



Ministry of Security and Justice

Safety Regions Act

Wet veiligheidsregio's



Safety Regions Act

Part I - How, what and why?

This document about the Dutch Safety Regions Act (*Wet veiligheidsregio's*) which entered into force on 1 October 2010 has two parts. Part I provides general information on the Dutch Safety Regions Act and follows the structure of the Act. Part II is the consolidated text of the Dutch Safety Regions Act.

This is a revised version of the first brochure that was published in October 2010. In light of a number of policy changes, this revision was prompted by the amendment of a number of Acts taking effect on 1 January 2013:

- *The Safety Regions Act (Wet veiligheidsregio's)*, its main amendment being the compulsory regionalisation of the fire department and the formation of the Institute for Safety (Instituut Fysieke Veiligheid or IFV);
- *The second tranche of the Public Health Act (Wet publieke gezondheid)*, which includes a provision on a public health director;
- *The 2012 Police Act (Politiewet 2012)*, providing for the formation of the national police force and the abolishment of the regional police forces;
- *The Temporary Ambulance Services Act (Tijdelijke wet ambulancezorg)*, making regional ambulance services compulsory;
- *The Incident Room of the Future (Meldkamer van de toekomst)* means in the long term the formation of a national incident room organization under the aegis of the Minister of Security and Justice

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Introduction

Background

The Dutch Safety Regions Act has a long history that includes some very tangible events that have led to its adoption, such as the fireworks disaster in Enschede in May 2000 and the New Year's fire in the 'De Hemel' bar in Volendam in 2001. As the economy, technology, ecology, culture and administration have become increasingly entwined, society has become substantially more complex.

Because the threat from 'classic' disasters was broadened to include different types of disaster – like the foot and mouth crisis of 2003, the threat of a flu epidemic, the threat of terrorism and the 'gritting salt crisis' – disaster management has also been expanded over the years to include crisis management. The new forms of threat require a different type of approach, different partners and a different strategy. The need arose for a bigger organisational scale than the municipal scale: most municipalities are too small to be able to perform all tasks required for disaster and crisis management.

The need for multidisciplinary cooperation involving both the traditional security partners and new partners grew, as citizens are entitled to expect that the public authorities will be able to work together in the event of disasters and crises. In short, the effectiveness and professionalism of the emergency services in the Netherlands had to be increased. In order to bring this about, uniform service levels had to be established within cooperation areas (security regions) to facilitate mutual assistance and escalation.

At the same time, these developments led to a discussion about a more adequate organisation for disaster and crisis management and a decision to set up 25 police regions was made back in 1993. In her New Year's speech of 1994, the then Minister of Security and Justice, Ien Dales, indicated that a transformation of the fire department from a

technical operational unit into a pivotal organisation, and further professionalization were necessary, as had actually already been initiated with the police as well. As far as she was concerned, the era of random cooperation between municipal fire departments was over. This was the first step towards regional fire department organisations.

The assessments of several disasters, including the events in Enschede and Volendam, again indicated that there were shortcomings in the administrative organisation and scale of disaster management. In 2002, the Brouwer Committee of the Association of Netherlands Municipalities (VNG) acknowledged that many municipalities are simply too small to be able to tackle a disaster or crisis of any significant scale and recommended looking for options to work together. In 2003, the Dutch Council for Public Administration presented its recommendations for organising disaster and crisis management as extended local government. This resulted in the Dutch Government articulating its position on safety regions in 2004 and the decision to implement extended local government was announced in the 2007 government agreement. All in all, this led to the entry into force of the Safety Regions Act and related decisions on 1 October 2010.

Objective of the Safety Regions Act

The Safety Regions Act seeks to achieve an efficient and high-quality organisation of the fire services, medical assistance and crisis management under one regional management board. The Act stipulates that as a common rule, safety regions must be structured on the same scale as the police regions. This is in no way a break in trend with existing practice. Existing regulations and legislation such as the (old) Fire

Services Act 1985 (Brandweerwet 1985) already required the municipalities to form regions and the Disasters and Major Accidents Act (Wet rampen en zware ongevallen - Wrzo) assumed that such regions had been established. The Safety Regions Act is thus continuing on the basis of existing structures.

The administrative structure of disaster and crisis management is defined with clear tasks and powers. The fire services and the Regional Medical Assistance Organisation (GHOR) will be under one management board. This makes it easier and more effective to steer the emergency services and take a coordinated approach. This also applies to the cooperation between the police and the multidisciplinary operational services. The regional scale will promote further professionalization. Dividing the territory into equal regions creates an essential basis for multidisciplinary action in the event of a disaster or crisis. As the safety regions have been structured via extended local government, the municipalities will continue to be involved in the fire services and in disaster management. The Safety Regions Act lays the foundations for organising disaster and crisis management with the aim of better protecting citizens against risks.

- 1 Noord-Nederland
- 2 Oost-Nederland
- 3 Midden-Nederland
- 4 Noord-Holland
- 5 Amsterdam
- 6 Den Haag
- 7 Rotterdam
- 8 Zeeland - West-Brabant
- 9 Oost-Brabant
- 10 Limburg
- 11 (Landelijke eenheid)



Police Units

Bron: Jan-Willem van Aalst, www.imergis.nl

1

Greater
security for
citizens

Why set up security regions:

- disasters and crises can exceed municipal boundaries and the response options of municipal organisations;
- the increase in scale enables the quality of disaster and crisis management to be improved;
- multidisciplinary cooperation and a coherent security policy;
- raising professionalism of organisations by combining capacity, knowledge, experience and finances.

The security region aims:

- to better protect citizens against risks;
- to offer better emergency services and after-care in the event of disasters and crises;
- to bring fire services, medical assistance, disaster and crisis management under one regional administrative authority when disaster strikes;
- to reinforce administrative and operational effectiveness.

Effectiveness

The safety regions have been established to improve disaster and crisis management in the Netherlands, so that citizens are better protected against the risks of fire, disasters and crises. The Safety Regions Act intends to organise the fire services, emergency medical assistance and crisis management under one regional administrative authority to ensure efficiently and high quality. Safety regions have been formed in keeping with the wish that has emerged in the past few years for administrative and operational effectiveness to be improved.

Golden hour

Dealing with a disaster or crisis is a complex operation involving many players and various interests may be at stake. As such an operation is not often required, it cannot become routine, but the response must be quick and effective. The response in the first 'golden hour' after the disaster is essential to limit property damage, physical and emotional damage as much as possible. Disaster and crisis management benefit from a smooth, effective and uniform management of the emergency services. That is why, in the event of supra-local disasters and crises, the chairman of the security region takes over relevant powers from the mayors involved. This concentrates all authority in one person, allowing for an effective response to the disaster or crisis.

2

The
municipality
(sections 2 to 7 of the Safety
Regions Act)

The municipal executive is charged with the organisation of:

- **fire services;**
- **disaster management and crisis management;**
- **medical assistance.**

Paragraph 2 of the Safety Regions Act stipulates that the municipal executive has basic responsibility for the organisation of the fire services and medical assistance, as well as general disaster and crisis management. Paragraph 3 specifies the tasks and powers that should be transferred to the security region and describes what is meant by extended local administration and the duty of the security region to consult the municipal councils.

The mayor continues to be in charge of the fire services and remains authorised to give orders if there is danger. This can include such things as: vacating buildings, closing off streets and removing people who are obstructing the fire fighting. The Act also stipulates that the mayor retains supreme command and thus remains able to give orders to organisations not under his authority, but which do participate in combating a disaster. However, this power of supreme command has not been expanded to crisis situations where other powers than public order and security are at issue. The responsibility for managing a crisis is primarily vested in administrative bodies that have the authority to take the necessary measures, for example, the Dutch Minister of Economic Affairs (EZ) in the case of the foot and mouth crisis. It is important that there is timely consultation between the mayor and these crisis partners, so that the mayor can take action, including maintaining public order. Given the mayor's responsibility to maintain public order, he can furthermore give instructions to the regional ambulance services. The actual performance of the ambulance services and the de facto deployment of ambulances fall under the responsibility of the legal entity that has been

granted a licence by the Dutch Minister of Health, Welfare and Sport (VWS). However, on the basis of section 6 of the Safety Regions Act the mayor can also give instructions to the person in charge of the ambulance services in his municipality. The mayor determines whether public order is at stake and whether an instruction is necessary. The mayor acts on the basis of his general responsibility for public order within his municipality.

In addition, the mayor is responsible for providing information to the population in his municipality and the various emergency services active there in an actual disaster or crisis. Chapter 10 of this brochure provides a further explanation of the responsibilities with regard to communication about crises and risks.

3

The security region

(sections 8 to 24 of the Safety
Regions Act)

The territory of the Netherlands is divided into regions, in accordance with the Annex to this Act, which may be altered by order in council.

The municipal executives of the municipalities which belong to a region as referred to in section 8 shall draw up joint regulations establishing a public body designated as a security region.

Security is in essence a local matter, but municipalities are often too small to be able to properly prepare for all types of fire, disaster and crisis. In addition, disasters and crises are sometimes not limited to one municipality.

A security region is a form of extended local government. Each security region has joint regulations as its legal basis. The law obliges municipalities to enter into such joint regulations where each municipality is a participant and consequently has co-responsibility for the administrative and organisational management of the security region¹. Each security region in the Netherlands must possess a properly trained professional organisation for disaster and crisis management which is able to deal with large-scale incidents. By combining forces on a regional scale, the emergency services can better prepare for such threats as major fires, large-scale events, terrorism, pandemics or nuclear accidents. It also allows for better and more multidisciplinary drills and cooperation because the responsible administrative body establishes a coherent policy for all emergency services.

The Safety Regions Act regulates the administrative embedding and the organisation of the emergency services. The Safety regions Decision, together with the Ministerial Regulation, sets quality requirements for the organisations in the security regions. The Safety regions Personnel Decision describes the positions in the fire services

and the regional medical assistance organisation, including multidisciplinary positions and describes the corporate fire services in terms of core tasks, related competencies and assessment criteria. This enables uniformity to be achieved which is a prerequisite for interregional assistance and supra-regional action.

Security region advisory task

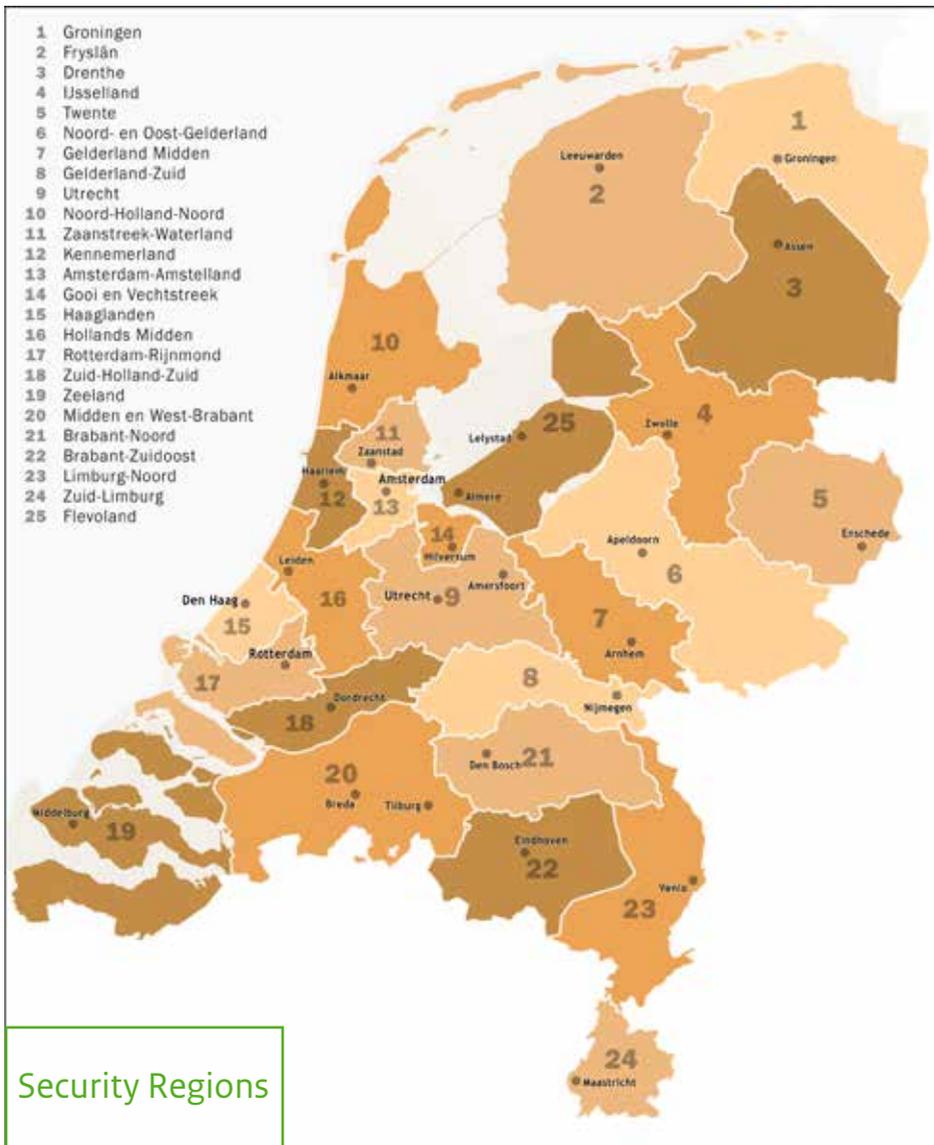
First of all, there is a statutory advisory task. This encompasses all cases in which technical advice is necessary, as it previously has been in the context of granting licences. The statutory advisory task refers to existing advisory tasks in special legislation (such as the External Safety (Establishments) Decree (Besluit externe veiligheid inrichtingen) and the Fireworks Decree (Vuurwerkbesluit)). Furthermore, on the basis of the regional policy plan (see elsewhere in this chapter), a security region can give advice on topics the region thinks it important for the participating municipalities or other competent authorities to examine and where a clear and uniform approach is desirable (See also the Explanatory Notes 31 117 no. 3 pp. 20 to 22).

Safety regions Decision

The Safety regions Decision and the Safety regions Personnel Decision are not part of the description of the statute and may not seem to fit into this brochure. Nevertheless, for the sake of clarity a short passage on both decisions has been included below.

The Safety regions Decision (Bvr) is based on the Safety Regions Act and sets quality requirements for the organisations in the security regions. On the basis of such criteria as the basic requirements for crisis management and the fire service response times, a basic level has been established

¹ C.f. the plan formation schedule on p. 27



Bron: Jan-Willem van Aalst, www.imergis.nl

which the organisation of disaster management and crisis management and the fire services must satisfy. The quality requirements ensure uniformity and transferability in and between the organisations while also providing greater insight into the performance of the security regions. This will improve the provision of assistance between the regions and their supra-regional performance and make it more efficient.

Safety regions Personnel Decision

The Safety regions Personnel Decision (Bp) is based on the Safety Regions Act and forms the basis for the Ministerial Regulation on safety regions personnel. Both entered into force at the same time as the Safety Regions Act. The decisions mention, inter alia, the positions in the fire services, in the regional medical assistance organisation, the multidisciplinary positions and those in the corporate fire services. In addition, the maximum ranks are mentioned for the fire department positions. The Ministerial Regulation for safety regions personnel sets out the key tasks, related competencies and assessment criteria for each fire department position. The Netherlands Institute for Safety (IFV) administers the national exams for specific positions on the basis of this regulation (more information on the IFV can be found in chapter 17).

Personnel must remain competent by means of deployment, drills and ongoing education. The basic requirements are essential for achieving the intended uniformity which is the prerequisite for interregional assistance and supra-regional action.

Management board of the security region

The management board of the security region:

- comprises all the mayors in the region who represent their municipalities in the manage-

ment board of the security region and give account of this to their own municipal councils;

- routinely invites the Chief Public Prosecutor, the chairman of the water board and the King's Commissioner;
- invites other crisis partners if relevant;
- makes decisions by a majority of votes and if the votes are tied, the chairman has the deciding vote.

The management board of the security region is comprised of the mayors of the participating municipalities. The chairman of the management board of the security region is one of the mayors; he/she is appointed by royal decree. The security region is based on joint regulations. In order to ensure that the security region has the necessary administrative power, the management board of the security region decides by a majority of votes. If the votes are tied, the chairman will have the deciding vote. The Chief Public Prosecutor (or a regional deputy), the chairman of the water board and the King's Commissioner are invited to every meeting of the management board of the security region, but are not members of the management board and, like other crisis partners, do not have voting rights. The management board of the security region must be able to respond to a very wide range of disasters and crises and must therefore coordinate their actions with many parties. Crisis partners are invited to participate in meetings of the management board when their presence is relevant in connection with the agenda.

Tasks of the security region management board

The tasks of the security region management board are:

- taking stock of fire, disaster and crisis risks;

- advising the competent authorities on risks of fires, disasters and crises in the cases designated by or pursuant to an Act of Parliament and in the cases stipulated in the policy plan;
- advising the municipal executive on fire services;
- procuring and managing communal equipment;
- preparing for fire fighting and responding to major incidents and organising the disaster management and crisis management;
- setting up and maintaining a fire department;
- setting up and maintaining a regional medical assistance organisation;
- providing the incident room function;
- setting up and maintaining the information provision within the services of the security region and between these services and the other services and organisations involved in the four tasks mentioned above.

Safety regions and the King's Commissioner

A basic principle of the Safety Regions Act is that the chairman of the security region is primarily responsible for the regional disaster and crisis management. The King's Commissioner supervises the cooperation with the regional policy team (RBT). In the event of friction in the regional policy team during a crisis or disaster (hot phase), the King's Commissioner can give an instruction on the manner of cooperation. The Dutch Minister of Security and Justice can instruct the King's Commissioner to give an instruction to the relevant chairmen on the policy to be followed in the event of a disaster or crisis which exceeds regional boundaries. The system of supervision under the Safety Regions Act furthermore enables the King's Commissioner to intervene.

Security Council

The Security Council is comprised of the 25 chairmen of the safety regions and functions as a national platform for the security regions. In addition to being the consultation body for the security regions, the Security Council is also the contact point for the Dutch Minister of Security and Justice when making agreements relating to disaster and crisis management. To facilitate the development of the security regions, the Security Council supports programmes and projects relating to physical security. The Council aligns its course with the management board of the Association of Netherlands Municipalities and the chief of police.

The Security Council is also the management board of the IFV. This entails, inter alia, providing training for fire department officers, the fire services examinations, issuing certificates, acquiring and making available knowhow and expertise, material, etc. (see also Chapter ..)

The boards of the safety regions are jointly responsible for setting up a uniform information and communications system. This includes defining the need for information and defining the frameworks, standards and quality requirements, all of this with a view to exchanging information within and between the organisations that work together within the security region.

In addition, the decision making procedures and the responsibilities of the various players are included. The operational performance of the police is aligned insofar as the matter relates to the police tasks when dealing with disasters and crises. In addition, agreements are made on coordinating the policy plans of the management board of the security region and the chief of police and on the incident room function. In addition, the management board of the security region will lay

down the formal aspects of the cooperation in an agreement with the chief of police.

Information provision to the Minister of Security and Justice

Based on the Safety Regions Act, the chairman of the security regions, on the request of the Dutch Minister of Security and Justice, will provide information on the way in which the security region performs its tasks. A report on the implementation of national goals must be presented every year. Rules on how reporting is to take place can be established by ministerial regulation. This has not been done yet.

Quality assurance

According to the Act, regions must have a quality assurance system to improve their operations. The quality of the performance of duties, the results and the management are systematically monitored, controlled and improved by means of the quality assurance system. Such a system enables regions to compare their performance.

Drawing up policy and plans

The management board of the security region shall adopt a number of policy documents:

- risk profile: list and analysis of risks, including relevant risks from adjacent areas. The risk profile is the basis for the policy plan;
- policy plan: the policy for long-term performance of duties;
- based on the risk profile;
- duty to consult the municipal council and the crisis partners.
- crisis plan: operational plan which describes the generic approach to disasters and crises in the region.
- disaster management plan: operational plan which describes the approach to concrete disaster situations for specific establishments. The objective is to:
 - concentrate the drawing up of plans at regional level;
 - draw up the plans in order to set up the organisations and have them make strategic decisions.

Drawing up plans

Joint regulation

- Throughout the Netherlands, 25 public bodies designated as safety regions have been set up.
- This transfers the tasks and authorities imposed by the Act (section 10 of the Safety Regions Act) and any further tasks and authorities that have been agreed to the management board of the security region.

Risk profile

- The first risk profile will be adopted by the management board of the security region (section 15 of the Safety Regions Act).
- It serves as the basis for the agreements in the policy plan.
- To be determined upon consulting the municipal councils. The management board will also invite the representative of the chief of police in the region, the water boards involved and its crisis partners to express their views.
- Is to contain a list of high-risk situations within the security region, a list of the types of fire, disaster and crisis which can occur and an analysis of their consequences.
- The risk profile will be reassessed at least once every four years.

Policy plan

- The policy plan will be established by the management board of the security region.
- The policy plan will be reassessed at least once every four years (section 14 of the Safety Regions Act).
- Will be coordinated with the neighbouring regions, the water boards and the police force.
- Will at least contain:
 - a description of the intended operational performance of the services and organisations of the security region, and of the regional police and the municipalities in terms of disaster management and crisis management;
 - an elaboration of national goals established by the Dutch Minister of Security and Justice;
 - an information subsection about the operational services and organisations involved;
 - a drill policy plan;
 - a description of the non-statutory advisory function and a coverage plan with the response times for the fire department.

Crisis plan

- The crisis plan will be adopted by the management board of the security region (section 16 of the Safety Regions Act).
- The crisis plan will be reassessed at least once every four years.
- It will contain:
 - the description of the organisation, tasks, powers and authorities and responsibilities relating to disaster management and crisis management.
 - further agreements about organisation, tasks, powers and authorities and responsibilities with regard to the measures taken and the facilities provided by municipalities in the event of disasters and crises.
 - the agreements with neighbouring regions on providing assistance, cooperation and coordination with crisis partners
 - the agreements on coordination with neighbouring countries.

The risk profile

The risk profile comprises a risk inventory and a risk analysis of the risks present in a security region, including relevant risks from adjacent areas. The risk inventory encompasses an overview of risky situations and the types of incident which can consequently arise. The details listed are assessed, compared and interpreted in the risk analysis (in terms of probability and social impact of possible disasters and crises). The security management board can then make strategic choices to limit the risks and to prepare the crisis organisation for specific risks. Agreements with the various partners are made on the basis of the established risk profile, regarding their role and contribution in order to be able to safeguard the operational performance. This applies to the fire services and the regional medical assistance organisation, but where tasks are multidisciplinary, agreements will also be made with the municipalities, the police and other partners including water boards, the Ministry of Defence and Rijkswaterstaat (the Directorate-General of Public Works and Water Management). The risk profile will be reviewed at least once every four years.

Duty to consult the municipal councils and input of crisis partners

The security region has been set up as extended local government to perform tasks on behalf of and for the municipalities. Since the risk profile forms the basis for the policy plan, the legislator explicitly positioned the risk profile as an instrument for giving the municipal councils direct influence on the policy of the security region. The management board of the security region is under an obligation to discuss the concept of the risk profile with all participating municipal councils: the

duty to consult municipal councils. The councils must be able to recognise the risks that are relevant for their municipality from the concept of the risk profile, and if necessary they must be able to supplement the concept with risks they have identified themselves. They can also put forward local policy priorities and security themes for the policy plan. By so doing, the basis for the policy plan becomes firmly rooted and the policy plan helps the municipal administration to keep a grip on the local and regional security policy.

The management board of the security region will also invite the representative of the chief of police in the region, the management boards of the water boards and crisis partners, such as companies in the vital sector or decentralised operational services of the national government, to express their views on the concept of the risk profile. The risks are also on the agenda of the annual meeting with all crisis partners, convened by the management board of the security region. A national guideline has been developed for periodically drawing up regional risk profiles, offering the safety regions a uniform method. This allows the profiles to be compared with each other and enables smoother supra-regional coordination. More information on this topic can be found on www.regionaalrisicoprofiel.nl.

Policy plan

The policy plan has taken the place of the regional disaster management plan and relates to all tasks of the security regions:

- management and policy of the fire services and the regional medical assistance organisation;
- advising the competent authorities on risk policy;
- managing the joint incident room;
- preparing the disaster and crisis management.

The management board of the security region establishes the policy plan on the basis of the risk

profile adopted. The priorities and activities identified are fleshed out in annual work plans of the relevant organisations. The policy plan will be updated at least once every four years. The policy plan will also translate the national policy objectives, if adopted by the Dutch Minister of Security and Justice, to suit the regional situation. As here too the involvement of the municipal councils is of great importance when drawing up the policy plan, the duty to consult them has been established (also see under Risk profile).

The policy plan describes:

- the way in which the multidisciplinary preparation and implementation of the disaster management and crisis management is structured;
- the intended operational performance of the services and organisations of the security region, of the police and of the municipalities with regard to disaster management and crisis management;
- the elaboration of the national goals;
- an information subsection;
- a drill policy plan;
- the mono-disciplinary policy relating to the fire services;
- the response times for the fire services and a description of the facilities and measures necessary for the fire services to be able to satisfy those response times;
- the non-statutory advisory function.

Crisis plan

The crisis plan has replaced the municipal disaster plans. The crisis plan describes the general organisation of disaster and crisis management in the security region. The crisis plan sets out the tasks, powers, responsibilities and agreements relating to the prerequisites, reporting and alerting, escalating, authority and information provision. For example, the crisis plan

encompasses the agreements which were made with the municipal organisation. In addition, the agreements on coordinating the tasks to be performed and assistance agreements with other security regions, made with other crisis partners, are laid down. Crisis plans are always aligned with the crisis plans of adjacent safety regions and/or countries, as well as with the crisis plans of partner organisations. The management board will send the crisis plan as adopted to the King's Commissioner.

Disaster management plan

The Safety Regions Act only obliges companies that fall under the Major Accidents (Risks) Decree (Besluit risico's zware ongevallen - Brzo, 1999) and the bigger airfields to prepare disaster management plans. The Netherlands is obliged to do so by international directives (the SEVESO directive and air travel directives). Otherwise, the decision as to whether or not to draw up disaster management plans for the other risk objects present in the region is left up to the management board of the security region. These plans can be drawn up analogously with the structure for the compulsory disaster management plans.

A disaster management plan sets out the measures to be taken and the coordinating agreements to be entered into, which are particularly geared to a specific risk object and its environment. The legislature is explicitly taking a more reserved position here than was the case with the former Disasters and Major Accidents Act (Wet rampen en zware ongevallen - Wrzo). The disaster management plan is based on clear, practicable personnel instructions, orderly checklists and scenarios which can be applied to concrete disaster situations.

4

The fire services

(sections 25 to 31 of the Safety Regions Act)

The management board of the security region has tasks and powers relating to the fire services and the regional medical assistance organization (GHOR):

- Fire services: one fire services organisation for the entire region under the management of one commander;
- Regional medical assistance organization: see chapter 5;
- In addition, multidisciplinary tasks in the event of disaster and crisis management have been assigned to the security region management board such as the cooperation between two or more emergency services (for example the incident room, warning the population, advising other public authorities).

Fire services

Establishing and maintaining fire services have been made a task of the management board of the security region (section 10 of the Safety Regions Act). This task also includes taking care of the option of exchanging equipment within a region and between regions. The Safety Regions Act creates the conditions for increasing the quality of the fire services. It provides a statutory basis for setting national, uniform quality requirements which the fire services must at least meet.

Regional fire services

The basic principle is: one fire services organisation for the entire region under the management of one regional fire services commander.

The regional fire services, as set up in every region pursuant to the Fire Services Act 1985, are thus strengthened and are the first point of contact for the Dutch Minister of Security and Justice.

The task of the regional fire services is:

- preventing, containing and fighting fire;
- limiting and mitigating danger to humans and animals in the event of incidents other than fire;
- drafting a coverage plan for each region on the basis of the rules for the response times;
- advising other public authorities and organisations as regards fire prevention and fire fighting and preventing, and containing and combating incidents with hazardous substances;
- warning the population;
- examining hazardous substances and carrying out decontaminations.

In addition, the regional fire services perform tasks relating to disaster and crisis management. The fire departments must satisfy the national quality requirements.

Corporate fire services

As the management board of a security region can make a broad assessment of the quality and capacity of the repressive fire service in the region and the possible need for corporate fire services, the management board has the power to stipulate that certain establishments must have corporate fire services.

5

The regional
medical
assistance

organisation

(GHOR) (sections 32 to 34 of the
Safety Regions Act)

The management board of the security region has tasks and powers relating to the regional medical assistance organisation (GHOR):

- **setting up and maintaining the regional medical assistance organisation;**
- **the regional medical assistance organisation makes agreements with healthcare institutions (such as regional ambulance services, hospitals and trauma centres) The Dutch Security and Justice Inspectorate (IVENJ) and Healthcare Inspectorate (IGZ) shall supervise.**

The management board of the security region has the task of setting up and maintaining the regional medical assistance organisation charged with the coordination, steering and management of the emergency medical services with regard to disaster management and crisis management and with advising other public authorities and organisations in that area. The regional medical assistance organisation operates under the responsibility of the management board of the security region. In order to prepare this task as best as possible, the public health director will, on behalf of the management board of the security region, make agreements with healthcare providers such as municipal health services, GPs, the Red Cross, psycho-social services, trauma centres, hospitals and ambulance services. In addition, the public health director must ensure that skilled personnel (officials employed by the regional medical assistance organisation) manage and coordinate medical assistance during disasters and crises. The positions in the regional medical assistance organisation are laid down in the Safety regions Personnel Decision, whereas the Ministerial Regulation for safety regions personnel sets out, inter alia, the key tasks and competencies per position.

The management board of the security region lays down the aspirations and tasks of the regional medical assistance organisation. The aspirations and tasks are based on the risks in the region as

laid down in the crisis plan and the requirements set in the Safety regions Decision. In this respect, the regional medical assistance organisation will take account of any scarcity in the region in terms of numbers and categories of healthcare providers and the possibilities for providing assistance. The regional medical assistance organisation must also gather data on how much assistance it can receive from other regions and make agreements with the neighbouring regions in this respect. To achieve this, the regional medical assistance organisation participates in the regional consultation on acute healthcare to make agreements with healthcare institutions regarding preparation and deployment at the time of a disaster or crisis.

Quality healthcare

The management board of the security region will at least make written agreements with the institutions and healthcare providers working in the relevant security region on:

- the procedures to be followed in the event of a disaster or crisis (large-scale alerts, escalation, coordination, information management and evaluation);
- how and in which degree personnel and material will be deployed;
- the accessibility and availability of personnel, premises and equipment;
- the methods for training and drills with regard to joint action in the event of disaster management and crisis management and the frequency of training and drills;
- the cooperation with the officials of the regional medical assistance organisation, other institutions and emergency services institutions;
- the maintenance and management of equipment for medical assistance which is the property of the security region or the IFV.

When making these agreements, the management board of the security region will apply the basic principle that, under all circumstances, the institutions and services are themselves responsible for their preparation for and performance of work in the event of disasters and crises. This means that they operate within the frameworks of healthcare legislation and regulations. It is the responsibility of the healthcare sector itself to develop a plan for deployment in the event of disasters and crises and to train and school their own personnel.

The public health director

The regional medical assistance organisation is headed by a public health director who is also the director of the public health service (GGD) situated in the security region. The Dutch Public Health Act (Wet publieke gezondheid) provides that the GGD regions must territorially correspond with the security regions.

Supervision and compliance

The Safety regions Decision and the Safety regions Personnel Decision set requirements which the security region (including the regional medical assistance organisation) must meet. This is supervised by the Security and Justice Inspectorate (IVENJ) of the Dutch Ministry of Security and Justice.

The public health director will periodically inform the management board of the security region of the level of the preparations made by the healthcare institutions. If an institution does not prepare sufficiently, the management board will consult with the institution. The chairman of the security region can, if he does not note any improvement, give the relevant institution a written instruction. Should the institution fail to

comply, the chairman can request the Minister of Health, Welfare and Sport to take the necessary measures. The Healthcare Institutions Quality Act² (Kwaliteitswet zorginstellingen) offers the Minister of Health, Welfare and Sport possibilities to intervene.

Coordination by inspectorates

The Security and Justice Inspectorate and the Healthcare Inspectorate (IGZ), part of the Ministry of Health, Welfare and Sport coordinate their supervision. In mutual consultation, the inspectorates periodically inspect the level to which medical services are organised and the degree to which the relevant parties are prepared.

Infectious diseases

Pursuant to the Public Health Act (Wpg) the management board of the security region is responsible for the preparations for combating large-scale infectious diseases (“A diseases”). The Dutch Minister of Health, Welfare and Sport can, if necessary, also give instructions to the chairman or the management board of the security region. The municipal health service is responsible in this respect for the substance of the advice and the approach and the regional medical assistance organisation is tasked with coordinating and directing the parties providing healthcare. During disaster and crisis situations, also referred to as the hot phase, the mayor has a role in combating infectious diseases. Under the Wpg

² A bill for a Client Rights’ Care Act (Wet cliëntenrechten zorg, or Wcz) is currently under review by Parliament. With this Act, the government wants to strengthen and clarify the legal position of the client. Under this Wcz, clients are entitled to good care. The Wcz also regulates the responsibilities of health care providers for the quality of care. It should replace the Healthcare Institutions Quality Act.

(section 6(2)), he manages the combat against any local infectious disease epidemic.

In doing so, he can make use of:

- specific powers under the Wpg (Chapter V)
- emergency powers under the Municipalities Act (Gemeentewet) (Chapter IX).

If the disaster or crisis is more than locally significant, it will be the chair of the security region rather than a local mayor who has exclusive power to apply the emergency powers vested in the mayors to the municipalities concerned (Wvr, section 39).

6

The incident room

(section 35 of the Safety
Regions Act)

- **The management board of the security region has an incident room at its disposal which has been set up and is maintained for the fire service task, medical assistance, the ambulance services and the police task. As regards the latter two, the chief of police is responsible for the continuous operation of the police part of the incident room and the regional ambulance services for the ambulance part of the incident room;**
- **The incident room serves to receive, register and evaluate all acute requests for assistance for the fire services, medical assistance, the ambulance services and the police, to provide adequate assistance and to supervise and coordinate the emergency services;**
- **The incident room is managed by a director. The director is appointed by the management board of the security region after consulting the regional ambulance services board and the police officer appointed by the chief of police;**
- **The management board of the security region and the chief of police and the chief public prosecutor will establish how the incident room is to be managed and used by means of an agreement;**
- **If management boards of different regions make use of one incident room, written agreements must be made between the relevant security region management boards, the chief of police and the regional ambulance services.**

The Safety Regions Act assumes there will be a joint incident room to be used for the various services. This means:

- joint housing;
- use of supporting systems;
- and as much coordination of the work processes as possible.

The management board of the security region is not only charged with setting up a joint incident room, but is also responsible for maintaining it.

This means that the security region management board has general managerial responsibility with regard to supporting the mono-disciplinary processes of the police, fire services, ambulance services and the regional medical assistance organisation. The management board of the Regional Ambulance Services (RAV) and the chief of police will each be charged with maintaining the operations of their individual parts of the joint incident room.

General matters relating to the incident room, such as housing, the use of a system and the method of cooperation, will be stipulated by the management board of the security region in consultation with the other management boards. The management board will appoint an incident room director to deal with these matters, and, if relevant, dismiss him. The management board of the security region will appoint the director after the management board of the regional ambulance services and the police officer appointed by the chief of police have been given the opportunity to present their advice. Every sectoral responsibility can set requirements on the quality of the personnel and the monodisciplinary processes of the sectors. The director sees to it that the incident room is operational in both routine circumstances and in disaster and crisis situations.

The Minister of Security and Justice can set requirements on performance and systems by order in council, and the Minister of Health, Welfare and Sport can set requirements on the basis of the Ambulance Services Act.

The requirements set on the police part of the incident room by order in council are based on the 2012 Police Act (Politiewet 2012).

Regions can also make joint use of one supra-regional incident room. The agreement between the management boards of the security regions, the chief of police and the regional ambulance services must at least contain agreements on the location, policy and management, the finances,

the performance, supporting systems and the cooperation between police and fire services, the regional medical assistance organisation and ambulance services. The 112 switchboard forms part of the incident room. The chief of police board is responsible for the continuous operation of this switchboard pursuant to the 112 switchboards Decree (Besluit 112-alarmcentrales).

In local crisis situations, the mayor will in charge of the incident room with regard to the three disciplines, with the public prosecutor or the chief public prosecutor also having authority if investigative interests are at stake. The mayor can give instructions to the ambulance services if he deems this necessary for reasons of public order. In the event of a supra-local disaster or crisis, the chairman of the security region will be given this power.

In 2010, during the formation of the Rutte government, it was determined that an incident room organisation would be set up for the Netherlands with a maximum of ten incident rooms. The incident room organisation falls under the responsibility of the minister of Security and Justice. By 2017 at the latest, this restructuring must have been completed. By then, the minister of Security and Justice will be responsible for setting up and maintaining the incident room rather than the security region management board.

7

Coordinating officer

(section 36 of the Security
Regions Act)

- **The management board of the security region shall appoint an officer who is charged with the coordination of the measures and facilities affecting the municipalities with regard to a disaster or crisis.**

The coordination of the preparation and implementation of the population care processes, which are also referred to as municipal processes (such as providing information, alerting people and making funeral arrangements) as part of disaster and crisis management is increasingly taking place at regional level. The security region is responsible for preparing these processes. The municipalities' input is vital in this respect. In order to provide a good organisation, working method and division of tasks, responsibilities and powers of the municipal processes, the security region management board will appoint a coordinating official in close consultation with the municipalities. Usually this is a municipal secretary of one of the municipalities in the security region.

8

National objectives

(sections 37 and 38 of the Safety
Regions Act)

- **The Minister can establish national objectives with regard to disaster management and crisis management.**

The Minister can set national goals with regard to disaster and crisis management which will be incorporated in the policy plans. The Security Council is the first point of contact for the Minister for setting the national goals. National goals can, for example, be set if national or international interests are at stake, such as a flu pandemic or managing certain types of crisis, e.g. a flood, which have affected the entire or almost the entire country. This also allows priority to be given to specific preparatory aspects, such as multidisciplinary drills.

9

Supra-local disasters and crises

(sections 39 to 44 of the Safety
Regions Act)

The following has been laid down in the Safety Regions Act regarding a supra-local disaster or crisis:

- **one person in command: the chairman of the management board of the security regions**
- **shall have the powers of the mayor;**
- **shall convene a regional policy team (RBT);**
- **shall appoint a regional operations leader (ROL);**
- **shall chair the regional policy team.**
- **shall instruct the regional operational leader;**
- **may address a request for assistance to the Minister of Security and Justice if regional capacity is insufficient.**

If a disaster or crisis affects several municipalities or if there is a serious fear that this will happen, the chairman of the security region has exclusive authority to exercise a number of tasks and powers relevant to the disaster and crisis management. The decision to put one person in command is based on of the importance of clear hierarchical relationships precisely in the event of supra-local disasters and crises. The more complicated the situation, the greater the importance of a simple command structure. Without a clear command structure for supra-local disasters and crises, there is the risk of stagnation in the decision making with regard to the measures to be taken and of miscommunication in the command lines to and from the organisations involved.

The chairman of the security region is also the chairman of the regional policy team and will always consult with the mayors of the relevant municipalities on the policy and decisions necessary in the context of exercising supra-local authority, unless the urgency of the situation dictates otherwise.

Section 40 of the Safety Regions Act describes in detail how the chairman of the security region must report to the councils of the affected municipalities after a disaster or crisis of more than local significance.

Regional policy team (RBT) and regional operations team (ROT)

The chairman of the security region will convene the regional policy team in the event of supra-local disasters or crises. The regional policy team will at least be comprised of the mayors of the affected municipalities and the chief public prosecutor (in connection with maintaining law and order). Depending on the concrete circumstances the chairman will also invite other administrators and crisis partners to participate in the meetings of the regional policy team. The chairman of the relevant water board will also be invited, and can, if so desired, participate in the meetings of the regional policy team based on his responsibility for water-related disasters and crises. The chairman will invite all administrators whose presence is relevant in connection with the circumstances to participate in the meeting, such as the commander of the Regional Military Command, representatives of the province, regional inspectors of the Ministry of Infrastructure and the Environment (I&M), the harbour master, the chief engineer and director of Rijkswaterstaat.

The regional policy team is the most appropriate forum for joint consultation on the measures which the chairman and the crisis partners will take to manage the disaster or crisis, where everybody's input will be based on their own responsibilities and powers. The goal of the regional policy team meeting is to reach agreement and coordination where necessary. The regional policy team does not, as such, make any decisions.

In the event of a disaster or crisis of more than local significance, the King's Commissioner will see to cooperation in the regional policy team and can give instructions in this respect. In the event of a disaster or crisis of more than regional significance or of serious fear that such a disaster or crisis will occur, the King's Commissioner can also give the

chairman of the security board an instruction on the policy to be followed, possibly after consulting the chairman. The King's Commissioner will do so under the responsibility of the Minister of Security and Justice.

The chairman of the regional policy team directs the regional operations leader (ROL), who in turn heads the regional operations team (ROT) which is made up of the operational leaders of the police, fire services, regional medical assistance organisation and any other operational services involved.

The ROL manages the coordinated action and ensures that the decisions of the chairman of the security region are carried out. Any advice generated in the ROT will be presented to the regional policy team via the ROL.

Cooperation with other crisis partners

The management board of the security region works closely with various parties, such as water boards, the Public Prosecution Service and other government services (including Rijkswaterstaat and the Regional Military Command). These parties are referred to as crisis partners. In addition there are also private parties who can play an important role in crisis management due to their essential function in society, their expertise and capacities. Such parties include hospitals, the Royal Netherlands Sea Rescue Institution (KNRM), the Royal Dutch Water Life Saving Association (KNBRD), ProRail, Netherlands Railways and other companies within the vital sectors such as utility companies (energy, gas), drinking water companies and companies within the chemical and petrochemical industries. The goal of the cooperation is for all parties to engage in joint preparations and for the approach to a disaster or crisis to be established in a coordinated manner.

The basic principle in this respect is that the statutory tasks and powers of all parties involved remain intact.

The crisis partners will be involved in essential components. Depending on their tasks, positions and the actual situation, this will involve the following components:

- Participation – upon invitation – in the meetings of the management board of the security region;
- Participation in periodic meetings with all crisis partners;
- Participation in the meetings of the regional policy team;
- Putting forward their views of the regional risk profile;
- Coordination when drawing up plans;
- Agreements on operational performance;
- Agreements on drills.

The crisis partners and the management board of the security region get together in meetings to be convened by the security region management board one or more times a year. Joint topics can be addressed during these meetings where the risks in the security region are always on the agenda.

On 5 January 2011, there was a major fire at Chemie-Pack in Moerdijk. In the end, the fire destroyed virtually the entire company and two halls of a neighbouring business. As a result of the fire, a big cloud of smoke spread across part of the Netherlands, causing great unrest in society. During this fire, it turned out that there was room for improvement in the cooperation between the regions and between the national government and regional authorities for supra-regional incidents.

Further to this fire, the Security Council and the minister of Security and Justice set up a working group that is to present advice on supra-regional collaboration. In April 2012, the Supra-Regional Collaboration Administrative Working Group

(bestuurlijke werkgroep Bovenregionale Samenwerking) presented its advice.

Main points in the advice:

- **Unit of doctrine** regarding scaling-up and intra-regional supervision and coordination. This means, inter alia, that all regions involved in a supra-regional disaster or crisis must scale up to the same extent (GRIP-4 (Coordinated Regional Incident Management, level 4)) and the security region of the source of the crisis is in charge of crisis management.
- **One point of contact at national level** for facilitating regions by national services: the National Crisis Centre (NCC)
- Clarity on situations that require steering from **the government**: when a disaster or crisis crosses regional borders, or if the scale of the crisis management strategy is at national level, the national government will assume responsibility for steering aspects. In that case, there is a **GRIP-5** (Coordinated Regional Incident Management, level 5) situation.
- **Unambiguousness in crisis communications**: the party in control is also responsible for harmonisation, with due observance of the harmonisation roles between the functional columns that the NCC can play. The national government and the safety regions jointly work on further professionalizing and harmonizing crisis communication. The NCC plays an initiating and stimulating role in this.

The Working Group ended its advice with a detailing agenda, with the recommendation to work out the details within six months, making concrete proposals. The details should be ready before the end of 2012, followed by implementation in 2013.

10

Information and
communication
(sections 45 to 50 of the Safety
Regions Act)

- The safety regions are jointly charged with at least setting up uniform information and communication facilities;
- The Security Council shall promote their implementation;
- The Minister of Security and Justice can impose rules on the use and security of information and communication facilities and on data transfer frequencies;
- The Minister of Security and Justice shall ensure that all states which could be affected by a disaster or crisis in Netherlands territory are informed accordingly;
- The Provincial Executive shall see to the production and management of a geographic risk map;
- The management board of the security region is responsible for providing information to the Minister, the King's Commissioner, the chief public prosecutor and the emergency services personnel;
- The safety regions management board is also responsible for providing information on disasters and crises which may affect the population (risk communication);
- In the event of a disaster or crisis, the mayor will be responsible for informing the population (crisis communication).

The management boards of the safety regions are jointly charged with at least setting up uniform information and communication facilities. The Security Council will promote their implementation. The management boards may make joint regulations for this, establishing a public body.

Risk map

The Provincial Executive will see to the production and management of a geographic map indicating the risks present in the security region on the basis of the risk profile. The municipal executives in the

province and the Director General of the National Institute for Public Health and the Environment will provide the necessary details.

Measures by the Minister of Security and Justice

The Minister of Security and Justice can impose rules on the information and communication facilities, their use and on how to protect the information. The Minister can also designate frequencies for the transfer of details by means of these facilities (section 21 of the Safety Regions Act).

Information provision to the Minister, the King's Commissioner, the chief public prosecutor and the personnel.

The management board of the security region is responsible for providing the Minister, the King's Commissioner and the chief public prosecutor with information on the disasters and crises which may affect the population or the environment in a region. The management board also has the task of providing the personnel involved in disaster and crisis management in their region with information, including information on the risks which their deployment can have for their health and on the precautionary measures which the management board has taken in this respect. The mayor is responsible for informing the personnel involved during the response to a disaster or crisis.

Informing the population

The management board of the security region is responsible for informing the population about disasters and crises which may affect a region. The management board will also inform the population as to the measures which have been taken to prevent, control or manage a disaster or crisis and as to the procedure to be followed in that respect.

Both before and during a crisis, the security region management board can make use of the knowledge and resources for risk and crisis communication of the National Crisis Centre (NCC), which is the contact point at a national level for administrators during a crisis.

Risk communication

The management board of the security region is responsible for informing citizens about the disasters and crises which may affect the population and the environment and on the measures which the government has taken to prevent and control them. This does not alter the fact that a minister remains responsible for giving specific information on possible crises within his domain. Communication should augment the resilience and self-sufficiency of the population. Communication about risks must be based on the risk profile. The policy plan sets out how the risk communication is organised within the region.

Crisis communication

In the event of an actual disaster or crisis the mayor will ensure that the affected population in his municipality is informed correctly and he will set out such matters as the procedure to be followed. If the disaster or crisis has a supra-local character, the crisis communication will be coordinated in the regional policy team. The policy plan describes how crisis communication will be organised within the security region.

11

Assistance

(section 51 of the
Safety Regions Act)

- **In the event of a fire, disaster or crisis or of a serious fear that such will occur, the chairman of a security region can ask the minister for assistance. He must then inform the King's Commissioner accordingly.**
- **The minister may give the regional ambulance services instructions regarding the use of ambulances.**
- **In derogation of the first subsection, the chairman of a security region may make a request directly to the chairman of an adjacent region, provided the crisis plans of both regions encompass agreements in this respect and the matter is urgent. The chairman shall inform the minister and the King's Commissioner of his request.**

Assistance is a specific form of temporary support and can relate to both personnel and equipment. The assistance will be granted to a security region as part of controlling or managing a fire, disaster or crisis. If there is insufficient regional capacity, the chairman of the management board of the security region will make a request for assistance to the Minister of Security and Justice. The King's Commissioner will be informed of the request for assistance. The National Operations Coordination Centre (LOCC) will advise the Minister of Security and Justice on this type of requests for assistance and is actually charged with arranging the operational aspects of providing assistance.

The goal of the Coordination Centre in this context is to achieve an efficient and coherent deployment of people, resources and expertise of the fire services, police, regional medical assistance organisation and the Ministry of Defence in the event of threatened and acute crises, large-scale incidents and events with a supra-regional or national character. These are situations that cross regional borders and where interregional and/or international assistance must be granted. The Coordination Centre provides support to the security regions, the King's Commissioners and the

Minister of Security and Justice in all operational aspects. The key task of the Coordination Centre consists of managing the requests for assistance or support and the operational alignment between operational services. In these situations the Coordination Centre is also responsible for providing operational information nationally.

With regard to support, the Ministry of Defence has an added value as a structural security partner with specialist and unique capabilities, experience of which has been gained abroad in crisis management operations. The cooperation between civil services and the military makes an important contribution to further increasing national security and crisis management in the Netherlands.

The Ministry of Defence guarantees capabilities for domestic deployment, under the operational management of the civil authority. In addition, the military forces have specialist military resources. This cooperation can be effected via the National Operations Coordination Centre and the National Crisis Centre (NCC; see chapter 17 for further details).

12

Exceptional circumstances

(sections 52 to 54 of the Safety
Regions Act)

- **On the recommendation of the Prime Minister, a number of sections of the Coordination Act may be put into effect in the event of extraordinary circumstances.**

This paragraph of the Safety Regions Act relates to powers in extraordinary circumstances. They have the same purport as sections 21, 22, 23 and 24 of the Disasters and Major Accidents Act, on the understanding that the application of extraordinary powers has been expanded to crisis management.

As a final remedy, the Minister of Security and Justice can take over all or some of the powers of the King's Commissioner and of the mayor. This will only occur when the prime minister decides to implement the relevant statutory sections by Royal Decree.

13

Financial provisions

(sections 55 and 56 of the Safety
Regions Act)

The security region shall be funded from:

- contributions by municipalities;
- contribution from national government.

Municipal contributions

Physical security is in essence a local responsibility and because of the necessary involvement of the municipalities, the safety regions have been set up as extended local government. This is based on the Joint Regulations Act (Wet gemeenschappelijke regelingen). This means, inter alia, that the municipalities must make a financial contribution to the costs of the region. The amount of the contribution will be determined on the basis of the budget drawn up by the region's management board. The municipal contribution will be paid from the general payment which the municipalities receive from the municipal fund. If a municipality transfers the task of the fire services to the security region (not required by law), the region will charge the subsequent costs to the municipality resulting in an increase in the municipal contribution. Various forms of funding can be involved, such as a service agreement between the region and the municipality.

Contribution from national government

In addition to the municipal contributions, the regions also receive a contribution from the national government. This expresses the involvement of the national government in a financial sense in the disaster management. Lately, the share contributed by the municipalities has increased as a result of the trend towards more regional fire services. The government share in financing the safety regions has been defined in the Broad Targeted Disaster Management Payment (Brede Doeluitkering Rampenbestrijding

- BDUR). Additional rules have been imposed in this respect in the Security Regions.

The financial relationship between the national government and the regions has three characteristics that relate to the hybrid financing of the security regions. Firstly, the contribution is intended for all policy elements of the safety regions and their associated tasks. The regions may use these funds as they see fit, within the statutory framework. Secondly, the contribution is a single undivided lump sum which is not bound to the tasks of the fire services and regional medical assistance sectors, nor is it self-funding with regard to operational components. The management board is responsible for allocating the resources and must present a balanced budget via the municipal contributions. The third characteristic is that accounting is limited to the main points, making the administrative burden for the regions slight. Alignment has been sought with the regulations relating to deregulation. In any event, the Safety Regions Act does create the option of making the contribution subject to certain conditions, such as agreements on national goals. In view of the characteristics of the contribution, this will be treated reservedly. The national contribution has grown gradually in the past few years, which has given financial substance to the management agreement between the VNG and the national government to strengthen the security regions. The total national contribution in 2012 will be approx. 130 million euro. The total fire service and disaster management cost in the Netherlands is approximately 1.3 billion euro a year.

14

Supervision

(sections 57 to 65 of the Safety Regions Act)

Security and Justice Inspectorate (IVENJ):

- reviews the way in which bodies of security regions, the management board of the IFV, municipalities or other public bodies perform their fire service, disaster management or crisis management tasks;
- investigates incidents, unless the Dutch Safety Board carries out an investigation;
- supervises the quality of training courses.

The safety regions must comply with the requirements of the Safety Regions Act and the decrees based on it, such as the Safety regions Decision. The Security and Justice Inspectorate (IVENJ) of the Ministry of Security and Justice periodically reviews the extent to which the preparations for disaster and crisis management are in order in the individual security regions.

The Security and Justice Inspectorate reviews the level of disaster management in the Netherlands from time to time. Further to the 'Disaster Management Review' of April 2010 and in anticipation of the next 'Disaster Management Review' in early 2013, an interim report was published in May 2012. This interim report outlines the developments in the fields of disaster management and crisis management and primarily reflects the preparations for disaster management and crisis management at **national level**.

The Security and Justice Inspectorate has drawn the conclusion that the safety regions are making progress in their preparations for disaster management, without fully attaining the minimum level described in the Act and the Decree. The majority of the regions are close to attaining this level, while several regions will still have to make progress (significant steps in some respects). As for multidisciplinary drills, a mild fall was observed. The most significant recommendation of the Inspectorate to the safety regions is to make an extra effort to meet all requirements included in the Act and the Decree as of 1 January 2013.

In the meantime the Inspectorate will monitor progress in the security regions. The Inspectorate will also carry out theme-based investigations in connection with topical events and other developments. The findings will be included in an interim statement of affairs at the end of 2011. Supervision by the Inspectorate can take place periodically and for various components, for example, into the way in which a security region, a municipality or another public body implements the tasks of preventing, preparing for and controlling and managing fires, disasters or crises. The Inspectorate performs a monitoring supervisory function in this respect.

The supervision by the Inspectorate is the responsibility of the Minister of Security and Justice. The Inspectorate reports its findings to the Minister of Security and Justice and sends these reports to the King's Commissioners. In order to achieve the desired effects the Inspectorate also sends its reports to all relevant officials with administrative responsibility, democratic monitoring bodies and other stakeholders.

Intervention

If the Inspectorate notes shortcomings in the implementation of a security region's tasks, it will report them to the Minister of Security and Justice. Primary responsibility for resolving these defects lies with the management board of the security region in question.

If the region continues to fall short, the King's Commissioner can, as a last resort, give an instruction in his capacity as a national government body. The King's Commissioner will only give this instruction with the Minister of Security and Justice's permission. The role of the King's Commissioner is laid down in the Official Instruction for the King's Commissioner (part II).

15

Paragraphs 15 and 16 of the Safety Regions Act are not dealt with in this brochure. We refer you to the consolidated text of the Safety Regions Act in part II of this document.

Paragraph 15 of the Safety Regions Act:
Access (section 62 of the Safety Regions Act)

Paragraph 16 of the Safety Regions Act:
Sanctions (sections 63 to 65 of the Safety Regions Act)

16

Institute for Safety

(sections 66 to 75a of the Safety
Regions Act)

- **There is an Institute for Safety (IFV);**
- **The IFV has a number of statutory relating to fire services, disaster management, crisis management and medical assistance. In addition, the IFV can carry out joint tasks on behalf of the security regions. Last but not least, the IFV can do work permitted by law for third parties.**

Since the adoption of the government position on safety regions in 2004, regional cooperation in the security domain has strongly developed. In the field of fire emergency services, disaster management and crisis management and medical assistance (GHOR), cooperation in a regional context intensified more and more. This new administrative line-up also provides a sturdy basis to more intense cooperation between the security regions.

In addition, developments at national level have resulted in a decision to create a new organisation. That, in turn, resulted in the Netherlands Institute for Security (Instituut fysieke veiligheid or Nifv) and the Netherlands Fire Service Examinations Board (Nederlands bureau brandweerexamens or Nbbe) and tasks carried out by the ministry (the National Facility Disaster Management and National Fire Services Management Development (Landelijke Faciliteit Rampenbestrijding and Landelijk Management Development Brandweer respectively) were joined, creating one organization. By joining forces, a strong organisation has arisen, which can support the security field throughout.

The Institute will be given legal personality, will carry out tasks imposed by law, and the management will be vested in public officers (in connection with determining the examination results). That makes the IFV, which will be made up of the 25 chairs of the security regions, an independent administrative body at the same level as the security regions. This set-up is in line with extended local management, which is the starting principle of the Safety Regions Act.

The statutory tasks of the IFV are:

- providing officer training to the fire services and developing the course, drill and study material for this;
- developing, implementing, organizing and administering the examination;
- granting exemptions and certificates for fire services training;
- developing and maintaining expertise by means of gathering and managing relevant knowhow and, if necessary, by doing applied research in the fields of fire services, disaster management, crisis management and medical assistance;
- making available the information and expertise gathered to organisations active in the field of fire services, disaster management, crisis management and medical assistance;
- acquiring and managing materials, equipment and telecommunication facilities, and where necessary, making the same available to the security regions;
- acquiring and managing special materials and equipment, and, where necessary, making the same available to the police for the purpose of its policing tasks.

17

Steering by the national government

(based on several sections of the
Safety Regions Act – does not
follow the structure of the Act)

The national government can set various requirements on and impose rules for the security regions, such as:

- **national quality requirements, guaranteeing a minimum quality level**
- **rules on the cooperation between security regions, the police, and the Royal Military Constabulary.**

The national government can steer options in various ways by setting requirements on and imposing rules for the security regions.

Rules on cooperation (section 20 of the Safety Regions Act)

The national government can impose rules on the cooperation between safety regions and the police, and the Royal Military Constabulary (Kmar). Such rules can relate to specific aspects or task areas, whereby uniformity of the implementation is essential and the various agreements that have been entered into between the relevant partners are not adequate. Rules relating to the Royal Military Constabulary will be drawn up in accordance with the Minister of Defence.

National coordination in the event of crises (sections 39 to 44 and 52 to 54 of the Safety Regions Act)

In the event of a national crisis, ministers can instruct municipalities to carry out certain tasks. This happened, for example, with the flu pandemic in 2009, where the Minister of Health, Welfare and Sport instructed mayors to organise a flu vaccination campaign for children. Safety regions can be involved in performing these tasks.

At times of supra-regional or national crises which concern various ministers, the administrative coordination will be taken over by the National Crisis Centre (NCC). The NCC coordinates the decision making by the Ministerial Crisis Management Committee (MCCB) and the national crisis communication - through the National Information Centre (NVC). The NVC is the information centre for all administrative questions about crisis management for security regions, municipalities, provinces and other security partners. The security region is an important partner in the information exchange between the national government and the municipalities. The Minister of Security and Justice can, if urgently required for reasons of public interest, assume all or some of the powers or charge another authority with all or some of those powers (sections 53 and 54 of the Safety Regions Act).

In the event of a national crisis, for example a terrorist attack, the National Operations Coordination Centre can be expanded (escalation) to include the National Operations Staff (LOS). The task of the National Operations Staff is to give joint operational advice on behalf of the operational services involved in the national crisis. This advice may relate to the availability of people and resources for national disaster and crisis management and to the operational implementation and consequences of managerial decisions. The National Operations Staff is linked to the ministerial Crisis Management committee. Detailed information on the responsibilities and roles which various institutions and public authorities have in controlling crises can be found in the National Crisis Decision Making Handbook (Nationaal Handboek Crisisbesluitvorming - NHC).

18

Annex

Commonly used abbreviations

AMvB	Algemene Maatregel van Bestuur	Order in Council
Bp	Besluit personeel veiligheidsregio's	Safety regions Personnel Decision
BDUR	Brede Doeluitkering Rampenbestrijding	Broad Targeted Disaster Management Payment
BRZO	Besluit Risico's Zware Ongevallen	Major Accidents (Risks) Decree
Bvr	Besluit veiligheidsregio's	Safety regions Decision
cdK	commissaris der Koningin	King's Commissioner
EZ	Ministerie van Economische Zaken	Ministry of Economic Affairs
GGD	Gemeentelijke Gezondheidsdienst	Municipal Health Service
GHOR	Geneeskundige Hulpverleningsorganisatie in deRegio	Regional Medical Assistance Organisation
HOvJ	Hoofddofficier van Justitie	Chief Public Prosecutor
I&M	Ministerie van Infrastructuur en Milieu	Ministry of Infrastructure and the Environment
IFV	Instituut Fysieke Veiligheid	Institute for Safety
IGZ	Inspectie voor de Gezondheidszorg	Healthcare Inspectorate
IVENJ	Inspectie Openbare Orde en Veiligheid	Security and Justice Inspectorate
Kmar	Koninklijke marechaussee	Royal Military Constabulary
KNBRD	Koninklijke Nederlandse Bond tot het Redden van Drenkelingen	Royal Dutch Water Life Saving Association
KNRM	Koninklijke Nederlandse Reddingsmaatschappij	Royal Netherlands Sea Rescue Institution
LOCC	Landelijk Operationeel Coördinatiecentrum	National Operations Coordination Centre
LOS	Landelijk Operationele Staf	National Operations Staff
MCCB	Ministeriële commissie Crisisbeheersing	Ministerial Crisis Management committee
MKZ	Mond- en klauwzeer	Foot and Mouth disease
NCC	Nationaal Crisiscentrum	National Crisis Centre
NHC	Nationaal Handboek Crisisbesluitvorming	National Crisis Decision-Making Manual
NVC	Nationaal Voorlichtingscentrum	National PR Centre
OM	Openbaar Ministerie	Public Prosecution Service
RAV	Regionale Ambulancevoorziening	Regional Ambulance Services
RBR	Regionaal Beheersplan Rampenbestrijding	Regional Disaster Management Management Plan
RBT	Regionaal beleidsteam	Regional policy team
ROL	Regionaal operationeel leider	Regional operations leader
ROT	Regionaal operationeel team	Regional operations team
V&J	Ministerie van Veiligheid en Justitie	Ministry of Security and Justice
VNG	Vereniging van Nederlandse Gemeenten	Association of Netherlands Municipalities
VWS	Ministerie van Volksgezondheid, Welzijn en Sport	Ministry of Health, Welfare and Sport
Wcz	Wet cliëntenrechten zorg	Client Rights to Care Act
Wgr	Wet gemeenschappelijke regelingen	Joint Regulations Act
Wpg	Wet publieke gezondheid	Public Health Act
Wrzo	Wet rampen en zware ongevallen	Disasters and Major Incidents Act
Wvr	Wet veiligheidsregio's	Safety Regions Act

A few definitions

Disaster: a serious accident or other incident whereby the lives and the health of many people, the environment or significant material interests have been harmed or are threatened to a serious degree. Coordinated deployment of services or organisations from various disciplines is required to remove the threat or to limit the harmful consequences.

Disaster management: the entirety of measures and facilities, including preparation for them, which the municipal authority or the management board of a security region takes with regard to a disaster, the prevention of a disaster and limiting the consequences of a disaster.

Crisis: a situation in which a vital interest of society is affected or is at risk of being affected.

Crisis management: the entirety of measures and facilities, including preparation them, that the municipal authority or the management board of a security region provides in a crisis to maintain public order, if applicable in conjunction with the measures and facilities which are provided on the basis of authority with regard to a crisis, granted by or pursuant to any other Act.

More Information

This brochure is a publication of the Ministry of Security and Justice. Part I of this brochure provides general information on the Safety Regions Act and follows the structure of the Act. Part II comprises the consolidated text of the Safety Regions Act and the Official Instruction for the King's Commissioner.

Since May 2009, the Security Council and Security and Justice have been publishing the informative newsletter 'De Veiligheidsregio' in cooperation with the fire services, regional medical assistance organisations, VNG and the police.

The Security Council is supported by the Security Council Agency. The Agency is also the contact point for the safety regions and municipalities. For more information on the composition and priorities of the Security Council and the Security Council Agency please contact the secretariat via info@veiligheidsberaad.nl or go to www.veiligheidsberaad.nl

Part 2

Act of 11 February 2010, containing provisions on fire services, disaster and crisis management and medical assistance (Safety Regions Act)

We Beatrix, by the grace of God, Queen of the Netherlands, Princess of Orange-Nassau, etc. Greetings to all who shall see or hear these presents! Be it known:

Whereas We have considered that it is desirable to integrate the fire services, disaster and crisis management and medical assistance in operational and administrative regions, while consolidating local government bodies, in order to ensure efficient and decisive assistance based on, among other things, coordinated preparation and to establish to that end security regions; We, therefore, having heard the Council of State, and in consultation with the States General, have approved and decreed as We hereby approve and decree:

§ 1. General Provisions

Section 1

For the purposes of this Act and the provisions based on it the following terms shall have the meanings hereby assigned to them:

Our Minister: Our Minister of Security and Justice;
security region: a public body as referred to in Section 9;

disaster: a serious accident or other incident whereby the lives and the health of many people, the environment or significant material interests have been harmed or are threatened to a serious degree. Coordinated deployment of services or organisations from various disciplines is required to remove the threat or to limit the harmful consequences;

disaster management: the entirety of measures and facilities, including their preparation, which the municipal authority or the management board of a security region takes with regard to a disaster, the

prevention of a disaster and limiting the consequences of a disaster;

crisis: a situation in which a vital interest of society is affected or is at risk of being affected;

crisis management: the entirety of measures and facilities, including their preparation, that the municipal authority or the management board of a security region provides in a crisis to maintain public order, if applicable in conjunction with the measures and facilities which are provided on the basis of authority with regard to a crisis, granted by or pursuant to any other Act;

medical assistance: medical assistance within the framework of the disaster and crisis management by specifically appointed staff, as part of a coordinated deployment of services and organisations of various disciplines, through the agency of an incident room;

Regional Medical Assistance Organisation: the Regional Medical Assistance Organisation, charged with the coordination, steering and management of the emergency medical services and with advising other public authorities and organisations in that area.

Regional Ambulance Services: the legal person referred to in Section 4 (1) of the Temporary Act on Ambulance Services;

Security Council: the chairmen of the Safety Regions Acting jointly;

Chief of Police: the chief of police referred to in Section 27 of the Police Act 2012.

§ 2. The Municipality

Section 2

The Municipal Executive shall be charged with the organisation of:

- a. fire services;
- b. disaster management and crisis management;
- c. medical assistance.

Section 3

1. The fire services include:
 - a. preventing, containing and fighting fire, limiting the risk of fire, preventing and limiting accidents in case of fire and performing any and all acts pertaining thereto;
 - b. limiting and mitigating danger to humans and animals in the event of incidents other than fire.
2. De municipal council lays down a fire safety by-law containing rules relating to duties included in subsection 1 under a.
3. Rules shall be laid down by or pursuant to an order in council relating to the fire safe use of environments accessible to the public, insofar as no provisions to that effect have been laid down by or pursuant to any other Act, and rules shall be laid down on basic emergency services in those environments.

Section 3a

At least once every four years the municipal council shall determine the objectives of the municipality with regard to fire safety and the working methods and quality of the fire services.

Section 4

1. The mayor shall be in charge in case of fire and accidents other than fire insofar as the fire services have duties to perform.
2. In case of fire and accidents as referred to in subsection 1, the mayor is authorised to give any orders necessary with a view to preventing, limiting and fighting danger.

Section 5

In the event of a disaster or serious potential of a disaster, the mayor has supreme command and shall be authorised to give orders to individuals and organisations participating in combating a disaster.

Section 6

The mayor may give instructions to the Regional Ambulance Services of the region in which his municipality is situated, if he deems such instructions necessary with a view to maintaining public order.

Section 7

1. The mayor shall be responsible for providing information to the population on the cause, extent and consequences of a disaster or crisis threatening or affecting the municipality, and on the course of action to be observed.
2. The mayor shall ensure that the persons involved in disaster or crisis management in his municipality are informed on that disaster or crisis, the health risks involved in providing assistance and the precautionary measures taken or to be taken in that respect.
3. The mayor shall attune his provision of information as referred to in subsections 1 and 2 to the provision of information supplied by or under the responsibility of Our Ministers involved in disasters and crisis.
4. Further rules on the provision of information as referred to in subsections 1 and 2 shall be laid down by order in council.

§ 3. The security region

Section 8

The territory of the Netherlands is divided into regions, in accordance with the Annex to this Act, which may be altered by order in council.

Section 9

The Municipal Executives of the municipalities, which belong to a region as referred to in section 8, shall draw up joint regulations establishing a public body designated as a security region.

Section 10

Pursuant to the regulations referred to in Section 9, the following tasks and authorities shall be transferred to the management board of the security region:

- a. taking stock of fire, disaster and crisis risks;
- b. advising the competent authorities on risks of fires, disasters and crises in the cases designated by or pursuant to an Act of Parliament and in the cases stipulated in the policy plan;
- c. advising the Municipal Executive on the task referred to in Section 3 (1);
- d. preparing for fire fighting and organising the disaster management and crisis management;
- e. setting up and maintaining a fire department;
- f. setting up and maintaining a regional medical assistance organisation;
- g. providing the incident room function;
- h. procuring and managing communal equipment;
- i. setting up and maintaining the information provision within the services of the security region and between these services and the other services and organisations involved in the tasks mentioned above under d, e, f and g.

Section 11

1. Notwithstanding Section 13 (1) of the Joint Regulations Act, the general management of the security region is comprised of the mayors of the participating municipalities.
2. Notwithstanding Section 13(9) of the Joint Regulations Act, one of the mayors of the region's municipalities shall be appointed as chairman of the management board by Royal Decree, after the general board has been consulted. The chairman may be suspended and removed from office by Royal Decree. As regards the appointment, suspension and removal from office, the King's Commissioner shall be asked for his advice. By or pursuant to an order in council rules shall be laid down on the legal position of the chairman of a security region.

3. In the event that the chairman is absent, the management board shall appoint one of its members as chairman.
4. The chairman shall represent the security region at law and otherwise.
5. The security region's management board decides by a majority of votes. If the votes are tied, the chairman shall have the deciding vote.

Section 12

1. The Chief Public Prosecutor and the chairman of the water board within whose territory the security region is situated shall be invited to attend the meetings of the security region's management board. If a district covers the territories of more than one security region, in each region the Chief Public Prosecutor or a deputy Chief Public Prosecutor or Public Prosecutor appointed by him to that end shall act on his behalf. If the territory of a security region covers more than one water board, the relevant chairmen of the water boards shall decide which one of them will attend the meetings.
2. The chairman of the security region shall invite other officers to attend meetings of the security region's management board when their presence is relevant in connection with the business to be discussed.

Section 13

De King's Commissioner shall be invited to attend the meetings of the security region's management board. The Commissioner may have himself represented at such meetings.

Section 14

1. At least once every four years, the security region's management board shall adopt a policy plan setting out the policy regarding the safety regions tasks.
2. The policy plan shall at least contain:
 - a. a description of the intended operational performance of the services and organisations

- b. of the security region, and of the police and the municipalities in terms of disaster management and crisis management;
- b. an elaboration of national goals established by Our Minister as referred to in Section 37, with due observance of the circumstances of the relevant security region;
- c. an information subsection describing the provision of information within and between the services and organisations referred to under a;
 - d. a drill policy plan;
 - e. a description of the non-statutory advisory function as referred to in Section 10 under b;
 - f. the response times applicable to the fire services and a description of the presence of fire stations in the municipalities, as well as any other facilities and measures that the fire services need to comply with those response times.

2. a. Prior to the adoption of the policy plan, the mayor of a municipality within the territory of the security region shall consult the municipal council on the draft version of the policy plan.
3. The management board aligns the policy plan with the policy plan of the adjacent safety regions and of the relevant water boards, and with the policy plan, referred to in Section 39 of the Police Act 2012, of the relevant regional police force.

Section 15

1. The policy plan referred to in Section 14 shall be based on, inter alia, the risk profile adopted by the security region's management board.
2. The risk profile shall consist of:
 - a. an overview of risky situations within the security region which may result in a fire, disaster or crisis;

- b. an overview of the types of fire, disaster and crisis that may occur in the security region; and
 - c. an analysis including a weighting and an assessment of the impact of those types of fire, disaster and crisis.
3. The security region's management board shall determine the risk profile after having consulted the municipal councils of the participating municipalities and requesting the municipal councils to put forward local policy priorities to be included in the policy plan.
 4. For the adoption of the risk profile the security region's management board shall at any rate invite the police officers designated to that end by the Chief of Police, the Chief Public Prosecutor referred to in Section 12 (1), the management board of the relevant water boards and any officers designated to that end by Our other Ministers to express their views on the matter.
 5. At least once a year, the security region's management board shall invite the parties involved in potential disasters and crises in the region to discuss the regions risks in a joint meeting.

Section 16

1. At least once every four years, the security region's management board adopts a crisis plan setting out at any rate the organisation, responsibilities, tasks and powers relating to disaster and crisis management.
2. The crisis plan sets out the organisation, responsibilities, tasks and powers relating to the measures taken and provisions made with regard to disaster and crisis management, and relating to the agreements made with other parties involved in potential disasters and crises.
3. The crisis plan is always aligned with the crisis plans laid down for the territories of adjacent safety regions and countries.

4. The security region's management board shall send the crisis plan as adopted to the King's Commissioner.

Section 17

1. By order in council specific categories of establishments, specific categories of disasters and airfields are designated to require a disaster management plan to be drawn up by the security region's management board. This plan contains measures to be taken in the event of a disaster in either one of those categories or on airfields.
2. By or pursuant to an order in council, as referred to in subsection 1, rules shall be laid down relating to:
 - a. the contents of the plan;
 - b. consultation of the population when drawing up the plan and making substantial amendments to that plan;
 - c. regular tests and updates of the plan;
 - d. the announcement of decisions as referred to in subsection 3.
3. On the basis of the information supplied pursuant to Section 48, the security region's management board may decide that no disaster management plan needs to be laid down for an establishment designated by virtue of subsection 1.

Section 18

1. By or pursuant to an order in council, rules may be laid down relating to:
 - a. the fire department and the response times to be determined for the fire services, the Regional Medical Assistance Organisation and the incident room;
 - b. the organisation of the disaster management, crisis management and medical assistance;
 - c. the municipal assistance to the population within the framework of disaster and crisis management.

2. By or pursuant to an order in council, rules may be laid down for fire services personnel relating to:
 - a. the positions, ranks and signs of special services in performing operational fire-fighting duties;
 - b. the requirements regarding the medical examination and monitoring of physical and mental fitness;
 - c. clothing and equipment.
3. By or pursuant to an order in council, rules shall be laid down for fire services personnel relating to eligibility. Consultations shall be held at any rate with the appropriate trade associations of government staff on the rules to be laid down by or pursuant to this measure.
4. By order in council it shall be decided for which positions the course will be completed by an examination. The general board of the Institute for Safety issues the diploma.
5. By order in council, rules shall be laid down on the manner in which consultations will be held with at any rate the appropriate trade associations of government staff on the draft of the measure referred to in subsection 2.

Section 19

1. The security region's management board, the Chief of Police and the Chief Public Prosecutor referred to in Section 12 (1) shall conclude an agreement relating to the cooperation in case of fire, disasters and crises. An agreement referring to the police duties carried out by the Royal Military Constabulary as referred to in Section 4 (1) under c of the Police Act 2012 shall be concluded with Our Minister of Defence.
2. The agreement shall at any rate relate to the incident room function, providing and exchanging information, multidisciplinary drills and the operational performance of the police in the event of disasters and crises.

Section 20

1. By ministerial regulation rules may be laid down on the mutual cooperation between safety regions and on the cooperation between safety regions and the police and the Royal Military Constabulary, if it concerns the execution of police duties referred to in Section 4 (1) under c of the Police Act 2012.
2. The regulation referred to in subsection 1 will be issued in consultation with Our Minister of Defence if it contains rules affecting the Royal Military Constabulary as well.

Section 21

1. By ministerial regulation, rules may be laid down on the information and communication facilities of and its use by the security region, and on the protection of information.
2. By ministerial regulation, frequencies may be allocated to the safety regions for transmitting data by means of the information and communication facilities intended for that purpose.

Section 22

The management boards of the safety regions will be jointly responsible for establishing a uniform availability of information and means of communication, including an assessment of the need for information and the determination of frameworks, standards and quality requirements with a view to the exchange of information within and between the organisations referred to in Section 10 under i.

Section 23

The security region's management board shall make use of a quality assurance system.

Section 24

1. The chairman of the security region shall inform Our Minister at his request on the manner in which the security region carries out its duties.
2. Each year, the chairman of the security region shall send Our Minister a report on the execution

of the national objectives by the security region, provided that national objectives as referred to in Section 37 have been determined by Our Minister.

3. By ministerial regulation, rules may be laid down on the manner in which the report as referred to in subsection 2 will be submitted.

§ 4. The fire services

Section 25

1. The fire services established by the security region's management board shall at any rate carry out the following tasks:
 - a. preventing, containing and fighting fire;
 - b. limiting and mitigating danger to humans and animals in the event of incidents other than fire.;
 - c. warning the population;
 - d. examining hazardous substances and carrying out decontaminations;
 - e. advising other public authorities and organisations as regards fire prevention and fire fighting and preventing, containing and combating incidents with hazardous substances.
2. In addition, the regional fire services shall perform tasks relating to disaster and crisis management.
3. The fire services shall be under the leadership of a commander.

Section 26

[Repealed with effect from 01-01-2013]

Section 27

[Repealed with effect from 01-01-2013]

Section 28

[Repealed with effect from 01-01-2013]

Section 29

[Repealed with effect from 01-01-2013]

Section 30

1. By or pursuant to an order in council, rules may be laid down relating to the safety, sound condition, normalisation and standardisation of the fire-fighting and life-saving equipment manufactured, imported or marketed for use within the Netherlands.
2. For inspections carried out pursuant to an order in council as referred to in subsection 1, fees may be charged in accordance with regulations determined to that effect. Such fees will not be charged to public bodies.

Section 31

1. The security region's management board may stipulate that certain establishments representing an enhanced risk for public safety in the event of fire or an accident, must have corporate fire services.
2. The head or director of an establishment so designated shall ensure that this establishment will have corporate fire services available that comply with the requirements regarding personnel and equipment as set out in the designation order.
3. Notwithstanding subsection 1, Our Minister shall issue the designation order if the establishment is situated at or forms part of a site in use by the armed forces, insofar as classified data are at issue, which must be kept strictly confidential for reasons of State security. Before a designation order is issued, Our Minister will hear the head or director of the establishment.
4. By or pursuant to an order in council it shall be determined which categories of establishments may be designated and in what way the designation order will be decided upon, and it may be determined which requirements the personnel and equipment must meet.
5. The head or director of an establishment as referred to in the fourth subsection shall supply

the security region's management board or Our Minister with any and all information necessary for executing the authority to issue a designation order as referred to in this Section.

6. Before 1 February of each year, the head or director of a designated establishment shall provide the security region's management board or Our Minister with an overview of the actual force and extent of the corporate fire services on 1 January of that year.
7. The head or director of a designated establishment ensures that the corporate fire services, when taking necessary action to fight fire or other danger within the establishment, follow the instructions of the person charged with the actual management of the fire fighting by virtue of a legal stipulation.

§ 5. De Regional Medical Assistance Organisation

Section 32

1. The Regional Medical Assistance Organisation shall be headed by the Public Health Director of the Municipal Health Service referred to in Section 14 of the Public Health Act.
2. The Public Health Director shall be charged with the management of the medical assistance operations.

Section 33

1. Institutions referred to in the Care Institutions (Accreditation) Act, healthcare providers referred to in the Individual Healthcare Professions Act, Regional Ambulance Services and healthcare services in that region with duties referring to medical assistance, will take all necessary measures with a view to their duties and their preparation.
2. The security region's management board, the Regional Ambulance Services and the institutions, healthcare providers and services referred to in subsection 1 who are active within that

region will make arrangements in writing on the tasks of these institutions, healthcare providers and services in the execution of their duties and their preparation.

3. The institutions, healthcare providers, Regional Ambulance Services and the services referred to in subsection 1 will supply the security region's management board with all information on their tasks and their preparation by means of the annual social responsibility document referred to in Section 16 of the Care Institutions (Accreditation) Act.
4. By order in council requirements shall be made relating to the contents of agreements as referred to in subsection 2.

Section 34

1. If the execution of the medical assistance or its preparation is inadequate in the opinion of the security region's management board, the management board shall discuss the issue with an institution or a healthcare provider as referred to in Section 33 (1).
2. The chairman of the security region may issue an instruction in writing to the relevant institution and the healthcare provider, if he does not establish an improvement.
3. If the institution or the healthcare provider remains in default, the chairman shall request Our Minister of Health, Welfare and Sport to take appropriate measures against the relevant institution or healthcare provider.

§ 6. The incident room

Section 35

1. The security region's management board has a joint incident room available, which has been established and is maintained by the management board or by the board of another security region for the purposes of the duties of the fire services, medical assistance, ambulance services

and the police, provided, however, that the Regional Ambulance Services shall be responsible for maintaining the ambulance services incident room, as a part of the incident room, and that the Chief of Police shall be responsible for maintaining the police incident room, as part of the incident room.

2. The incident room shall be responsible for receiving, recording and assessing all calls for immediate assistance for the benefit of the fire services, medical assistance, actual ambulance services and the police, offering adequate assistance and assisting and coordinating the emergency services.
3. The incident room is managed by a director. The security region's management board shall appoint the director after consulting the board of the Regional Ambulance Services and the police officer designated to that end by the Chief of Police. The director shall report on a regular basis to the security region's management board on the manner in which the requirements referred to in subsection 4 are executed, and the director has a right of consent with regard to the appointment and extension of appointments of members of the incident room staff.
4. The security region's management board may set requirements to be complied with by the Regional Ambulance Services with regard to the incident room for the actual ambulance services, and shall inform Our Minister of Health, Welfare and Sport thereof. These requirements may refer to the location, policy and management, finance, performance, supporting systems, preparation and actual action in the event of accidents, disasters and crises, and to the cooperation between ambulance services and fire services, medical assistance and the police in the incident room.
5. The agreement referred to in Section 19 shall at any rate contain arrangements with regard to the incident room on its location, policy and management, finance, performance, supporting systems and the cooperation of the police with

the fire services, medical assistance and ambulance transport in the incident room.

6. If management boards of various regions decide to make use of one joint incident room, arrangements to that effect will be agreed in writing between the Chief of Police, management boards of safety regions and ambulance services.

§ 7. Coordinating officer

Section 36

The management board of the security region shall appoint an officer who is charged with the coordination of the measures and facilities affecting the municipalities with regard to a disaster or crisis.

§ 8. National objectives

Section 37

1. Our Minister may establish national objectives with regard to disaster and crisis management.
2. Our Minister shall send the order by which national objectives have been established to the management boards of the safety regions and to the States General.

Section 38

Our Minister shall consult with the Security Council on a regular basis, also with a view to establishing any national objectives as referred to in Section 37.

§ 9. Supra-local disasters and crises

Section 39

1. If a disaster or crisis affects several municipalities or if there is a serious fear that this will happen, the chairman of the security region has

exclusive authority to apply the following provisions for the benefit of executing the disaster and crisis management in the affected municipalities:

- a. Sections 4 up to and including 7 of this Act;
 - b. Sections 172 up to and including 177 of the Municipalities Act, save for Section 176 (3), (4), (5) and (6);
 - c. Sections 11, 14 (1), 56 (1) and (4) and 62 of the Police Act 2012;
 - d. Sections 5 up to and including 9 of the Public Assemblies Act.
2. The chairman of the security region shall convene a regional policy team consisting of the mayors of the municipalities involved in or threatened to be affected by the disaster or crisis, as well as the Chief Public Prosecutor referred to in Section 12 (1). The chairman of each of the water boards that are directly involved shall be invited to participate in the policy team.
 3. The chairman of the security region shall appoint a regional operations leader, heading a regional operations team which is made up of the managers of the services involved. The regional operations leader attends the meetings of the regional policy team. Furthermore, the chairman of the security region shall invite the officials to the meeting whose attendance is vital with a view to the circumstances.
 4. Unless urgency dictates otherwise, the chairman of the security region shall not take any decisions pursuant to the Sections referred to in subsection 1 until after having consulted the regional policy team. A mayor may cause a written objection to be filed in the regional policy team if he is of the opinion that an intended decision will disproportionately affect his municipality.
 5. The chairman of the security region shall give such instructions to the regional operations leader as he deems necessary with a view to the execution of the decisions taken by him.

6. As soon as the situation so permits, the chairman shall dissolve the regional policy team.

Section 40

1. After the disaster or crisis of a supra-local nature has ended and in consultation with the mayors participating in the regional policy team, the chairman of the security region shall submit a report in writing to the municipal councils of the affected municipalities on the course of events and the decisions made by the chairman. His report shall state whether any mayor has made use of his authority to file a complaint in writing.
2. In consultation with the mayors participating in the regional policy team, the chairman of the security region shall answer any questions submitted in writing by the municipal councils after having received the report.
3. The chairman of the security region shall supply oral information on the decisions referred to in subsection 1 in a meeting of the municipal council of a municipality forming part of this security region, if that municipal council so requests. The council shall send a copy of the request and of the documents referred to in subsections 1 and 2 to the King's Commissioner.
4. If the municipal council, after having heard the information of the chairman of the security region, decides to inform Our Minister of its position on the decisions referred to in subsection 1, this will be done by way of the King's Commissioner. The Commissioner shall send the position of the municipal council to Our Minister together with his own opinion on the decisions and a copy of the documents referred to in subsections 1 and 2.
5. De King's Commissioner shall perform the activities referred to in subsection 4 in accordance with official instructions issued by the government.

Section 41

1. De King's Commissioner shall monitor the cooperation within the regional policy team and may give instructions to that effect.
2. De King's Commissioner shall perform the activities referred to in subsection 1 in accordance with official instructions issued by the government.

Section 42

1. If a disaster or crisis affects several regions or if there is a serious fear that this will happen, the King's Commissioner may give instructions to the chairman of the security region, if possible after consulting with him, on the policy to be followed with respect to the disaster management or crisis management.
2. De King's Commissioner shall perform the activities referred to in subsection 1 in accordance with official instructions issued by the government.

Section 43

The chairmen of the safety regions and the King's Commissioners and Our Minister shall supply each other with all information necessary to perform their activities under Sections 41 en 42.

Section 44

1. If another one of Our Ministers has been authorised by or pursuant to the law to lay down rules or take measures in the even of a disaster, he will make use of that authority only after having consulted Our Minister, unless urgency dictates otherwise.
2. If another one of Our Ministers has been authorised by or pursuant to the law to lay down rules or take measures in the even of a crisis, he will inform Our Minister without delay if he wishes to make use of that authority.

§ 10. Information and communication

Section 45

1. The Provincial Executive shall see to the production and management of a geographic map indicating the risks present in the security region on the basis of the risk profile as referred to in Section 15. The risk map indicates the locations and geographically determinable risks, as well as the information included in the public register referred to in Section 12.12 of the Environmental Management Act. The map will be available to the public.
2. The Municipal Executives in the province and the Director General of the National Institute for Public Health and the Environment shall provide the Provincial Executive with all details necessary for executing subsection 1.
3. Rules may be laid down by ministerial regulation on the categories of disasters and crises to be included in the risk map, the production, management and lay-out of the risk map, on the manner in which and the frequency with which the required data must be supplied, and on the manner in which parts of the risk map may be accessed.

Section 46

1. The security region's management board shall ensure that Our Minister, the King's Commissioner and the Chief Public Prosecutor referred to in Section 12 (1) will supply information on the disasters and crises that may have an impact on the region, and on the measures taken to prevent and fight or limit that impact.
2. The security region's management board shall ensure that the population is informed on disasters and crises which may affect the region, on the measures taken to prevent, control and manage a disaster or crisis and as to the procedure to be followed in that respect.

3. The security region's management board shall ensure that the persons involved in the disaster and crisis management in de region will be informed on the disasters and crises which may affect the region, the risks which their deployment can have for their health, and the precautionary measures taken or to be taken in that respect.
4. The management board shall coordinate its provision of information referred to in the first, second and third subsection with the information supplied by or under the responsibility of Our Ministers involved in disasters and crises.
5. By order in council further rules shall be laid down on the provision of information referred to in subsections 2 and 3.

Section 47

1. Our Minister shall ensure that all states that may be affected by a disaster or crisis on Dutch territory will be informed thereof, insofar as such information is not already supplied pursuant to other regulations.
2. Our Minister shall ensure that all states threatened or affected by a disaster or crisis on Dutch territory will be informed on the origin, extent and consequences of that disaster or crisis, insofar as such information is not already supplied pursuant to other regulations.
3. By order in council further rules shall be laid down on the provision of information referred to in subsections 1 and 2.

Section 48

1. Any person or body who has relevant security information available shall supply the security region's management board with the information needed for an adequate preparation of the disaster and crisis management. This will not apply if this information has already been supplied or is available pursuant to other regulations.
2. The security region's management board may order an establishment of a category designated

pursuant to Section 17 to refrain from operating or to discontinue its operation, if the persons operating the establishment have failed to comply with the obligation to supply information as referred to in subsection 1.

3. If it is required, in the interest of State security, to observe secrecy in respect of the information referred to in subsection 1, or any part thereof, the person who has that information available shall supply Our relevant Minister with that information and the information that is not required to be kept secret.
4. If the person having information as referred to in subsection 1 available is of the opinion that such information or part thereof cannot be supplied, because it is required, in the interest of State security, to observe secrecy in respect of that information, he shall supply Our relevant Minister with this information and with the information that, in his opinion, is not required to be kept secret.
5. Our relevant Minister shall supply the security region's management board with information on the basis of the information referred to in the third and fourth subsection after having edited this information in consultation with Our Minister in such way that the information required to be kept secret does not appear in it or cannot be derived from it.
6. By or pursuant to an order in council further rules shall be laid down on the supply of information referred to in subsection 1.

Section 49

1. The security region's management board shall make the information received by it pursuant to Section 48 (1) available to the public for the purposes of determining disaster management plans for the categories of establishments designated pursuant to Section 17. By or pursuant to an order in council further rules shall be laid down in this respect.
2. Section 10 (2) of the Government Information (Public Access) Act shall not apply to the supply

of information on the basis of data referred to in subsection 1, provided, however, that no information will be supplied insofar as its interest does not outweigh the following interests:

- a. the respect of privacy;
 - b. the prevention of sabotage.
3. Section 10 (2), introduction and under b of the Government Information (Public Access) Act shall be applicable to the requested supply of information on the other data received pursuant to Section 48 (1) and the data received pursuant to Section 50 (1) and (2), with regard to the establishments subject to Council Directive no. 96/82/EC of the European Union (OJ L 010), only insofar as those data are of a confidential nature.
 4. Section 10 (2), introduction and under f of the Government Information (Public Access) Act shall be applicable to the requested supply of information on data as referred to in subsection 3 only insofar as those data are of a confidential nature.
 5. Section 10 (2), introduction and under g of the Government Information (Public Access) Act shall be applicable to the requested supply of information on data as referred to in subsection 3 only insofar as those data may compromise the possibility of preventing sabotage.
 6. Section 10 (7), introduction and under b of the Government Information (Public Access) Act, insofar as relating to environmental information as referred to in Section 19.1a of the Environmental Management Act, shall apply only insofar as those data may compromise the possibility of preventing sabotage.

Section 50

1. In the event of a disaster any person or body who has knowledge of it shall supply the mayor of the municipality where the disaster has occurred with that information as soon as possible.

2. In the event of a disaster any person or body who has relevant security information available shall supply the mayor of the municipality where the disaster has occurred with the information needed for an adequate performance of his duties referred to in Section 7 (1) and (2). This shall not apply insofar as this information has already been supplied or can be obtained on the basis of other regulations, or if the information has already been supplied to Our Minister involved on the basis of Section 48 (3) and (4).
3. By or pursuant to an order in council further rules shall be laid down on the supply of information as referred to in subsection 2.

§ 11. Assistance

Section 51

1. In the event of a fire, disaster or crisis or of a serious fear that such will occur, the chairman of a security region can request assistance from Our Minister if he needs it. The chairman will inform the King's Commissioner of his request.
2. Our Minister shall comply with the request, unless urgency dictates otherwise.
3. Our Minister shall request assistance from the chairman of another security region, the King's Commissioner or, if necessary, Our Minister involved, or from Our Minister of Defence if military assistance is desirable, who will take necessary measures, unless urgency dictates otherwise.
4. Our Minister may give instructions to the Regional Ambulance Services on the deployment of ambulances.
5. Notwithstanding subsection 1, the chairman of a security region may address a request as referred to in that subsection directly to the chairman of an adjacent region, provided that the crisis plans of both regions contain arrangements to that effect and provided that there is an urgent need to do so. The chairman shall

inform Our Minister and the King's Commissioner of his request.

§ 12. Exceptional situations

Section 52

1. Without prejudice to Sections 7 (1) and 8 (1) of the Exceptional Situations (Coordination) Act, Sections 53 and 54 may be put into effect by Royal Decree, on the recommendation of Our Prime Minister, in the event that exceptional situations call for it.
2. After the Decree referred to in subsection 1 has been issued, a legislative proposal on the continuation of the binding force of the provisions put into effect by that Decree shall be sent to the Lower House of Parliament without delay.
3. If the proposal is rejected by the States General, the provisions put into effect pursuant to subsection 1 shall become ineffective without delay by Royal Decree, on the recommendation of Our Prime Minister.
4. Any provisions put into effect pursuant to subsection 1 shall become ineffective by Royal Decree on the recommendation of Our Prime Minister, as soon as We find that the situation so allows.
5. The Decree referred to in subsections 1, 3 and 4 shall be published in the manner provided therein. The Decree shall become effective immediately after its publication.
6. The Decree referred to in subsections 1, 3 and 4 shall at any rate be published in the Bulletin of Act and Decrees.

Section 53

[This Section shall enter into force on a date further to be determined by Us]

[Editor's note: This Section has not taken effect at this time; it may enter into force by Royal Decree, after the recommendation of Our Prime Minister, if so required by an exceptional situation.]

1. In any particular case, the King's Commissioner may give instructions to the mayors in the province in respect of the disaster management.
2. Our Minister may instruct the King's Commissioner to give necessary instructions in particular cases in respect of the disaster management.

Section 54

[This Section shall enter into force on a date further to be determined by Us]

[Editor's note: This Section has not taken effect at this time; it may enter into force by Royal Decree, after the recommendation of Our Prime Minister, if so required by an exceptional situation.]

If it is urgently required in the public interest, Our Minister may assume all or part of the powers of the King's Commissioner and of the mayor pursuant to this Act, or entrust another authority with those powers or part thereof.

§ 13. Financial provisions

Section 55

1. Our Minister shall pay a contribution to cover the costs incurred by a security region for the performance of its activities pursuant to Section 10. This contribution may be granted under specific conditions.
2. Our Minister may pay a contribution to cover the costs incurred by a municipality for actually controlling of a disaster and the results thereof.
3. Our Minister may pay a contribution to cover the costs incurred by a security region for providing assistance as referred to in Section 51 (3).
4. Our Minister may pay a contribution to municipalities, security regions, provinces, organisations and services involved in controlling a disaster or major accident to cover the costs incurred for providing assistance as referred to in Section 3 of the Agreement between the Kingdom of the Netherlands and the Kingdom

of Belgium on mutual assistance in controlling disasters and accidents (Treaty Series 1984, 155), concluded in The Hague on 14 November 1984 and of the Agreement between the Kingdom of the Netherlands and the Federal Republic of Germany on mutual assistance in controlling disasters, including major accidents, concluded in Bonn on 7 June 1988 (Treaty Series 1988, 95).

5. By or pursuant to an order in council, rules shall be laid down on the execution of subsections 1 through 4.

Section 56

1. The security region's management board shall ensure that:
 - a. an evaluation of the costs will be made every three years; and
 - b. once every five years a visitation will be carried out by the Visitation Committee.
2. The evaluation of the costs shall at any rate include a comparison with the information on the costs of other security regions.
3. The security region's management board shall send Our Minister the visitation committee's report, together with the opinion of the security region's management board on the report. The security region's management board will publish the report and its opinion.
4. By or pursuant to an order in council further rules may be laid down for the benefit of being able to compare the evaluations and visitations of all security regions.

§ 14. Supervision

Section 57

1. There is a Security and Justice Inspectorate, operating under the responsibility of Our Minister and charged with the following duties:
 - a. reviewing the way in which bodies of security regions, municipalities or other public bodies perform their fire services, disaster management or crisis management tasks;

- b. monitoring the preparation of disaster management and crisis management by the administrative bodies referred to under a, in accordance with the inspections acting under the responsibility of Our Minister of the Interior and Kingdom Relations, Our Minister of Health, Welfare and Sport, Our Minister of Infrastructure and the Environment and Our Minister of Social Affairs and Employment;
 - c. performing investigations further to a fire, disaster or crisis, unless the Dutch Safety Board referred to in Section 2 of the Dutch Safety Board Kingdom Act, starts an investigation;
 - d. carrying out the activities within the framework of Section 65 (1) of the Police Act 2012;
 - e. supervising the quality of training courses referred to in Section 32 (1) of the National Police Selection and Training Institute Act and the police training courses.
2. Our Minister shall appoint the head and other public servants of the Inspectorate.
 3. Sections 5:12 through 5:20 of the General Administrative Law Act shall apply accordingly to the inspectorate's officials.

Section 58

1. The activities carried out within the framework of Section 57 (1) under a - c shall be determined by Our Minister on an annual basis after having heard the King's Commissioners.
2. The Inspectorate reports directly to Our Minister, upon request and of its own account.
3. The Inspectorate shall also send its reports to the King's Commissioners.
4. Our Minister shall submit a multidisciplinary report to the States General, containing its conclusions of the review as referred to in Section 57 (1) under b.
5. Each year, without prejudice to subsection 4, Our Minister shall send the States General a report drawn up by the Inspectorate on the activities performed within the framework of Section 57.

Section 59

1. De King's Commissioner may issue a designation to the management board of a security region if the performance of duties in the security region is inadequate.
2. The King's Commissioner shall issue a designation only after having consulted the management board on the planned designation
3. De King's Commissioner shall perform the activities referred to in subsections 1 and 2 in accordance with an official instruction issued by the government.

Section 60

The chairmen of the safety regions shall supply the King's Commissioner with all information that he needs for exercising supervision.

Section 61

1. Without prejudice to Section 57 (1) the officials appointed by means of a decision of the security region's management board shall be charged with supervising compliance with
 - a. the provisions of or pursuant to Section 30 and 31; or
 - b. the provisions of or pursuant to Section 48 in respect of the establishments designated pursuant to Section 17.

This resolution shall be published in the Bulletin of Acts and Decrees.

2. By or pursuant to an order in council, rules shall be laid down on the supervision referred to in subsection 1 under b.
3. The officials appointed by means of a decision of the Municipal Executive shall be charged with supervising compliance of the by-law referred to in Section 3 (2) and of the rules referred to in Section 3 (3).

§ 15. Access

Section 62

1. The mayor or the chairman of the security region, the King's Commissioner, the commander of the fire services and the fire services staff designated by him and working at the site, the public health director and the staff of the Regional Medical Assistance Organisation designated by him and working at the site, as well as the officials appointed by Our Minister as referred to in Section 57 (2) will have authorised access everywhere, insofar as such access is reasonably necessary for the performance of their duties. If necessary, they will get access with the help of the strong arm of the law. Upon accessing, they may have themselves accompanied by any persons designated by them.
2. The mayor or the chairman of the security region, the King's Commissioner, the commander of the fire services and the fire services staff designated by him and working at the site, as well as the officials appointed by Our Minister as referred to in Section 57 (2), will be authorised to bring all equipment and tools needed on the site referred to in subsection 1, and to make such use thereof as they deem necessary for a proper performance of their duties.

§ 16. Sanctions

Section 63

The security region's management board will be authorised to impose a penalty under an administrative order in order to enforce the provisions of or pursuant to Section 31, as well as the provisions of or pursuant to Section 48 with regard to the establishments designated pursuant to Section 17, which authority will also include closing down the establishment or discontinuing part of its operations or sealing it or removing everything inside the establishment.

Section 64

1. A term of imprisonment not exceeding one year or a fine of the third category shall be imposed for non-compliance with the rules laid down pursuant to Section 3 (2) and (3).
2. A municipal council may determine in a by-law that an administrative penalty may be imposed for non-compliance with the rules laid down pursuant to Section 3 (2) and (3). The penalty shall not exceed the fine referred to in subsection 1.
3. A term of imprisonment not exceeding one year or a fine of the third category shall be imposed for non-compliance with the provisions of or pursuant to Section 30.
4. A term of imprisonment not exceeding one year or a fine of the third category shall be imposed for non-compliance with the provisions of or pursuant to Section 31 (2), (5) and (6).
5. If Section 31 (2) is not complied with, the closing down or partial discontinuation of the operations of the establishment may be imposed as an additional penalty for a maximum term of one year.
6. Any act in breach of Sections 48 (1) and 50 (2) shall constitute an offence if such act has been designated as an offence in order in council referred to in Section 48 (6) or, as the case may be, Section 50 (3).
7. The offences laid down in subsections 1 and 4 shall be minor offences (overtredingen).

Section 65

1. The officials appointed by order of Our Minister shall be charged with investigating the acts designated as offences in Section 64, without prejudice to Section 141 of the Code of Criminal Procedure.
2. Without prejudice to the requirements laid down in the order in council referred to in Section 142 (4) of the Code of Criminal Procedures, only persons complying with the rules on required competence to be laid down

by Our Minister may be appointed as an investigating officer.

3. The investigating officers shall be authorised to seize any seizable objects. To that end, they may issue an order to surrender such objects.

§ 17. Netherlands Institute for Safety

Section 66

1. There is an Institute for Safety.
2. The Institute for Safety is a legal entity.

Section 67

1. The board of the Institute for Safety legal entity shall consist of:
 - a. a general board, consisting of the chairmen of the Safety Regions Acting jointly;
 - b. an executive board.
2. The general board shall appoint a chairman and an executive board from its members. The chairman of the general board shall also be the chairman of the executive board. The general board shall determine which duties will be transferred to the executive board.
3. The chairman shall represent the Institute for Safety at law and otherwise.
4. The board shall decide by majority of votes. If the votes are tied, the chairman shall have the deciding vote.

Section 68

1. The board of the Institute for Safety shall have the following tasks relating to fire services, disaster management, crisis management and medical assistance:
 - a. providing officer training to the fire services and other training courses to be designated by ministerial regulation which are completed by an examination as referred to in Section 18 (4), and developing the course, drill and study materials for both;

- b. developing, implementing, organising and administering examinations as referred to in Section 18 (4);
 - c. issuing exemptions and certificates for fire services training courses;
 - d. determining the results of the examinations for fire services training courses;
 - e. developing and maintaining expertise by means of gathering and managing relevant knowledge and if necessary by conducting applied scientific research in the field of fire services, disaster management, crisis management and medical assistance;
 - f. making the gathered information and expertise available to organisations working in the area of fire services, disaster management, crisis management and medical assistance;
 - g. procuring and managing materials, equipment and telecommunication facilities and if necessary making them available to the security regions.
 - h. procuring and managing special materials and special equipment for performing police duties and if necessary making them available to the police.
2. While performing the tasks referred to in subsection 1, the board of the Institute for Safety shall ensure that all staff working in the fire services will be involved in the decision-making.
 3. By or pursuant to an order in council further rules may be laid down relating to subsection 2.

Section 69

On instructions of one or more board of security regions, the board of the Institute for Safety may perform activities for the benefit of the security regions, including rendering assistance in the execution of its duty referred to in Section 22.

Section 70

1. On instructions of third parties, the board of the Institute for Safety may perform activities other

than those arising from Section 68 (1) and 69 in the field of physical safety.

2. For the activities referred to in subsection 1, a fee will be charged amounting to at least the full costs, and the activities may not lead to unfair competition vis-à-vis private providers of similar services.

Section 71

1. Upon request, the board of the Institute for Safety shall supply Our Minister with all information that he needs with a view to his authority referred to in Section 72 (1) and in respect of the evaluation referred to in Section 75a. Our Minister may order the inspection of all business data and documents, if such is reasonably necessary for the execution of that authority.
2. When providing the information referred to in subsection 1, the board of the Institute for Safety will indicate, insofar as necessary, which data are of a confidential nature. This confidential nature may arise from the nature of the data or from the fact that natural persons or legal persons have supplied the Institute of Safety with those data under the condition that they will be treated confidentially.

Section 72

1. If Our Minister finds that the board of the Institute for Safety is seriously neglecting one of its duties, Our Minister may take necessary measures.
2. The measures shall not be taken before the board of the Institute for Safety has been given an opportunity to perform its task properly after all within a term to be set by Our Minister, unless the urgency of the matter does not allow for such opportunity.
3. Our Minister shall immediately inform both Houses of the States General in the event that he has taken any measures referred to in subsection 1.

Section 73

1. Each year the general board shall draw up the budget, the annual accounts and the annual report for the Institute.
2. At least once every four years, the general board shall draw up the policy plan and determine the organisation, the formation and the products and services catalogue.
3. The general board shall determine the functional requirements and standards of the products and services.
4. The general board shall adopt internal regulations on the execution, organisation and administration of an examination referred to in Section 18 (4).
5. The executive board shall send draft versions of the budget, the policy plan and the requirements and standards as referred to in subsection 3 to the management boards of the security regions, six weeks before these documents will be adopted.
6. The boards of the safety regions may present their opinions on the draft versions referred to in subsection 5 to the general board.

Section 74

1. The income of the Institute for Safety consists of:
 - a. a contribution by Our Minister for the duties referred to in Section 68 (1) under a and under e - h, and, insofar as Our Minister so decides, an incidental contribution for a special cause;
 - b. a contribution by the safety regions for the duties and activities referred to in Section 68 (1) and 69, insofar as the management boards of the safety regions so decide;
 - c. compensation of the costs charged by the Institute for Safety to the safety regions or to third parties for its performance of duties and activities.
2. The board of the Institute for Safety shall not make use of monies that may become due and demandable on a daily basis or after a specific term. In deviation from the first sentence, the

board of the Institute for Safety may take out temporary loans in its current account to serve as a financial bridge for temporary cash deficits at a bank as referred to in Section 1:1 of the Financial Supervision Act.

3. The board of the Institute for Safety shall keep accounts in such way that:
 - a. a separation is made between the registration of expenses and income of the duties referred to in Section 68 (1), of the activities referred to in Section 69 and of the activities referred to in Section 70.
 - b. expenses and income are allocated correctly on the basis of consistently applied and objectively justifiable principles on cost price accounts;
 - c. the principles on cost price accounts according to which the accounts are kept, have been laid down unambiguously.
4. The board of the Institute shall keep accounts in such way that information can be provided on the full costs and the income of the activities as referred to in Section 70.
5. By or pursuant to an order in council rules shall be laid down on the contribution referred to in subsection 1 under a.

Section 75

1. The staff of the Institute for Safety shall be public servants within the meaning of the Central and Local Government Personnel Act.
2. The rules laid down pursuant to Section 125 (1) of the Central and Local Government Personnel Act and applying to public servants appointed at any ministry other than the Ministry of Defence, shall apply accordingly to the public servants working for the Institute for Safety.
3. The executive board shall appoint, promote and dismiss the staff of the Institute for Safety.
4. By or pursuant to an order in council further rules may be laid down relating to the staff of the Institute for Safety.
5. The rules referred to in Section 18 (2) and (3) shall apply to the Institute's staff, not being

employed by the fire services and performing any of the duties referred to in Section 18 (2).

§ 18. Evaluation

Section 75a

Within five years after Sections 66 up to and including 75 have become effective, Our Minister shall report to the States General on the practical efficiency and the effect of these Sections.

§ 19. Implementing and transitional provisions

Section 76

With regard to the obligations included in this Act, the following shall apply:

- a. the joint regulation referred to in Section 9 shall be laid down no later than three months after this Act has become effective;
- b. the policy plan referred to in Section 14 shall be determined for the first time no later than nine months after this Act has become effective;
- c. the risk profile referred to in Section 15 shall be determined for the first time no later than six months after this Act has become effective;
- d. the crisis plan referred to in Section 16 shall be determined for the first time no later than twelve months after this Act has become effective.

Section 77

The Fire Services Act 1985, the Act of 1 November 2007 to amend the Fire Services Act 1985 ensuring the quality of fire services staff and extending the statutory duties of the Netherlands Institute for Safety (Bulletin of Acts and Decrees 481), the Disasters and Major Accidents Act and the Act on Medical Assistance in the event of Accidents and Disasters shall be repealed.

Section 78

1. Sections 1, 4 and 11 of the Fire Services Act 1985 and Sections 3, 4 and 5 of the Act on Medical Assistance in the event of Accidents and Disasters, as applicable on the day before this Act becomes effective, shall remain effective to a region after this Act becomes effective, until the joint regulation referred to in Section 9 has been laid down.
2. The organisation plan referred to in Section 4a of the Fire Services Act 1985 and the management plan referred to in Section 5 of the Disasters and Major Accidents Act, as well as the municipal disaster plans referred to in Section 3 of the Disasters and Major Accidents Act shall remain effective within a region until the security region's management board has laid down a policy plan and a crisis plan, respectively.
3. The organisation plan referred to in Section 6 of the Act on Medical Assistance in the event of Accidents and Disasters shall remain effective within a region until the arrangements referred to in Section 35 (2) have been made.
4. Designations as referred to in Section 13 (1) of the Fire Services Act 1985, disaster management plans as referred to in Section 4a of the Disasters and Major Accidents Act and orders as referred to in Section 10a (2) of the Disasters and Major Accidents Act shall remain effective within a region until the security region's management board decides to repeal them.
5. Any person who has not yet passed the exam for the training course referred to in Section 15 of the Fire Services Act 1985, as applicable on the day before this Act becomes effective, shall be allowed to take these exams within three years after this Act has become effective, on the basis of the exam regulations applicable on the day referred to above.

Section 79

Our Minister may decide that the management board of a security region shall provide the incident room function in a manner other than as

determined in Section 35, during a period of time to be determined by Our Minister. This decision may be subject to certain conditions.

Section 80

The recommendation for an order in council to be laid down pursuant to Sections 8, 17 (1) and (2), 18, 31 (4), 33 (4), 55 (5) or 56 (4) shall not be made within four weeks after the proposal has been submitted to both Houses of the States General.

§ 20. Final provisions

Section 81

This Act shall enter into force on a date to be determined by Royal Decree.

Section 82

This Act shall be cited as: Safety Regions Act.
We order and command that this Act be published in the Bulletin of Acts and Decrees, and that all ministerial departments, authorities, bodies and officials whom it may concern diligently implement it.

Done at

The Hague, 11 February 2010

Beatrix

The Minister of the Interior and Kingdom

Relations,

G. ter Horst

Issued on the first day of April 2010

The Minister of Justice,

E. M. H. Hirsch Ballin

Annex to Section 8

- The name of each region has been underlined
- A region covers the territory of the municipalities listed under the name of the region

Groningen

Appingedam, Bedum, Bellingwedde, Ten Boer, Delfzijl, Eemmond, Groningen, Grootegast, Haren, Hoogezand-Sappemeer, Leek, Loppersum, De Marne, Marum, Menterwolde, Oldambt, Pekela, Slochteren, Stadskanaal, Veendam, Vlagtwedde, Winsum, Zuidhorn.

Fryslân

Achtkarspelen, Ameland, Boarnsterhim, Dantumadeel, Dongeradeel, Ferwerderadiel, Franekeradeel, Gaasterlân-Sleat, Harlingen, Heerenveen, Het Bildt, Kollumerland en Nieuwkruisland, Leeuwarden, Leeuwarderadeel, Lemsterland, Littenseradiel, Menaldumadeel, Ooststellingwerf, Opsterland, Schiermonnikoog, Skarsterlân, Smallingerland, Súdwest Fryslân, Terschelling, Tytsjerksteradiel, Vlieland, Weststellingwerf.

Drenthe

Aa en Hunze, Assen, Borger-Odoorn, Coevorden, Emmen, Hoogeveen, Meppel, Midden-Drenthe, Noordenveld, Tynaarlo, Westerveld, De Wolden.

IJsselland

Dalfsen, Deventer, Hardenberg, Kampen, Olst-Wijhe, Ommen, Raalte, Staphorst, Steenwijkerland, Zwartewaterland, Zwolle.

Twente

Almelo, Borne, Dinkelland, Enschede, Haaksbergen, Hellendoorn, Hengelo, Hof van Twente, Losser, Oldenzaal, Rijssen-Holten, Tubbergen, Twenterand, Wierden.

Noord- en Oost-Gelderland

Aalten, Apeldoorn, Berkelland, Bronckhorst, Brummen, Doetinchem, Elburg, Epe, Ermelo, Heerde, Harderwijk, Hattem, Lochem, Montferland, Nunspeet, Oldebroek, Oost Gelre, Oude IJsselstreek, Putten, Voorst, Winterswijk, Zutphen.

Gelderland-Midden

Arnhem, Barneveld, Doesburg, Duiven, Ede, Lingewaard, Nijkerk, Overbetuwe, Renkum, Rheden, Rijnwaarden, Rozendaal, Scherpenzeel, Wageningen, Westervoort, Zevenaar.

Gelderland-Zuid

Beuningen, Buren, Culemborg, Druten, Geldermalsen, Groesbeek, Heumen, Lingewaard, Maasdriel, Millingen aan de Rijn, Neder-Betuwe, Neerijnen, Nijmegen, Tiel, Ubbergen, West Maas en Waal, Wijchen, Zaltbommel.

Utrecht

Amersfoort, Baarn, De Bilt, Bunnik, Bunschoten, Eemnes, Houten, IJsselstein, Leusden, Lopik, Montfoort, Nieuwegein, Oudewater, Renswoude, Rhenen, De Ronde Venen, Soest, Stichtse Vecht, Utrecht, Utrechtse Heuvelrug, Veenendaal, Vianen, Wijk bij Duurstede, Woerden, Woudenberg, Zeist.

Flevoland

Almere, Dronten, Lelystad, Noordoostpolder, Urk, Zeewolde.

Noord-Holland-Noord

Alkmaar, Bergen, Castricum, Den Helder, Drechterland, Enkhuizen, Graft-De Rijk, Heerhugowaard, Heiloo, Hollands Kroon, Hoorn, Koggenland, Langedijk, Medemblik, Opmeer, Schagen, Schermer, Stede Broec, Texel.

Zaanstreek-Waterland

Beemster, Edam-Volendam, Landsmeer, Oostzaan, Purmerend, Waterland, Wormerland, Zaanstad, Zeevang.

Kennemerland

Beverwijk, Bloemendaal, Haarlem, Haarlemmerliede en Spaarnwoude, Haarlemmermeer, Heemskerk, Heemstede, Uitgeest, Velsen, Zandvoort.

Amsterdam-Amstelland

Aalsmeer, Amstelveen, Amsterdam, Diemen, Ouder-Amstel, Uithoorn.

Gooi en Vechtstreek

Blaricum, Bussum, Hilversum, Huizen, Laren, Muiden, Naarden, Weesp, Wijdemeren.

Haaglanden

Delft, 's-Gravenhage, Leidschendam-Voorburg, Pijnacker-Nootdorp, Rijswijk, Midden-Delfland, Wassenaar, Westland, Zoetermeer.

Hollands Midden

Alphen aan den Rijn, Bergambacht, Bodegraven-Reeuwijk, Boskoop, Gouda, Hillegom, Kaag en Braassem, Katwijk, Leiden, Leiderdorp, Lisse, Nederlek, Nieuwkoop, Noordwijk, Noordwijkerhout, Oegstgeest, Ouderkerk, Rijnwoude, Schoonhoven, Teylingen, Vlist, Voorschoten, Waddinxveen, Zoeterwoude, Zuidplas.

Rotterdam-Rijnmond

Albrandswaard, Barendrecht, Bernisse, Brielle, Capelle aan den IJssel, Goeree-Overflakkee, Hellevoetsluis, Krimpen aan den IJssel, Lansingerland, Maassluis, Ridderkerk, Rotterdam, Schiedam, Spijkenisse, Vlaardingen, Westvoorne.

Zuid-Holland-Zuid

Alblasserdam, Binnenmaas, Cromstrijen, Dordrecht, Giessenlanden, Gorinchem, Hardinxveld-Giessendam, Hendrik-Ido-Ambacht, Korendijk, Leerdam, Molenwaard, Oud-Beijerland, Papendrecht, Sliedrecht, Strijen, Zederik, Zwijndrecht.

Zeeland

Borsele, Goes, Hulst, Kapelle, Middelburg, Noord-Beveland, Reimerswaal, Schouwen-Duiveland, Sluis, Terneuzen, Tholen, Veere, Vlissingen.

Midden- en West-Brabant

Aalburg, Alphen-Chaam, Baarle-Nassau, Bergen op Zoom, Breda, Dongen, Drimmelen, Etten-Leur, Geertruidenberg, Gilze en Rijen, Goirle, Halderberge, Hilvarenbeek, Loon op Zand, Moerdijk, Oisterwijk, Oosterhout, Roosendaal, Rucphen, Steenbergen, Tilburg, Waalwijk, Werkendam, Woensdrecht, Woudrichem, Zundert.

Brabant-Noord

Bernheze, Boekel, Boxmeer, Boxtel, Cuijk, Grave, Haaren, 's-Hertogenbosch, Heusden, Landerd, Maasdonk, Mill en Sint Hubert, Oss, Schijndel, Sint Anthonis, Sint-Michielsgestel, Sint-Oedenrode, Uden, Veghel, Vught.

Brabant-Zuidoost

Asten, Bergeijk, Best, Bladel, Cranendonck, Deurne, Eersel, Eindhoven, Geldrop-Mierlo, Gemert-Bakel, Heeze-Leende, Helmond, Laarbeek, Nuenen, Gerwen en Nederwetten, Oirschot, Reusel-De Mierden, Someren, Son en Breugel, Valkenswaard, Veldhoven, Waalre.

Limburg-Noord

Beesel, Bergen, Echt-Susteren, Gennep, Horst aan de Maas, Leudal, Maasgouw, Mook en Middelaar,

Nederweert, Peel en Maas, Roerdalen, Roermond,
Venlo, Venray, Weert.

Limburg-Zuid

Beek, Brunssum, Eijsden-Margraten, Gulpen-
Wittem, Heerlen, Kerkrade, Landgraaf, Maastricht,
Meerssen, Nuth, Onderbanken, Schinnen,
Simpelveld, Sittard-Geleen, Stein, Vaals,
Valkenburg aan de Geul, Voerendaal.



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