inspection Strategy Recognition Standard

1. Following receipt of a food national inspection strategy proposal a FSA team will evaluate and assess the proposal against the National Inspection Strategy Primary Authorities' Standard and technical guidance relevant to the proposals.
2. The FSA team will include those with suitable technical skills and knowledge including of food hygiene / food standards legislation, policy and delivery, Primary Authority including understanding in the context of multi-site businesses / groups of business, plus other skills and knowledge as relevant to the detail of the national inspection strategy (may include policy, LA performance, LA delivery colleagues).
3. The evaluation and assessment process may involve the FSA requesting further details, clarification or evidence from the primary authority.
4. Once the FSA team has completed evaluation and assessment of proposals they will make recommendation for decision by Head of Division as to whether the FSA should recognise the national inspection strategy.
5. The Head of Division will make their decision, and this will be communicated to the Secretary of State and to the primary authority.
6. Where the FSA is content with the national inspection strategy we will formally recognise it, instruct local authorities to follow it and put in place arrangements to monitor this.²
7. Where the FSA is not content with the national inspection strategy we will write to the primary authority outlining the reasons. In these circumstances we welcome ongoing dialogue to refine the national inspection strategy proposals.
8. A summary of the NIS Recognition Standard is illustrated in figure 1 below.

² Currently England only as it is covered by the Food Law Code of Practice (England) however the 2018 proposed changes to the Codes in England and Wales being consulted on during summer / autumn 2018 include provision to better align the Codes with Primary Authority

Figure One



NB Currently England only as it is covered by the Food Law Code of Practice (England) however the 2018 proposed changes to the Codes in England and Wales being consulted on during summer / autumn 2018 include provision to better align the Codes with Primary Authority