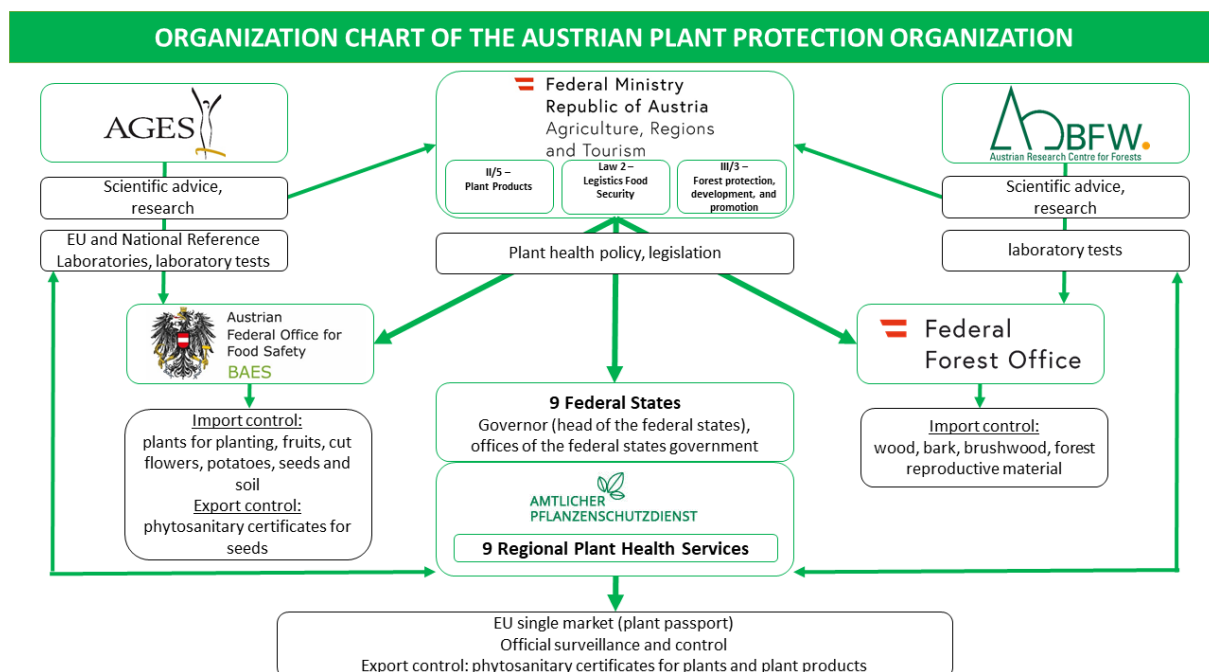


The Austrian Plant Protection Organization

The following organization chart of the Austrian Plant Protection Organization shows the distribution of responsibilities between the federal government, the federal states, and the relevant authorities.



Federal Ministry of Agriculture, Regions and Tourism (BMLRT)

The BMLRT is the highest-level governing authority authorized to issue directives for the enforcement of the Plant Protection Act 2018 (Pflanzenschutzgesetz 2018). Responsible organizational units are:

- **Department II/5 (Plant Products):**
Overall coordination of plant health; reporting to the European Commission
- **Department III/3 (Forest protection, development, and promotion):**
Coordination in the field of forestry; reporting to the European Commission
- **Department Law 2 (Logistics Food Security):**
Legal policy and logistics in the field of food security

Link: <https://info.bmlrt.gv.at/en/>

Federal Office for Food Safety (BAES)

The BAES is a subordinate executive body of the BMLRT, set up by federal law. The BAES has to use the means available to the Austrian Agency for Health and Food Safety (AGES) to execute its sovereign tasks.

In the field of plant health, the BAES is the competent authority for phytosanitary import control of plants and plant products and the phytosanitary export control regarding phytosanitary certificates for seeds, unless the Federal Agency for Forests (BAfW) is the responsible authority. Furthermore, the BAES is accountable for maintaining the official register of operators and the basic training of control bodies in the agricultural sector.

Link: <https://www.baes.gv.at/en/>

Austrian Agency for Health and Food Safety GmbH (AGES)

The Austrian Agency for Health and Food Safety GmbH (AGES) is a joint institution of the Federal Ministry of Social Affairs, Health, Care and Consumer Protection (BMSGPK) and the Federal Ministry of Agriculture, Regions and Tourism (BMLRT). In the field of plant health, AGES fulfils the following tasks:

- Scientific advice on all plant health issues for the BMLRT, the BAES, and the regional plant health services of the Federal States of Austria
- Technical coordination of plant health measures in Austria in indirect federal administration (plant passport, risk-based control plan, specialized training, and follow-up training of control bodies)
- Technical support of the federal states in their area of responsibility (surveys on pest occurrence, setting up measures, preparing emergency plans, etc.)
- Elaboration of recommendations for official measures
- Identification of plant pests
- Carrying out laboratory diagnoses using internationally recognized standard procedures in compliance with quality assurance measures
- Preparation of risk assessment studies for pests
- Holding training and continuing education courses for control bodies in close cooperation with the Federal Research and Training Center for Forests, Natural Hazards, and Landscape as part of a national training program
- Support in the preparation of the multi-annual national control plan and the performance of audits
- Support the BMLRT through relevant research and public relations work

Link: <https://www.ages.at/en/>

Federal Office for Forests (BAfW)

The Federal Office for Forests (BAfW) is a subordinate executive body of the BMLRT, set up by federal law. It is established at the Federal Research and Training Center for Forests, Natural Hazards and Landscape (BFW). The BAfW has to use the means available to the BFW to execute its sovereign tasks.

In the area of plant health, the BAfW is the competent authority for phytosanitary import control of forest plants and plant products according to the Annex of the Forest Act 1975, including packaging wood. The BAfW is also responsible for the basic training of control bodies in the forestry sector.

Link: <https://www.bundesamt-wald.at/en/>

Federal Research and Training Center for Forests, Natural Hazards and Landscape (BFW)

The Federal Research and Training Center for Forests, Natural Hazards and Landscape (BFW) is a federal institution under public law and is subject to the BMLRT's right to issue directives. Its tasks in the field of plant health include, in particular:

- Scientific advice on all plant health issues for the BMLRT, the BAfW, the forest authorities, and the official plant health service in the federal states of Austria
- Technical coordination of plant health measures in Austria (e.g., monitoring and surveys)
- Identification of plant pests
- Execution of laboratory diagnoses with internationally recognized standard procedures in compliance with quality assurance measures
- Preparation of risk assessment studies for pests
- Holding of education and training courses for control bodies in close cooperation with AGES
- Support in the preparation of the multi-annual national control plan and the performance of audits
- Support of the BMLRT by appropriate research and public relations activities

Link: <https://www.bfw.gv.at/>

Governor of the federal states of Austria

The enforcement of the Plant Protection Act 2018 is - unless the BMLRT, the BAES, or the BAfW is responsible - the responsibility of the respective governor of the federal state.

Plant health services of the Federal States (§ 2 para. 1 Plant Protection Act 2018)

Each of the nine Austrian Federal States has an official regional plant health service. The plant health services are located directly at the regional governing authority or subordinate to it.

The regional plant health services of the Federal States are responsible for implementing the phytosanitary regulations of the European Union (Austrian federal legislation) concerning the intra-EU movement (single market) of plants and plant products (plant passport system) and the phytosanitary export certification.

Under regional legislation, they carry out other statutory functions in the plant health sector, like official monitoring and control measures.

Link: <https://www.pflanzenschutzdienst.at/>