

Control system – the French experience



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The importance of control

- The state guarantee
- The confidence of the consumers
- The protection of the producers

The particularities of the control of PDO, PGI and TSG

The aim of the control is to check :

- The respect of the conditions of production = control of the respect of the method of production
- Trough analyses, that the products meet specific criteria and are suitable for consuming
- Trough tasting, that the products present specific organoleptic characters (typicity) = Control on the product itself

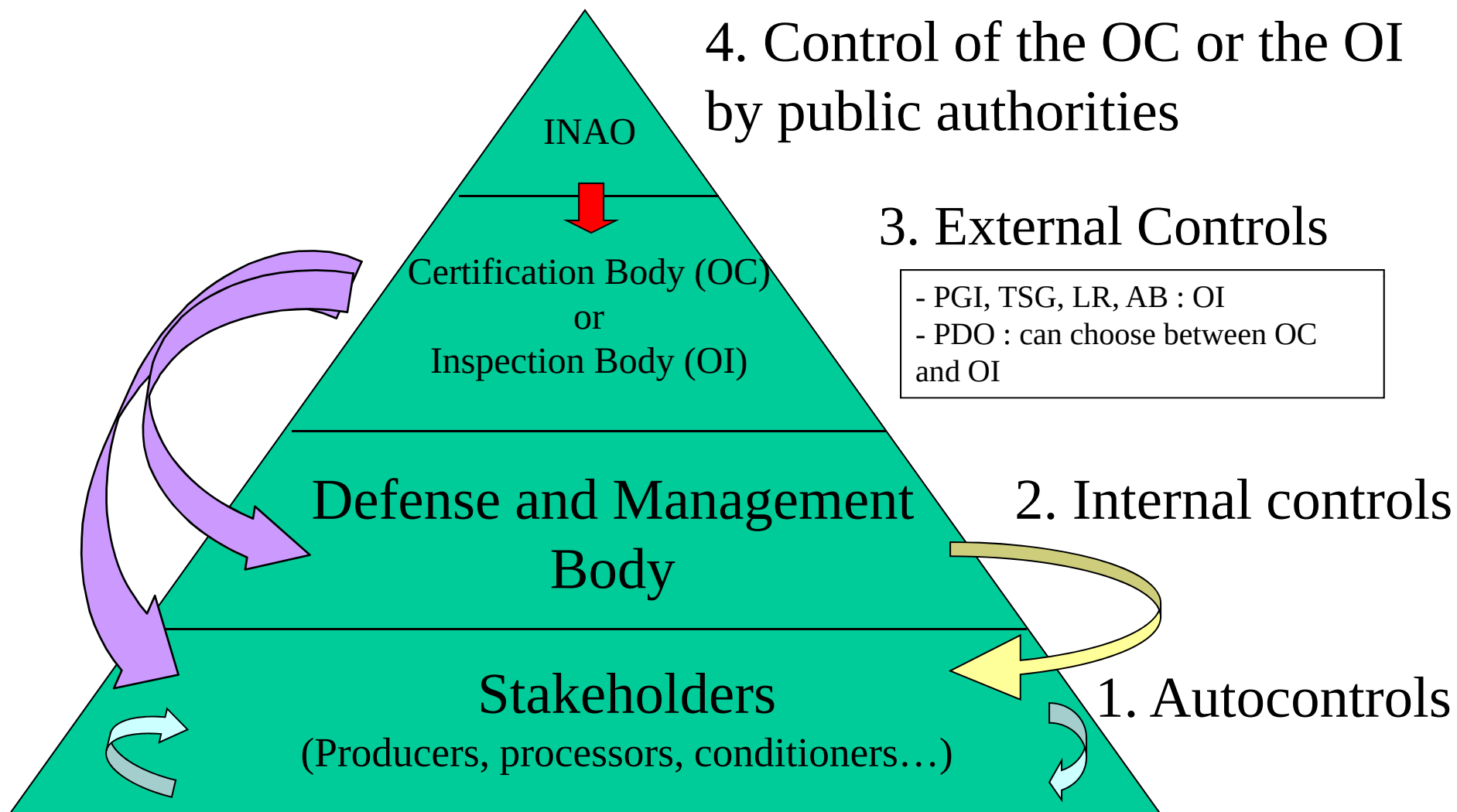
INAO : Official competent authority

The INAO is the competent control authority responsible for control :

- ☞ Definition of the principles of control and approval of control schemes ;
- ☞ Approval of control bodies and assessments ;
- ☞ Assurance of the respect of the product specification and, when necessary, sanctions ;

But control activities are delegated by INAO to control bodies

Organization of controls in France



Different stages

- the group of producers chooses the control body
- the control body applies for approval by the INAO
- Submission of the draft of control scheme prepared by the control body and the group of producers. The group of producers has to approve it
- accreditation of the control body by the COFRAC
- Approval of the control body by the INAO's board
- validation of the control scheme by INAO

Consequences when non compliance with the specifications

- Sanctions taken in accordance with the sanctions laid down in the control scheme (table of sanctions)

- 2 situations :

=> Certification body : carries out the control AND decides on the sanctions

=> Inspection body : carries out the control but it is the INAO which decides on the sanctions