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Food & Veterinary Office
Programme of Inspections 2004
January - December

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1. INTRODUCTION

1.1. General remarks

This paper sets out the Food and Veterinary Office's inspection plan for 2004. It presents a detailed inspection programme for January to June 2004 and an outline programme for the second half of next year. It is estimated that around 250 inspections will be completed during this 12 month period.

With accession for ten new Member States drawing ever closer, the FVO will give particular emphasis in 2004 to inspections in applicant countries.

There is always a degree of uncertainty attached to any FVO inspection plan. Of necessity, it must remain flexible to enable it to respond to emergencies and unforeseen circumstances. As in previous years, adjustments to the plan will be required as the year progresses. Inspections in response to emergencies can only be made by cancelling or postponing planned missions.

1.2. The planning process for the inspection programme 2004

The development of the annual FVO inspection programme begins with the identification of main control areas at an early stage in the planning cycle after the summer break.

In identifying its main priorities for the coming year, the FVO takes account of policy priorities (enlargement being one of the biggest priorities over the past 2 years), legal obligations and potential areas of risk. Following the comprehensive, integrated approach to food safety policy outlined in the Commission's White Paper on Food Safety, the programme covers four areas of responsibility – food safety, animal health, animal welfare and plant health. The FVO also executes its programme having regard to international trade agreements and, where appropriate, taking account of the objectives of an effectively functioning internal market and of wider Commission priorities.

This process involves a close co-operation between the Food and Veterinary Office and its counterparts in the legislative directorates in DG Health and Consumer Protection and other related Directorate Generals, such as DG Agriculture as regards, for example, organic farming.

Within the general orientations that result from the process described above, each FVO inspection unit, in consultation with its counterparts in DG Health and Consumer Protection in Brussels, makes its specific proposals for inclusion in the inspection programme taking into consideration risk factors such as the most important food safety, animal health, animal welfare and plant health hazards and the critical stages of the food chain. Areas of potential risk are identified taking account of information from a number of sources including, for example:

- information exchanged through continuous contact with risk managers in DG Health and Consumer Protection;
- experience gained through previous missions, including the results of follow-up actions in response to earlier missions;
- notifications under the Rapid Alert System for Feed and Food (RASFF) and the Animal Disease Notification System (ADNS) and from the World Organisation for animal health (OIE);
- information from delegations and detached inspectors;
- production and trade statistics.

In addition, emerging areas of risk identified by scientific publications and international organisations and other sources of information may inform the selection of issues.

A first outline of the inspection programme was presented to Chief Veterinary Officers at the conference held in Grange in October 2003.

As usual, the final programme is presented to Member States' representatives at the relevant Standing Committee meetings, sent to the European Parliament, the Council and published on DG Health and Consumer Protection' website:

http://europa.eu.int/comm/food/fvo/inspectprog/index_en.htm

The 2004 programme will be updated in the spring and a detailed plan for the second half will be distributed in June.

2. BALANCE OF INSPECTIONS ON FOOD SAFETY, ANIMAL HEALTH, ANIMAL WELFARE AND PLANT HEALTH

A total of 134 inspections are planned for the first semester of 2004. Inspections in the food safety area make up around three quarters of the programme. Following the “farm to fork” approach outlined in the White Paper on Food Safety, a large number of food safety inspections also cover animal health and welfare elements.

TABLE 1: BREAKDOWN OF INSPECTIONS BY MAIN AREAS OF RESPONSIBILITY JANUARY - JUNE 2004

Area	Total inspections	%
Food Safety and Animal Health	111	83
Animal Welfare	10	7
Plant Health	13	10
Total	134	100

3. BALANCE BETWEEN MEMBER STATES AND THIRD COUNTRIES

A breakdown of inspections between Member States and third countries during 2004 is given in Table 2.

46% of inspections will be carried out in Member States. Inspections in candidate countries and other third countries will amount to 34% and 20%, respectively.

TABLE 2: GEOGRAPHICAL BREAKDOWN OF INSPECTIONS BY REGION JANUARY - JUNE 2004¹

Country	Inspections	
	No.	%
EU	61	46
Candidate Countries Of which 10 are Acceding Countries/new Member States ²	46 41	34 31
Other Third Countries	27	20
Total	134	100

¹ It should be noted that the FVO is not in a position, due to other priorities and resource constraints, to carry out the level of checks specified in certain EU legislation, for example, annual Border Inspection Post (BIP) inspections and annual inspection of all approved third country establishments. The management of risks in these areas has had to take into account, as in previous years, the need to address other risks of equal or greater importance.

² Joining in May 2004

in the Commission's Comprehensive Monitoring Report (CMR) of 5 November 2003. The inspections will cover a broad range of topics with particular attention to standards and upgrading of establishments and to the state of preparedness of the border inspection posts. Other significant areas covered in the plan are TSE, animal welfare, general food hygiene, residues, contaminants and pesticides as well as plant health issues.

Depending on the outcome of these inspections, related desk analyses of action plans received from competent authorities in acceding (and candidate) countries and monitoring of their delivery of action plan commitments, further inspections may be included in the programme later this year.

TABLE 4: OVERVIEW OF INSPECTIONS TO ACCEDING COUNTRIES/NEW MEMBER STATES AND CANDIDATE COUNTRIES (JANUARY TO JUNE 2004)

COUNTRY	Establishments (red meat); animal identification; animal health	Establishments (poultry, fish); and/or Live bivalve molluscs	Residues and contaminants (animals and animal prod.)	Animal Welfare	Import Controls/ Border Inspection Posts	TSEs and Feeding-stuffs	Food Hygiene; Pesticides and Contaminants	Plant health and Plant Protection Products
Poland	X ³	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Czech Rep.	X	X		X	X		X	
Hungary	X	X		X	X	X	X	
Estonia	X	X	X		X			X
Slovenia	X	X	X		X			
Cyprus	X					X		
Latvia	X		X					
Lithuania	X		X		X	X		
Malta	X				X	X		
Slovak Rep.	X	X	X	X	X			
Romania	X							
Bulgaria	X							X
Turkey		X ⁴					X ⁵	

A full list of proposed inspections to applicant countries in the first half of 2004 categorised by country and subject is also shown in Annex 2.

³ plus separate inspection on rabies

⁴ Live bivalve molluscs only (animal health requirements)

⁵ Pesticides only; both missions are export-related

6. INSPECTIONS TO THIRD COUNTRIES

In third countries, the FVO needs to ensure that competent authorities correctly apply EU standards with respect to animals, plants and products countries export to the European Union, or, in the case of Veterinary Agreements, comply with their national rules. Of the total of 27 planned inspections, the majority will focus on the assessment of approvals for export. The major part of these inspections is targeted at a review of existing approvals, in addition, there are a number of new requests for approval to be evaluated. Other important inspections are triggered by repeated rapid alert notifications of the presence of residues, contaminants, pesticides and additives in products from third countries. A detailed list of subjects covered in third country inspections in the period January to June 2004 is given in Table 5 below.

TABLE 5: OVERVIEW OF INSPECTIONS TO THIRD COUNTRIES – JANUARY - JUNE 2004

Reason	Proposed inspections	No.
Approvals for export of :		
- red meat/meat products	Argentina, Brazil,	2
- red meat/meat products, game, milk/milk products	Russia	1
- ratite meat	Australia	1
- fishery products	Gabon, Mauritania, Mayotte, Panama, Seychelles, Yemen	6
- fishery products and live bivalve molluscs	Mexico	1
- Animal health rules for export of live bivalve molluscs*	Canada, New Zealand, USA, Australia, Morocco, Tunisia, Uruguay	7
- live horses	Morocco, Tunisia	2
Veterinary Agreements	New Zealand, USA	2
TSE	Norway**	1
Residues and contaminants (animals, animal products)	Uruguay	1
High number of rapid alert notifications:		
- Pesticides (plant products)	India	1
- Food additives and contaminants	Brazil, India	2

* missions to be carried out subject to certain conditions

**joint mission with the EFTA Surveillance Authority (ESA)

A full list of proposed inspections in January - June 2004 categorised by third country and subject is shown in Annex 3.

7. INSPECTIONS OUTLINE FOR JULY TO DECEMBER 2004

Tables 6, 7 and 8 provide an outline for inspections planned to Member States and new Member States, Candidate Countries and Third Countries in the second half of 2004.

TABLE 6: OVERVIEW OF PLANNED INSPECTIONS TO MEMBER STATES IN THE SECOND HALF OF 2004

Area	Remarks	No.
Animal Nutrition	Follow-up to previous missions*	3-4
Disposal of food unfit for human consumption & Animal by-products	AT, DK, FI, FR, DE, EL, IE, IT, LU, PT, ES, SE, UK and new MS *	* *
Food Hygiene	series continues in new MS*	*
Fishery Products and Live Bivalve Molluscs	BE, IE, DE, DK, SE and continuation in new MS	*
Poultry Meat	FR, UK, BE, NL, ES, DE or DK, IT and continuation in new MS	*
Import Controls: - Illegal Imports & Border Inspection Posts		4-6
- Import Controls (products of plant origin)	Follow- up on previous series*	*
- Residues and Contaminants (animals and animal products)	several Member States*	*
- Pesticides	IT, EL and new MS	2
- Food additives/contact materials	<i>(depending on result of desk analysis)</i>	*
Eradication Programmes incl. Brucella melitensis and tuberculosis	PT, FR, UK	3
Rabies	*	3
Animal Health : AI⁶/ embryo/semen collection centres	DE, FR, PT	3
Animal Welfare : during transport and Laying hens	EL	1
Plant health : - Plant Passport - Potatoes - Outbreaks	series continues in new MS* New MS* *	* * *
National Systems for the Audit of Controls by Competent Authorities in Member States	(IT, DE, UK, NL, SE, DK) ⁷	6

* to be defined

⁶ artificial insemination

⁷ provisional

Table 7: OUTLINE OF PLANNED INSPECTIONS TO NEW MEMBER STATES (NMS) AND CANDIDATE COUNTRIES (CC) IN THE SECOND HALF OF 2004

Area	Remark	No.
Establishments (red meat) ; Animal identification ; Animal health ;	EE, LT, LV, PL, HU, CZ, SK, SI, MT, CY	10
	RO, BG (in addition, export-related issues possible in inspections to CCs)	2
Establishments : (Poultry, fish) ; Live Bivalve Molluscs	PL, HU, CY, MT	3-5
	RO, BG	*
Residues and Contaminants	*	*
Animal Welfare	LT, LV, SI, EE	4
	RO, BG	2
Import Controls/ Border Inspection Posts	RO and BG and*	*
-Food Hygiene, Pesticides and Contaminants	RO and BG	2
-Food Hygiene	(Extension of MS series)*	*
-Pesticides	(Extension of MS series)*	*
Plant Health and Plant Protection Products : - Pre- accession monitoring - Plant Passport - Potatoes	RO	1
	(Extension of MS series)*	*
	(Extension of MS series), EE, LV	*

* to be defined

Table 8: OUTLINE OF PLANNED INSPECTIONS TO THIRD COUNTRIES IN THE SECOND HALF OF 2004

Area	Remark	No.
<u>Approvals for export of:</u>		
- red meat/meat products	Uruguay	1
- poultry meat/poultry meat products ⁸	Uruguay**, India**, Argentina, Brazil, China and Egypt**	6
- fishery products	Senegal, Madagascar, Ghana, Nigeria, India, Egypt** and Indonesia	7
- live bivalve molluscs	Uruguay, Albania, Phillipines**	3
- live horses	Algeria and Libya	2
<u>Veterinary Agreements***</u>		
- milk/milk products	USA	3
- meat/meat products- bovine, semen and embryos	USA	
- live bivalve molluscs	USA	
TSE	*	*
Border Inspection Posts/ Import Controls	Norway and Iceland ⁹	2
Residues and Contaminants	Brazil, China, Argentina plus *	*
Organic Farming	*	1-2
Plant Health	Lebanon, Albania and China	3

* to be defined

** missions to be carried out subject to certain conditions

*** depending on progress in discussions under the Agreement on antimicrobial treatment of poultry carcasses a mission to the U.S. on this issue may also take place

⁸ including ratite meat

⁹ joint missions with ESA (EFTA Surveillance Authority)

FVO Inspections Programme January – June 2004 – Member States**AUSTRIA**

Food Hygiene

BELGIUM

Disposal of food unfit for human consumption

TSE (feed ban)

Food Hygiene

Plant Health : Plant Passport

National Systems for the Audit of Controls by
Competent Authorities in Member States***DENMARK**

Pesticides

Animal Welfare : during Transport and Laying Hens

Plant Health : Plant Passport

Food Hygiene

FINLANDNational Systems for the Audit of Controls by
Competent Authorities in Member States***FRANCE**Fishery Products and Live Bivalve Molluscs
CSF in Wild Boar¹²

Animal Welfare : during Transport and Laying Hens

National Systems for the Audit of Controls by
Competent Authorities in Member States***GERMANY**

Import Controls(Products of Plant Origin)

Pesticides

CSF in Wild Boar¹²

Animal Welfare : during Transport and Laying Hens

Plant Health : Plant Passport

Food hygiene

Rabies

GREECE

TSE(feed ban)

Fishery Products and Live Bivalve Molluscs

Import Controls (Products of Plant Origin)

Eradication Programmes incl. B. melitensis

Plant Health : Plant Passport

Plant Health : Potatoes

IRELAND**ITALY**

TSE (feed ban)

Food Hygiene

Fishery Products and Live Bivalve Molluscs

Eradication Programmes incl. B. melitensis

Animal Welfare : during Transport and Laying Hens

Residues and Contaminants¹⁰

Plant Health : Plant Passport

Plant Health : Protected zone CTV¹¹**LUXEMBOURG**

Food Hygiene

CSF in Wild Boar¹²**NETHERLANDS**

Disposal of food unfit for human consumption

Food Hygiene

Fishery Products and Live Bivalve Molluscs

Pesticides

Plant Health : Plant Passport

PORTUGAL

TSE

Food Hygiene

Fishery Products and Live Bivalve Molluscs

Illegal Imports

SPAIN

TSE (feed ban)

Fishery Products and Live Bivalve Molluscs

Eradication Programmes incl. B. melitensis

Animal Welfare : during Transport and Laying Hens

Plant Health : Potatoes

National Systems for the Audit of Controls by Competent
Authorities in Member States*Residues and Contaminants¹⁰¹⁰ Live animals and animal products¹¹ CTV: Citrus tristeza virus¹² CSF: Classical Swine Fever

* Provisional

FVO Inspections Programme January – June 2004 – Member States

SWEDEN

Food Hygiene

Plant Health : Plant Passport

UNITED KINGDOM

TSE

Food Hygiene

Fishery Products and Live Bivalve Molluscs

Animal Welfare : during Transport and Laying Hens

Illegal Imports

FVO Inspections Programme January – June 2004 – Acceding countries/new Member States and Candidate Countries

BULGARIA

Establishments (red meat)/animal identification/animal health
Plant health and plant protections products

CYPRUS

Establishments (red meat)/animal identification/animal health
TSEs and feedingstuffs

CZECH REPUBLIC

Establishments (red meat)/animal identification/animal health; establishments (poultry, fish, egg products)
Animal welfare
Import controls/border inspection posts
Food hygiene, pesticides and contaminants

ESTONIA

Establishments (red meat)/animal identification/animal health
Establishments (poultry, fish)
Residues and Contaminants¹³
Import controls/border inspection posts
Plant health and plant protections products

HUNGARY

Establishments (red meat)/animal identification/animal health; establishments (poultry, fish, egg products)
Animal welfare
Import controls/border inspection posts
TSEs and feedingstuffs
Food hygiene, pesticides and contaminants

LATVIA

Establishments (red meat)/animal identification/animal health
Residues and Contaminants¹³

LITHUANIA

Establishments (red meat)/animal identification/animal health
Residues and Contaminants¹³
Import controls/border inspection posts
TSEs and feedingstuffs

MALTA

Establishments (red meat)/animal identification/animal health
Import controls/border inspection posts
TSEs and feedingstuffs

POLAND

Establishments (red meat)/animal identification/animal health; establishments (poultry, fish)
Import controls/border inspection posts
TSEs and feedingstuffs
Rabies
Plant health and plant protections products
Residues and Contaminants¹³
Animal welfare
Food hygiene, pesticides and contaminants

ROMANIA

Establishments (red meat)/animal identification/animal health

SLOVAK REPUBLIC

Establishments (red meat)/animal identification/animal health; establishments (poultry, fish)
Residues and Contaminants¹³
Animal welfare
Import controls/border inspection posts

¹³ live animals and animal products

FVO Inspections Programme January – June 2004 – Accessing countries/new Member States and Candidate Countries

SLOVENIA

Establishments (red meat)/animal identification/animal health;

Establishments (poultry; fish)/live bivalve molluscs

Residues and Contaminants¹³

Import controls/border inspection posts

TURKEY

Pesticides¹⁴

Imports of live bivalve molluscs (animal health for listing)¹⁴

¹³ live animals and animal products

¹⁴ Export related inspection

FVO Inspections Programme January – June 2004 – Third Countries**EQUIVALENCY AGREEMENT COUNTRIES****CANADA**

Imports of Live Bivalve Molluscs (animal health for listing)*

NEW ZEALAND

Veterinary agreements

Imports of Live Bivalve Molluscs (animal health for listing)*

USA

Veterinary agreements (fishery products)

Imports of Live Bivalve Molluscs (animal health for listing)*

OTHER THIRD COUNTRIES**ARGENTINA**

Approvals for red meat/meat products

NORWAY

TSE

AUSTRALIA

Ratite Meat (animal and public health)

Imports of Live Bivalve Molluscs (animal health for listing)*

PANAMA

Approvals for Fishery Products

BRAZIL

Approvals for red meat/meat products

Food Additives and Contaminants

RUSSIA

Approvals for red meat/meat products, game, milk/milk products

GABON

Approvals for Fishery Products

SEYCHELLES

Approval for Fishery Products

INDIA

Food Additives and Contaminants

Pesticides

TUNISIA

Imports of Live Bivalve Molluscs (animal health for listing)*

Approvals for export of live horses

MAURITANIA

Approvals for Fishery Products

URUGUAY

Imports of Live Bivalve Molluscs (animal health for listing)*

Residues and contaminants

MAYOTTE

Approval for Fishery Products

MEXICO

Approvals for Fishery Products, Live Bivalve Molluscs

YEMEN

Approval for Fishery Products

MOROCCO

Imports of Live Bivalve Molluscs (animal health for listing)*

Approvals for export of live horses

* Mission to be carried out subject to certain conditions