




# Comparative Analysis of Supervisory Institutions in Iran and France in Addressing Crimes Related to Food, Beverages, and Hygiene

Ashkan. Rohani Janbeh Saraei<sup>1</sup>, Fatemeh. Anahid<sup>2\*</sup>, Mohammad Reza. Nazarinejad Kiashi<sup>3</sup>

<sup>1</sup> PhD student, Department of Law, Ardabil Branch, Islamic Azad University, Ardabil, Iran

<sup>2</sup> Assistant Professor, Department of Law, Ardabil Branch, Islamic Azad University, Ardabil, Iran

<sup>3</sup> Assistant Professor, Department of Law, Gilan Branch, Islamic Azad University, Gilan, Iran

\* Corresponding author email address: Anahidftm@yahoo.com

Received: 2025-01-27

Revised: 2025-03-02

Accepted: 2025-03-11

Published: 2025-07-01

Public health and food security are among the most critical elements of social welfare in any country, making strict oversight in these areas essential for maintaining societal health. In Iran, institutions such as the Organization for Governmental Sanctions Enforcement, the Ministry of Health, Treatment, and Medical Education, and the National Standards Organization are responsible for monitoring and enforcing regulations. These institutions conduct inspections and impose penalties to prevent violations; however, they face challenges such as resource shortages and inadequate coordination between agencies. In contrast, supervisory institutions in France, including the Directorate General for Competition, Consumer Affairs, and Fraud Control (DGCCRF) and the National Agency for Food, Environmental, and Occupational Health Safety (ANSES), operate with greater coordination and rely on European Union standards. These institutions conduct regular and random inspections and possess broad legal authority to seize products and prevent their distribution. This study, conducted using a descriptive-analytical method, provides a comparative analysis of supervisory institutions in Iran and France in addressing crimes related to food, beverages, and hygiene. The findings indicate that by strengthening inter-agency cooperation, leveraging modern technologies, and revising regulations, the efficiency of supervisory institutions in Iran can be improved, thereby reducing offenses related to food, beverages, and hygiene. This comparative analysis can serve as a model for reforming regulatory structures and enhancing control systems in Iran.

**Keywords:** *Supervisory institutions, crimes related to food and hygiene, Iran, France.*

## How to cite this article:

Rohani Janbeh Saraei, A., Anahid, F., & Nazarinejad Kiashi, M. R. (2025). Comparative Analysis of Supervisory Institutions in Iran and France in Addressing Crimes Related to Food, Beverages, and Hygiene. *Interdisciplinary Studies in Society, Law, and Politics*, 4(3), 1-11. <https://doi.org/10.61838/kman.isslp.4.3.17>

## 1. Introduction

Public health and food security are fundamental issues in any society, directly influencing the quality of life and social welfare. Crimes and offenses related to food, beverages, and hygiene pose direct threats to public health and can have serious economic and social consequences. In this regard, supervisory institutions play a vital role in maintaining public health and ensuring compliance with standards. Examining the

functioning of these institutions and understanding their structures and responsibilities is essential for analyzing the quality of the legal and regulatory systems of each country.

Iran and France, as two countries with different legal traditions and regulatory structures, have adopted diverse policies and approaches in addressing crimes related to food, beverages, and hygiene. France, relying on comprehensive legislation and advanced supervisory institutions, such as the Directorate General for



Competition, Consumer Affairs, and Fraud Control (DGCCRF), has established an effective system for monitoring the quality and safety of consumable products (ESFA, 2020). Through approaches aligned with the European Union and cooperation between various institutions, France has successfully ensured the highest health standards (Salvadori & Noguera, 2018). In contrast, Iran, through institutions such as the Organization for Governmental Sanctions Enforcement and the Ministry of Health, Treatment, and Medical Education, seeks to combat violations and crimes in this field by implementing existing laws and regulations (Afrasiab, 2018; Rezman, 2018).

The issue addressed in this study is the differences and similarities in the structures and approaches of Iran's and France's supervisory institutions in dealing with crimes and offenses related to food, beverages, and hygiene. The main research question is: what differences and similarities exist in the functioning and authorities of these institutions, and how do these differences impact the effectiveness of supervision and law enforcement in both countries? A precise analysis of this issue can lead to a deeper understanding of the strengths and weaknesses of supervisory systems in Iran and France and provide a basis for improving existing structures in Iran.

The necessity of this research arises from the fact that a comparative analysis of supervisory institutions can offer successful experiences and practical solutions for improving Iran's domestic systems. Given the existing challenges in supervising the production and distribution of food and hygiene products in Iran, benefiting from the successful experiences of other countries, including France, can strengthen domestic laws and institutions and reduce related crimes. This study aims to analyze and comparatively assess the supervisory institutions of Iran and France using a descriptive-analytical method, identifying the strengths and weaknesses of each system and providing solutions to improve the performance of supervisory institutions in Iran. This research attempts to examine the structures, authorities, and interactions of supervisory institutions with other sectors to gain a better understanding of effective mechanisms for addressing crimes related to consumable products and to propose measures for enhancing public health and safety in Iran.

## 2. Theoretical Foundations

The following section examines key concepts in this field.

### 2.1. Food, Beverages, and Hygiene Products

Food refers to substances that a living organism can transform into its own components, using them for various functions such as growth, repair, replacement of lost cells, biochemical processes within the body, and reproduction. Therefore, food is a substance that can be converted into cellular material and bodily structures such as bones, skin, muscles, and nerves. Accordingly, food must be useful and provide the essential elements for producing new cells and sustaining vital functions. Any substance that does not meet these criteria is not considered food (Hodge & Gostin, 2016, p. 16). Defining food and edible substances is complex, as terms such as consumption, health, nutrients, nutrition, energy, growth, and life come to mind. "Any compound that provides essential nutrients when eaten or drunk, which are necessary for proper growth, repair, and optimal maintenance, is called food or an edible substance" (Jurica, 2021, p. 33). The composition of food and its properties are of paramount importance. Food substances consist of three main groups: carbohydrates, proteins, and fats and their derivatives. Additionally, there are trace amounts of inorganic minerals and organic compounds such as vitamins, enzymes, emulsifiers, acids, oxidants, antioxidants, pigments, and aromatic substances. These components contribute to the texture, structure, taste, color, and nutritional value of food products (Norman Batters & Chakis, 2021).

On the other hand, beverages refer to drinkable substances that quench thirst. Drinking, also referred to as ingestion, is the process of consuming water or a beverage through the mouth (Azami Chahar Borj & colleagues, 2013). One of the most important beverages is water, and the term "drinkware" refers to tools used for drinking.

Cosmetic products, meanwhile, are substances used to enhance or maintain the appearance or scent of the human body. These include skin protection creams, lotions (liquid creams), powders, perfumes, lipsticks, nail polish, facial and eye cosmetics, hair styling gels and sprays, deodorants, baby care products, cleansing oils, bath foams, bath salts, and other related products. The term "cosmetics" originates from the word "adornment,"

which means embellishment, ornamentation, beautification, and arrangement (Amid, 2014). In general, any substance or product that falls under these categories is considered a cosmetic.

Hygiene refers to practices aimed at preserving health, preventing disease, and prolonging life through social efforts. Accordingly, various definitions exist for personal, public, mental, and food hygiene. Hygiene products include detergents, various cleaning agents, and disinfectants with mechanisms that destroy cell membranes. Quaternary ammonium chlorides are among the cationic detergents used in skin antiseptics. Soaps, which contain sodium and potassium salts of long-chain fatty acids, function by disrupting cell membrane integrity and increasing permeability (Amid, 2014, s.v. "hygiene").

For the purposes of this study, the following definitions apply:

- Edible substances: Materials intended for human consumption, including foods, fruits, vegetables, and animal products.
- Beverages: Liquids prepared for human consumption, including water, non-alcoholic drinks, and alcoholic beverages.
- Cosmetic and hygiene products: Products used to improve or alter the appearance of the body, skin, hair, and nails.

## 2.2. Supervisory Institutions

In Iran, various supervisory institutions oversee the implementation of laws and regulations concerning food, beverages, and hygiene products. Some of the most important institutions include:

- The Organization for Governmental Sanctions Enforcement: This institution plays a key role in monitoring economic and commercial violations, including offenses related to food and beverages (Azami Chahar Borj & colleagues, 2013). It has powers such as imposing fines, suspending activities, and referring cases to judicial authorities.
- The Ministry of Health, Treatment, and Medical Education: Through relevant departments such as the Food and Drug Administration, this ministry is responsible for monitoring the production and distribution of food and hygiene

products (Abbasi & Nikjou, 2020). It conducts periodic and random inspections and takes legal action in cases of violations.

- The National Standards Organization of Iran: This organization establishes necessary standards for the production and distribution of food and hygiene products, ensuring quality control.

In France, supervisory institutions operate in a more structured manner, aligned with European Union standards. Key institutions include:

- The Directorate General for Competition, Consumer Affairs, and Fraud Control (DGCCRF): This is the primary regulatory body overseeing the quality and safety of food, beverages, and hygiene products. It conducts inspections and enforces laws, with the authority to impose fines and seize products in cases of violations (Van Der Steur, 1967).
- The National Agency for Food, Environmental, and Occupational Health Safety (ANSES): This scientific agency assesses risks related to food and hygiene products and provides recommendations for public health protection, working closely with DGCCRF.
- The French Ministry of Health: Similar to its Iranian counterpart, this ministry monitors compliance with health standards in the production and distribution of food and hygiene products.

While supervisory institutions in both countries aim to safeguard public health and enforce regulations, significant differences exist in their structures, coordination, and effectiveness. In Iran, despite extensive regulatory activities, the multiplicity of institutions and lack of full coordination pose challenges to law enforcement. In contrast, France's regulatory institutions function with greater coherence and adherence to EU standards, resulting in a more effective system for addressing crimes and violations related to food and hygiene products.

## 3. Examination of Supervisory Institutions in Iran

To examine the supervisory institutions related to offenses and crimes concerning food, beverages, and

hygiene products, it is essential first to analyze the Organization for Governmental Sanctions Enforcement.

### 3.1. *The Organization for Governmental Sanctions Enforcement*

One of the crimes under the jurisdiction of the Organization for Governmental Sanctions Enforcement includes offenses related to health, medical, and pharmaceutical violations under the Governmental Sanctions Law. The primary reason for granting this organization the authority to handle such offenses lies in the simultaneous enactment of two laws: the Governmental Sanctions Law and the Governmental Sanctions Law on Health and Medical Affairs, both ratified in 1988. In this regard, the opinions of the Minority and Majority of the Legal and Judicial Affairs Review Commission of the Tehran Judiciary are noteworthy. According to the majority opinion, the jurisdiction over health and medical offenses does not fall under the Organization for Governmental Sanctions Enforcement. However, the minority opinion argues that, based on the Single Article of the Law Amending the Governmental Sanctions Law (March 13, 1989), ratified on September 30, 1994, by the Expediency Council, all governmental sanctions matters were assigned to the executive branch (the government). Article 6 of this law repeals all conflicting regulations. Consequently, jurisdiction over offenses under the 1988 Governmental Sanctions Law on Health and Medical Affairs—except in cases where the 1995 law grants jurisdiction to the Revolutionary Court—falls within the competence of the Organization for Governmental Sanctions Enforcement. Another supporting legal basis is Legal Opinion No. 8271/7, dated March 9, 1995, issued by the Legal Office. Based on the current legal framework and the existing practice within the Organization for Governmental Sanctions Enforcement, the organization adjudicates and issues rulings on the following major offenses:

- Dispensing medication without a prescription.
- Overpricing pharmaceuticals.
- Selling expired or defective drugs.
- Overpricing hygiene and cosmetic products, infant formula, baby food, and single-use medical supplies.
- Producing, distributing, or selling unauthorized infant formula.

- Handling violations committed by pharmaceutical, food, and single-use medical supply companies.
- Distributing and delivering non-compliant or unsafe goods.
- Violating environmental health regulations in establishments, as stipulated in Articles 39 and 40 of the Governmental Sanctions Law.

Therefore, under the provisions outlined in the 1988 Governmental Sanctions Law on Health, Medical, and Pharmaceutical Affairs, the Organization for Governmental Sanctions Enforcement has jurisdiction over related offenses and has actively adjudicated such cases. The rationale for this jurisdiction is that health-related offenses, as defined by law, predominantly impact public economic order and general welfare rather than private interests. If such violations occur within society, they inflict irreparable damage on public health and, by extension, the authority of the state. To prevent such offenses from escalating and disrupting governance, the legislature assigned jurisdiction over these offenses to the Organization for Governmental Sanctions Enforcement (executive branch), while delegating cases involving material, moral, and reputational damages to general and revolutionary courts. This allocation of jurisdiction aims to expedite proceedings and reinforce the deterrent effect of applicable laws (Azami Chahar Borj & colleagues, 2013). The Organization for Governmental Sanctions Enforcement, in accordance with the 1988 Governmental Sanctions Law and its subsequent amendments and supplementary regulations, is responsible for overseeing and adjudicating offenses related to food, beverages, and hygiene products. Its key authorities include:

- Issuing judicial rulings and enforcing penalties: The organization has the power to impose fines, temporarily or permanently close non-compliant businesses, and seize unauthorized products.
- Inspecting and monitoring the activities of production and distribution units: Inspectors from the organization conduct visits to ensure compliance with health and safety regulations.

The enforcement process within the Organization for Governmental Sanctions Enforcement involves multiple stages:

1. Receiving complaints and reports: The organization is informed of violations through public complaints, consumer reports, and referrals from other authorities such as the Ministry of Health or the National Standards Organization.
2. Conducting inspections and collecting evidence: Upon receiving a report, inspectors visit the relevant establishment and gather evidence. These inspections may be scheduled or unannounced.
3. Issuing rulings: If a violation is confirmed, the organization's branches issue rulings, which may include fines, product seizures, or business closures.
4. Enforcing rulings and ensuring compliance: The organization oversees the execution of its rulings to ensure prompt compliance.

In cases where health violations pose a direct threat to public safety, the Organization for Governmental Sanctions Enforcement collaborates closely with institutions such as the Ministry of Health and the Food and Drug Organization to accelerate enforcement measures and mitigate risks in a timely manner.

Despite its extensive jurisdiction, the organization faces several challenges that impact its effectiveness:

- Insufficient personnel and resources: Conducting continuous and thorough inspections requires adequate human and financial resources, which are sometimes lacking.
- Overlapping authority with other agencies: There are instances where the responsibilities of the organization overlap with those of other regulatory bodies, such as the Ministry of Health and the National Standards Organization, leading to potential conflicts in enforcement.
- Limited deterrent effect of penalties: In some cases, the penalties imposed by the organization may not be sufficiently deterrent, allowing offenders to reoffend without significant consequences.

### 3.2. Trade Unions

Trade unions represent an institutionalized economic system that organizes professional groups to enhance

their collective power. Such systems existed during the Middle Ages, and according to Olivier Martin, structuring society based on professional guilds created a distinctive form of organization where occupational groups functioned within their respective guilds and obtained certain privileges in exchange for specific obligations.

In Safavid and Qajar Iran, each guild had a leader known as the Kadkhoda or Bashimi, who was either elected or inherited the position. These leaders, along with senior guild members, were responsible for tax distribution, resolving internal disputes, and enforcing guild regulations. Guilds, in essence, functioned similarly to modern trade unions.

Every member of a given profession was required to be part of a corresponding trade union. Cities had guilds for blacksmiths, stonemasons, weavers, dyers, bakers, and other professions. Those who were not part of a guild were prohibited from engaging in their trade. Each guild maintained specific production standards, such as setting the dimensions and quality of textiles. Guilds resisted innovation, which hindered industrial progress. Trade unions were also responsible for maintaining fairness in business practices. They controlled apprentice numbers, restricted advertising that could divert customers, and provided financial aid to bankrupt members, widows, and orphans. They also organized community meetings and celebrations and were obligated to participate in city defense efforts.

Before the adoption of the Guild System Law and even before the Constitutional Revolution, trade unions operated both formally and informally. In 1950, the government mandated the formation of trade unions for each profession, with leaders elected by their members. Today, in any city with at least 30 businesses in a particular trade, a trade union may be formed to protect the rights of its members and contribute to urban economic development while adhering to labor laws. According to Article 25 of the Guild System Law, trade unions have the following powers and responsibilities:

- Establishing regulations for issuing business licenses and submitting them to the Guild Affairs Assembly for approval.
- Issuing business licenses based on provided documents and in compliance with Article 15 of the Guild System Law.

- Revoking licenses and temporarily shutting down businesses found in violation of regulations.
- Cooperating with judicial authorities in seizing equipment from non-compliant businesses.

Trade unions operate within the framework of guild laws and relevant regulations, with designated powers to supervise and address violations among their members. These include monitoring product quality, ensuring compliance with health and commercial standards, and enforcing regulations. In matters concerning food, beverages, and cosmetics, trade unions are obligated to implement health directives and uphold public safety. However, their jurisdiction is limited to administrative and regulatory violations, and serious offenses are referred to judicial authorities or the Organization for Governmental Sanctions Enforcement.

Trade unions require collaboration with other institutions, such as the Organization for Governmental Sanctions Enforcement, the Ministry of Health, and the National Standards Organization, to effectively combat consumer product violations. Despite these efforts, insufficient resources and unclear regulations remain key challenges, necessitating legal revisions to better define trade union authority in regulatory enforcement.

### 3.3. *The Ministry of Health and Medical Education*

The Ministry of Health, under various legal frameworks, including the 1967 Law on Edible, Drinkable, Cosmetic, and Hygienic Products and its related executive regulations, possesses extensive authority to monitor and regulate food and hygiene products. Some of these powers include developing and enforcing health standards and issuing health permits. The Ministry is responsible for formulating and publishing health standards governing the production and distribution of products, which include ingredient composition, manufacturing processes, storage conditions, and distribution methods. Before any product enters the market, the Ministry conducts necessary inspections and evaluations and issues permits upon ensuring compliance with health standards.

The Ministry's oversight activities are carried out through periodic and random inspections to ensure that health standards are upheld within production and distribution units. These inspections are conducted by

specialized inspectors and involve sampling products, assessing sanitary conditions, and verifying product compositions. Inspections are primarily executed through various departments, such as the Food and Drug Administration and regional health centers, which play a crucial role in identifying violations and enforcing legal measures. If violations such as the use of non-compliant ingredients, false labeling, or failure to meet sanitary requirements are identified, the case is referred to relevant authorities, such as the Organization for Governmental Sanctions Enforcement.

To enhance its effectiveness in combatting offenses related to food and hygiene products, the Ministry of Health collaborates closely with other institutions, including the National Standards Organization of Iran, the Organization for Governmental Sanctions Enforcement, and the Veterinary Organization. These collaborations may involve information exchange, joint inspections, and comprehensive reporting on violations at the national level.

The Ministry can take several enforcement actions in response to violations that threaten public health, including issuing warnings, suspending production or distribution permits, and referring cases to judicial authorities. Such measures serve as deterrents and help prevent future violations.

Despite the Ministry's broad legal powers, several challenges may affect its efficiency. Conducting regular inspections and thoroughly investigating violations requires adequate resources and specialized personnel. In some cases, a lack of sufficient resources may reduce the effectiveness of regulatory oversight. Additionally, overlapping responsibilities and a lack of full coordination between the Ministry and other regulatory bodies can lead to inefficiencies and delays in addressing violations. Furthermore, frequent regulatory changes and the complexity of multiple regulations can create difficulties in ensuring consistent and effective enforcement.

### 3.4. *Judicial Courts*

Judicial courts, as one of the main pillars of the legal system, are responsible for adjudicating various offenses and violations. In cases related to food, beverages, and hygiene products, their role is particularly significant due to the direct impact of such offenses on public health and welfare. Given the complex nature of these offenses,

which can range from fraud in production and distribution to violations of health and safety standards, defining the scope and jurisdiction of judicial courts in handling such cases is of utmost importance.

General courts, in enforcing previous penal laws and the current Islamic Penal Code, actively prosecute violations related to the production, distribution, and pricing of goods and services. In the former General Penal Code, economic violations were categorized as "infractions" and carried corresponding penalties. Under the Islamic Penal Code, these offenses are classified as "ta'zir" (discretionary) crimes, meaning they are subject to legal punishment based on the state's discretion.

**Revolutionary Courts:** With the establishment of the Islamic Republic's legal system, alongside the general judiciary, specialized judicial bodies known as "Revolutionary Courts" were introduced. Part of these courts' jurisdiction includes prosecuting smuggling offenses, including goods and currency smuggling, as well as unauthorized medical and pharmaceutical activities. The prosecution of offenders in these areas is based on Article 25 of the Criminal Procedure Code, enacted in 2015. The role of Revolutionary Courts in controlling economic offenses is thus evident.

Additionally, Revolutionary Courts are authorized to adjudicate cases involving:

1. Unauthorized involvement in medical and pharmaceutical activities.
2. Refusal to provide medical services.
3. Transferring or managing a medical institution without official authorization.

The jurisdiction of judicial courts, particularly Revolutionary Courts, plays a critical role in ensuring compliance with health regulations and maintaining public safety in the food and pharmaceutical sectors.

#### 4. Examination of French Law

Supervisory institutions in France consist of various governmental agencies responsible for ensuring the enforcement of public health laws.

##### 4.1. Directorate General for Competition, Consumer Affairs, and Fraud Control (DGCCRF)

One of the most significant institutions in this regard is the Directorate General for Competition, Consumer

Affairs, and Fraud Control (DGCCRF), which is responsible for monitoring and inspecting products.

- Article L.215-1: This article grants supervisory bodies, such as DGCCRF, the authority to enter production, packaging, and distribution facilities of food and hygiene products. It specifies that inspectors are authorized to conduct inspections without prior notice to ensure compliance with health regulations. The broad authority granted to supervisory bodies is intended to prevent violations and enhance transparency in the production and distribution chain (Vogel, 2018). Unannounced inspections allow inspectors to obtain a realistic assessment of the conditions in production and distribution units and prevent hidden violations.
- Article L.216-1: This article emphasizes that inspections can be conducted periodically or randomly. This provision allows supervisory institutions to identify potential violations and take appropriate action. From a legal perspective, this article reflects the legislative intent to integrate continuous and preventive inspections within the regulatory framework (Hodge & Gostin, 2016). Preventive inspections help reduce violations and maintain product quality and safety. Random inspections ensure that producers and distributors consistently comply with health standards, as they are aware of the constant possibility of surprise inspections.
- Article L.217-1: This article grants supervisory institutions the authority to seize unsafe or substandard products and prevent their market distribution. It states that in cases where public health risks are identified, regulatory bodies can immediately remove products from the market without requiring a judicial order. These powers are designed to protect public health and prevent potential harm to consumers. By possessing such authority, regulatory bodies can act swiftly to prevent the sale of hazardous products. This provision highlights the strong emphasis on preventive measures in French legislative policies.
- Article L.218-1: According to this article, supervisory bodies are required to prepare

detailed reports in cases of serious violations or breaches that significantly impact public health and refer them to judicial authorities. This provision ensures that severe violations are properly addressed and legal action is taken. It defines the supervisory role of executive agencies and their interaction with the judicial system. This coordination guarantees that major offenses escalate from administrative enforcement to judicial prosecution, ensuring appropriate legal consequences for violators (Leclercq & Vasseur, 2019). This cooperation between regulatory institutions and judicial authorities is a key factor in the effectiveness of France's public health law.

- Article L.219-1: This article mandates that supervisory institutions publicly disclose inspection data and findings. Transparency in reporting inspection results enhances public trust in regulatory bodies and the public health system. Public disclosure ensures accountability among regulatory bodies and encourages producers and distributors to comply with regulations. Despite the extensive powers of regulatory institutions, certain challenges exist in implementing these authorities (Hodge & Gostin, 2016). These challenges include limited resources and insufficient personnel to conduct regular and comprehensive inspections. Additionally, the complexity of regulations may lead to enforcement discrepancies among different agencies. To enhance enforcement effectiveness, greater coordination between regulatory bodies and adequate financial and human resources are necessary. Furthermore, continuous training of inspectors and regulatory personnel can improve performance and efficiency within the system.

#### 4.2. *Role of the National Agency for Food, Environmental, and Occupational Health Safety (ANSES)*

The National Agency for Food, Environmental, and Occupational Health Safety (ANSES) is one of France's primary scientific and regulatory institutions operating in areas related to public health. It plays a crucial role in risk assessment, providing scientific recommendations,

and supporting policy decisions regarding food, beverages, and hygiene products. This section analyzes ANSES's role in identifying and addressing violations and offenses in these sectors.

ANSES, as an independent and specialized agency, has multiple responsibilities, including scientific evaluation, risk analysis, and providing expert recommendations to the government and other regulatory agencies. Through comprehensive data analysis and extensive research, ANSES provides critical information for high-level decision-making in food and hygiene safety (Smith & Ferrari, 2020). One of its key functions is to assess the composition and production processes of food and hygiene products, evaluate potential risks, and issue scientific reports. Additionally, ANSES develops practical measures to prevent violations and offenses related to food and hygiene products, proposing these measures to enforcement agencies.

A key characteristic of ANSES is its close collaboration with other regulatory and enforcement institutions, such as DGCCRF and the French Ministry of Health. This collaboration enables ANSES to provide scientific evaluations and detailed reports, supplying necessary information to improve the enforcement of laws and regulations. This interaction involves joint inspections and sample analysis, where ANSES shares its scientific findings with enforcement bodies. In cases involving major violations and serious public health crimes, ANSES provides expert reports to judicial authorities, aiding in the thorough prosecution of offenders.

ANSES employs advanced scientific methods and modern technology to analyze risks and hazards in food and hygiene products. This scientific approach serves as the foundation for legal and enforcement actions, ensuring that policy decisions and regulatory measures are based on reliable scientific data (Salvadori & Noguera, 2018). For instance, ANSES conducts extensive research on toxins, bacteria, and contaminants in food and hygiene products, providing recommendations for risk reduction. Additionally, the agency examines new substances used in the production of food and hygiene products, verifying their safety and issuing public warnings when necessary.

Although ANSES does not directly issue judicial rulings or impose penalties, its role in scientific support for executive and judicial decisions is highly significant. The agency, by providing scientific reports and consultations



to enforcement bodies such as DGCCRF, assists in implementing sanctions and regulatory measures. This information is instrumental for judicial authorities in issuing effective and deterrent rulings.

#### 4.3. *The French Ministry of Health*

The French Ministry of Health, in collaboration with other governmental bodies, formulates and enforces regulations that define health standards for the production, distribution, and consumption of food, beverages, and hygiene products. This ministry is responsible for issuing guidelines and updating health regulations to align with scientific advancements and market changes. "The Ministry of Health establishes health standards for the production and distribution of products and ensures their enforcement. These standards include permissible ingredients, sanitary conditions for production and distribution, and accurate labeling requirements" (Leclercq & Vasseur, 2019).

Through its executive bodies and in coordination with DGCCRF, the Ministry of Health is responsible for inspecting and monitoring food and hygiene product manufacturers and distributors. The Ministry also participates in both scheduled and random inspections to ensure compliance with health regulations and product quality standards. Inspectors are authorized to visit production and distribution units, collect samples for quality testing, and verify regulatory compliance. Additionally, the Ministry of Health, in cooperation with ANSES, conducts scientific risk assessments related to product ingredients and manufacturing processes, using the results to adjust and refine regulations (Smith & Ferrari, 2020).

Another key responsibility of the French Ministry of Health is identifying and addressing health-related violations. When violations are detected, the Ministry takes various measures to protect public health and prevent risks. The Ministry can issue warnings to non-compliant businesses and impose financial penalties as deterrents. In cases of severe violations that pose significant threats to public health, the Ministry can temporarily or permanently revoke operating licenses. If the violations are extensive and involve criminal elements, the Ministry refers cases to judicial authorities for legal prosecution.

The Ministry of Health collaborates with institutions such as ANSES and DGCCRF to ensure comprehensive

and coordinated enforcement of preventive and enforcement measures against health-related offenses (Vogel, 2018). The Ministry, working alongside scientific and enforcement bodies, regularly shares data, inspection results, and research findings. These collaborations ensure that all regulatory bodies have access to up-to-date information to effectively combat violations. The Ministry relies on ANSES's scientific evaluations and recommendations to make informed and up-to-date decisions on health-related issues, contributing to effective regulatory enforcement and the prevention of violations.

#### 5. Conclusion

This study has conducted a comparative analysis of the structures and approaches of supervisory institutions in Iran and France in addressing crimes related to food, beverages, and hygiene products. The findings indicate that regulatory institutions in both countries play a crucial role in safeguarding public health and enforcing health regulations. However, there are notable differences in their structure, coordination, and efficiency.

In Iran, despite the presence of multiple regulatory bodies and continuous efforts, a lack of full coordination and insufficient resources and personnel pose challenges to effective law enforcement. In contrast, France has successfully established a more efficient and sustainable system by utilizing well-organized and coordinated institutions. The French experience demonstrates that strong inter-agency collaboration, the use of modern technology, and the development of clear and comprehensive regulations can enhance regulatory effectiveness and reduce violations.

To improve regulatory oversight in Iran, it is essential to strengthen inter-agency cooperation, enhance inspector training, and incorporate the successful practices of countries like France. These measures can improve public health outcomes and increase public trust in regulatory systems.

The Organization for Governmental Sanctions Enforcement plays a vital role in protecting public health and addressing violations and crimes related to food, beverages, and hygiene products. However, challenges such as resource limitations and overlapping responsibilities require attention and reforms. By enhancing inter-agency collaboration, improving

training, and strengthening enforcement mechanisms, the Organization for Governmental Sanctions Enforcement can become a more effective regulatory authority and contribute to greater public trust and improved public health.

To enhance the regulatory role and effectiveness of the Organization for Governmental Sanctions Enforcement in dealing with crimes related to food, beverages, and hygiene products, the following recommendations are suggested:

- **Enhancing inter-agency cooperation:** Improving coordination between the Organization for Governmental Sanctions Enforcement and other bodies such as the Ministry of Health and the National Standards Organization can increase efficiency and accelerate the handling of violations.
- **Expanding training and specialization:** Providing specialized training to inspectors and staff can lead to more accurate and efficient identification of violations.
- **Strengthening enforcement measures and penalties:** Revising laws and regulations to enhance deterrence and introducing stricter enforcement mechanisms can help reduce violations.

The Ministry of Health and Medical Education, as one of Iran's most important regulatory institutions, plays a key role in public health protection through strict oversight and control of food, beverages, and hygiene products. Despite challenges such as resource limitations and jurisdictional overlaps, improving regulatory structures and strengthening inter-agency collaboration can help the Ministry of Health more effectively address violations and crimes, thereby enhancing public safety and health standards.

To strengthen the Ministry of Health's regulatory performance in dealing with crimes related to food, beverages, and hygiene products, the following recommendations are proposed:

- **Expanding infrastructure and increasing resources:** Strengthening inspection infrastructure and securing sufficient financial and human resources can make oversight more effective.
- **Utilizing modern technologies:** Employing advanced technologies such as smart inspection

systems and data analysis tools can help detect violations more quickly and accurately.

- **Strengthening inter-agency cooperation:** Establishing integrated systems and closer collaboration with other regulatory bodies can improve coordination and reduce functional overlaps.
- **Education and public awareness:** Continuous training of inspectors and raising public awareness about the importance of adhering to health standards can contribute to violation prevention.

### Authors' Contributions

Authors contributed equally to this article.

### Declaration

In order to correct and improve the academic writing of our paper, we have used the language model ChatGPT.

### Transparency Statement

Data are available for research purposes upon reasonable request to the corresponding author.

### Acknowledgments

We would like to express our gratitude to all individuals helped us to do the project.

### Declaration of Interest

The authors report no conflict of interest.

### Funding

According to the authors, this article has no financial support.

### Ethical Considerations

In this research, ethical standards including obtaining informed consent, ensuring privacy and confidentiality were observed.

### References

Abbasi, M., & Nikjou, M. (2020). A legal review of the collection of renewal and waste fees from service institutions under the

- supervision of the Ministry of Health, Treatment, and Medical Education. *Medical Law*(53).
- Afrasiab, M. (2018). *Medical, pharmaceutical, and food crimes*. Judiciary, Press and Publications Center, Tehran.
- Amid, H. (2014). *Persian dictionary*. Amir Kabir, Tehran.
- Azami Chahar Borj, H., & colleagues. (2013). *Practical procedures for handling cases in the branches of the Organization for the Enforcement of Government Regulations*. Khorsandi Publications, Tehran.
- ESFA. (2020). Food safety regulations in the EU: A comparative analysis. *EFSa Journal*, 18(4), 1098-1115.
- Hodge, J. G., & Gostin, L. O. (2016). Public health law in Europe: Legal frameworks for public health. *Journal of Law, Medicine & Ethics*, 44(1), 16-21.
- Leclercq, A., & Vasseur, E. (2019). Food safety and public health in France: An evaluation of the regulatory framework. *French Journal of Food Science*, 30(2), 145-158.
- Norman Batters, J. H., & Chakis, J. (2021). *Food science* (Translated by M. Fallahi ed.). Barnava Publications, Tehran.
- Rezman, A. (2018). *Health, treatment, and pharmaceutical crimes in Iranian criminal law*. Ghanoonyar, Tehran.
- Salvadori, M., & Noguera, M. (2018). Comparative analysis of public health legislation in France and the European Union. *European Journal of Health Law*, 25(2), 178-196.
- Smith, R. D., & Ferrari, M. (2020). The role of ANSES in food safety and public health in France. *European Public Health Review*, 12(3), 202-214.
- Van Der Steur, J. P. K. (1967). Similarities of and Differences Between the Food Laws of France and the United States. *Food, Drug, Cosmetic Law Journal*, 22(7).
- Vogel, D. (2018). *The politics of precaution: Regulating health, safety, and environmental risks in Europe and the United States*. Princeton University Press.