

Inspection Reform Programme

More effect, less burden !

The goal of the Inspection Reform Programme is the modernisation of 15 central government inspectorates. The programme will run until 2011 and carries the slogan 'More effect, less burden'. The Dutch government envisages an inspection organisation which operates professionally, effectively and without causing unnecessary burden. Inspection burden is to be reduced by 25% through such measures as fewer inspection visits. In addition, regulatory procedures are to be more effective and efficient with a greater risk-based approach.

Results so far

Regulatory burden has already noticeably lessened. One of the goals, a maximum of two standard visits from central government inspectorates to SME's, has been achieved. In addition, the attitude and approach on the part of inspectors has demonstrably improved.

more effect,

less burden

In 18 domains:

Food and Consumer

- hotel and catering
- agriculture
- meat chain
- leisure
- food trade

Industry

- chemicals
- waste
- construction, wood, metal
- nuclear
- pipe lines

Transport

- Schiphol airport
- road transport
- inland navigation
- sea ports

Public domains

- integrated supervision of child services
- health care
- penal institutions
- child care

Approach

The Inspection Reform Programme operates along two paths: the domain-oriented approach and the development and implementation of common themes. The common themes are the responsibility of the Inspection Council, a top-level collaboration of 15 central government inspectorates.

Domains

The inspectorates work together in various domains. There are currently 18 domains in which the targeted situation has not yet been achieved, while it has been achieved in some others. The inspectorate which is most involved within a domain takes the leading role. The domain-oriented approach focuses on the development of new methods and tools. The goal is to achieve reduced regulatory burden, more quality, greater simplification and improved compliance.

Domains obviously differ from one another so with this in mind, in co-operation with the relevant sector a targeted situation has been drawn up for each domain with the required combination of the following elements:

- More selective inspection
- Placing of trust in businesses which comply with the rules
- Raised level of professionalism
- A single point of contact for central government inspectorates
- Data to be retrieved once only
- Encourage other layers of government to participate in the domain approach.

Inspection burden

Inspection burden encompasses the time it takes a business or institution to prepare for and undergo inspection visits, times the hourly wage of the staff involved. Inspection burden caused by central government in the domains must be reduced by 25%. One way to achieve this is for inspectorates to be more selective in their approach. Businesses which comply with the rules notice the favourable effects. At the same time, businesses which are negligent in complying with the rules, and higher-risk companies, are subject to a greater level of inspection. This kind of selective inspection is hindered in some domains (such as the meat chain) as a result of restrictions rooted in EU rules. Burden reduction in these cases will be possible only if enough other member states agree to alternative methods of inspection.

Themes

The goals of the Inspection Reform Programme are achieved primarily within the domains. In addition, there are various themes which require a common approach before an inspectorate implements them. The following themes have been developed:

1. e-Inspectorates
2. Professionalisation
3. Communication
4. Europe
5. Monitoring
6. Co-operation with municipalities and other regulators
7. Strategy and instrumental frameworks
8. Company operations
9. Effect measurement
10. Interaction with policy

Collaboration with other programmes

The Inspection Council collaborates with the Regulatory Burdens on Businesses Programme (Ministry of Economic Affairs and Ministry of Finance). An important element of this co-operation is the encouraging of municipalities to reduce regulatory burden and improve their level of service.

The Inspection Council is also involved in the Smartly Connected, Smoothly Organised Programme (Ministry of Economic Affairs). This is a programme in which businesses and layers of government work together to resolve bottlenecks surrounding the granting of licences and permits and associated inspection. ICT is often an important tool in this process.

More information

For more information surf to www.inspectieloket.nl or contact the Inspection Council Bureau at: info@inspectieraad.nl

Goals and themes

