



Defence Safety Inspectorate
Ministry of Defence

Safer together Stronger together



The Defence Safety Inspectorate in a nutshell

The Netherlands Defence Safety Inspectorate (*Inspectie Veiligheid Defensie*, IVD) provides independent oversight regarding the safe execution of the work activities and tasks carried out within the Defence organisation, including military operations in mission areas, with the aim of optimising overall combat power.

The IVD strives to improve the Defence organisation's ability to learn and transform it into an organisation in which safe working practices are paramount and the possibility to communicate dissent is embedded. The Inspectorate contributes to this endeavour through independent oversight that is professional, respectful, and transparent. In this way, the IVD is helping to build a future-proof Defence organisation that deserves and maintains the trust of its employees and society.

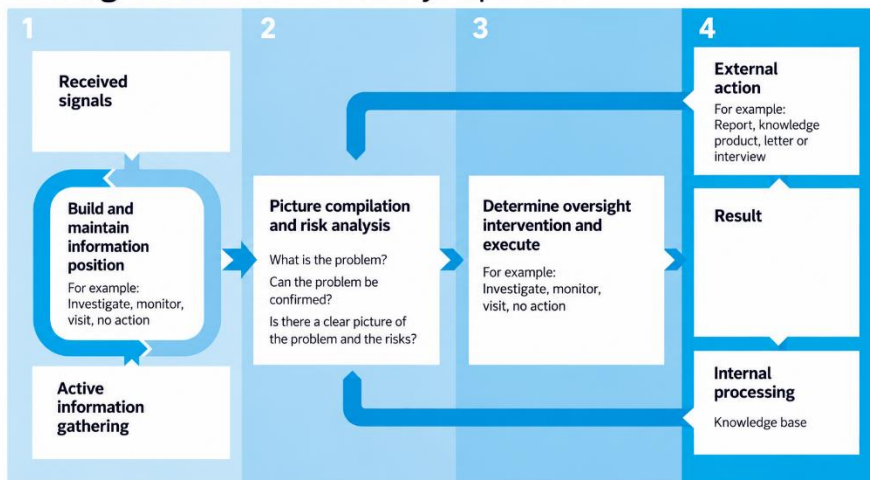
What is the Defence Safety Inspectorate?

The Defence Safety Inspectorate was established in 2018. It oversees:

- the quality of task execution with regard to safety;
 - compliance with laws and regulations concerning physical and social safety.
- Its oversight task also extends to mission areas.

Approach and working methods

Oversight model Defense Safety Inspectorate



To provide guidance to the oversight process, the Inspectorate utilises an oversight model. This model offers a methodology for identifying risks and determining interventions.

What does the oversight model mean for the Defence elements?

The IVD intends to maintain close contact with all Defence elements to improve its information position, and thereby better align with developments on the work floor and with how Defence elements manage risks during the readiness and deployment processes. The IVD has assigned account managers to each Defence element, who act as points of contact, analyse reports and notifications, and organise interventions for their respective elements.

To oversee the safe execution of tasks, the IVD requires information from the various Defence elements. Previously, the Inspectorate gathered this information primarily through incident investigation, thematic research, or system-based supervision. From 2026 onwards, new oversight interventions will be added to these methods.

Team

The Inspectorate is staffed by military personnel from the various Defence elements, alongside personnel who have gained experience at other regulatory or oversight bodies. The Inspector-General for Safety (IGV) is the head of the IVD. Staff members are deployed flexibly, and where necessary, expertise and knowledge are drawn from the Defence elements themselves, as well as from other supervisory authorities. External hiring is also an option.

Independence

The Netherlands Minister of Defence has declared the ministerial regulation 'Instructions on government inspections' applicable to the IVD. This regulation ensures that the IVD is independent and determines how it is organised and how it does its work. Similar to other government inspectorates, the IVD is positioned directly under the Secretary-General. The IVD is independent in its choice of subjects for investigation and the way in which it conducts investigations. It informs the minister and the state secretary directly of its findings, conclusions and recommendations.

The IVD is transparent in its way of working. The IVD's annual work programme, annual report and investigation reports are made public once the minister has presented them to parliament.

Tasks and powers

The tasks and powers of the IVD are set out in the Defence General Organisational Decree (*Algemeen Organisationsbesluit Defensie*, AOD) and in the ministerial regulation on the working methods and powers of the IVD (Government Gazette 2019, 21612). Pursuant to the AOD, the IVD has the following tasks:

- Supervision of safety in task execution, including compliance with laws and regulations across the Defence organisation both at home and abroad, including during military operations in mission areas;
- Initiating and conducting investigations into serious incidents and other occurrences, at the discretion of the Inspector General;
- Ex-ante assessment of the feasibility and enforceability of proposed policies and intended laws and regulations in the field of safety;
- Providing solicited and unsolicited advice to the Minister of Defence on all matters concerning safety.

The ministerial regulation stipulates that IVD staff are permitted access to all Defence locations upon presentation of their identification. They are also authorised to requisition intelligence and information, gain access to documents, inspect equipment and items, and take samples. They may be accompanied by experts and attend meetings, insofar as this is necessary for the performance of their duties. Defence personnel are required to provide the cooperation requested by the IVD. The IVD is never looking to apportion blame: the purpose of a visit is always to help Defence learn and improve.

The organization



The inspectorate supervises the safety of more than 82,000 personnel.



The inspectorate is part of the Ministry of Defence.



The inspectorate employs 44 personnel



The inspectorate works independently and transparently and makes its findings public.

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