



EUROPEAN COMMISSION
HEALTH AND CONSUMERS DIRECTORATE-GENERAL
Directorate F - Food and Veterinary Office

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**EXTRACT FROM THE REPORT ON AN AUDIT CARRIED OUT IN MOROCCO
BY THE FOOD AND VETERINARY OFFICE**

FROM 11 TO 22 JUNE 2012

**TO EVALUATE THE CONTROL SYSTEMS IN PLACE GOVERNING THE PRODUCTION OF FISHERY
PRODUCTS AND LIVE BIVALVE MOLLUSCS INTENDED FOR EXPORT TO THE EUROPEAN
UNION**

***N.B.: THIS IS A SUMMARY TRANSLATION OF PART OF THE ORIGINAL
MISSION REPORT (REF. NO DG(SANCO)/2012-6546). IT HAS BEEN PROVIDED TO
ASSIST VISITORS TO THIS SITE, BUT HAS NO OFFICIAL STATUS. REFERENCE SHOULD ALWAYS
BE MADE TO THE FULL TEXT OF THE ORIGINAL REPORT.***

SUMMARY

This report describes the findings of an audit carried out by the Food and Veterinary Office from 11 to 22 June 2012.

The main aim of the audit was to assess the control systems in place for fishery products and live bivalve molluscs for export to the European Union.

The report concludes that there is a system in place for checking the production of fishery products and live bivalve molluscs for export to the European Union which defines the arrangements for cooperation between the competent authorities and their respective responsibilities.

The official checks concerning fishery products are carried out pursuant to a manual of procedures, they are documented and afford a guarantee that the fishery products exported to the EU correspond to the statements made on their export health certificates.

As for bivalve molluscs, procedures for the classification and the monitoring of production areas and the placing of bivalve molluscs on the market are available. However, the system has shortcomings which were raised at the time of the Office's previous audit in 2009 and

which, having gone uncorrected, betray a lack of reliability that is liable to compromise the entire control system.

Recommendations have been made to the Moroccan central competent authority in order to rectify the non-conformities observed.

Recommendations

Within one month of receiving the report, the central competent authority should provide the Commission with an action plan, including a timetable for its implementation, with the aim of responding to the following recommendations:

No	Recommendation
1.	The competent authority must ensure that bivalve mollusc production areas are classified in line with the provisions of Chapter II A point 6 of Annex II to Regulation (EC) No 854/2004.
2.	The competent authority must ensure that the sampling frequency for toxin analysis (ASP) is in line with the provisions of Chapter II B point 5 of Annex II to Regulation (EC) No 854/2004.
3.	The competent authority must ensure that the laboratories conducting official analyses of bivalve molluscs for export to the EU apply the principles of internationally recognised quality assurance techniques and are evaluated and/or accredited under officially recognised quality management and assurance programmes in line with international standards, such as ISO 17025, in order to ensure the reliability of analytical results.

The competent authority's response to the recommendations is available at:
http://ec.europa.eu/food/fvo/rep_details_en.cfm?rep_inspection_ref=2012-6546