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Digitising Regulatory Delivery – Case Tukes

Finnish Safety and Chemicals Agency (Tukes)

Finnish Safety and Chemicals Agency - Tukes

WHAT Government agency in Finland

HOW Legislative environment based on European Union and national regulations

FOCUS Tukes promotes the safety and reliability of goods, services and industrial production

Chemicals | Industry | Products | Accreditation | Supervision / Communication / Development

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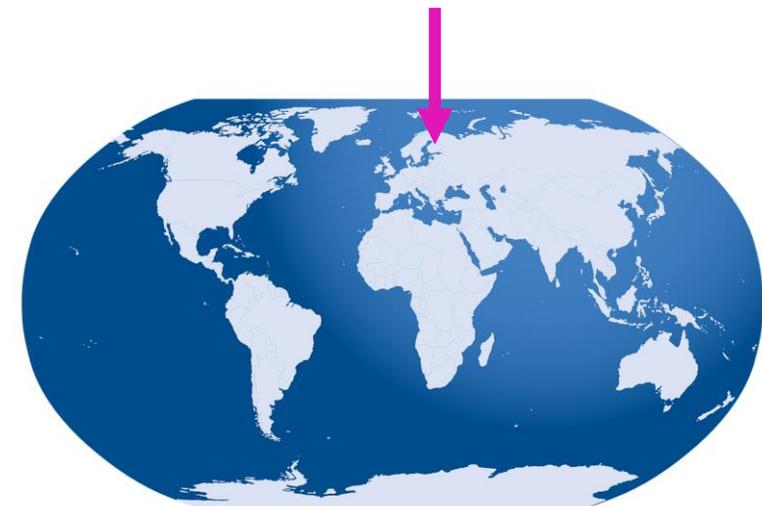
Regulatory Delivery can be digitised in multiple ways

- Development of national customer-orientated portal for licencing and supervision

- Digital on-line services (e.g. permits and licencing)

- E-learning environments and e-exams (e.g. Know-my-product)

- KemiDigi; national chemical information resource and service

- Drones in mining surveillance
  - Long distances
  - Very demanding winter conditions
  - Possibility to easily re-examine changes in sites
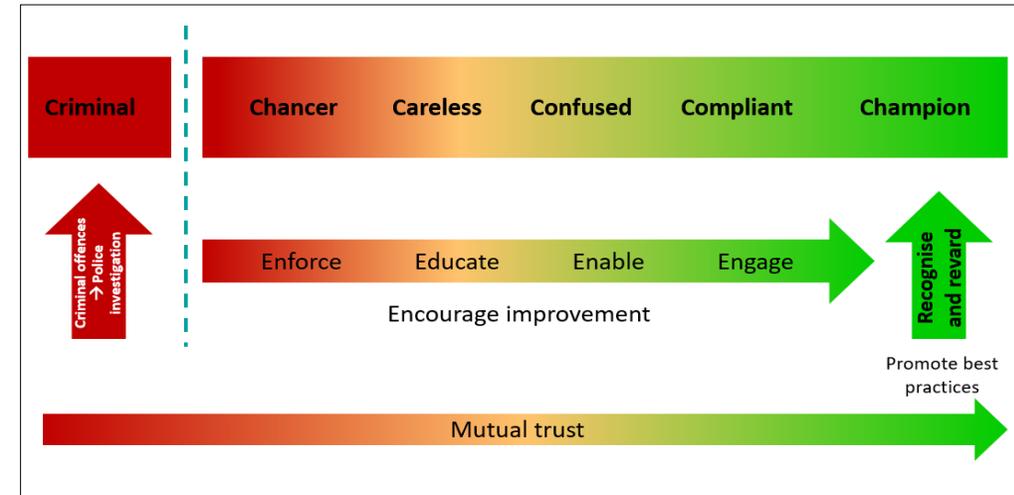
- E-inspections

3

Preconditions for Digitising Regulatory Delivery

Regulatory environment outlines the framework for digital solutions and practices

In Finland

- Principles of good administration defined in Administrative Procedure Act
- Healthy trust and respect on authorities
- Almost zero level of corruption
- Highly digitalised society

- Regulatory approach based on e.g. advice, recommendations, requests
- Risk-based actions

- Administrative actions which can be reinforced with administrative penalty payments
- In criminal cases a request for investigation is made to the Police

The Scottish Environmental Protection Agency's spectrum of compliance in Hodges & Steinholtz. 2017. Ethical Business Practise and Regulation, p. 158.

Regulatory responses to COVID-19
E-inspections and E-accreditations

- Inspections based on documents and on-site inspections have a significant role in Tukes

- E-inspections developed and used to some extent before Covid-19
- Competence to quickly adopt and expand e-inspections in the beginning of the pandemic

- Requires clearly defined and communicated procedures and practices
  - Importance of careful planning (virtual tools, brake away rooms etc., testing of tools in advance)
  - Use of videos during communication
  - Not too large groups
  - Clearly defined agenda and inspection plan
  - Materials well in advance
  - Self assessments also well in advance
  - Video stream or photos from the site

- Usually applied to sites which have been visited earlier, during the pandemic also to new sites

- Better possibility to invite other authorities (e.g. rescue services) or other experts to participate in the inspection

- During COVID-19 e-inspections and e-accreditations have also been applied to new sites

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Conclusions

- Positive feedback on new practices

- E-inspections
  - Requires and gives a possibility for the inspected practitioners to be better prepared → better results
  - Probably not (yet) suitable as an only practice, but a very appropriate as a supportive practice
  - A lot of development is being done and best practices shared in Finland and EU

- Encouragement to develop digital practices to support regulatory delivery

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Thank you