

Food and Veterinary Office

Annual Report 2007





Food and Veterinary Office - Annual Report 2007

Areas of Activity:

The Food and Veterinary Office	2
FVO Inspections 2007	3
Food and Feed Safety	4
Animal Health	11
Animal Welfare	14
Plant Health	16
Chemical residues in food of animal origin	18
Pesticide residues in food of plant origin	20
Additives, flavourings, food contact materials	22
Genetically modified food, feed and seed	23
Contaminants and import controls for food of non-animal origin	25
Import Controls on live animals and products of animal origin	26
Enlargement of the European Union	28
Country Profiles	28
Guidelines for multi-annual national control plans	29
General Audits	29
Other FVO Activities	30

Annexes:

Glossary of terms used in the Report	31
List of FVO inspections completed in 2007	33
Further information	45

The Food and Veterinary Office (FVO)

Mission



The Commission, in its role as guardian of the European Community Treaties, is responsible for ensuring that Community legislation on food safety, animal health, plant health and animal welfare is properly implemented and enforced. As a Directorate of the Commission Directorate General for Health and Consumers, the Food and Veterinary Office (FVO) plays an important role in fulfilling this task. The mission of the FVO is, through its audits, inspections and related activities, to:

- check on compliance with the requirements of EU food safety and quality, animal health and welfare and plant health legislation within the European Union and on compliance with EU import requirements in third countries exporting to the EU,
- contribute to the development of European Community policy in the food safety, animal health and welfare and plant health sectors,
- contribute to the development and implementation of effective control systems in the food safety, animal health and welfare and plant health sectors,

and to inform stakeholders of the outcome of its audits and inspections.

The FVO is part of the Health and Consumers Directorate-General and is based in Grange, County Meath, Ireland.

Activities



The FVO works to ensure effective control systems and to evaluate compliance with EU standards within the EU, and in third countries in relation to their exports to the EU. The FVO does this mainly by carrying out inspections and audits aimed at verifying the effectiveness of national control systems for enforcing the relevant Community standards in the fields of food safety, animal health and welfare and plant health. Each year a programme of FVO inspections is developed, identifying priority areas and countries for inspection. These programmes are published on the website of the Health and Consumers Directorate-General. In order to ensure that the programme remains up to date and relevant, it is reviewed mid-year. New inspections may need to be programmed, for example, in response to emerging risks such as disease outbreaks. These new inspections are reflected in modifications to the inspections programme.

The findings of each inspection carried out under the programme are set out in an inspection report, together with conclusions and recommendations. The competent authorities of the country visited are given the opportunity to comment on the reports at draft stage.

The FVO makes recommendations to the country's competent authorities to deal with any shortcomings revealed during the inspections. The competent authorities are requested to present an action plan to the FVO describing how they intend to address any shortcomings. Together with other Commission services, the FVO evaluates this action plan and monitors its implementation through a number of follow-up activities. General review missions, follow-up inspections, requests for written reports and high-level meetings can be used by the FVO to ensure that improvements in the control systems are achieved. In general review missions, the FVO and authorities from each Member State meet on a regular basis to review, across the board, progress made on recommendations. As a last resort, legal action under EU law may be taken by the Commission to ensure that Member States meet their obligations under Community law.

Where an inspection identifies an immediate threat to consumer, animal or plant health, the Commission may take emergency, or safeguard, measures. These may include legal action to prevent trade in, or imports of, animals, plants or their products. In other cases, where serious, but less urgent, problems are found, or where a competent authority fails to take satisfactory corrective action, the Commission may use the inspection report as one element in deciding to start infringement proceedings against a Member State or, in the case of a third country, to refuse, withdraw or modify authorisations for exports to the EU.

Where appropriate, reports may highlight areas where the Commission may need to consider clarifying or amending legislation or areas where new legislation might be required. In this way, the results of FVO inspections contribute to the development of EU legislation.

In addition, the FVO produces other reports, such as general overview reports that summarise the results of a series of inspections to a number of Member States on the same subject or the annual EU-wide pesticide residues monitoring reports.

The FVO also publishes this annual report on its activities, which reviews the progress of its inspection programme and presents the global results. It should be understood that this report presents the picture at the time of the mission, and provides some indication of subsequent actions until the end of the year under consideration. Where deficiencies identified during inspections are described in the following pages, the above follow-up activities will continue into the next year and beyond, as necessary. Likewise, subsequent remedial action will be taken by the competent authorities concerned.

FVO Inspections 2007

Objectives

AREA	INSPECTIONS	%
Food safety	176	70
Animal health	27	10
Animal welfare	17	7
Plant health	17	7
General review	15	6
Total	252	100

In 2007, the FVO carried out 252 inspections.

An FVO inspection can cover a number of objectives. Each objective is categorised into one of four broad areas:

- food safety;
- animal health;
- animal welfare;
- plant health.

On this basis, 70% of the inspection objectives in 2007 concerned food safety. However, following the "farm to fork" approach, many food safety inspections also cover some animal health and welfare elements.

The table opposite gives the breakdown of inspection objectives in 2007.

Countries

In 2007, 260 inspections were planned ¹ by the Food and Veterinary Office. Of those, 209 were completed, 63 were removed from the programme, for a variety of different reasons, and 43 added. The total number of completed inspections was therefore 252, of which 159 took place in Member States, 12 in candidate countries and 81 in third countries

Candidate countries are those countries which are candidates for future membership of the EU but which have not yet started the formal process for accession. From 17 December 2005, candidate countries are Croatia, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia (FYROM) and Turkey. Of the 12 inspections in candidate countries carried out in 2007, 4 took place in Croatia, 2 in FYROM and 6 in Turkey

Of the 81 inspections carried out in third countries in 2007, Brazil received the most inspections (7), followed by Argentina, Australia, Canada, Iceland, Switzerland (3 each). In contrast, in 2006 the most frequently inspected third countries were China (5 inspections) followed by Brazil (4), Norway (3), Thailand (3).

While the percentage of inspections in the Member States decreased (from 73% in 2000 to 55% in 2007 in EU-25 and from 58% to 35% in EU-15, respectively), the percentage of inspections in third countries has increased, overall, from 24% in 2000 to 37% in 2007.

A full list of all the countries inspected in 2007 and the subjects of those inspections is presented in Annex 2 of this report.


¹ As published in the "Programme of Inspections 2007 by the Food and Veterinary Office" which includes some provisionally planned inspections in third countries. This document can be found at http://ec.europa.eu/food/fvo/inspectprog/2007-year_en.pdf

Food and Feed Safety

The majority of the work undertaken by the FVO concerning the evaluation of official control systems, both in Member States and other countries, falls under this heading.

It encompasses the total food chain “from farm to fork”, including primary production, through processing of animal and non-animal origin foodstuffs, to retail and catering.

Evaluation of official control systems is undertaken to verify that the feed and food safety requirements established in EU law are being applied by the competent authorities in the Member States and in the third countries that export feed and food to the EU. In the case of candidate countries, such evaluations are performed in the context of the process of accession.

Member States	Activities	Findings
	<p>Inspections were carried out in eleven Member States to assess the application of the Regulations governing the hygiene of red meat and milk.</p> <p>These inspections were carried out to follow-up to the 2006 inspection series to all Member States, which had identified seven Member States where immediate remedial action was required and a number of other Member States to which a follow-up visit was indicated.</p>	<p>Good progress was noted with regard to the implementation of the action plan and the overall compliance with the provisions of Community legislation regarding hygiene requirements in Germany and Poland. Official controls also improved and were increasingly in line with the provisions of Regulation (EC) No 882/2004² on official controls.</p> <p>In Finland, Hungary, Italy, Sweden and the United Kingdom some progress in both areas were noted; nevertheless deficiencies with regard to basic hygiene rules and official supervision still persisted.</p> <p>In comparison to the 2006 inspections no progress was noted in Greece, Malta, Portugal and Spain.</p>
	<p>Six inspections were carried out to Bulgaria and Romania to assess the situation with regard to veterinary public health controls</p>	<p>In Bulgaria initially the controls carried out by the competent authorities in relation to structural requirements, eligibility of raw material, traceability and identification/labelling of products were not reliable, however, by the end of April 2007 the competent authority had the capacity and capability to evaluate establishments correctly for approval for intra-Community trade.</p> <p>In Romania also, deficiencies were identified initially in the ability of the competent authorities to evaluate establishments for approval for intra-Community trade. In the course of 2007 good progress was made to bring the evaluation of establishments into line with EU requirements.</p> <p>In both Member States, problems remained with regard to official controls over compliance with raw milk criteria.</p>
	<p>A new inspection series concerning official controls over infant formulae, follow-on formulae, cereal-based food and baby food started in 2007.</p> <p>In preparation of the inspection series a questionnaire had been sent to all Member States in 2006 to gather information on different aspects of official controls in this sector.</p> <p>Based on the responses to the questionnaire, a number of Member States were selected for inspection, four of which were visited in 2007: Ireland, Czech Republic, France and Poland.</p>	<p>The inspections showed that food business operators usually achieve high levels of compliance with regard to hygiene requirements, traceability and HACCP based procedures. Official controls usually address these requirements adequately.</p> <p>Shortcomings were identified with regard to the designation of competent authorities for certain aspects of official controls.</p> <p>Repeatedly encountered deficiencies related to official supervision over composition, pesticide residues and contaminants as well as co-ordination between competent authorities.</p>

² Regulation (EC) No 882/2004 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 29 April 2004 on official controls performed to ensure the verification of compliance with feed and food law, animal health and animal welfare rules. Official Journal, L 165, 30/04/2004 pp. 1–52, corrected and republished in Official Journal, L 191, 28/05/2004, pp. 1-52.

Food and Feed Safety

Member States	Activities	Findings
	<p>A series of inspections in Member States, concerning the risk of <i>Salmonella</i> infection in table eggs, which started in 2006, continued in 2007, with inspections in two Member States (the Netherlands and Hungary).</p>	<p>A comprehensive supervision system in the table egg sector was put in place in the Netherlands. Nevertheless the <i>Salmonella</i> monitoring programme in the laying flocks in place at the time of the mission did not effectively exclude the risk of eggs from infected flocks being put on the market for direct consumption. From 2008, as required by the Community legislation, the programme was adapted which should reduce this risk.</p> <p>In Hungary, the national control programme in the laying sector started only in January 2008, in accordance with relevant Community requirements. The authorities have announced actions to correct deficiencies, which could impede the implementation of this new programme, found during the inspection.</p>
	<p>In a new series of inspections started in 2007, eight Member States were visited to evaluate official control systems relating to the general hygiene requirements of Regulation (EC) No. 852/2004³. In particular, the inspections looked at the production of non animal origin foodstuffs not covered by specific veterinary legislation. The inspection series also has its objective the evaluation of the transposition and implementation of Directive 80/777/EEC⁴ and Directive 98/83/EC⁵, in particular the recognition procedure of natural mineral water sources and official inspections and controls carried out in relation to bottled water for human consumption.</p>	<p>The evaluation of the general food hygiene control systems was generally positive. However, a number of deficiencies in the implementation of Community legislation were noted. These involved particularly the level of enforcement, which varied considerably between Member States. In a small number of cases it was found that the very low level of enforcement meant that the objectives of the community legislation would not be met.</p> <p>Community legislation concerning the approval of bottled water facilities was generally implemented but there were some issues with the interpretation of labelling requirements notably under the labelling requirements for natural mineral water.</p> <p>Member States are currently adapting to new flexibility arrangements for the implementation of food safety systems based on HACCP principles, in particular in smaller premises with many Member States now relying for the implementation of this requirement on use of guides to good hygiene practice by service sectors such as restaurants and catering operations.</p>
	<p>There were three inspections in Member States to assess controls systems for the prevention, control and eradication of bovine spongiform encephalopathy (BSE). Inspections concentrated on the implementation of EU rules on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Epidemio-surveillance • Removal of specified risk material (SRM) <p>Official controls on the total feed ban</p>	<p>The system of BSE controls was largely in place apart from minor shortcomings regarding epidemio-surveillance.</p> <p>There were also minor shortcomings in SRM controls.</p> <p>Although total feed bans were in place, there was still some room for improvement of controls.</p>

³ Regulation (EC) No 852/2004 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 29 April 2004 on the hygiene of foodstuffs OJ L 139, 30.4.2004, pp. 1–54.

⁴ Council Directive 80/777/EEC of 15 July 1980 on the approximation of the laws of the Member States relating to the exploitation and marketing of natural mineral waters OJ L 229, 30.8.1980, pp. 1–10.

⁵ Council Directive 98/83/EC of 3 November 1998 on the quality of water intended for human consumption OJ L 330, 5.12.1998, pp. 32–54.

Food and Feed Safety

Member States	Activities	Findings
	<p>There were six inspections in Member States to assess controls systems for the prevention, control and eradication of transmissible spongiform encephalopathy (TSE) in small ruminants. Inspections concentrated on the implementation of EU rules on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Epidemio-surveillance • Removal of specified risk material (SRM) • Measures taken following detection of TSEs in small ruminants (in particular to rule out the presence of BSE) 	<p>Controls on TSEs were largely satisfactory but in some Member States there were fewer small ruminants sampled for TSEs than required under EU legislation.</p> <p>In Cyprus the control system was not fully in line with EU requirements and there was an inadequate laboratory capacity to effectively deal with the diagnostic work required to be carried out in all scrapie infected flocks.</p>
	<p>Six Member States were visited to follow-up animal by-products (ABP) inspections carried out in 2006. These inspections checked the implementation of EU rules on ABP with respect to:</p> <p>The arrangements and infrastructure in place for the handling of ABP from the point where they are produced until their safe disposal or permitted use;</p> <p>ABP controls and traceability.</p>	<p>As regards ABP, all Member States inspected had adequate arrangements and sufficient infrastructures in place to handle most of the ABP in accordance with the ABP Regulation. Progress was noted in the implementation of the recommendations of previous ABP inspections but there remained some work to do. In particular, Member States need to improve the effectiveness and/or uniformity of official control of the ABP chain by ensuring:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Availability of adequate staff resources; • A clear definition and distribution of responsibilities amongst the competent authorities involved; • More guidance and training, and better co-operation between the various competent authorities responsible for these official controls.
	<p>In addition two inspections in Greece focused on following up more serious deficiencies in controls in the ABP sector.</p>	<p>Concerning Greece, while the inspection team noted some improvements in the infrastructure and the system for official controls for ABP; deficiencies persisted and the situation continued to be unsatisfactory. These deficiencies remain subject to infringement proceedings.</p>
	<p>Five inspections in Member States focused on official controls in the gelatine production chain. The inspections focused on the sourcing of raw materials for gelatine production to ensure only raw material fit for human consumption was used in the production of edible gelatine.</p>	<p>In the Member States visited, the systems in place were largely satisfactory but certain deficiencies were found in commercial documentation and in official controls to ensure the correct flow of raw material.</p>
	<p>A series of seven inspections was carried out in Member States concerning official controls on feed and feed hygiene requirements. These inspections focused on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the implementation of the new requirements set out in Regulations (EC) No 882/2004 and (EC) No 183/2005⁶ • other feed legislation, in particular Regulation (EC) No 1831/2003⁷ 	<p>In the Member States visited the systems in place with respect to feed safety controls were largely satisfactory. However, there were some minor problems regarding approval and registration of feed business operators and primary producers.</p>

⁶ Regulation (EC) No 183/2005 of the European Parliament and of the Council laying down requirements for feed hygiene. OJ L 35, 8.2.2005, pp. 1-22.

⁷ Regulation (EC) No 1831/2003 of the European Parliament and of the Council on additives for use in animal nutrition. OJ L 268, 18.10.2003, pp. 29-43.

Food and Feed Safety

Candidate countries	Activities	Findings
	<p>An inspection was carried out in Turkey to evaluate official controls over the production of milk and dairy products for export to the EU. This inspection was a follow-up to one carried out in 2006. Currently no establishments are approved for export of milk and milk based products from Turkey to the EU.</p> <hr/> <p>An inspection to evaluate control systems in place on the production of fishery products and live bivalve molluscs intended for export to the EU was carried out in Croatia.</p> <hr/> <p>Inspections evaluating the equivalence with Community standards of the control systems in place governing the production and placing on the market of poultry, poultry meat and poultry meat products intended for export to the EU were carried out in Croatia and Turkey.</p>	<p>The official controls over the production of milk-based products have been improved since the previous inspection in 2006. All four establishments visited were of a very high standard and operated in line with EU requirements, including the treatment of all products to remove the risk of foot and mouth disease. Raw milk for EU production can be supplied from a list of EU authorised disease free holdings. Two of the establishments were considering producing milk-based products for EU from milk powder imported into Turkey from establishments in the EU.</p> <p>However, the central competent authority failed to comply with several of the deadlines provided in their reply to the recommendations of the previous FVO inspection report, and further guarantees are still needed before establishments can be approved for export to the EU. Guarantees are required in relation to the maintenance of disease free status (especially brucellosis), raw milk quality testing and HACCP-based procedures to guarantee full separation between EU production and other production of milk-based products from non-EU compliant raw milk or milk products.</p> <hr/> <p>While a control system has been put in place, public health controls are not yet in accordance with the relevant Community requirements. The risk of histamine in fishery products, made from histamine sensitive species exported to the EU, could not be excluded.</p> <p>Within one month of the inspection, the FVO received information from the Croatian CA that action had been taken to solve the problem linked to histamine and to improve the official public health controls. The FVO is continuing to monitor progress.</p> <hr/> <p>Control systems were in place in both countries for animal and public health, animal welfare and zoonoses. Despite some weakness in the system and some deficiencies in the establishments, the competent authorities of Croatia were in a position to give necessary guarantees to certify the poultry meat for export to the EU. Some problems remained to be solved in Turkey, mainly in view of their health situation in backyard flocks.</p>
Third countries	Activities	Findings
	<p>A total of fourteen inspections were carried out in twelve third countries in order to evaluate certain public and animal health aspects of the controls on the production of food of mammalian origin for export to the EU.</p> <p>These inspections took place in five countries in South America (Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Paraguay and Uruguay), in three countries in southern Africa (Botswana, Namibia and Swaziland), and in Australia, Canada, New Zealand and Serbia.</p>	<p>An inspection in Argentina in March found shortcomings in the system of traceability for sheep meat, but a follow-up inspection in June found that these had been rectified.</p> <p>The inspection in Chile concerned milk and milk products. Export was suspended by the Chilean authorities pending the implementation of a number of EU requirements.</p> <p>The inspection in Paraguay found that further improvements in laboratory testing and maturation of meat were needed before the current suspension of exports could be lifted.</p>


Food and Feed Safety

Third countries	Activities	Findings
		<p>In Uruguay, the situation was found to be generally satisfactory, with minor improvements needed in some areas.</p> <p>In Brazil, an inspection in March found shortcomings in the control of foot and mouth disease vaccination programme and in animal identification and movement control. A follow-up inspection in November found that the foot and mouth disease controls were now being correctly applied, but the problems in animal identification and movement control remained. As a consequence, the Commission adopted further measures for the control of holdings supplying cattle for export of their meat to the EU.</p> <p>In Botswana, the inspection found that foot and mouth disease controls were being applied effectively. In Namibia, there were no major animal or public health problems but implementation of some previous commitments on animal identification was delayed. In Swaziland, most of the commitments made following previous inspections had been implemented, although some aspects of the animal identification system remained to be completed.</p> <p>The situation in Australia, New Zealand and Canada was found to be generally satisfactory.</p> <p>In Serbia, progress had been made in all areas but more remained to be done in adopting appropriate legislation and in the fields of animal and public health controls.</p>
	<p>In 2007 FVO carried out the following inspections in relation to fishery and/or aquaculture products and/or live bivalve molluscs:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A series of inspections concerning the evaluation of the control systems in place governing the production of fishery products intended for export to the EU carried out in 2007 in 12 third countries: Papua New Guinea, Kazakhstan, Gabon (follow-up), Fiji, Angola, Azerbaijan, Brazil (follow-up), Senegal, Togo, Pakistan, the Falkland Islands and the Solomon Islands. A further series on the evaluation of the control systems in place governing the production of fishery and aquaculture products intended for export to the EU carried out in 13 third countries: Argentina, Costa Rica, Mexico, Ecuador, Panama (follow-up), Madagascar, Mozambique (follow-up), Guatemala, New Caledonia, Armenia, Indonesia (follow-up), Belize, and Uruguay. An inspection in Australia concerning the evaluation of the control systems in place governing the production of fishery products, aquaculture products and bivalve molluscs intended for export to the EU. Inspections in Albania and Vietnam 	<p>Although there were significant differences between standards in the different countries, both in relation to the structure and capabilities of the competent authorities and in the level of compliance of establishments with the EU standards, it can be generally concluded that most of the countries inspected did not fully comply with the relevant conditions for exporting fishery and/or aquaculture products and/or live bivalve molluscs to the EU. In some countries, the deficiencies were so significant that the Commission needed to impose certain restrictions on trade, such as suspending the listing of establishments.</p> <p>Several longstanding problems were noted regarding insufficient training and motivation of officials who are supervising the production chain, inadequate laboratory testing capacities, poor hygiene conditions on fishing vessels and at landing sites.</p> <p>The outcomes of these inspections have resulted in the Commission taking action to target better its technical assistance programmes in the countries concerned, with a view to improving hygiene standards.</p>

Food and Feed Safety

Third countries	Activities	Findings
	<p>concerning the evaluation of the control systems in place governing the production of fishery products and bivalve molluscs intended for export to the EU. The inspection to Vietnam also included aquaculture products.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A follow-up inspection to Jamaica to evaluate the control systems in place governing the production of fishery, aquaculture products and marine gastropods intended for export to the EU. • An inspection to evaluate the control systems in place governing the production of bivalve molluscs intended for export to the EU in Saint Pierre and Miquelon. <p>FVO inspectors also participated as observers in an ESA inspection in Norway concerning the evaluation of the control systems in place governing the production of fishery and aquaculture products intended for export to the EU under the EEA provisions.</p>	
	<p>Inspections took place in Malaysia and Brazil to evaluate the control systems in place (including animal health, animal welfare and public health aspects) for poultry meat intended for export to the EU.</p>	<p>Significant shortcomings were found in the establishment approved to export poultry meat products from Malaysia to the EU as well as deficiencies in relation to the overall official supervision of establishments. It was concluded that the competent authority was not in a position to certify that meat products originating from this establishment met the public health requirements of the relevant export health certificate. In view of the heat treatment applied to exported product, the risk of introducing poultry diseases from Malaysia through those imports is limited.</p> <p>In Brazil the main issue related to laboratory capacity, as there is only one avian pathology laboratory capable of performing serological analyses and of isolating and typing Newcastle Disease and Avian Influenza viruses.</p> <p>However, the FVO received assurances from the Brazilian authorities after the inspection indicating that the necessary measures would be taken urgently to mitigate any risk of possible inadequate or late diagnosis of the relevant poultry diseases.</p>
	<p>An inspection was undertaken in South Africa to evaluate control systems in place for ratite meat intended for export to the EU. This inspection covered the animal health, animal welfare and public health aspects.</p>	<p>Adequate systems were found to be in place to allow the control of both animal and public health. However, some shortcomings were noted with regard to the certification of the existence of Newcastle disease virus in vaccinated flocks.</p>
	<p>An inspection in relation to controls on BSE was carried out in Canada. The inspection focused on gathering information on how control measures currently in place take into consideration the recommendations in the Canadian Geographical BSE-Risk assessment and international standards on BSE. In addition, an assessment was made of the systems in place for the certification of export of certain products of</p>	<p>The recommendations of the Geographical BSE-Risk assessment have been taken into consideration and measures have recently been put in place to strengthen the feed ban. Arrangements for certification of beef products to the EU were appropriate to operate in accordance with EU requirements.</p>

Food and Feed Safety

Third countries	Activities	Findings
	<p>animal origin to the EU.</p> <p>An inspection was carried out in China in relation to feed hygiene. The inspection focused on official controls on feed hygiene, in particular China's preparedness to comply with EU requirements relating to additives and pre-mixtures.</p>	<p>The Chinese authorities have recently introduced measures to strengthen the system of official controls for feed additives and pre-mixtures intended for export to the EU. Further enhancements are planned to the system which should help to ensure that China is well placed to satisfy the requirements necessary for it to be included in the list of third countries from which the export of feed additives and pre-mixtures would be permitted once Art. 24 of Regulation (EC) No 1831/2003 is implemented.</p>

Animal Health



Animal health controls are important for three reasons:

- The protection of consumers from zoonotic diseases (i.e. transmissible from animals to humans) such as rabies, brucellosis and bovine tuberculosis;
- The protection of animals from diseases (foot and mouth disease, classical swine fever, bluetongue) with serious economic effects;
- To facilitate intra-Community trade, imports and exports of animals and animal products in accordance with the relevant EU health standards and international obligations.

Member States

Activities

Findings



The application of the veterinary legislation covering intra-Community trade in live farm animals was assessed in four Member States (Austria, Czech Republic, Denmark and the Netherlands); two of them, Austria and the Netherlands, as part of a General Audit (see page 29).

In general terms the requirements for intra-Community trade in live animals were met in all four Member States visited.

However, in the Czech Republic the official veterinarians at assembly centres should receive more information on the health status of the holding of origin in order to certify that the requirements are met.

In Austria, the identification document for production and slaughter equidae did not meet the requirements for passports for breeding and production equidae.

Inspections to assess the application of the veterinary legislation covering intra-Community trade in equidae were carried out in Italy, Lithuania and Poland.

In the Member States visited the requirements in respect of intra-Community trade in live equidae were not consistently met.

In Italy, a new system introduced for the identification and movement control of equidae could, once enforced, give effect to the EU requirements. In Lithuania, several shortcomings in relation to identification and movement control of live equidae need to be addressed.

As part of a General Audit (see page 29), an assessment was made of the animal health controls for intra-Community trade in semen and embryos of cattle in Austria.

The competent authority performance was in most aspects considered satisfactory. Minor shortcomings were identified in respect of the approval of facilities, the storage of non EU-eligible semen and the information about the health status of the donor animals.

An inspection on the application of Community rules on the identification and registration of sheep and goats was carried out in the United Kingdom.

Although improvements were noted following previous inspections, the implementation by keepers of animals and the competent authority controls required attention.

Inspections were carried out to assess controls on rabies in foxes in the Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland and Slovakia.

Whilst the epidemiological situation has been improving steadily in the majority of the Member States visited, rabies remains a problem in both domestic animals and foxes, particularly in Latvia. Measures are being taken in all countries concerned to improve the vaccination campaigns and cross-border co-operation.


Inspections were carried out in Bulgaria and Romania to assess controls on classical swine fever in the wild pig populations.

Whilst the measures taken in the index holdings were sufficient, important precautionary measures to prevent spread of disease were not always taken. The competent authorities in both countries have undertaken to implement the necessary measures.

Animal Health

Member States	Activities	Findings
	<p>Inspections were carried out to assess the control of bluetongue in Greece and France.</p>	<p>Concerning the inspection in Greece, the surveillance programme is insufficiently implemented and the occurrence of a number of seropositive and seroconversion results in sentinel animals could indicate that bluetongue virus has been recently circulating in some areas. The Greek authorities have undertaken to intensify their surveillance activities and to report the results to the Commission.</p> <p>Concerning the inspection in France, the measures applied following suspicion or confirmation of bluetongue were found to be insufficient to effectively contribute to the prevention of the spread of the disease. This problem is being addressed in the context of a revision of the Community rules on the control of bluetongue.</p>
	<p>An inspection was carried out in the United Kingdom to evaluate the situation concerning foot and mouth disease outbreaks.</p>	<p>In general terms the competent authority performance was considered satisfactory. However, some legal requirements, in particular concerning the establishment of the protection and surveillance zones, veterinary inspections within the surveillance zone and tracing of animal movements from these zones were not fully implemented.</p>
	<p>An inspection was carried out in Ireland to assess the application of the programmes to eradicate tuberculosis (<i>Mycobacterium bovis</i>).</p>	<p>The tuberculosis eradication programme was found to be, in general, properly implemented. However, tuberculosis prevalence in cattle in Ireland has remained for decades at a high level.</p>
	<p>An inspection was carried out in Spain to assess the application of the programmes to eradicate brucellosis (<i>Brucella abortus</i>).</p>	<p>The eradication programme is in general correctly implemented and the epidemiological data indicate that the situation is improving in most of the Autonomous Communities. The competent authority was asked to take action in response to shortcomings detected in relation to public health issues.</p>
	<p>An inspection was carried out in Italy to assess the application of the programmes to eradicate brucellosis (<i>Brucella melitensis</i>).</p>	<p>Due to new legislation the situation in some infected regions has improved. However, several shortcomings related to animal health remain in respect of movement controls, cleaning and disinfection of livestock vehicles and lack of evidence of slaughter of all reactor animals. The Italian authorities have undertaken to address these issues.</p>
	<p>Inspections were carried out in Bulgaria and Romania to evaluate the level of preparedness of the competent authorities to control avian influenza and Newcastle disease in poultry and the measures taken to control Newcastle disease.</p>	<p>The system put in place by the competent authorities in Bulgaria provided a satisfactory basis for efficient and reliable control of avian influenza and Newcastle disease. The competent authorities had corrected most of the shortcomings found during inspections in 2006.</p> <p>However, for Romania substantial issues remained, mainly in relation to certain monitoring tests carried out. Recommendations have been made to the competent authorities and the Commission services continue to monitor progress.</p>

Animal Health

Candidate countries	Activities	Findings
	<p>Certain animal health aspects were evaluated during the inspections in Turkey on milk and milk-based products for export to the EU, (already referred to under "Food and Feed Safety").</p>	<p>The animal health situation remains unsatisfactory: foot and mouth disease is still of major concern despite two annual vaccination campaigns and the prevalence of bovine tuberculosis and brucellosis is high throughout Turkey.</p>
Third countries	Activities	Findings
	<p>A total of fourteen inspections were carried out in twelve third countries in order to evaluate certain public and animal health aspects of controls on the production of food of mammalian origin for export to the EU, (already referred to under "Food and Feed Safety" above). These inspections took place in five countries in South America (Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Paraguay and Uruguay), in three countries in southern Africa (Botswana, Namibia and Swaziland), and in Australia, Canada, New Zealand and Serbia.</p> <p>Three inspections were carried out in respect animal health controls on bovine semen and embryos intended for export to the EU (Australia, Canada and New Zealand).</p> <p>An inspection was carried out in the United States to evaluate the animal health control systems in place on the production of live fish eggs and gametes intended for farming and live fish of aquaculture origin and products thereof intended for human consumption, and of molluscs, their eggs and gametes for further growth, fattening, relaying or human consumption and intended for export to the EU.</p>	<p>Details of the findings of these inspections are provided in the "Food and Feed Safety" chapter of this report.</p> <p>Whilst in Canada, despite some shortcomings, the situation was found to be generally satisfactory, in Australia and New Zealand major deficiencies were identified in approval and supervision of the centres and teams, in particular in respect of animal housing, quarantine accommodation and the health status of the bulls. Recommendations were made and commitments were received to remedy these deficiencies.</p> <p>The inspection concluded that, due to the lack of training of the official staff and, for molluscs, the present epidemiological situation, absence of zoning and limited surveillance, and also the fact that the designation of zones or compartments has yet to be established, the competent authority is not in a position to provide guarantees that the EU health requirements are being met.</p>

Animal Welfare

The European Commission's activities in this area start with the recognition that animals are sentient beings. The general aim of Community legislation is to ensure that animals do not endure avoidable pain or suffering and to oblige the owner/keeper of animals to respect certain minimum welfare requirements.

FVO Inspections dealt with EU animal welfare legislation applicable on farms, during transport and at slaughter and killing

Member States



Activities

Eight inspections focused on animal welfare standards on farms and, as had been the case in other Member States in 2006, were particularly concerned with pigs and laying hens.

Three inspections dealt specifically with animal welfare at the time of slaughter and killing, and, as it has been proposed to revise the current EU requirements on this topic, any national measures additional to the current EU requirements were also assessed. This continued the series of inspections on these topics which started in 2006.

Four inspections dealt specifically with the transport of Equidae and three further inspections, carried out either on farms or on slaughter, also covered some transport issues. Additionally, two inspections were carried out

Findings

Member States have adapted their systems of controls to the requirements in relation to the organisation of official controls on feed and food introduced by Regulation (EC) N° 882/2004. In particular, they have organised training for officials and produced documented procedures for carrying out inspections. Some progress is still needed regarding risk assessment in farms, follow-up actions taken when non-compliances are identified and supervision to ensure the effectiveness of controls.

Overall, there is a continuous but slow improvement in the implementation of animal welfare requirements in farms. In pig farms, issues such as routine tail docking, overstocking, lack of material for manipulation, and the lack of care of sick animals, which had been identified in Member States visited in 2006, were also found in Member States visited in 2007.

In laying hen farms equipped with unenriched cages, overstocking and inappropriate cages are a concern in some Member States. In farms using alternative systems, the requirements for perches and usable area are often not met. Further missions will be undertaken during 2008 to monitor progress Member States where problems with cages were previously widespread.

As in 2006, some benefits of the inclusion of animal welfare within the framework of official controls introduced under Regulation (EC) N° 882/2004 were seen, as the systems for recording checks and supervision by other levels of the competent authority are helping to identify problems and instigate corrective measures.

In the three Member States visited, improvements are needed regarding the methodology used to ensure the stunning of animals, in particular when using electrical methods such as water bath stunners for poultry. Methods for killing animals for disease control purposes have been described in the national contingency plans and consideration has been given on their impact on the welfare of animals in case of large scale killing.

Member States have adapted their systems of controls to the new requirements of Regulation (EC) N°1/2005⁸ which came into force on 5 January 2007. In particular, they have set up a system to authorise transporters, approve vehicles used for transport for long journeys and

⁸ Council Regulation (EC) No 1/2005 of 22 December 2004 on the protection of animals during transport and related operations and amending Directives 64/432/EEC and 93/119/EC and Regulation (EC) No 1255/97, OJ L 3, 5.01.2005, p.1-44.

Animal Welfare



jointly with the Directorate General for Agriculture and Rural Development to assess the welfare controls during transport on animals which were exported to third countries and to verify the payment of export refunds for live cattle.

provided documented procedures to help the inspectors who carry out the controls.

In general, the procedures for approval of means of transport used for long journeys need to be improved as the new requirements regarding temperature, ventilation or provisions of individual stalls for Equidae were not yet well implemented.

The feeding, watering, resting intervals and journey times which are unchanged from the previous EU legislation on the protection of animals during transport, were still not well implemented in most of the Member States visited.

In relation to exports of cattle to third countries, in both Member States visited checks were generally well organised, with instructions provided for carrying out checks; however, these had not been sufficiently updated to include the requirements introduced by Regulation (EC) No 1/2005.

The additional check of journey logs performed by the paying agency in one of the Member States (Germany) was a useful additional measure to ensure that journey times meet the requirements.

Plant Health



Plant health controls are important to prevent the introduction and/or the spread of organisms that are harmful to plants and that do not already exist commonly in the Community. Introduction of such organisms could result in:

- reductions in the yield or quality of agricultural or horticultural crops;
- increased use of plant protection products;
- damage to the environment, e.g. forested areas.

Member States

Activities

Findings

The series of inspections of import controls for plant health, initiated in 2005 following revision of the relevant Community legislation, was continued. Seven Member States were inspected. In three cases this included an evaluation of the action taken to address shortcomings found during previous inspections on the same subject.

The inspections found that some of the shortcomings found in previous inspections had not been fully addressed and also that the revised legislation is not being fully implemented in some cases. Action plans, which address many of the shortcomings found, have been submitted and the Commission continues to assess progress and their implementation.

Two sector-specific audits were carried out as part of the FVO's pilot General Audit project to assess the implementation of the Multi-Annual National Control Plans, established by the Feed and Food Control Regulation 882/2004/EC (see page 29). The two audits included aspects in relation to import controls for plant health and the implementation of the plant passport system, including controls in one protected zone.

The audits identified some problems relating to the control of consignments moving in Customs transit to other Member States, and the recognition and maintenance of protected zones in the Community. Action plans have been submitted by the Member States to address areas of immediate concern. The Commission continues to monitor progress in their implementation.

Five inspections were carried out to assess the situation and control measures taken by Member States against outbreaks of Pine Wood Nematode and Fireblight.


The inspection in Portugal in relation to Pine Wood Nematode revealed some non-compliance with the relevant emergency legislation and that the affected area had continued to expand. Substantial additional controls have been implemented, including the establishment of a clear-cut belt, and the Commission continues to monitor the situation closely.

Emergency legislation had been introduced for Pine Wood Nematode and the inspections evaluated its implementation.

For Fireblight, the inspection evaluated the measures taken to eradicate or contain the pest, and in order to maintain the protected zone status of one Member State.

The inspection in relation to Fireblight showed that its eradication, or even containment, is difficult, especially since the disease may be present without any symptoms becoming apparent in favourable climatic conditions. Nevertheless, recommendations for improvements were made to the Member States involved and progress will be monitored by the Commission

Plant Health

Candidate countries	Activities	Findings
	In the context of enlargement, monitoring inspections were performed in Croatia, FYROM and Turkey.	The inspections showed generally good progress in the transposition and implementation of EU plant health legislation; no significant problems were identified.
Third countries	Activities	Findings
	<p>Three inspections were carried out in third countries.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> in Jordan, following a request for recognition as free from potato ring rot, thereby enabling the export of ware potatoes to the EU. in Kenya, based on data from EUROPHYT, to evaluate the export controls for plants and regulated plant produce. in Switzerland, to evaluate import controls for plant health and the implementation of the plant passport system in the context of the EU/Switzerland bilateral agreement. 	<p>The inspection in Jordan found that there was a need for some changes to be made in order for their request for a derogation to be progressed; recommendations were made and the response to these was, and will continue to be, evaluated by the Member States and the Commission.</p> <p>The inspection in Kenya found shortcomings in aspects of the system of export controls, mainly relating to the controls and certification for plants for planting; recommendations were made to address these. The response to these recommendations will be evaluated by the Member States and the Commission. The Commission is in dialogue with Kenya regarding improvements and will continue to monitor the situation.</p> <p>The outcome of the inspection in Switzerland was broadly satisfactory; recommendations were made in order to address the shortcomings found. The Commission will continue to monitor progress in implementing corrective measures.</p>

Non-inspection Activities

Harmful Organism Survey Overview Reports

The situation of certain harmful organisms is monitored by obligatory surveys. Member States submit reports of their inspection and sampling activities annually to the Commission. These are analysed and overview reports are compiled. In 2007, these overviews included reports on *Clavibacter michiganensis* ssp. *sepedonicus* (potato ring rot), *Ralstonia solanacearum* (potato brown rot), *Bursaphelenchus xylophilus* (pine wood nematode), *Phytophthora ramorum* (sudden oak death), *Diabrotica virgifera virgifera* (western corn rootworm), Pepino mosaic virus and *Dryocosmus kuriphilus* (Oriental chestnut gall wasp).

While there is very substantial survey activity taking place within the EU, the results also showed a significant variation between Member States in the intensity of their survey activities.

EUROPHYT

“EUROPHYT” is a web-based notification system, managed by the FVO, which enables Member States to rapidly notify interceptions of harmful organisms and non-compliant plants and plant produce either imported from third countries or moving in the internal market. The Commission and the Member States use this information to assess risk when formulating plant health policy and to optimise their controls. 2007 saw further enhancements to the help-desk function and, under the guidance of a user group, the addition of important new functions.

All Member States use EUROPHYT to submit and distribute their notifications; the FVO ensures that the data is complete and valid. There has been a significant increase in the use of data extracts and reports by Member States and the Commission to support development of plant health policy and controls by the Member State services and the FVO.

Chemical residues in food of animal origin



Within the EU, there is a legislative framework to monitor and control the presence of chemical residues in food derived from animals. Third countries exporting food to the EU must have equivalent systems in place and be listed in the Annex to Commission Decision 2004/432/EC⁹ indicating that they have approved residues plans. Inspections carried out by the residues group in the FVO enable evaluation of control systems on-the-spot. Evaluations focus on the control systems for residues of veterinary medicines, pesticides and contaminants in animals and animal products, including controls on the distribution and use of veterinary medicines. In 2007, the FVO residues group continued the evaluation of residue control plans from third countries exporting food of animal origin to the EU. This additional task resulted in fewer inspections being carried out in 2007 (12) compared to previous years (2006 – 13; 2005 – 16), however, the 2007 inspections were solely in third countries.

Third countries

Activities

Third country evaluations focused on the ability of those countries to satisfy Community requirements with regard to food exported to the EU.

In 2007, one candidate country (Turkey) and 11 third countries (Bangladesh, Brazil, Canada, Chile, Iceland, Indonesia, South Africa, Switzerland, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates and Vietnam) were inspected.

Findings

For several of these countries, there were no significant findings which had an impact on the approval status of the country in the Annex to Commission Decision 2004/432/EC (approved residues plans). However, for some countries, there were significant findings made which had a subsequent effect on trade. These are listed below.

The inspection in Vietnam was a follow-up to a previous inspection, carried out in 2003. Relative to that inspection, there had been no improvement in residues controls for honey and the country was subsequently delisted for this commodity.

In Brazil, much progress had been made since the 2005 inspection, particularly in laboratory performance and in the implementation of the residue control plan. A recommendation was subsequently made to re-list Brazil for honey.

In Ukraine, the absence of testing of horses led to its delisting for the export of live equidae for direct slaughter in the EU.

In Bangladesh, the absence of controls on veterinary medicines gave cause for concern, along with the authorisation (and apparent use) of nitrofurans in aquaculture shrimp. The Commission services have been in dialogue with the Bangladeshi authorities on these issues. Additional guarantees have been provided by the Competent Authority which include inter alia, compulsory pre-export residues testing of all batches of shrimp with exports being conditional upon certified compliance with Community standards.

In South Africa an almost total absence of residue testing was found and the country was delisted for several commodities. The country remained listed for ostrich meat and wild game, on condition that certain guarantees were met.

⁹ Decision 2004/432/EC of 29 April 2004 on the approval of residue monitoring plans submitted by third countries in accordance with Council Directive 96/23/EC, OJ L 154, 30.4.2004, p. 44–50.

Chemical residues in food of animal origin

Non-inspection Activities

Evaluation of third country residue control plans


Of the residue control plans submitted to the Commission by 82 third countries, 4 were incomplete (i.e. did not include all of the commodities for which there are approved residues plans in place), a reduction of 17 compared to 2006. In total 80% of those countries which had sent a complete plan were evaluated at least once with requests for additional information made in 19 cases.

The evaluations have resulted in a number of recommendations being made for the listing of new commodities/countries following approval of the residues plans submitted and a number of commodities/countries being proposed for removal from the list in the Annex to Commission Decision 2004/432/EC. The Decision was amended twice in 2007 with the most recent amendment in February 2008. There are now a total of 83 countries in the list and in the most recent amendment (Commission Decision 2008/105/EC¹⁰) 10 countries were delisted for a total of 15 commodities and 7 countries were newly listed or re-listed for a total of 12 commodities.

¹⁰ Commission Decision 2008/105/EC of 11 February 2008 amending Decision 2004/432/EC on the approval of residue monitoring plans submitted by third countries in accordance with Council Directive 96/23/EC, OJ L 38, 13.2.2008, pp. 9–14.

Pesticide residues in food of plant origin

The inspections in Member States examined the control systems put in place for pesticide residues in foodstuffs of plant origin. As pesticide residue monitoring is related to the placing on the market and use of plant protection products, the control systems for marketing and use were also evaluated. The inspections also focussed on the implementation of the Rapid Alert System for Feed and Food (RASFF) regarding pesticide residues.

Member States	Activities	Findings
	<p>A new series of inspections commenced in 2007 concerning inspections of the marketing and use of plant protection products, and the control of pesticide residues. 4 inspections were undertaken to Member States (Greece, Italy, Portugal and Spain) in 2007.</p>	<p>The control systems for placing on the market and use of plant protection products varied between the Member States visited. Monitoring systems for pesticide residues were generally in place but the planned frequency of sampling was not always met.</p> <p>Lack of accreditation of official laboratories to ISO 17025 is still a problem in all of the Member States visited. In addition, the evaluation found a lack of appropriate analytical equipment, and technical support in the laboratories visited with the result that an insufficient number of pesticides were analysed.</p> <p>In one Member State (Spain) decisions on enforcement were based solely on the analytical result without taking account of analytical uncertainty or a consumer risk assessment</p> <p>Actions taken in a previous series of inspections were verified during the inspections. Recommendations were made to the Member States to address deficiencies noted</p>
Candidate countries	Activities	Findings
	<p>There was one inspection in Turkey in 2007 relating to pesticides in products exported to Europe.</p>	<p>The inspection team found that the control system does not prevent unacceptable levels of pesticide residues in food of plant origin intended for export to the EU.</p> <p>The Member States were informed of the inspection findings in the Standing Committee on the Food Chain and Animal Health (SCFAH), so that they can take them into account for the targeting of their import controls</p>
Third countries	Activities	Findings
	<p>There were two inspections in third countries (Egypt and Kenya) in 2007 relating to pesticides in products exported to Europe.</p>	<p>The inspection in Egypt found a very weak official control system in place for pesticide residues in food of plant origin intended for export to the EU. Voluntary controls are applied by some exporters to meet the demands of their customers and provide some assurance that foodstuffs of plant origin being exported to the EU will comply with EU legislation.</p> <p>In Kenya it was found that exporters operate self-control systems for pesticide residues and co-operate intensively with the competent authorities. There is no official export control system in place. Official controls are in place for the marketing of plant protection products. These are supported by clear legal provisions and procedures, but the implementation is restricted due to an insufficient number of staff.</p>

Pesticide residues in food of plant origin

Non-inspection Activities

Pesticide Residue Monitoring report

An overall report on pesticide residue monitoring in plant products in the EU and certain EFTA countries was collated by the FVO and published on the Internet at:

http://europa.eu.int/comm/food/fvo/specialreports/pesticides_index_en.htm

This report contains the data from the national monitoring programmes and the data from the EU co-ordinated monitoring programme, for pesticide residues for the calendar year 2005. The report has been published annually since 1996. Overall, 62,569 samples were analysed in the participating countries. In total, 4.7 % of the samples exceeded the legal residue limits, the same figure as 2004 and slightly lower than the previous two years. The overall percentage of samples with residues at or below the legal limits shows an increase in recent years and increased from 39.7% in 2004 to 41% in 2005. The analytical capabilities of the laboratories continue to increase and covered more than 700 pesticides in 2005, allowing increased rates of pesticide detections.

Additives, flavourings, food contact materials



A new series of inspections began in 2007 the objective of which was to evaluate implementation of the Community legislation on food additives and food contact materials, in accordance with relevant provisions on Community law relating to official food and feed controls.

"Food additive" is defined as a substance not normally consumed as food in itself and not normally used as a characteristic ingredient of food. It is added to food intentionally for technological reasons. Community legislation establishes a "positive list" of additives authorised for use in foodstuffs, usually specifying the maximum content thereof allowed in food or setting the permitted limit at a level necessary to achieve the technological purpose without misleading the consumer. Before authorisation, food additives have to undergo appropriate toxicological testing and evaluation, leading to approval or rejection and to establishment of the maximum permitted levels in foodstuffs. This evaluation takes into account any cumulative, synergistic or potentiating effect of use thereof and the phenomenon of human intolerance to substances foreign to the body. It is illegal to use unauthorised additives in foodstuffs and to apply additives to foodstuffs without authorisation for each specific application.

As regards food contact materials, 415 notifications, mainly concerning materials originating from third countries and to a lesser extent in Member States, have been notified through RASFF. These break down as follows: 36 alerts in 2004, 190 in 2005 and 189 in 2006. The following hazards were reported: primary aromatic amines (PAA), semicarbazide (SEM), di(2-ethylhexyl) adipate (DEHA), formaldehyde, heavy metals (lead, cadmium, chromium, nickel, iron, manganese or zinc), excessive total migration, organoleptic properties and isopropyl thioxantone (ITX).

Consequently the FVO undertook an inspection in one of the largest exporters of food contact material products to the EU and the one most implicated in alerts over the past number of years.

Member States	Activities	Findings
	<p>Inspections were undertaken in 3 Member States (Estonia, France and The Netherlands) with the objective of evaluating the implementation of the Community legislation on food additives and food contact materials, in accordance with relevant provisions on Community law relating to official food and feed controls.</p>	<p>Overall, a satisfactory system is in place for both food additives and food contact materials although focusing on market controls. The main shortcomings identified are the lack of validation of analytical methods for the majority of food additives in the laboratory visited and the limited scope of accreditation.</p>
Third countries	Activities	Findings
	<p>An inspection was undertaken in China with the objective of assessing the official control systems in place for food contact materials which are for export to the EU.</p>	<p>There is a satisfactory official control system in place for controlling lead and cadmium in ceramic articles intended for export to the EU. However, control of hazardous contaminants in plastic food contact materials is based on industry self controls. Some shortcomings were found in the analytical methods for assessing contaminants in plastics.</p>

Genetically modified food, feed and seed



Two Regulations extend labelling and traceability requirements to genetically modified food, feed and seed for cultivation: Regulation (EC) No 1829/2003¹¹ and Regulation (EC) No 1830/2003¹². The objective of the inspections in 2007 was to evaluate control measures, including sample checks and testing (qualitative and quantitative) as appropriate, carried out to ensure compliance with the above Regulations. The FVO also undertook an inspection in one of largest exporters of soya to the EU to evaluate control systems for food, feed and seed containing, consisting of or produced from genetically modified organisms (GMO) intended for export to the EU.

Member States	Activities	Findings
	<p>Four Member States (Austria, Greece, The Netherlands and Romania) were evaluated which completed this series of inspections on traceability and labelling in genetically modified food, feed and seed.</p>	<p>All Member States visited had organised controls on GMOs but these varied greatly in terms of the frequency of inspection and sampling.</p> <p>Almost all non compliances concerning GMO related to Articles 13 and 25 of Regulation (EC) No 1829/2003 concerning the labelling of food and feed products.</p> <p>In the absence of Community legislation on threshold values for GMO in seed (as provided for in Article 21(2) of Directive 2001/18/EC¹³) 2 MS had adopted threshold values above the limit of detection.</p> <p>The majority of official control laboratories with responsibility for official control analysis for GMO were either accredited to EN ISO/IEC 17025.</p> <p>One Member State had four additional national ordinances in place banning the import of GM maize MON810, T25 and BT176 and rapeseed GT73 for use as food, feed and seed products based on the safeguard procedures laid down in Article 23 of Directive 2001/18/EC. A further Member State had a ban in place on the cultivation of MON810.</p>

¹¹ Regulation (EC) No 1829/2003 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 22 September 2003 on genetically modified food and feed; OJ No L 268, 18/10/2003, pp. 1-23

¹² Regulation (EC) No 1830/2003 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 22 September 2003 concerning the traceability and labelling of genetically modified organisms and the traceability of food and feed products produced from genetically modified organisms amending Directive 2001/18/EC; OJ No L 268, 18/10/2003, pp. 24-28.

¹³ Directive 2001/18/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 12 March 2001 on the deliberate release into the environment of genetically modified organisms repealing Council Directive 90/220/EEC; OJ No L 106, 17/04/2001, pp. 1-39.

Genetically modified food, feed and seed

Third countries	Activities	Findings
	<p>As imports from Brazil in 2005 accounted for more than 50 % of total imports of soya bean (either as a grain or processed), 4 % for maize and 9% for cotton seed, an inspection was carried out there in 2007</p>	<p>At the time of the inspection there were 2 GMOs authorised for cultivation in Brazil (RR soya and Cotton 531), both of which are authorised for use in food and feed in the EU.</p> <p>GMO RR soya (and its derivatives) and Cotton seed 531 which are for export to the EU are treated in the same way as conventional products. The existing controls are related to the verification of compliance with phytosanitary requirements of the importer country according to the WTO Agreement on the application of Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures, which does not cover GMO.</p> <p>The voluntary scheme, which was evaluated, for the export of certified 'Identity Preserved' non GMO soya to the EU operated satisfactorily. There is no competent authority involvement in these voluntary schemes other than the approval of designated laboratories for analysis.</p>

Contaminants and import controls for food of non-animal origin



The number of rapid alert (RASFF) notifications relating to the import of a wide range of products containing mycotoxins, in nuts and dried fruit, and for the unauthorised dye Sudan I-IV, remains high. Controls at import on products of plant origin are not harmonised, with the exception of certain cases (such as: aflatoxins in nuts from certain third countries; Sudan I-IV in some spices and palm oil). In these cases, controls are imposed by Commission Decisions.

An inspection series which has been ongoing since 2006 evaluated, in the context of the import controls on food and feed of non-animal origin, the implementation of European Parliament and Council Regulations (EC) Nos 882/2004 and 178/2002¹⁴, and the implementation of Commission Decisions 2006/504/EC¹⁵ and 2005/402/EC¹⁶ concerning mycotoxin contamination and Sudan dye adulteration.

Missions to third countries evaluated controls relating to products notified under the RASFF system.

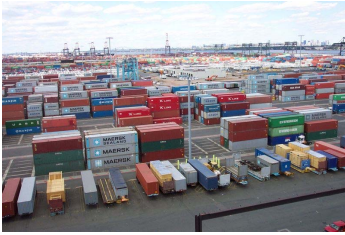
Member States	Activities	Findings
	<p>Controls in two Member States (Austria and France) were evaluated in 2007 as part of ongoing series.</p>	<p>The scope of controls focus only on foodstuffs affected by Commission Decisions 2006/504/EC and 2005/402/EC and planning of controls does not take into account current potential risks.</p>
Third countries	Activities	Findings
	<p>A significant number of alerts were circulated concerning the import of the products into the EU from three third countries: Brazil, Ghana and Russia. These included peanuts from Brazil and Ghana and, in the case of Russia, the presence of unauthorised colours for use in foodstuffs of plant origin intended for export to the EU, specifically in dried herbs and spices.</p>	<p>The inspections in Brazil and Ghana found that the current official control systems did not fully ensure that peanuts exported to the EU complied with or were at least equivalent to the relevant requirements as regards to aflatoxin.</p> <p>The control system in Russia established for unauthorised colours in herbs and spices is focused mainly to the domestic market and does not cover all processors of spices and herbs.</p>

¹⁴ Regulation (EC) No 178/2002 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 28 January 2002 laying down the general principles and requirements of food law, establishing the European Food Safety Authority and laying down procedures in matters of food safety; OJ L 31, 1.02.2002, pp.1-24.

¹⁵ Commission Decision 2006/504/EC of 12 July 2006 on special conditions governing certain foodstuffs imported from certain third countries due to contamination risks of these products by aflatoxins. OJ L 199, 21.07.2006, pp.21-32.

¹⁶ Commission Decision 2005/402/EC of 23 May 2005 on emergency measures regarding chilli, chilli products, curcuma and palm oil. OJ L 135, 28.05.2005, pp.34-36.

Import Controls on live animals and products of animal origin




Import and transit controls on live animals and products of animal origin are almost fully harmonised in the EU. These controls take place at specific EU-approved Border Inspection Posts (BIPs) at the external borders (land borders, ports and international airports) of the EU.

Inspections of the BIPs take place at regular intervals, to verify that they meet Community requirements, together with an assessment of the systems put in place by the Member States to ensure that the controls are carried out as foreseen. Inspectors also check, where appropriate, if previously identified shortcomings have been corrected through the implementation of action plans.

Member States	Activities	Findings
	<p>Inspections were carried out in twelve Member States to evaluate the import and transit control system in place and to verify compliance with EU requirements in 38 approved BIPs and one proposed BIP.</p> <p>These inspections followed up the series of illegal import inspections carried out during the recent years and the evaluation covered what measures have been put in place to detect illegal introductions, including those for personal consumption as well as checks for non-commercial pet animals. The inspections in six of the Member States visited were carried out with a specific focus on the supervision, storage and traceability of non-EU-complying consignments in transit in accordance with relevant EU requirements.</p> <p>The member States visited were: Bulgaria, Finland, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Malta, Romania, Slovenia and The Netherlands.</p>	<p>In most of the Member States visited the import and transit control system has improved and a number of corrective actions taken in relation to the recommendations of the previous inspections were observed.</p> <p>In general, progress was noted with supervision of BIPs, training of staff and working procedures; improved co-operation between the veterinary services and other services involved in import / transit controls was noted in the Member States. Nevertheless, common shortcomings in general of a minor nature were found in the areas of identification and selection of consignments, checks on non-commercial pet animals, BIP-facilities including equipment and hygiene and for destruction of animal-by-products (galley waste). Some previously identified shortcomings continued to exist in a couple of Member States.</p> <p>Although the system for transit controls improved in all Member States visited, some differences to the current EU requirements weakened its effectiveness.</p> <p>In each inspected Member State the system in place to detect illegal imports in the luggage of travellers was further improved. However, in some Member States further measures for improvement are possible to minimise the likelihood of illegal introduction of relevant consignments.</p> <p>All non-compliances are being pursued with the relevant authorities in the Member States concerned.</p> <p>As a consequence of the outcome of the inspections and of the action plans the approvals of a few BIPs have been modified accordingly.</p>

Import Controls on live animals and products of animal origin

Third countries	Activities	Findings
	<p>BIPs in EFTA-countries are also points of entry for the EU. In such cases, the FVO joins EFTA Surveillance Authority (ESA) inspections as an observer, one such inspection was carried out in 2007 in Iceland and six approved and one newly proposed BIP was visited.</p>	<p>The import control system in place in the EFTA-country visited complied in many areas with the national requirements which are equivalent to the requirements foreseen in EU legislation. There were a number of areas where the system showed significant shortcomings, which are mainly caused by inadequate supervision and administrative measures, staffing and training put in place by the CCA.</p> <p>The amendments proposed for the list of approved BIPs could be recommended, if satisfactory assurances are provided for the correction of the short comings noted. All non-compliances are being pursued by ESA with the relevant authorities in the EFTA-country concerned.</p>
	<p>One inspection was carried out to Switzerland to evaluate the import/transit control system in place and to verify the application of EU requirements as laid down in the Agreement between the EC and the relevant third country.</p>	<p>A functioning import control system was in place; national legislation equivalent to the relevant EU legislation had been put in place, except for transit issues, NHC-import requirements, destruction of kitchen waste, the positive list identifying the products of animal origin and live animals requiring veterinary checks and the presence of an approved residue control plan. Other shortcomings noted in the implementation of the import control system were based on the lack of detailed guidance and training.</p> <p>No shortcomings were noted for the checks on personal luggage and on pet animals, whereas the construction of the BIP facilities still has to be finalised.</p> <p>All non-compliances are being pursued with the relevant authorities in the third country concerned.</p>

Candidate countries	Activities	Findings
	<p>Inspections to evaluate the status of the implementation of the import/transit control system in accordance with EU requirements and to assess facilities and operations at proposed BIPs were conducted in two candidate countries (Croatia and FYROM).</p>	<p>EU import control requirements were not yet applied, although transposition of relevant legislation was mainly completed. The development of implementing measures was in progress and the application of the EU import control system was planned by 1 January 2007. Most of the BIP facilities visited were in compliance with EU requirements, apart from some deficiencies or facilities for which the construction was not yet finalised.</p> <p>All non-compliances are being pursued with the relevant authorities in the candidate countries concerned.</p>

Non-inspection Activities

SANCO programme "Better Training for Safer Food"

The FVO participated in six training seminars for BIPs under the SANCO programme "Better Training for Safer Food" in three ports (in Livorno) and three airports (in Vienna) BIP seminars the main outcome of FVO inspections was presented and discussed with the participants.

Enlargement of the European Union

In 2007, the FVO continued the pre-enlargement monitoring in the three candidate countries which began in 2005.

Candidate countries	Activities	Findings
	<p>The FVO performed twelve inspections in the candidate countries in 2007, as detailed in the preceding pages of this report. Nine inspections were carried out as part of the Commission's overall monitoring of the progress of candidate countries in their preparations for EU membership. The remaining three inspections were carried out as part of the export approval process.</p>	<p>The responses to the 229 recommendations made by the FVO in the inspection reports in candidate countries since 2005 were generally positive, with a satisfactory response in 86% of cases. However, the level of action taken in response to these recommendations was low. This is due to the fact that the FVO enlargement monitoring of candidate countries was still at an early stage and the majority of commitments received had a deadline for delivery linked to accession.</p> <p>In general, the inspections noted the good start made by the national competent authorities in preparing for accession in the area of food safety. However, financial constraints as well as political, legal and institutional factors impinged on the effective implementation of official controls in particular as regards imports, animal health and upgrading of agri-food establishments. The FVO will continue to monitor progress in these countries.</p>

Inspection-related Activities

Country Profiles

Regulation (EC) No 882/2004 of the European Parliament and the Council on official controls performed to ensure the verification of compliance with feed and food law, animal health and animal welfare rules, sets out a new framework for control activities conducted by national authorities and the Commission. In preparing its implementation of the Regulation, the FVO developed country specific profiles to complement its inspection activities and provide a baseline for future audits of national control systems.

Each country profile is a repository of data on control systems for the Member State concerned and provides a horizontal perspective of the structure and organisation of the relevant control authorities and their responses to FVO recommendations.

Country profiles provide a basis for assessing overall compliance with EU requirements, ensuring effective follow-up to FVO reports and recommendations, and facilitating the prioritisation of future FVO audits and inspections. The country profile also constitutes a valuable source of relevant material in cases where more formal enforcement measures require to be taken against a Member State.

In regard to follow up to FVO reports and inspections, the preparation and updating of country profiles involves inter alia meetings between the FVO and the relevant national authorities to review, across the board, progress being made by the authorities on recommendations made in FVO inspection reports. These "general reviews" are a vital component in the process of monitoring compliance of the Member States with EU law.

Country profiles for all 27 Member States are published on the Commission's website at:

http://ec.europa.eu/food/fvo/country_profiles_en.cfm

Inspection-related Activities

Guidelines for multi-annual national control plans

Regulation (EC) No 882/2004 of the European Parliament and of the Council on official controls performed to ensure the verification of compliance with feed and food law, animal health and welfare rules requires Member States to prepare a single integrated multi-annual control plan (MANCP) for the performance of these controls and to audit and report annually on the implementation of this plan. The Commission is required to produce guidelines to facilitate this process. The Food and Veterinary Office is leading the preparation of these guidelines, which are being developed through an incremental process which will take account of experiences in the application of this new approach to official controls, in consultation with the Member States. The first of these guidelines laying down criteria for the conduct of audits of national competent authorities were adopted as Commission Decision 2006/677/EC¹⁷ on 29th September 2006.

Guidelines to assist Member States in preparing the single integrated multi-annual national control plan were adopted as Commission Decision 2007/363/EC¹⁸ on 21 May 2007.

Substantial progress on the preparation of the guidelines for reporting on the multi-annual control plan was also achieved during the year and the guidelines are expected to be adopted in 2008.

Work commenced on guidelines on information to be provided by third countries on the general organisation and management of their sanitary control systems. This information will form the basis of Community controls in third countries to verify compliance or equivalence of their legislation and systems with Community requirements with respect to goods intended for export to the Community.

General Audits

Article 45 of Regulation (EC) No 882/2004 of the European Parliament and of the Council on official controls performed to ensure the verification of compliance with feed and food law, animal health and welfare rules introduced the General Audit as a new Community control instrument.

General Audits are intended to provide, supplemented by specific audits, a global view of the operation of official controls at national level in member States and to determine whether:

- Controls are carried out in accordance with the Multi-Annual National Control Plan; and
- Controls ensure compliance with relevant EU requirements.

The FVO approach establishes a General Audit and review cycle, whereby all Member States will have such an audit every three years, with follow-up reviews undertaken in the intervening two years to monitor progress with implementation of any necessary corrective actions. The General Audit itself is comprised of a sequence of integrated sector-specific audits. These are selected taking into consideration the Multi-Annual National Control Plan and the annual reports on its implementation, as prepared by the national authorities.

In 2007, FVO carried out pilot General Audits in Austria and the Netherlands. The sector-specific audits forming part of these General Audits are detailed under the relevant headings in the preceding chapters. The results from the sector-specific audits provided an overview of the 'horizontal' aspects of the relevant control systems in the two Member States visited and will contribute to the final General Audit report for these Member States. The 'horizontal' aspects include factors such as human resources, training, guidelines, legal powers etc. These audits resulted in specific reports being issued to the Member States concerned on the 'vertical' or sector specific issues. The final outcome of the General Audit is presented in a report, which will be published.

¹⁷ Commission Decision 2006/677/EC of 29 September 2006 setting out the guidelines laying down criteria for the conduct of audits under Regulation (EC) No 882/2004 of the European Parliament and of the Council on official controls to verify compliance with feed and food law, animal health and animal welfare rules OJ L 278, 10.10.2006, pp. 15–23.

¹⁸ Commission Decision 2007/363/EC of 21 May 2007 on guidelines to assist Member States in preparing the single integrated multi-annual national control plan provided for in Regulation (EC) No 882/2004 of the European Parliament and of the Council OJ L 138, 30.5.2007, pp. 24–49.

Other FVO Activities

In addition to inspection, audit and related activities, FVO also carries out the following activities

Hosting visiting delegations

The FVO welcomes visitors from a variety of national and international bodies throughout the year and provides information on relevant activities to visiting delegations. In the case of delegations from national and international control bodies, these visits also provide a useful opportunity for exchanges of experience.

In 2007, visiting delegations included representatives from European Parliament committees (committees on Agriculture and Rural Development, Budgets and Environment, Public Health and Food Safety), representations from inspection and control bodies from 3 third countries (the Export Inspection Council of India, the US Government Accountability Office and the Federal Service for Veterinary and Phytosanitary Surveillance of the Russian Federation), a group following the Masters course in Food Safety Management run by the Dublin Institute of Technology and a study group from several African countries sponsored by UNIDO (the United Nations Industrial Development Organization).

Hosting trainees

During 2007 the FVO hosted a total of 11 trainees, for periods of time ranging from 2 to 5 months, from a total of 9 different countries (Austria, Belgium, Czech Republic, Finland, Germany, Hungary, Italy, Lithuania and Taiwan). Most were part of the official Commission in-service training scheme, while a few were employees of national administrations temporarily seconded to the FVO. Such trainees are university graduates, in some cases having a number of years of professional experience. During their time with FVO they were attached to Units undertaking areas of work relevant to their expertise and had the opportunity to learn, at first hand, how the FVO operates as well as gaining experience of the workings of the European Commission services as a whole.

Glossary of terms used in the Report

ABP (Animal by-products)	Animal by-products are the parts of a slaughtered animal that are not directly consumed by humans, including dead on farm animals and catering waste (i.e. waste food originating from restaurants, catering facilities and kitchens) that contains or has been in contact with meat products, whether cooked or uncooked.
Aflatoxins	A group of toxins (poisonous chemical compounds) that are produced by two fungi called <i>Aspergillus flavus</i> and <i>Aspergillus parasiticus</i> . These toxins occur naturally and have been found in a wide range of commodities used for animal and human consumption. Depending on the levels, the toxins can severely affect the liver and they are a known cause of cancer in humans.
Audit	A systematic and independent examination to determine whether activities and related results comply with planned arrangements and whether these arrangements are implemented effectively and are suitable to achieve objectives.
BIP (Border inspection post)	A facility approved for the carrying out of veterinary checks on live animals and products of animal origin arriving from third countries for import into the EU.
BSE (Bovine spongiform encephalopathy)	See "TSE"
Candidate countries	From 17.12.2005, Croatia, the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia (FYROM) and Turkey
Competent authority	A domestic government body made responsible under that country's national law for the control or regulation of a particular area of legislation.
Contaminant	Any substance not intentionally added to food, which is present in such food as a result of the production, manufacture, processing, preparation, treatment, packing, packaging, transport or holding of such food, or as a result of environmental contamination.
EEA / EFTA / ESA	The European Free Trade Association (EFTA) is an intergovernmental organisation promoting free trade and strengthening economic relations. EFTA's Member States are Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway and Switzerland. The European Economic Area (EEA) is an agreement between EFTA and the EU, designed to allow EFTA countries to participate in the European Single Market without having to join the EU. Switzerland is a member of EFTA but chose, by referendum, not to participate in the EEA. The EFTA Surveillance Authority (ESA) ensures that Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway respect their obligations under the EEA Agreement.
EUROPHYT	Article 21(6) first indent of Council Directive 2000/29/EC ¹⁹ states that "the Commission shall establish a network for the notification of new occurrences of harmful organisms". EUROPHYT is an electronic rapid alert system between the Member States and the Commission. Its aim is to transmit information concerning plant quarantine matters (notifications of interceptions of plants, plant health legislation, documents of the Standing Committee on Plant Health).
HACCP	Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Point (HACCP) is a system for monitoring food processes to reduce the risk of food contamination. HACCP focuses on how food flows through the food processes – be it food production, distribution or retail – and identifies potential hazards at each step. By identifying "critical control points" (CCPs) where bacteria may grow or food may be contaminated, HACCP provides a framework for implementing control procedures for each hazard.
Illegal imports	The introduction onto the territory of the Community of products of animal origin or live animals that, either accidentally or intentionally, have not been subject to, and cleared following, the veterinary checks foreseen in Community legislation.
Infringement proceedings	Treaty infringement proceedings form a procedure for establishing whether a Member State has failed to fulfil an obligation imposed on it by Community law. The procedure starts with a pre-litigation phase, involving contacts between the Commission and the Member State, and may conclude with a legal action before the European Court of Justice.
Mycotoxins	A group of naturally occurring toxic metabolites produced by some species of fungi – especially strains of <i>Aspergillus flavus</i> . These fungi grow on many plant-based foodstuffs, such as grains, cereals, nuts and fruit, and mycotoxins may be produced by these fungi under certain conditions.
OIE (Office International des Epizooties)	The OIE (Office International des Epizooties / World Organisation for Animal Health) is an intergovernmental organisation established in 1924. In June 2008 it had 172 member countries. The EU Member States are all members. The European Commission is actively involved in the OIE's work and co-ordinates the input of the EU Member States.

¹⁹ Council Directive 2000/29/EC of 8 May 2000 on protective measures against the introduction into the Community of organisms harmful to plants or plant products and against their spread within the Community, OJ L 169, 10.7.2000, pp. 1–112.

OIE List A diseases	OIE Classification List A diseases are defined as transmissible diseases that have the potential for very serious and rapid spread, irrespective of national borders, that are of serious socio-economic or public health consequence and that are of major importance in the international trade of animals and animal products. (See "OIE")
Phytosanitary	Pertaining to the health of plants.
RASFF	The Rapid Alert System for Feed and Food (RASFF) is a network of national authorities, managed by the Commission, that exchanges information on the presence of potential health risks to consumers presented by a food product.
Residue	That portion of the administered dose of a veterinary medicine or other substance present in the tissues, body fluids, products or excreta of an animal arising from treatment of the animal. The total residue includes the parent compound plus any metabolites.
SRM (Specified Risk Material)	Tissues designated as specified risk material in connection with TSE are laid down in Regulation (EC) No 999/2001 of the European Parliament and of the Council, as amended, and comprise mainly: the skull including the brain and eyes, the vertebral column and the spinal cord of bovine animals aged over 12 months; the tonsils, the intestines from the duodenum to the rectum and the mesentery of bovine animals of all ages; the skull including the brain and eyes, the tonsils and the spinal cord of ovine and caprine animals aged over 12 months or which have a permanent incisor erupted through the gum; the spleen and ileum of ovine and caprine animals of all ages. (See "TSE")
Sudan dyes	Sudan I, II, III and IV are industrial dyes normally used for colouring plastics and other synthetic materials. Sudan dyes may have a carcinogenic effect. The presence of these dyes in food contravenes EU legislation.
Traceability	The ability to trace and follow a food, feed, food-producing animal or substance intended to be, or expected to be incorporated into a food or feed, through all stages of production, processing and distribution.
TSE	Transmissible spongiform encephalopathies (TSE), of which bovine spongiform encephalopathy (BSE) is one. BSE is a transmissible, neuro-degenerative, fatal brain disease of cattle. Also known as prion diseases, TSEs are a group of rare degenerative brain disorders characterised by tiny holes that give the brain a "spongy" appearance.
Zoonoses / Zoonotic diseases	The World Health Organisation defines zoonosis as an infectious disease that is transmissible under natural conditions from animals to humans.

List of FVO inspections completed in 2007

Member States:	Title	Report No:
Austria	to evaluate the implementation and controls in respect of EU requirements regarding animal health conditions applicable to intra-Community trade in semen and embryos of domestic animals of the bovine species	2007-7370
	to evaluate the implementation of EU animal health requirements for intra-Community trade in live animals	2007-7350
	to evaluate the official control systems for food, feed and seed consisting of or produced from Genetically Modified Organisms (GMOs)	2007-7177
	to evaluate the implementation of the plant passport system, the current situation of <i>Erwinia amylovora (burr)</i> and the system of import controls for plant health	2007-7602
	to evaluate import controls on food and feed of non-animal origin	2007-7224
	to evaluate the implementation of health rules on animal by-products	2007-7518
	to evaluate the implementation of measures concerning official controls on feed and compliance with requirements for feed hygiene	2007-7500
Belgium	to review control systems for food and feed safety, animal health, animal welfare and plant health in order to prepare a country profile	2007-7458
	to evaluate the import controls for plant health Import controls	2007-7426
	to assess the official control systems in place for food hygiene, traceability, labelling and bottled water	2007-7196
	to evaluate the implementation of official controls for gelatines	2007-7229
Bulgaria	to review control systems for food and feed safety, animal health, animal welfare and plant health in order to prepare a country profile	2007-7465
	evaluate the actions taken following inspection 8214/2006 and to assess the situation with regard to veterinary public health controls	2007-7574
	to evaluate the actions taken following inspection 8214/2006 and to assess the situation with regard to veterinary public health controls	2007-7584
	to assess the situation with regard to animal health and veterinary public health controls	2007-7590
	to evaluate the situation concerning classical swine fever	2007-7483
	to evaluate the level of preparedness of the competent authorities to control avian influenza and Newcastle disease in poultry and the measures taken to control Newcastle disease	2007-7527
	to assess the official control systems on the hygiene of foodstuffs, and in particular regarding bottled water	2007-7197
	to evaluate the import control system for products of animal origin and live animals	2007-7571
	to evaluate the implementation of measures concerning official controls on feed and compliance with requirements for feed hygiene	2007-7272
	Cyprus	Concerning protective measures against transmissible spongiform encephalopathies in sheep and goats
Czech Republic	to evaluate the rabies eradication programme	2007-7362

	to evaluate official controls over the production and placing on the market of infant formulae, follow-on formulae and baby foods, including the supply chain	2007-7140
	to evaluate the implementation of EU animal health requirements for intra-Community trade in live animals	2007-7240
	Concerning bovine spongiform encephalopathy	2007-7231
	to evaluate the system of control in relation to animal welfare on farms	2007-7232
Denmark	to review control systems for food and feed safety, animal health, animal welfare and plant health in order to prepare a country profile	2007-7456
	to evaluate the implementation of EU animal health requirements for intra-Community trade in live animals	2007-7349
	to evaluate the import controls for plant health Import controls	2007-7378
	to evaluate the system of control in relation to animal welfare on farms	2007-7238
Estonia	to review control systems for food and feed safety, animal health, animal welfare and plant health in order to prepare a country profile	2007-7597
	to evaluate the rabies eradication programme	2007-7360
	to evaluate the implementation of measures concerning official controls on feed and compliance with requirements for feed hygiene	2007-7233
Finland	to review control systems for food and feed safety, animal health, animal welfare and plant health in order to prepare a country profile	2007-7592
	to evaluate the follow-up action taken by the competent authorities with regard to official controls related to the safety of food of animal origin, in particular meat, milk and their products	2007-7427
	to evaluate the import/transit control system for products of animal origin and live animals	2007-7582
	to evaluate the system of control in relation to animal welfare on farms	2007-7329
France	to evaluate official controls over the production and placing on the market of infant formulae, follow-on formulae and baby foods, including the supply chain	2007-7143
	to evaluate the measures and control system put in place for bluetongue	2007-7948
	to assess the official control systems in place for food additives and for food contact materials	2007-7187
	to evaluate import controls on food and feed of non-animal origin	2007-7185
	to assess the official control systems in place for food hygiene (within the meaning of Regulation (EC) No 853/2004), traceability and labelling	2007-7223
	to evaluate the implementation of official controls for gelatines	2007-7252
	to evaluate the system of control in relation to animal welfare at the time of slaughter and killing.	2007-7330
	to evaluate the implementation of measures concerning official controls on feed and compliance with requirements for feed hygiene	2007-7263
	to assess animal welfare during transport as linked to commission Regulation (EC) No 609/2003 on the granting of refunds for the export of live bovine animals	2007-7580

Germany	to evaluate the follow-up action taken by the competent authorities with regard to official controls related to the safety of food of animal origin, in particular meat, milk and their products	2007-7430
	to evaluate the system of control in relation to animal welfare on farms	2007-7236
	to assess animal welfare during transport as linked to commission Regulation (EC) No 639/2003 on the granting of refunds for the export of live bovine animals	2007-7581
	concerning an assessment of the import control system for live animals and products of animal origin at a proposed BIP	2007-7917
	concerning protective measures against transmissible spongiform encephalopathies in sheep and goats	2007-7604
Greece	to review control systems for food and feed safety, animal health, animal welfare and plant health in order to prepare a country profile	2007-7460
	to evaluate the control system put in place for bluetongue	2007-7369
	to evaluate the follow-up action taken by the competent authorities with regard to official controls related to the safety of food of animal origin, in particular meat, milk and their products	2007-7431
	to evaluate controls of pesticide residues in food of plant origin	2007-7218
	to assess the official control systems in place for food hygiene (within the meaning of Regulation (EC) No 852/2004), traceability and labelling	2007-7201
	to evaluate the official control system for food, feed and seed containing or consisting of Genetically Modified Organism(s)	2007-7199
	to evaluate the implementation of health rules on animal by-products	2007-7575
	to evaluate the system of control in relation to animal welfare on farms	2007-7244
	to evaluate the import control system for products of animal origin and live animals	2007-7242
	to evaluate the implementation of health rules on animal by-products	2007-7611
Hungary	to review control systems for food and feed safety, animal health, animal welfare and plant health in order to prepare a country profile	2007-7593
	to evaluate the follow-up action taken by the competent authorities with regard to official controls related to the safety of food of animal origin, in particular meat, milk and their products	2007-7432
	to evaluate the rabies eradication programme	2007-7363
	to evaluate the systems in place to control the <i>Salmonella</i> risk in the table egg sector	2007-7346
	to evaluate the system of import controls for plant health Import controls	2007-7419
	concerning protective measures against transmissible spongiform encephalopathies in sheep and goats	2007-7249
	to evaluate the import/transit control system for products of animal origin and live animals	2007-7235
	to evaluate the system of control in relation to animal welfare during transport and at the time of slaughter and killing	2007-7331
	to evaluate the implementation of health rules on animal by-products	2007-7253

FVO Annual Report 2007

Ireland	to review control systems for food and feed safety, animal health, animal welfare and plant health in order to prepare a country profile	2007-7421
	to evaluate the bovine tuberculosis eradication programme	2007-7366
	to evaluate official controls over the production and placing on the market of infant formulae, follow-on formulae and baby foods, including the supply chain	2007-7148
Italy	to review control systems for food and feed safety, animal health, animal welfare and plant health in order to prepare a country profile	2007-7594
	to evaluate the follow-up action taken by the competent authorities with regard to official controls related to the safety of food of animal origin, in particular meat, milk and their products	2007-7435
	to evaluate the operation of the ovine/caprine brucellosis eradication programme	2007-7368
	to evaluate the implementation of EU animal health requirements for intra-Community trade in equidae	2007-7373
	to assess the official control systems in place for food hygiene, traceability, labelling and bottled water	2007-7193
	to evaluate controls of pesticide residues in food of plant origin	2007-7194
	to evaluate the implementation of measures concerning official controls on feed and compliance with requirements for feed hygiene	2007-7264
	to evaluate the import control system for products of animal origin and live animals	2007-7275
	to evaluate the implementation of animal welfare requirements for equidae intended for slaughter, both during transport and at slaughter	2007-7332
Latvia	to evaluate the rabies eradication programme	2007-7358
	to evaluate the import control system for products of animal origin and live animals	2007-7280
	to evaluate the implementation of measures concerning official controls on feed and compliance with requirements for feed hygiene	2007-7265
Lithuania	to evaluate the rabies eradication programme	2007-7359
	to evaluate the implementation of EU animal health requirements for intra-Community trade in equidae	2007-7374
	to assess the official control systems in place for food hygiene (within the meaning of Regulation (EC) No 852/2004), traceability and labelling	2007-7190
	to evaluate the implementation of health rules on animal by-products	2007-7254
	to evaluate the import/transit control systems for products of animal origin and live animals	2007-7277
	to evaluate the system of control in relation to animal welfare during transport, in particular horses destined for slaughter	2007-7333
Luxembourg	to review control systems for food and feed safety, animal health, animal welfare and plant health in order to prepare a country profile	2007-7457
Malta	to evaluate the follow-up action taken by the competent authorities with regard to official controls related to the safety of food of animal origin, in	2007-7588

	particular meat, milk and their products	
	to evaluate the import/transit control system for products of animal origin and live animals	2007-7283
Poland	to review control systems for food and feed safety, animal health, animal welfare and plant health in order to prepare a country profile	2007-7596
	to evaluate the rabies eradication programme	2007-7361
	to evaluate the follow-up action taken by the competent authorities with regard to official controls related to the safety of food of animal origin, in particular meat, milk and their products	2007-7442
	to evaluate official controls over the production and placing on the market of infant formulae, follow-on formulae and baby foods, including the supply chain	2007-7153
	to evaluate the implementation of EU animal health requirements for intra-Community trade in equidae	2007-7372
	to evaluate the import controls for plant health import controls	2007-7376
	to evaluate the import/transit control system for products of animal origin and live animals	2007-7573
	to evaluate the import/transit control system for products of animal origin and live animals	2007-7578
	concerning bovine spongiform encephalopathy	2007-7245
	to evaluate the implementation of health rules on animal by-products	2007-7259
	to evaluate the system of control in relation to animal welfare during transport, in particular horses destined for slaughter	2007-7334
Portugal	to evaluate the follow-up action taken by the competent authorities with regard to official controls related to the safety of food of animal origin, in particular meat, milk and their products	2007-7443
	to monitor the eradication programme in place for <i>Bursaphelenchus xylophilus</i>	2007-7451
	to monitor the eradication programme in place for <i>Bursaphelenchus xylophilus</i>	2007-7452
	to monitor the eradication programme in place for <i>Bursaphelenchus xylophilus</i>	2007-7454
	to evaluate controls of pesticide residues in food of plant origin	2007-7222
	Concerning bovine spongiform encephalopathy	2007-7246
	Concerning protective measures against transmissible spongiform encephalopathies in sheep and goats	2007-7261
Romania	to review control systems for food and feed safety, animal health, animal welfare and plant health in order to prepare a country profile	2007-7463
	evaluation of the actions taken following inspection 8215/2006 and to assess the situation with regard to veterinary public health controls	2007-7576
	to assess the situation with regard to animal health and veterinary public health controls	2007-7587
	to evaluate the surveillance, control and eradication of classical swine fever in domestic and wild pigs	2007-7482

	to evaluate the control and eradication of classical swine fever	2007-7618
	to evaluate official controls related to the safety of food of animal origin and animal welfare at the time of slaughter	2007-7383
	to assess the actions undertaken by the Romanian authorities to control avian influenza and Newcastle disease in poultry	2007-7526
	to evaluate the official control system for food, feed and seed containing, or consisting of, Genetically Modified Organism(s)	2007-7186
	to evaluate the import control system for products of animal origin and live animals	2007-7301
	to evaluate the implementation of measures concerning official controls on feed and compliance with requirements for feed hygiene	2007-7273
	to evaluate the system of control in relation to animal welfare on laying hen farms and for the transport of horses destined for slaughter	2007-7339
Slovakia	to review control systems for food and feed safety, animal health, animal welfare and plant health in order to prepare a country profile	2007-7425
	to evaluate the rabies eradication programme	2007-7364
Slovenia	to evaluate the import control system for products of animal origin and live animals	2007-7289
	concerning animal welfare standards on pig and laying hen farms and during transport	2007-7335
Spain	to evaluate the follow-up action taken by the competent authorities with regard to official controls related to the safety of food of animal origin, in particular meat, milk and their products	2007-7448
	to evaluate the operation of the bovine brucellosis eradication programme	2007-7367
	to evaluate controls of pesticide residues in food of plant origin	2007-7179
	to evaluate the system of control in relation to animal welfare at the time of slaughter and killing	2007-7328
	to evaluate the implementation of health rules on animal by-products and official controls for gelatines	2007-7251
	Concerning protective measures against transmissible spongiform encephalopathies in sheep and goats	2007-7519
Sweden	to evaluate the import controls for plant health Import controls	2007-7433
	to review control systems for food and feed safety, animal health, animal welfare and plant health in order to prepare a country profile	2007-7453
	to evaluate the follow-up action taken by the competent authorities with regard to official controls related to the safety of food of animal origin, in particular meat, milk and their products	2007-7449
	to evaluate the system of control in relation to animal welfare on farms	2007-7336
The Netherlands	to review control systems for food and feed safety, animal health, animal welfare and plant health in order to prepare a country profile	2007-7455
	to evaluate the implementation of EU animal health requirements for intra-Community trade in live animals	2007-7484
	to evaluate the systems in place to control the <i>Salmonella</i> risk in the table	2007-7499

	egg sector	
	to assess the official control systems in place for food additives and for food contact material	2007-7219
	to evaluate the official control systems for food, feed and seed consisting of or produced from Genetically Modified Organisms (GMOs)	2007-7608
	to evaluate the import controls for plant health and to follow up certain recommendations from previous missions	2007-7375
	to evaluate the implementation of health rules on animal by-products and official controls for gelatines	2007-7256
	Concerning protective measures against transmissible spongiform encephalopathies in sheep and goats	2007-7250
	to evaluate the import/transit control system for products of animal origin and live animals	2007-7583
United Kingdom	evaluation of the systems in place and proposed for the identification and registration of ovine and caprine animals and to assess their conformance with the requirements of Council Regulation (EC) N° 21/2004	2007-7577
	to evaluate the situation concerning foot and mouth disease outbreaks	2007-7416
	to evaluate the follow-up action taken by the competent authorities with regard to official controls related to the safety of food of animal origin, in particular meat, milk and their products	2007-7450
	to evaluate the system for import controls for plant health import controls	2007-7429
	to assess the official control systems in place for food hygiene (within the meaning of Regulation (EC) No 852/2004), traceability and labelling	2007-7192
	to evaluate the implementation of official controls for gelatines	2007-7257
	to evaluate the system of control in relation to animal welfare at the time of slaughter and killing	2007-7337
Candidate countries:	Title:	Report No:
Croatia	to evaluate the import control system for products of animal origin and live animals Import controls	2007-7306
	to evaluate the control systems in place governing the production of fishery products and live bivalve molluscs intended for export to the EU	2007-7355
	to evaluate the equivalence with Community standards of the control systems in place governing the production and placing on the market of poultry, poultry meat and poultry meat products	2007-7354
	to evaluate the plant health control system	2007-7464
	to evaluate the plant health control system for harmful organisms	2007-7471
FYROM	concerning import controls and Border Inspection Posts	2007-7478
Turkey	to assess food safety control systems in food of plant origin	2007-7178
	to evaluate controls of pesticides in food of plant origin intended for export into the EU	2007-7200
	to evaluate the control of residues and contaminants in live animals and animal products, including controls on veterinary medicinal products	2007-7323

FVO Annual Report 2007

	to evaluate the equivalence with Community standards of the control systems in place governing the production and placing on the market of poultry, poultry meat and poultry meat products intended for export to the EU	2007-7356
	to assess the situation with regard to animal health and veterinary public health controls (milk and milk-based products)	2007-7385
	to evaluate the plant health control system for harmful organisms	2007-7473
Third countries:	Title:	Report No:
Albania	to evaluate the control systems in place governing the production of fishery products and live bivalve molluscs intended for export to the EU (follow-up)	2007-7293
Angola	to evaluate the control systems in place governing the production of fishery products intended for export to the EU	2007-7307
Argentina	to evaluate animal health controls in place in particular over foot and mouth disease and public health control systems and certification procedures	2007-7390
	to evaluate public health control systems and certification procedures - follow-up to 2007-7390	2007-7439
	to evaluate the control systems in place governing the production of fishery and aquaculture products intended for export to the EU	2007-7274
Armenia	to evaluate the control systems in place governing the production of fishery and aquaculture products intended for export to the EU	2007-7553
Australia	evaluation of public health control systems and certification procedures for red meat and products thereof applicable to imports into the European Community	2007-7392
	evaluate public health control systems and certification procedures for milk and products thereof as well as animal health conditions applicable to imports into the European Community of bovine semen and embryos	2007-7514
	to evaluate the control systems in place governing the production of fishery products, aquaculture products and live bivalve molluscs intended for export to the EU	2007-7287
Azerbaijan	to evaluate the control systems in place governing the production of fishery products intended for export to the EU	2007-7308
Bangladesh	to evaluate the control of residues and contaminants in live animals and animal products, including controls on veterinary medicinal products	2007-7504
Belize	to evaluate the control systems in place governing the production of fishery and aquaculture products intended for export to the EU	2007-7281
Botswana	to evaluate animal health controls in place in particular over foot and mouth disease and public health control systems and certification procedures	2007-7394
Brazil	to evaluate animal health controls in place in particular over foot and mouth disease and public health control systems and certification procedures	2007-7391
	to evaluate animal health controls in place in particular over foot and mouth disease and public health control systems and certification procedures	2007-7386
	to evaluate the control systems in place (including animal health, animal	2007-7214

	welfare and public health aspects) governing poultry meat and poultry meat products intended for export to the EU	
	to evaluate the control systems in place governing the production of fishery products intended for export to the EU (follow-up to mission	2007-7509
	to evaluate the control system for food, feed and seed containing or consisting of Genetically Modified Organism(s) for export to the EU	2007-7180
	to assess the control system in place to prevent mycotoxin contamination in peanuts and peanut products intended for export to the EU	2007-7182
	to evaluate the control of residues and contaminants in live animals and animal products, including controls on veterinary medicinal products	2007-7315
Canada	review of the implementation of the sanitary measures in respect of trade with bovine semen, bovine embryos, fresh meat, farmed game meat, wild game meat, minced meat, meat preparations and meat products in Canada under the auspices of the agreement between the European Community and Canada on sanitary measures to protect public health and animal health in respect of trade in live animals and animals	2007-7387
	to evaluate the control of residues and contaminants in live animals and animal products, including controls on veterinary medicinal products	2007-7317
	to evaluate control measures concerning bovine spongiform encephalopathy	2007-7247
Chile	evaluate the operation of control systems pertaining to sanitary measures applicable to production and trade in milk and milk-based products under the auspices of the agreement between the European Community and Chile on sanitary and phytosanitary measures applicable to trade in animals and animal products, plants, plant products and other goods and animal welfare	2007-7399
	to evaluate the control of residues and contaminants in live animals and animal products, including controls on veterinary medicinal products	2007-7316
China	to assess the control system in place for food contact materials	2007-7572
	to evaluate the implementation of measures concerning official controls and compliance with requirements for feed hygiene in additives and premixtures	2007-7270
Costa Rica	to evaluate the control systems in place governing the production of fishery and aquaculture products intended for export to the EU	2007-7278
Ecuador	to evaluate the control systems in place governing the production of fishery and aquaculture products intended for export to the EU	2007-7295
Egypt	to evaluate controls of pesticides in food of plant origin	2007-7183
Falkland Islands	to evaluate the control systems in place governing the production of fishery products intended for export to the EU	2007-7284
Fiji	to evaluate the control systems in place governing the production of fishery products intended for export to certain Member States of the EU	2007-7305
Gabon	to evaluate the control systems in place governing the production of fishery products intended for export to the EU (follow up)	2007-7297
Ghana	to assess the control system in place to prevent mycotoxin contamination in peanuts and peanut products intended for export to the EU	2007-7198
Guatemala	to evaluate the control systems in place governing the production of fishery and aquaculture products intended for export to the EU	2007-7512

Iceland	to evaluate the control systems in place in the fresh meat, meat products, minced meat, meat preparations, farmed game meat, milk and milk products and casing sectors, including traceability and certification procedures	2007-7616
	to evaluate the control systems in place in the fresh meat, meat products, minced meat, meat preparations, farmed meat, wild game meat, milk and milk products and casing sectors, including traceability and certification procedures	2007-7477
	to evaluate the control of residues and contaminants in live animals and animal products, including controls on veterinary medicinal products	2007-7505
	to evaluate the import control system for products of animal origin and live animals	2007-7501
India	to investigate the source of contamination of guar gum with Pentachlorophenol (PCP) and dioxins, and to assess the control measures put in place by the Indian authorities to avoid a re-occurrence of this contaminant	2007-7619
Indonesia	to evaluate the control systems in place governing the production of fishery and aquaculture products intended for export to the EU (follow-up)	2007-7248
	to evaluate the control of residues and contaminants in live animals and animal products, including controls on veterinary medicinal products	2007-7503
Jamaica	to evaluate the control systems in place governing the production of fishery, aquaculture products and marine gastropods intended for export to the EU (follow-up)	2007-7502
Jordan	to evaluate the phytosanitary situation in the potato sector	2007-7437
Kazakhstan	to evaluate the control systems in place governing the production of fishery products intended for export to the EU	2007-7285
Kenya	to evaluate the plant health controls for export/import controls	2007-7516
	to evaluate controls of pesticides in food of plant origin intended for export to the EU	2007-7221
Madagascar	to evaluate the control systems in place governing the production of fishery and aquaculture products intended for export to the EU	2007-7302
Malaysia	to evaluate the control systems in place (including animal health, animal welfare and public health aspects) governing poultry meat intended for export to the EU	2007-7506
Mexico	to evaluate the control systems in place governing the production of fishery and aquaculture products intended for export to the EU	2007-7294
Mozambique	to evaluate the control systems in place governing the production of fishery and aquaculture products intended for export to the EU (follow-up)	2007-7508
Namibia	to evaluate animal health controls in place in particular over foot and mouth disease and public health control systems and certification procedures	2007-7393
New Caledonia	to evaluate the control systems in place governing the production of fishery and aquaculture products intended for export to the EU	2007-7282
New Zealand	evaluation of public health control systems and certification procedures for milk and products thereof as well as animal health conditions applicable to imports into the European Community of bovine semen and embryos under the auspices of the agreement between the European Community and New Zealand on sanitary measures applicable to trade in live animals	2007-7513

	and animal products	
	evaluation of public health control systems and certification procedures for red meat and products thereof applicable to imports into the European Community under the auspice of the agreement between the European Community and New Zealand on sanitary measures applicable to trade in live animals and animal products	2007-7389
Norway	to evaluate the control systems in place governing the production of fishery and aquaculture products intended for export to the EU	2007-7310
Pakistan	to evaluate the control systems in place governing the production of fishery products intended for export to the EU	2007-7298
Panama	to evaluate the control systems in place governing the production of fishery and aquaculture products intended for export to the EU (follow-up)	2007-7300
Papua New Guinea	to evaluate the control systems in place governing the production of fishery products intended for export to the EU	2007-7258
Paraguay	to evaluate animal health controls in place in particular over foot and mouth disease and public health control systems and certification procedures	2007-7400
Russian Federation	to assess the control systems in place to control unauthorised colourants in foodstuffs of plant origin intended for export into the EU	2007-7216
Saint Pierre and Miquelon	to evaluate the control systems in place governing the production of bivalve molluscs intended for export to the EU	2007-7510
Senegal	to evaluate the control systems in place governing the production of fishery products intended for export to the EU	2007-7511
Serbia	to evaluate the general animal health and food safety situation in the context of export of meat and meat products from Serbia to the EU	2007-7480
Solomon Islands	to evaluate the control systems in place governing the production of fishery products intended for export to the EU	2007-7303
South Africa	to evaluate the control systems in place (including animal health, animal welfare and public health aspects) governing ratite meat intended for export to the EU	2007-7312
	to evaluate the control of residues and contaminants in live animals and animal products, including controls on veterinary medicinal products	2007-7585
Swaziland	to evaluate animal health controls in place in particular over foot and mouth disease and public health control systems and certification procedures	2007-7396
Switzerland	to evaluate the plant health control system equivalency agreement	2007-7515
	to evaluate the control of residues and contaminants in live animals and animal products, including controls on veterinary medicinal products	2007-7319
	to assess import/transit controls and border inspection posts	2007-7296
Thailand	to assess the control system in place to prevent microbiological contamination in fresh herbs and spices intended for export to the EU	2007-7181
Togo	to evaluate the control systems in place governing the production of fishery products intended for export to the EU	2007-7566
Ukraine	to evaluate the control of residues and contaminants in live animals and animal products, including controls on veterinary medicinal products	2007-7324

FVO Annual Report 2007

United Arab Emirates	to evaluate the control of residues and contaminants in live animals and animal products, including controls on veterinary medicinal products	2007-7320
United States of America	to evaluate the operation of control systems in the fresh meat, meat products, minced meat, meat preparations, farmed and wild game meat sector under the auspices of the agreement between the European Community and the United States of America on sanitary measures to protect public and animal health in trade in live animals and animal products	2007-7388
	to evaluate the animal health control systems in place governing the production of live fish eggs and gametes intended for farming and live fish of aquaculture origin and products thereof intended for human consumption, and of molluscs, their eggs and gametes for further growth, fattening, relaying or human consumption and intended for export to the EU	2007-7311
Uruguay	to evaluate animal health controls in place in particular over foot and mouth disease and public health control systems and certification procedures	2007-7397
	to evaluate the control systems in place governing the production of fishery and aquaculture products intended for export to the EU	2007-7290
Viet Nam	to evaluate the control systems in place governing the production of fishery products and live bivalve molluscs intended for export to the EU	2007-7291
	to evaluate the control of residues and contaminants in live animals and animal products, including controls on veterinary medicinal products	2007-7322



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Further Information

Websites

Further information on the subject matter contained in this Annual Report can be found on the Internet, on the following websites:

EUROPA website

<http://ec.europa.eu>

The EUROPA website is the official website of the European Union. It provides a guide to what the EU does and how it works, with links to the activities and institutions of the EU, as well as many items of interest to EU citizens.

Health and Consumers Directorate-General website

http://ec.europa.eu/comm/dgs/health_consumer/index_en.htm

The website of the Health and Consumers Directorate-General of the European Commission provides information on the three main areas of activity within the Directorate-General – public health, consumer affairs and food safety, the area with which the FVO deals.

Food Safety website

http://ec.europa.eu/comm/food/index_en.htm

The Food Safety website provides information on the EU's approach to food safety and on the European Food Safety Authority (EFSA), as well as all the latest news within the food safety sector. The website of the FVO can be found within the Food Safety website.

FVO website

http://ec.europa.eu/comm/food/fvo/index_en.htm

This gives a brief description of the work and role of the FVO, and contains separate sections on feed and food safety, animal health and welfare, and plant health. These sections provide a detailed overview of a range of topics within each area. There is also a section containing the inspection reports published by the FVO.

Inspection Reports

The FVO website includes a search tool that enables visitors to the site to look up published FVO inspection reports more easily:

http://ec.europa.eu/comm/food/fvo/ir_search_en.cfm

The tool provides a number of options, some of which can be combined:

- If you know the relevant inspection report number (which, for 2006, can be found in the list of inspections given in annex 2 of this Annual Report), you can simply type this number into the search engine to access the report directly.
- If you are interested in finding out about inspections in a particular country, you can click on the name of the country to access all the inspections that were carried out in that particular country.
- If you prefer to see the reports for a particular period, you can select the month and year for the start and end of the period that interests you.
- If you would like to see reports for a particular topic, you can enter words and search for reports that contain these words.
- If you want to know what reports were published during a particular month, you can select a single month.

Other Reports

There are also a number of special reports on the FVO website. Reports published under this heading give an overview of a specific theme based on a series of inspections carried out in Member States or third countries. Some of these overview reports have already been mentioned elsewhere in this Annual Report. The website also contains further reports dealing with other themes.