ANNEX

Response of the Competent Authorities of Mexico to the recommendations of Report ref. DG (SANCO)/2014-7223 -MR of an audit carried out from 24 June 2014 to 04 July 2014 in order to evaluate the operation of controls over the production of fresh horse meat and meat products intended for export to the European Union, including monitoring of residues and contaminants as well as certification procedures.

N°	***Recommendation***	***Action Proposed by the Competent Authority***
1	To take measures to ensure the validity and authenticity of the affidavits for horses of Mexican origin slaughtered for export to the European Union linked to their traceability. This is in order to guarantee that equivalent standards to those provided by Commission Regulation (EC) No 504/2008 and Council Directive 96/93/EC are applied.	SENASICA is restructuring the scheme of verification of collection centers that supply the TIF establishments, which includes the following two points: 1.-Obligation to have an authorized veterinarian for SAGARPA to perform the document verification and visual inspection, so allowing to ensure a better traceability of national horses for slaughter. 2.-Make sure that the record of treatments to horses at the collection centers in are filed in specific expedients kept on site. These changes will be reflected by the updated procedure named 'Authorization of collection centers for horses meant for meat production for export to the European Union." The authorized veterinarian shall be supervised by official staff SENASICA to level centrally.
	To take measures to ensure the validity and authenticity of the affidavits for horses of US origin slaughtered for export to the European Union linked to their traceability. This is in order to guarantee that equivalent standards to those provided by Commission Regulation (EC) No 504/2008 and Council Directive 96/93/EC are applied.	A strengthening of animal health measures in the import of horses originating in the United States will take place, by the following actions which guarantee the validity and authenticity of affidavits: • Renegotiation with USDA of the Sheet of Animal Health Requirements, for the import of horses for slaughter, which will include:

		a) List of assembly points that meet minimum requirements of SENASICA. Request for more accurate and complete data of American Assembly Points: i. Assembly points: owner, MV Accredited veterinarian ii. Importer iii. Destination TIF slaughter plant: specific conditions for this kind of product b) Import of horses will be allowed only when their provenance is a USDA-listed assembly point; such assembly points should comply with conditions set by SENASICA. Assembly points may be audited by both TIF slaughter plants and/or SENASICA Officers at any one time, with no prior notice. c) Compulsory presence of a USDA-Accredited veterinarian at the time inspection and shipment of horses takes place d) Refusal of shipments with critical violations. e) Both USDA Health certificate and format 10-13 duly filled in: -Tramits with documents inadequately filled will be rejected. -SENASICA will accept certificates in the case of animals discarded during the inspection process by the Accredited veterinarian, crossed out with a transverse line by the AV with a short signature (rubric) next to the microchip number,when animals failed the visual inspection stage, so they should not appear on the truck at the point of entry. -No shipments presented for tramit with more

		horses than the amount of horses certified, will be accepted for import. Neither will shipments consisting on less horses than the ones crossed out by the Accredited Veterinarian, will be accepted. f) For animals rejected at the inspection point in the border: animals which do not meet the animal health requirements at the time of inspection and that are refused, will be notified to the USDA. The USDA should respond formally indicating the destination of refused animals. A database or other USDA control system will be requested for horses rejected at the inspection border. g) In the case of shipments originating in Assembly Points, when any of these at the time of inspection in the point of entry, they will turn out to: 1. Unreadable: microchips are not readable in at least three attempts of reading by the Mexican Officer at the point of entry. 2. Double reading: at the time of making the reading of microchips, two different numbers show on the microchip reader; 3. Non-existing –microchip on the Export Certificate: the microchip number read does not appear in the USDA Export Certificate. Animals in any of these cases will be refused entry.
3	To ensure that substances which are banned for use in food producing animals according to Council Directive 96/22/EC are not used in horses from which meat is intended for export to the European Union.	Mexico has not ProductionUnits exclusive for Horses. As of 19 September 2014 the establishment of measures at the federal level is officializedby SENASICA to strengthen control on veterinary drugstores, fodder shops, veterinary clinics and feedstuff shops. Additionally is updating the

		register of such establishments and subsequently will carry out official visits to regulated establishments. Since April 2014, a functional reorganization was started, with the purpose if strengthening among other things, field activities as well as inspection and verification on commercial establishments such as pharmacies, veterinary clinics and fodder& feedstuff shops, in the country's states, through 160 veterinarians located physically in the area SENASICA offices at different SAGARPA Delegations, in the Mexican States. At these establishments, veterinarians will be required a biannual document issued by veterinary medical specialists or third party veterinarians (verification units). This action is aimed to prove that forbidden substances prohibited under Council Directive 96/22/EC (Article 1, Title 2, paragraphs b, c (i, ii) and d) are not used in horses intended for human consumption. Stipulated deadline for the first phase (registration): 1 year
4	To ensure that treatment records are kept on horse holdings in line with Article 10 of Council Directive 96/23/EC and Annex I, Part A, III, 8(b) to Regulation (EC) No 852/2004 and that horses are adequately identified for this purpose, either individually or as a lot.	Mexico has not Production Units exclusive for Horses. As described in the actions that the SENASICA will perform to address recommendation 1, the verification scheme of the collection centers that supply the TIF establishments will be restructured through the obligation to have an veterinarian authorized by SAGARPA,who performs a documentary verification and visual inspection to obtain greater assurance of the traceability of national horses intended for slaughter, and also will verify that the record of treatments to horses in the collection centers is kept on site in all specific expedients.

5	To take measures in order to ensure that the registered data in the various databases concerning Mexican horses slaughtered for export to the European Union are correct. This is in order to be able to verify the traceability of the horses and to certify the origin of the horses correctly as foreseen in point 11.2 of the certificate "EQU" in part 2 of Annex II to Regulation (EU) No 206/2010.	We will work with SINIIGA in the second half of 2014, in order to have codes of entry assigned to their system, for personal of TIF establishments (for reference only), so the registry canbe found for horses to slaughter within the system), and if acceptable, the slaughter is authorized by SENASICA. By using the same code, it may be verified the discharge of chips, that previously the TIF establishment delivered in writing and attaching microchips to the corresponding office of SINIIGA. In case of finding a delay of more than 15 days, a notification at central level will be done.
6	To take measures in order to ensure that the post-mortem inspections are carried out in compliance with Chapter II of Section I and Chapters III and IX of Section IV of Annex I to Regulation (EC) No 854/2004 in all Mexican approved slaughterhouses.	The SENASICA in conjunction with TIF establishments engaged in the production of horse meat for export to the European Union will carry out activities to ensure that inspections post - mortem be performed correctly in order to comply with the requirements specified in the directives of the European Union. **To date there have developed the following activities:** 1. July 2014. By Circular no 0021/2014 was for knowledge to all TIF horses slaughter establishments authorized to export to the European Union, which must approve the health marking of carcasses inspected and approved in accordance with Regulation (CE) No 854/2004 of the European Parliament and of the Council, Annex 1, Section 1, Chapter II, point 3 and 4. 2. September 2014. The official veterinary staff was called to present the observations of the European Union and be able to correct them.

		The following activities are scheduled: 3. First half of 2015. Development and implementation of a specific guide to check the activities of the official veterinary staff to ensure technical competence according to Regulation (CE) No 854/2004 of the European Parliament and of the Council, Annex 1, Section IV, Chapter III and Chapter IX. 4. First half of 2015. It will be reassessed and published a new version of the "Manual of Veterinary Inspection for equines and export meat products to the European Union", based on the Mexican National Standards, as well as referred to in Regulation 854/2004; including graphic material to facilitate their understanding and proper monitoring, in addition to specific points for monitoring and control of HACCP, traceability and prerequisites will be included. 5. Second half of 2015. Training and/or theoretical practices about the regulatory requirements of the European Union based on Regulation (CE) no. 854/2004 of the European Parliament and the Council, Annex 1, Section IV, Chapter III and Chapter IX will be conducted. 6. Second half of 2015. There will be developed and implemented a specific guide to bimonthly supervision to the monitoring and maintenance of European regulatory requirements for TIF regulated facilities. This with the aim of strengthening the trade between our country and the European Union.
7	To ensure that official controls are performed at all stages of production of horses and their meat intended for export to the EU and that these controls are effective in order to guarantee that horse meat exported to the EU has been produced in accordance with relevant EU requirements.	As mentioned above (recommendation 1 and recommendation 4), the verification scheme of collection centers that supply the TIF establishments will be restructured. Also, SENASICA is agreeing a procedure with the

		companies involved, through which greater assurance are given of the traceability of animals and their treatments, which include internal audits, its suppliers and the presence of the figure of a doctor authorized by SAGARPA. This scheme is being developed in the 2014 and consider its implementation in the first half of 2015.