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HEALTH & CONSUMER PROTECTION DIRECTORATE-GENERAL

Directorate F - Food and Veterinary Office

DG(SANCO)/7574/2005 – MR Final

REPORT OF A MISSION

CARRIED OUT IN THE CZECH REPUBLIC

FROM 12 TO 23 SEPTEMBER 2005

IN ORDER TO REVIEW THE UP-GRADING OF CERTAIN CLASSES OF FOOD PROCESSING ESTABLISHMENTS, CONTROLS OVER CERTAIN PRODUCTS OF ANIMAL ORIGIN INTENDED FOR HUMAN CONSUMPTION, CERTAIN LIVE ANIMAL CONTROLS, AND CONTINGENCY PLANS FOR EPIZOOTIC DISEASES

Please note that clarifications provided by the Czech Authorities are given as footnotes, in bold, italic, type, to the relevant part of the report.

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ABBREVIATIONS & SPECIAL TERMS USED IN THE REPORT

AI	Avian Influenza
ABP	Animal by-products
CA(s)	Competent Authority (Authorities)
CCA(s)	Central Competent Authority (Authorities)
CBI	Czech Breeding Inspectorate (*Česká Plemenárská Inspekce*)
CRL	Community Reference Laboratory
CSF	Classical Swine Fever
CVO	Chief Veterinary Officer
DVI	District Veterinary Inspectorate (*Okresní veterinární inspektorát*)
EU	European Union
FMD	Foot and Mouth Disease
FVO	Food and Veterinary Office
HACCP	Hazard Analysis Critical Control Point
MA	Ministry of Agriculture (*Ministerstvo zemědělství*)
ND	Newcastle Disease
OV	Official Veterinarian
RVA	Regional Veterinary Administration (*Krajská veterinární správa*)
SVA	State Veterinary Administration (*Státni veterinární správa*)
TAIEX	Technical Assistance Information Exchange Office

1. INTRODUCTION

The mission took place in the Czech Republic from 12 to 23 September 2005. The mission team comprised 4 inspectors from the Food and Veterinary Office (FVO) in the first week of the mission and 6 inspectors during the second week of the mission. In addition, one observer from the EFTA Surveillance Authority joined the mission.

The mission was undertaken as part of the FVO's planned mission programme.

The inspection team was accompanied during the mission by representatives from the Central Competent Authority (CCA), the State Veterinary Administration (*Státni veterinární správa*- SVA) of the Czech Republic, and the Ministry of Agriculture (*Ministerstvo zemědělství*- MA).

An opening meeting was held on 12 September 2005 in Prague with the CCA. At this meeting, the objectives of, and itinerary for, the mission were confirmed by the inspection team, and additional information required for the satisfactory completion of the mission requested.

2. OBJECTIVES OF THE MISSION

The objectives of the mission were to review:

- the follow-up action taken by the CCA with regard to the up-grading of certain classes of food-processing establishments (red meat and milk);
- the operation of controls over certain products of animal origin intended for human consumption (fresh meat, meat products, minced meat and meat preparations, milk and milk products, farmed game and wild game);
- holding registration, animal identification and movement controls;
- certain animal health controls (tuberculosis, brucellosis, classical swine fever);
- the contingency plans for epizootic diseases, in particular (Classical Swine Fever (CSF), Foot-and-Mouth Disease (FMD), Avian Influenza (AI), Newcastle Disease (ND)).

In pursuit of this objective, the following sites were visited:

COMPETENT AUTHORITY VISITS			Comments
Competent authority	Central	6	SVA for the opening, closing, and two intermediary meetings, the National Disease Control Centre and the Central Animal Database
	Regional	7	RVA offices, of which two visited as Local Disease Control Centres
	Local	20	At the establishments and farms visited (DVI)

FOOD PROCESSING ESTABLISHMENTS		Comments
Slaughterhouses	8	High capacity
Game meat premises	1	Wild game processing house
Cutting premises	7	6 integrated and 1 stand-alone, all high capacity
Meat product premises	6	5 integrated and 1 stand-alone, all high capacity
Milk processing premises	3	High capacity
Laboratories	4	2 national reference laboratories and 2 regional laboratories
Animal by-products	3	1 rendering plant, 1 waste disposal site, 1 catering facility
Live animal control sites		
Farms	7	cattle, pigs, poultry and mixed farms
Collection centre for live animals	2	

3. MAIN FINDINGS

3.1. Competent authority performance

A new information system has been gradually deployed by the SVA during 2005. The system is divided into modules for retrieval, transmission and processing of data collected by SVA officials. At present, information modules concerning animal disease prevention and epidemio-surveillance, animal disease recording, veterinary hygiene supervision and monitoring of foreign substances are in operation. The Information System can retrieve data concerning animal identification and registration from the Central Database.

Observations:

- Information modules for some relevant topics of supervision have not yet been fully introduced into the new Information System e.g. results of post-mortem inspections, inspection of wild-game meat, control of milk and milk-based products and animal welfare issues;
- The Information System is not yet linked to the databases of the SVA laboratory network in order to integrate laboratory data in the supervisory activities.

3.2. Establishment upgrading and approval

According to the Czech legislation all establishments, with the exception of establishments granted a transitional period, had to be inspected and approved before 31 December 2003 or be closed.

Observations:

- Some approvals were granted before full compliance with all the criteria established by the RVA and by EU requirements e.g. presence of rusty material, lack of space, insufficient separation between dirty and clean

area, improper lay-out, lack of attention paid to defining the authorised premises in terms of fencing and controlled access to the premises, inadequate location and structure of cleansing and disinfection points of trucks used for transport of animals or foodstuffs;

- Seven upgraded establishments were visited. In general they complied, apart from one establishment where serious deficiencies were detected. The approval of that establishment was suspended by the CA immediately after the mission in order to rectify the situation. In addition, establishments already EU-approved at the time of accession were visited. The standards in some of the EU-approved appeared to be lower than in the upgraded establishments. A visit was carried out to the establishment where some deficiencies were identified during the previous mission, which revealed that one deficiency had still not been addressed properly.

3.3. Food safety controls

3.3.1. Inspection tasks

The ante-mortem inspection of animals is carried out either by the official veterinarians (OVs), or by official auxiliaries under the supervision of the OV. However, the national Czech legislation does not specify limits on the tasks of auxiliaries. The post mortem inspection is carried out both by OVs and auxiliaries.

Under Czech law, all carcases of swine (domestic, farmed game and wild game) must be examined for trichinosis in an approved laboratory. However, the law does not provide for any specific requirements on the traceability of samples. As an incentive, trichinella examination of samples originating from hunted wild boar is free of charge for the hunters.

Observations:

- In one slaughterhouse, the post-mortem examination was carried out after the kidneys and the intestines were removed from the inspection site; in another the inspection of beef carcasses took place after removal of the vertebral column;
- The provisions of Council Directive 77/96/EEC[1] concerning the pooling of samples, the specifications of trichinoscopes and the larval counting basins were not fully respected;
- The CA could not demonstrate that all hunted wild boars were examined in accordance with Czech legislation. The control system relies on the co-operation of the hunters, and there is poor exchange of information between the DVI and the District Forest Departments on the number of animals hunted during the year.

[1] References to Community legislation cited in this report are given in the Annex.

3.3.2. Meat hygiene requirements.

Meat hygiene requirements were largely complied with in the majority of the establishments visited, but the following deficiencies, not detected by the OVs, were observed in some cases:

- inadequate maintenance;
- inadequate working space to allow for the hygienic performance of all operations;
- insufficient protection against rodents and insects;
- insufficient cleaning of facilities and equipments;
- excessive steam from the sterilizer for carcass-splitting saws;
- excessive use of water during slaughter;
- mixing of warm and chilled carcasses.

3.3.3. HACCP and own check controls.

Observations:

The following deficiencies were found in fresh meat establishments:

- The number of samples taken for bacteriological checks on carcases, and on cleaning and disinfection, was below the EU requirements and not all species were covered by the sampling programme;
- No records were available for the last 13 weekly test results.

3.3.4. Traceability.

A system of traceability of products was in place in most of the establishments visited.

Observations:

- Most pigs arriving at the slaughterhouses visited were not identified properly;
- In some establishments beef was not labelled, or the labelling was not in compliance with Regulation (EC) N° 1760/2000, and crates containing meat and offal without any supporting identification were present;
- At a milk processing establishment visited, wrapped cheese from another establishment was not health marked.

3.3.5. Welfare at slaughter.

The mission checked the response by the CA to the recommendation in Report DG(SANCO)/7519/2005 on the supervision of installations for restraining and stunning and the bleeding time of slaughtered animals.

The CCA stated that two meetings on this subject were held during 2005 with the RVA directors and that further checks and more focused daily supervision would be applied.

Observations:

- No evidence of instructions on which checks should be carried out was presented to the mission team. In addition, no records of controls carried out on this issue were available;
- In the slaughterhouses visited where slaughter was in operation the restraining, stunning and bleeding was satisfactory, with one exception concerning the stunning of pigs. However, in this case immediate action was taken by the CA and the company.

3.4. Holding registration, animal identification and movement controls

3.4.1. Holding registration, animal identification and movement controls

Not all pig holdings are registered at present because a derogation has been granted for holdings with only 1 pig. For pig farms, a land registration number from the territorial identification register used for public administration is considered by the CCA as a geographic indication of the holding in line with Decision 2000/678/EC.

Letters were sent from the CCA to the Czech-Moravian Breeders Association in March 2005, and in July 2005 to sheep keepers, to instruct them to register their holdings in the central register.

Holding operators are obliged to notify the termination of their activities to the central database (CDB) within 7 days. Notification of changes on cattle holdings is required weekly. A notification is considered to be delayed if the time for notification from the holdings and processing in the CDB is longer than 15 days. For cattle, notification of abortions past 7 months gestation is also required. Error reports are sent every 3 months from the CDB to the holdings in order to correct shortcomings in notifications. Monthly notification is required for pig holdings and weekly notification is required for sheep and goats holdings.

Cattle born after 1.5.2004 must be identified, as required by Commission Regulation (EC) 911/2004, with 2 ear-tags bearing the logo of the CCA. Animals born before 30.4.2004 can still bear previously approved ear tags. Cattle may only be moved if they bear two approved ear-tags.

Pigs must be identified, before weaning or at the latest before leaving the farm of birth, by a plastic ear tag, or a tattoo, bearing the number of the holding.

The computerised system for control of movements for pigs and sheep was not demonstrated to be used in the RVA visited and tracing of pigs and sheep was based on a combination of records in the herd register and copies of health certificates issued by approved veterinarians.

Observations

- Due to the lack of registration of holdings with only one pig those farms cannot be included for official control purposes;[2]
- The system based on land registration numbers does not provide adequate information on the exact location of the holding and the density of the pig population across the country. In addition, the farm register for pigs does not contain any geographical reference;
- The mission team was informed by the CA that there is still a substantial number of late notifications of events from keepers to the CDB i.e. around 15% in 2005 (20% in 2004), in particular from slaughterhouses and rendering plants;
- Error reports from the CDB were regularly received in all cattle farms visited but the correction of errors was not sufficiently addressed by the farmers or the CA;
- A lack of awareness by farmers and OVs of the obligation to notify abortions past 7 months gestation was noted by the mission team in 2 regions visited;[3]
- Despite the requirement that the replacement of a missing ear tag has to take place immediately the mission team was informed that the average time for registration of an application, production of ear tags and sending them to the farmer can be 2- 4 months.

3.4.2. Identification controls

Cattle holdings

10% of the farms have to be checked every year. Sanctions, including a ban on movements, are applied in cases where non-conformities are detected.

Pig holdings

Pig farms are inspected at random. No risk analysis is carried out. However, the mission team was informed that larger farms have the highest priority.

Observations

- Sufficient search tools were not demonstrated at the central database and the RVA ensuring prompt and efficient queries for selection of farms e.g. number of lost ear-tags, farms not keeping animals. The existing system is based on queries to individual cases.
- Some important factors that could contribute to an improved traceability of animals were not found to be included in the risk analysis i.e. number of movements to and from holdings, percentage of lost ear tags or keeping of more than one animal species;
- At farms visited no physical checks were carried out by inspection bodies

[2] ***In their response to the draft report the Czech authorities stated that EU legislation allows for this exception and it should not therefore be considered as a deficiency.***

[3] ***In their response to the draft report the Czech authorities stated that the breeders have been instructed to notify abortions past 7 months of gestation.***

following error reports and sanctions are not always imposed in cases of missing notifications.

3.5. Animal health controls

National monitoring programme

The programme for animal health controls and prophylaxis has to be approved annually by the CCA.

No former OIE list A diseases have been detected since 1999 when CSF was found in a wild boar. The last outbreak of FMD occurred in 1975.

The CSF monitoring programme for wild boar is implemented country-wide and the eradication programme for CSF was approved for 2005 by Commission Decision 2004/840/EC.

In regions not included in the eradication programme, a minimum of 10% of wild boar hunted and 100% of wild boars found dead must be sampled. Hunters are paid (about 30 EUR) by the RVA as an incentive for delivery of cadavers of wild boar for sampling and disposal. No clinical or laboratory cases of suspicion have been reported since 1999.

Bovine tuberculosis and brucellosis are notifiable diseases and the last outbreaks were registered in 1964 and in 1995 respectively. The country was declared officially free of the two diseases by Commission Decision 2004/320/EC.

All aborting cows are blood tested twice, at intervals of 21-28 days, using the complement fixation test and the rose Bengal test. 8 953 blood samples were tested after abortions in 2004, all with negative result. No samples of foetus and placenta have been taken in 2004 and 2005 for microbiological testing.

Observations:

- No information campaign for hunters, as required by Article 16 of Council Directive 2001/89/EC, was organised, although the mission team was informed that, in one RVA, meetings with representatives of the hunting communities were regularly organised (2 meetings per year);
- Although only 294 wild boars were tested in 2004 from 2 389 notified as found dead in hunting areas (190 of them from one region covered by the eradication plan), no corrective action was taken by the SVA in order to increase the number of samples taken. In addition, the minimum number of samples taken and the uniform distribution within the territory were not respected in 3 regions visited outside the area covered by the eradication plan for CSF;
- In 2004, 11 wild boars, mainly from regions neighbouring Slovakia, were sero-positive. However, the NRL for CSF in Jihlava has not established any contact with the NRL in Slovakia in respect of the implementation of the vaccination programme in the wild boar population in that country, in order to coordinate the methods of testing used and the evaluation of results in relation to the vaccine used;
- The notification of all abortions to the CA is not compulsory under

national legislation. It is only stipulated that an approved veterinarian shall be contacted by the farmer in order to take samples;

- The number of blood samples taken after abortions in 2004 was about 60% of the number that should have been tested. In 2 regions visited, significant differences were detected between the number of abortions notified by farmers and the number of samples analysed in the period of 1.1.2005-16.9.2005. In one region, 1 907 abortions were reported and 439 samples were serologically tested, and in another region 2 773 abortions were reported and 200 samples were serologically tested;
- The system of recording the blood-testing after abortions is based solely on the number of samples and does not provide any guarantee that all bovine female animals have been tested twice after abortion in an interval of 21-28 days;
- The traceability of animals and blood samples could not be fully guaranteed in one laboratory visited due to the fact that applications for laboratory examinations were incomplete and the blood tubes were not individually labelled.

3.6. Contingency Plans

3.6.1. Plan Documentation

3.6.1.1. Diseases covered

Contingency plans for FMD, CSF, AI and ND have been approved by Commission Decisions. There are 12 other CPs on diseases of the former list A of OIE that have not yet been forwarded to the Commission for approval.

3.6.1.2. Content of plans

After the approval of the plans by the Commission, they were subject to amendments. However, those amendments are not in full compliance with the relevant Directives i.e:[4]

- The issue of strategy of vaccination is only generally covered;
- Susceptible wild animals were not taken into consideration;
- Only information on the number of herds is provided. There is no information provided on the population density in the different regions;
- The plans contain no methodology for killing animals in accordance with Council Directive 93/119/EEC;
- Several annexes in the plans for AI and ND are similar to those for FMD and CSF, but are not appropriate for poultry diseases;
- The plans for AI and ND include two Annexes which consist of translations of two Commission Decisions on criteria for classifying

[4] ***The response of the Czech authorities to the findings below are included in the Addendum under Recommendation 6.9.***

third countries with regard to AI/ND and for testing of poultry for slaughter for ND;

- Some annexes have not been updated:

– the Brno State Veterinary Institute (SVI) is still mentioned as a laboratory for AI diagnosis although this is no longer the case;

– Although it was stated by the CA that large containers were available for the killing of poultry with CO_2, this method was not included in the plans.

3.6.2. Legal provisions and emergency powers

The Veterinary Act and the implementing Decree 299/2003 on prevention and eradication of contagious diseases and zoonoses provide the necessary legal framework for disease diagnosis and eradication, including notification of suspects, measures to be taken in case of suspicion or confirmation, protection, eradication, establishment of surveillance networks and compensation.

3.6.3. Organisation (suspicion and following confirmation of disease)

The definitions of suspect cases are included in the respective CPs and the procedure to be followed by the farmer, the private vet and the OV is described in the Veterinary Act. No suspicions have been raised at farms or after autopsy and laboratory test since the last case of CSF in wild boar in 1999.

3.6.4. Provision of resources

There are no specific provisions on resources in the contingency plans.

It is foreseen that staff from the public health division will be required to focus exclusively on a particular crisis when it emerges. However, the competence of these personnel is questionable as they will only be trained when a crisis occurs.[5]

Slaughterhouse staff may be requested to assist in culling of animals. The logistical problems associated with slaughterhouse workers keeping susceptible animals at home have not been addressed in the plans.

Emergency kits were found not to be fully in compliance with the provisions of the plans. Some equipment was missing and some material had expired. No specific sampling equipment is provided for poultry.

[5] ***In their response to the draft report the Czech authorities stated that the issue of competence of persons intervening at disease outbreaks are included in the CPs.***

3.6.4.1. Laboratories

Central / regional / local

The National Reference Laboratory (NRL) for FMD and other vesicular diseases, AI and ND is the State Veterinary Institute (SVI) in Prague. The NRL for CSF is located in the SVI in Jihlava. A further 5 SVIs are located regionally. The mission team was informed that the FMD reference laboratory can only store samples for one week and no storage facilities are available at regional level. In addition, regional laboratories have no diagnostic capacity to support emergencies involving FMD, CSF, AI or ND.

The NRL for AI is undergoing reconstruction work to become a bio-hazard level 3 (high security) laboratory, which is scheduled to be finished by the end of 2005. Nevertheless, diagnosis of AI is still in operation.

The NRL does not organize training for the regional laboratories, other than proficiency tests for ND serology.

Both NRLs participate regularly in ring-tests organised by the Community Reference Laboratory (CRL).

Tests available – viral isolation, serology etc., sample capacity

The tests are standard tests according to accredited methods. In the event of a CSF outbreak, the laboratory will use commercial kits to save time.

The NRL is equipped to identify subtypes of AI virus.

The maximum capacity for FMD serology (ELISA test) is 15 000 tests per week plus 3 000 samples per day using the virus neutralisation test. The CSF testing capacities are 200 per day (virology) and 2 000 per day (serology). AI capacities are 100 per day (virology) and 500 per week (serology).

There is no standard form to accompany samples from cases of suspected AI or ND.

3.6.4.2. Animal tracing – pre and post outbreak

There is a system in place for tracing sources of infection. However, in practice it requires the use of several searching operations, as the CDB has no search tools for targeted queries for tracing purposes (*See also point 3.4*)

In one region, by comparing the information in TRACES with the records kept by the RVA and the collection centres through which the animals were moved, several discrepancies were detected.

The Czech and Moravian Poultry Breeder Association is responsible for poultry flock registration and is operating a database on a tender basis with the MA. For small poultry flocks, registration is not compulsory. The SVA does not have direct access to the database. It has to apply for permission

to the MA in order to get access to data. The mission team was informed that direct access for the SVA to this database will be ensured in the near future.

3.6.5. Provisions for emergency vaccination

Specific conditions and scenarios under which vaccination might be instituted are not defined. In any case, vaccination is not considered as an option in the initial phase of an outbreak as the contingency plans do not contain any specific provisions on this issue. There is no vaccine stored to be used in case of an outbreak. There is a contract with a pharmaceutical company to provide 60 000 doses of vaccine in the event of a FMD outbreak.

3.6.6. Training and awareness of programmes, simulation

No specific training for disease outbreaks of FMD, CSF or AI has been provided although it is required by the CPs. Meetings at regional level provide recent information but do not include training. Moreover, the NRLs do not consider training necessary for the regional laboratories.

The contingency plans are kept as internal documents within the SVA. No information is provided to the public on diseases such as FMD, CSF and AI/ND. However, the mission team found evidence of information sent to different Ministries, the RVAs and DVIs and poultry breeders associations. This information concerns mainly the measures to be followed in order to prevent the introduction of poultry diseases.

Simulation exercises for FMD have been organised as desk and field exercises. The desk exercise, with participation of the NRL Prague, was organised by TAIEX in 2002 and 4 field exercises were organised during 2001-2005. The last exercise on AI was organized in co-operation with TAIEX in October 2004. The next exercise is not yet planned. No exercise has been organised for CSF after approval of the CP in 2004. Collection centres for animals and slaughterhouses did not participate in any of the exercises organised and the preparedness for a large scale outbreak was not simulated. The Czech Republic has not yet participated in any cross-border exercises with other Member States.

4. CLOSING MEETING

A closing meeting was held on 22 October 2004 with the CCA. At this meeting, the main findings and preliminary conclusions of the mission were presented by the inspection team. The representatives of the CCA took note of these and expressed their willingness to correct the shortcomings observed.

5. CONCLUSIONS

5.1. Competent authority performance

In general, the three-stage control system put in place by the competent authorities (CA) to supervise the regional control activities was found to work well. In addition, the gradual deployment since the beginning of 2005 of a

new information system provides support to the CA for the control of performance in this area. However, the system is not fully operational in all areas, leading to variations in controls applied in different regions, at establishments, in the supervision of veterinary practitioners and in the application of the National Monitoring Programme of Diseases.

5.2. Establishment upgrading and approval

In general, the up-grading process of establishments is well managed, although some approvals were granted before full compliance with all the criteria set by the RVA. One establishment did not comply with the provisions of Article 10 of Council Directive 64/433/EEC. Moreover, due to the lack of reporting to the Commission on upgraded establishments already applying the oval stamp, the up-grading process did not comply with Appendix A, Chapter 3.1, Article (c) and (d) of the Accession Treaty.

Some approved food establishments did not fully comply with the relevant EU legislation. In general, the standard was higher in the upgraded establishments than in the existing EU-approved establishments.

5.3. Food safety controls

Authorised auxillaries could pass animals as fit for slaughter at ante-mortem inspection, which is contrary to the provisions of Article 9 (iii) (a) of Council Directive 64/433/EEC.

Post-mortem inspection examination was not always carried out in compliance with the EU legislation (Chapter VIII, Annex I of Council Directive 64/433/EEC), as certain organs and tissues were removed before the examination took place.

Trichinella examination of domestic pigs was not fully in line with EU requirements (Annex I of Council Directive 77/96/EEC) due to insufficient implementation of provisions for traceability, and the use of non-complying laboratory equipment in some cases.

A system of food safety controls is in place, but some shortcomings were noted in the proper application of:

- certain meat hygiene requirements of Council Directive 64/433/EEC;
- certain elements of the HACCP system as laid down in Commission Decision 2001/471/EC, and;
- in the traceability of foodstuffs as laid down in Council Regulation (EC) 178/2002.

5.4. Holding registration, animal identification and movement controls

The national bovine database generally complies with Articles 14 and 18 of Council Directive 64/432/EEC. However, there is still a relatively high number of errors and late notifications of events including non-reported movements. The cattle database is fully accessible to the SVA.

The national pig database does not comply with all the provisions of Commission Decision 2000/678/EC.

The traceability of bovine animals within the database cannot be guaranteed in the case of an outbreak of a rapidly spreading infectious disease, mainly due to the problems with late notifications. The traceability of pigs within the database cannot be guaranteed because of inadequate geographical information.

The organisation of the cattle identification inspections complies with Council Regulation 1082/2003, but some important factors affecting the traceability of animals were not included in the risk analysis (lost ear-tags, late notifications, number of movements).

5.5. Animal health controls

The national monitoring programme for CSF, bovine tuberculosis and bovine brucellosis has been implemented. However, the rate and uniformity of sampling for CSF was not achieved due to an insufficient number of samples delivered to the SVA by hunters. In addition, the monitoring of bovine brucellosis was not applied according to the programme, mainly due to a lack of awareness by farmers of the obligation to notify abortions, and inadequate application of official controls. The investigation of abortions showed some inconsistencies, and relevant cross-checks were not carried out.

The eradication of CSF in wild boars is jeopardised by a lack of coordination of the methods of testing used, and of the evaluation of results, with the NRL of Slovakia.

5.6. Contingency Plans

In general the contingency plans are well-structured and detailed with a clear chain of command and reflect the situation in the Czech Republic. Some shortcomings need to be addressed to meet the requirements of Council Directives 2003/85/EC, 2001/89/EC, 92/40/EEC, and 92/66/EEC.

The awareness of the plans is low at all levels including both the public and private sector and there is a general need for training on all aspects.

6. RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE COMPETENT AUTHORITIES OF CZECH REPUBLIC

The competent authorities are invited to provide details of the actions taken and planned including deadlines for their completion within one month following the receipt of the translated report.

1 To ensure that only fully compliant establishments are approved.

2 To bring the responsibilities and tasks of auxiliaries in relation to ante-mortem inspection in line with the provisions of Article 9 (iii) (a) of Council Directive 64/433/EEC.

3 To ensure that post-mortem inspection and trichinella examination is carried out in accordance with Chapter VIII, Annex I of Council Directive 64/433/EEC and Annex I of Council Directive 77/96/EEC.

4 To issue the necessary guidelines and instructions on supervision of restraining, stunning and bleeding of slaughter animals in line with Council Directive 93/119/EC and to document the control thereof.

5 To ensure the proper application of the meat hygiene provisions laid down in Council Directive 64/433/EEC, the HACCP provisions laid down in Commission Decision 2001/476/EC, and the traceability provisions laid down in Council Regulation (EC) 178/2002.

6 To ensure that the pig database complies with the provisions of Council Directive 2000/15/EC and Commission Decision 2000/678/EC, and is accessible to the competent authority.

7 To ensure the full application of the national monitoring programme for brucellosis in cattle by improving awareness among farmers to notify abortions, by strengthening the official controls with regard to the application of relevant cross-checks and to apply relevant controls, such as cross-checks, in order to ensure that CSF examination of wild boars is carried out as required.

8 To ensure coordination of methods and evaluation of results within the framework of the CSF eradication programme in response to the vaccination programme in wild boars in Slovakia.

9 To amend the disease contingency plans for FMD, CSF, AI and ND in order to bring them fully into line with Council Directives 2003/85/EC, 2001/89/EC, 92/40/EEC and 92/66/EEC.

ADDENDUM

Response of the Czech Authorities to the draft mission report

The Czech Authorities offered comments on the draft report by means of a letter dated 16 December 2005. Where appropriate these comments have been incorporated into the final report. They also provided an initial reaction to certain conclusions and recommendations in the report, in particular by providing details of action already taken or to be taken to correct deficiencies noted.

A summary of these is indicated below:

Recommendation 6.4.

The system of checks, including recording and evaluation methods of animal welfare at slaughter will be evaluated in a meeting with the RVA inspectors by the end of 2005.

Recommendation 6.7.

A new system of notification of abortions to the control database has been introduced, enabling the SVA to check the notifications directly.

All RVAs have been instructed to arrange for cooperation with the hunting association as regards trichinosis in feral pigs.

Recommendation 6.8.

Positive serological results of the vaccination of wild boars will be notified from the Slovak authorities on a monthly basis. However, due to the fact that a marker vaccine is not used in Slovakia, the Czech authorities cannot differentiate the antibodies.

Recommendation 6.9.

The methodology of CSF monitoring is updated by the SVA annually. The disease contingency plans have been amended concerning strategy of vaccination, information of population density, killing methodologies and certain annexes with regard to Council Directives 93/119/EEC, 92/40/EEC and 92/66/EEC respectively. The SVI, Brno is withdrawn from the list of laboratories for AI diagnosis.

ANNEX

COMMUNITY LEGISLATION CITED IN THIS REPORT

Legal acts cited in this annex refer, where applicable, to the last amended version.

European legislation	OJ	Title
Council Directive 64/432/EEC	L 121, 29.07.1964, p. 1977	Council Directive 64/432/EEC of 26 June 1964 on animal health problems affecting intra-Community trade in bovine animals and swine
Council Directive 64/433/EEC	L 121, 29.07.1964, p. 2012	Council Directive 64/433/EEC of 26 June 1964 on health conditions for the production and marketing of fresh meat
Council Directive 77/96/EEC	L 026, 31.01.1977, p. 67	Council Directive 77/96/EEC of 21 December 1976 on the examination for trichinae (trichinella spiralis) upon importation from third countries of fresh meat derived from domestic swine
Council Directive 92/40/EEC	L 167, 22.06.1992, p. 1	Council Directive 92/40/EEC of 19 May 1992 introducing Community measures for the control of avian influenza
Council Directive 92/66/EEC	L 260, 05.09.92, p.1	Council Directive 92/66/EEC of 14 July 1992 introducing Community measures for the control of Newcastle disease
Council Directive 93/119/EC	L 340, 31.12.1993, p. 21	Council Directive 93/119/EC of 22 December 1993 on the protection of animals at the time of slaughter or killing
Commission Decision 2000/678/EC	L 281, 07.11.2000	Commission Decision 2000/678/EC of 23 October 2000 laying down detailed rules for registration of holdings in national databases for porcine animals as foreseen by Council Directive 64/432/EEC
Council Directive 2000/15/EC	L 03, 03.05.2000, p.34	Council Directive 2000/15/EC of 16 April 2000, amending Council Directive 64/432/EEC, on health problems affecting intra-community trade in bovine animals and swine.
Council Directive 2001/89/EC	L 316 , 01.12.2001, p. 5	Council Directive 2001/89/EC of 23 October 2001 on Community measures for the control of classical swine fever
Commission Decision 2001/471/EC	L 165, 21.06.2001, p. 48	Commission Decision 2001/471/EC of 8 June 2001 laying down rules for the regular checks on the general hygiene carried out by the operators in establishments according to Directive 64/433/EEC on health conditions for the production and marketing of fresh meat and Directive 71/118/EEC on health problems affecting the production and placing on the market of fresh poultry meat
Council Directive 2003/85/EC	L 306, 22.11.2003, p.1	Council Directive 2003/85/EC of 29 September 2003 on Community measures for the control of foot-and-mouth disease repealing Directive 85/511/EEC and Decisions 89/531/EEC and 91/665/EEC and amending Directive 92/46/EEC

Commission Decision 2004/320/EC	L 102, 07.04.2004, p. 75	Commission Decision 2004/320/EC of 31 March 2004 amending Decisions 93/52/EEC, 2001/618/EC and 2003/467/EC as regards the status of acceding countries with regard to brucellosis (B. *melitensis*), Aujeszky's disease, enzootic bovine leukosis, bovine brucellosis and tuberculosis and of France with regard to Aujeszky's disease
Commission Decision 2004/840/EC	L 361, 08.12.2004, p. 41	Commission Decision 2004/840/EC of 30 November 2004 approving programmes for the eradication and monitoring of certain animal diseases and of checks aimed at the prevention of zoonoses presented by the Member States for the year 2005 and fixing the level of the Community's financial contribution
Regulation (EC) No. 1760/2000	L 204 , 11.08.2000, p. 1	Regulation (EC) No. 1760/2000 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 17 July 2000 establishing a system for the identification and registration of bovine animals and regarding the labelling of beef and beef products and repealing Council Regulation EC No. 820/97
Regulation (EC) No. 178/2002	L 31, 01.02.2002, p. 1	Regulation (EC) No. 178/2002 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
Commission Regulation (EC) No 1082/2003	L 156, 25.06.2003, p. 9	Commission Regulation (EC) No 1082/2003 of 23 June 2003 laying down detailed rules for the implementation of Regulation (EC) No 1760/2000 of the European Parliament and of the Council as regards the minimum level of controls to be carried out in the framework of the system for the identification and registration of bovine animals
Commission Regulation (EC) No 911/2004	L 163, 30.04.2004, p. 65	Commission Regulation (EC) No 911/2004 of 29 April 2004 implementing Regulation (EC) No 1760/2000 of the European Parliament and of the Council as regards eartags, passports and holding registers