

# SALDO

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### Status

The plan of approach has been approved. 'State of the art' has been determined and (pilot)projects are starting, such as VONK, Edi Circle, Geoboer and digitalization DBS. SALDO is applied in the programme Chains and is starting point for the third level EDV.

### Facts and figures

- SALDO is utilized by the Ministry of Agriculture, Nature and Food Quality.
- While executing the hygiene guideline the Food and Consumer Product Safety Authority (VWA) used the public and private data flow in the business sector. For instance HPA (VVAK), TRUSQ and other business parties have used SALDO to reduce the administrative burden in their relation with the VWA.

### Period

Several years from 2005 onwards.  
Widening and deepening in 2007

### Parties involved

A board made up of chairpersons of commodity boards serves as the steering committee of SALDO. The commodity boards are a vital link with the business sector – this link is essential to the success of SALDO. At the Ministry of Agriculture, Nature and Food Quality (LNV) there is close collaboration between the Programmes Department, Legal Affairs, Financial-Economical Affairs, Food Quality and Animal Health and the VWA.

### More information

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*SALDO is an acronym for **Structurele Administratieve Lastenvermindering Door Omkering**. Loosely translated, it stands for 'structural reduction of the administrative burden by means of reversal'. SALDO seeks to bring about a more efficient exchange of information between the government and the business sector through closer alignment with the data flows and definitions used by the business sector.*

### Context

Reduction of the financial/administrative burden for the business sector is a key objective of government policy. In its report *Lasten in Balans* (Costs in Balance) (March 2004) the select committee on the administrative burden identified the reversal of the information chain as a promising theme. Reversal means that information issued by the sector is treated as the point of departure for information supplied to the government: the government makes intelligent use of existing information by linking files to business management systems or other databases.

### Effects

The SALDO principle is catching on. The way of thinking has penetrated the Ministry of Agriculture, Nature and Food Quality as well as outside of it in certain cases. Commodity boards and businesses, such as the Edi Agro Vereniging and ZLTO, are attempting to achieve real results. SALDO is engaging the departments responsible for implementation in current projects, such as the development of realization principles for the sake of the Hygiene Directive (Chain Integration).

### Particular aspects

Processes designed to reduce the administrative burden are primarily concerned with streamlining the government's need for information. One example is the principle of 'once-only collection, multiple use' of data. SALDO goes a step further and is keen to take into account the wishes of the business sector when organising the supply of information. SALDO engages in a dialogue with the business sector and seeks to find innovative and effective methods of exchanging information.

### Challenges

For there to be a successful dialogue between the government and the business sector, the various government departments and the companies concerned must both have a proactive outlook and be actively involved. Other topics include gaining trust in case of data inspection and standardizing data (in a 'data dictionary').

### Compatibility with Ministry policy

With SALDO the Ministry is acting on the recommendations set out in the report *Lasten in Balans* (Costs in Balance). Given the intensive contact with the business sector, Trade and Industry acts as a coordinator. The SALDO/Chain Integration concept is just one of the principles in the Ministry's I-strategy and the third level in the electronic service provision (EDV) strategy. The reduction of the financial/administrative burden for the business sector is one of the key principles within the programme Chains.

### Benefits

SALDO reduces the administrative burden for the business sector and increases the efficiency of information collection by the government.