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FINAL REPORT OF AN AUDIT

CARRIED OUT IN

SLOVENIA

FROM 17 TO 21 JUNE 2013

IN ORDER TO EVALUATE THE CONTROL OF RESIDUES AND CONTAMINANTS IN LIVE ANIMALS AND ANIMAL PRODUCTS

Executive Summary

This report describes the outcome of a Food and Veterinary Office (FVO) audit in Slovenia, carried out from 17 to 21 June 2013, as part of the published programme of FVO audits on the monitoring of residues in live animals and animal products in European Union (EU) Member States and in third countries.

The objective of the audit was to evaluate the implementation of national measures, aimed at the control of residues and contaminants in live animals and animal products. The evaluation was based on the standards set out in Council Directive 96/23/EC, and other relevant EU legislation in this field. The audit assessed the performance of the competent authorities and other officially authorised entities involved in residues controls and the legal and administrative measures put in place to give effect to the relevant EU requirements. Attention was also paid to examining the implementation of corrective actions promised in response to relevant recommendations made in the report of a previous FVO residues audit to Slovenia (DG (SANCO)/2009/8132) in January 2009.

It is concluded that the elaboration of the Residue Monitoring Plan (RMP) is carried out in a timely fashion, involves all relevant bodies, takes into account relevant data and covers all commodities and the respective substances groups to be tested. The number of samples to be taken at national level and sample sizes are in line with EU requirements.

Planning as well as implementation of the RMP is timely and in line with EU requirements and the supervision of its implementation, supported by controls of veterinary medicine treatments record on farm, has been mostly effective.

Nevertheless, the effectiveness of the RMP implementation has been partly weakened by some short-comings concerning suspect sampling and targeting of certain samples at slaughterhouses. Additionally, the competent authorities' performance in the residues area has not yet been subject to internal audits at central level which could have potentially detected these shortcomings.

Prompt investigations of non-compliant results together with measure taken which have a deterrent effect as well as other residues control programmes in place increase confidence in competent authority guarantees on the residue status of food of animal origin in Slovenia.

The current system in place with regard to the implementation of the equine passport, identification and medical treatment record requirements in Regulation (EC) No 504/2008 can ensure that all horses submitted for slaughter for human consumption comply with the respective legal requirements.

The fact that the laboratories are all accredited to ISO 17025, that methods used are mostly validated and that the results of the majority of proficiency tests are satisfactory gives the competent authority confidence in the reliability of laboratory performance. Nevertheless, some shortcomings concerning methods validation, sample handling and oversight of the subcontracted laboratories weaken an otherwise strong laboratory performance.

Five out of six recommendations made during the 2009 residue audit (DG (SANCO)/2009/8132) were fully addressed.

The report makes a number of recommendations to the Slovenian competent authorities, aimed at rectifying the shortcomings identified and enhancing the implementation and control measures in place.

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Abbreviations and definitions used in this report

AFSVSPP	Administration of the Republic of Slovenia for Food Safety, Veterinary Sector and Plant Protection
CCα / CCβ	Decision Limit / Detection Capability
DG(SANCO)	Health and Consumers Directorate General
EU	European Union
EU RL	European Union Reference Laboratory
FFMPD	Food Feed and Medical Product Division
FSVPHI	Food Safety,Veterinary and Plant Health Inspection
FVO	Food and Veterinary Office
Group A, B	Categories of substances listed in Annex I to Council Directive 96/23/EC
ISO	International Organisation for Standardisation
MRL	Maximum Residue Limit
NRL	National Reference Laboratory
NVI	National Veterinary Institute
PIOs	Passport Issuing Organisations
QMS	Quality Management System
RASFF	Rapid Alert System for Food and Feed
RMP	Residue Monitoring Plan
ROs	Regional Offices

1 Introduction

The audit took place in Slovenia from 17th to 21st June 2013. The audit team comprised two auditors from the Food and Veterinary Office (FVO) and one expert from a European Union (EU) country. The audit was undertaken as part of the FVO's planned audit programme, evaluating control systems and operational standards in the residues sector.

Representatives from the central competent authority of the Administration of the Republic of Slovenia for Food Safety, Veterinary Sector and Plant Protection (AFSVSPP) accompanied the audit team during the whole audit. An opening meeting was held on 17th June 2013 with the AFSVSPP and other competent authorities responsible for implementing residue monitoring in live animals and animal products. At this meeting, the objectives of, and itinerary for, the audit were confirmed and the control systems were described by the authorities.

2 Objectives

The objective of the audit was to evaluate the implementation of national measures, aimed at the control of residues and contaminants in live animals and animal products. The audit was based on Council Directive 96/23/EC and other relevant EU legislation in this field. The audit focused on the roles of the competent authorities at central, regional and local levels, the legal and administrative measures in place to give effect to the relevant EU requirements, residue controls and the performance of the residue laboratories. Attention was paid to examining the implementation of corrective actions promised in response to relevant recommendations made in the report of a previous FVO residues audit to Slovenia (DG (SANCO)/2009/8132) in January 2009. The table below lists sites visited and meetings held in order to achieve that objective.

Meetings/Visits		n	Comments
Competent Authorities	Central	2	Opening and closing meeting with the representatives of the Administration of the Republic of Slovenia for Food Safety, Veterinary Sector and Plant Protection (AFSVSPP).
	Regional	1	Meetings with representatives of the Regional Competent Authority Novo Mesto.
	Local	2	Meetings with district/area authorities in Novo Mesto and Ljubljana.
Laboratories		1	National Reference Laboratory (NRL) for Residues and Contaminants in Slovenia, National Veterinary Institute (NVI).
Farms		3	One dairy farm, one pig farm, one bee-keeper.
Establishments		1	One slaughterhouse for cattle, sheep, goats, pigs and horses.

3 Legal Basis

The audit was carried out under the general provisions of EU legislation, and in particular:

– Article 21 of Council Directive 96/23/EC of 29 April 1996 on measures to monitor certain substances and residues thereof in live animals and animal products, and repealing Directives 85/358/EEC and 86/469/EEC and Decisions 89/187/EEC and 91/664/EEC;

– 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 animal welfare rules;

A full list of the legal instruments referred to in this audit report is provided in the Annex and refers, where applicable, to the last amended version.

4 Background

4.1 Summary of previous FVO Audit results

The residues sector was last inspected by the FVO in 2009 (DG (SANCO)/2009/8132) MR Final). The report of this audit (henceforth referred to as the 2009 FVO audit) has been published on the website of the Directorate – General for Health and Consumers here:

http://ec.europa.eu/food/fvo/rep_details_en.cfm?rep_id=2284

The report concluded that a generally robust system of residues controls was in place and largely in line with EU requirements. However, the effectiveness of this system was partially undermined by: a.) sampling not being distributed throughout the year; b.) Not taking account of food chain information to conduct official controls on a risk basis; c.) Equine passport related problems with regard to the residues status of *equidae* for slaughter for human consumption; d.) Not having all laboratory methods validated and delegating official controls to persons with potential conflict of interest.

5 Findings And Conclusions

5.1 Residue monitoring

5.1.1 Competent authorities involved

The central competent authority for the Residue Monitoring Plan (RMP) as of 1.1.2013 is the AFSVSPP, which belongs to the Ministry of Agriculture and Environment. The AFSVSPP´s Food, Feed and Medicinal Products Division (FFMPD) is responsible for the RMP development and its 10 Regional Offices (ROs) for the RMP implementation.

The responsibility for the implementation and enforcement of the identification system for *equidae* in Slovenia lies with the AFSVSPP with regard to the management of the national equine database and with regard to controls related to animal health, food chain information and use of veterinary medicinal products including information related to Annex IX of the equine passport. The database is managed by the AFSVSPP's Animal Identification and Registration and Information Systems Division. Controls, as outlined above, are the responsibility of the AFSVSPP's Food Safety, Veterinary and Plant Health's Inspection (FSVPHI) and the 10 ROs. The Inspectorate for Agriculture and Environment, which also belongs to the Ministry of Agriculture and the

Environment is responsible for official controls regarding the identification and register of *equidae* on-farm as well as of stud/herd and genealogical book documentation. It does not conduct any controls which fall under the responsibility of the AFSVSPP.

5.1.2 Planning of the residue monitoring plan

Legal Requirements

Article 5 of Council Directive 96/23/EC provides that EU Member States shall submit to the Commission a plan setting out the national measures to be implemented for the detection of residues or substances listed in Annex I to the Directive, and subsequently, Member States shall submit any update of residue monitoring plans previously approved on the basis of the experience of the preceding year or years, by 31 March at the latest of the year of the update.

The following EU legislation has a direct bearing on the elaboration/updating of the residue monitoring plan.

Article 3 of Regulation (EC) No 882/2004 deals with the general obligations with regard to the organisation of official controls. Articles 3 to 7 of Council Directive 96/23/EC deal with the requirements for residue monitoring plans. Commission Decision 97/747/EC lays down levels and frequencies of sampling for residues. Table 1 of the Annex to Commission Regulation (EU) No 37/2010 lays down Maximum Residue Limits (MRLs) for residues of pharmacologically active substances in food. Regulation (EC) No 396/2005 lays down maximum residue levels of pesticides in or on food and feed of plant and animal origin. Commission Regulation (EC) No 1881/2006 lays down Maximum Levels (MLs) for certain contaminants in food. Minimum Required Performance Limits (MRPLs) are defined in Article 4 of Commission Decision 2002/657/EC.

Findings

A RMP document has been created by the AFSVSPP outlining who is involved in and responsible for the RMP planning, sampling and follow-up investigation activities. It further indicates which laboratories have been designated to be the National Reference Laboratory (NRL) for the various substance groups, and highlights the main RMP changes of the year concerned. Detailed field instructions regarding sample collection, reporting and what to do in case of non-compliances detected, have also been prepared for all ROs.

The AFSVSPP head office prepares each year in November a draft RMP for the following year using the previous year´s production data, non-compliances, Rapid Alert System for Food and Feed (RASFF) notifications, sales figures from veterinary medicinal or plant protection products, information from veterinary organisations, results of other official monitoring programmes and food business operator own-control programmes (e.g. Slovenian bee-keepers' own control-programme). The draft plan is shared with the three Slovenian NRLs for input after which the RMP is finalised and approved by the AFSVSPP. National RMP sample numbers are broken down for each of the 10 ROs, based on regional production data and the respective RMP sample requests are sent monthly to them for implementation.

The audit team noted that:

- The planning process involves all relevant bodies and ensures that the new RMP can be implemented from January.

- Since the 2009 audit, testing for several substance groups has been extended as follows: Group A2 methimazole and 6-phenylthiouracil for all required species plus in addition for rabbit and poultry; Group A5 brombuterol, cimbuterol, mapenterol for all required species and in addition milk; Group B2b 13 anticoccidials for all required species/commodities; Group B2d acepromazine and xylazine for cattle, pigs, horses and propionylpromazine for pigs and horses; Group B2f amitraz for honey and dexamethasone for cattle, pigs and horses.
- The RMP fulfils the requirements of Council Directive 96/23/EC with regard to the number of samples to be taken per commodity/species/matrix, the number of samples taken at slaughterhouses or on farms and the substances to analyse for.
- A few minor shortcomings found by the audit team were immediately rectified by the FFMPD (e.g. Not testing Group A1, A4 and B2e in farmed game; not including samples in the RMP from eggs from other species of poultry, as Slovenia has a small production of quail eggs (1,500 kg or approximately 120,000 eggs); taking often six instead of 12 eggs as one sample).

Conclusions on planning of the residue monitoring plan

It is concluded that the elaboration of the RMP is carried out in a timely fashion, involves all relevant bodies, takes into account relevant data and covers all commodities and the respective substances groups to be tested. The number of samples to be taken at national level and sample sizes are in line with EU requirements.

5.1.3 Implementation of the residue monitoring plan

Legal Requirements

Articles 3, 4 and 12 of Council Directive 96/23/EC deal with aspects pertaining to the implementation of the residue monitoring plan. Article 4(2)(b) and (c) of Council Directive 96/23/EC lays down the requirements for central competent authorities in coordinating the activities of all bodies involved in residues controls. General principles governing the coordination of activities and ensuring the cooperation between the various competent authorities are laid down in Articles 4.3., 4.4 and 4.5. of Regulation (EC) No 882/2004. Article 3 of Regulation (EC) No 882/2004 deals with the general obligations with regard to the organisation of official controls and Article 8(3) of said Regulation places the obligation on competent authorities to inter alia, ensure that corrective action is taken when needed.

Commission Decision 97/747/EC lays down levels and frequencies of sampling for residues and Commission Decision 98/179/EC lays down the rules for official sampling under the residue monitoring plan. EU methods of sampling for the official control of a wide range of residues in products of animal origin are laid down in several pieces of EU legislation: Commission Directive 2002/63/EC (pesticides); Commission Regulation (EC) No 1883/2006 (dioxins and dioxin-like PCBs); Commission Regulation (EC) No 333/2007 (certain chemical elements); Commission Regulation (EC) No 401/2006 (mycotoxins).

Findings

The FFMPD in consultation with the NRLs are responsible for drawing up and issuing sampling instructions to be used by the ROs for RMP implementation.

The responsibility for the implementation of the RMP (e.g. sampling and follow-up of non-

compliant results) lies with the 10 ROs as described in Chapter 5.1.1.

The audit team noted that:

- Sample targets for 2012 were met as planned, sampling was distributed throughout the year and regular checks are done by the FFMPD to ensure that sampling targets overall and for each RO are fulfilled. Thus **recommendation No. 1** of the 2009 FVO audit report has been addressed.
- Monthly sampling requests, specifying the commodity, species, matrix and substance group, are distributed from the FFMPD to each RO which subsequently takes samples accordingly. Establishments for on-farm sampling are chosen by the RO while establishments for slaughterhouse samples are determined by the FFMPD.
- In each RO are two RMP coordinators who have the task to prepare the sampling documentation, follow up RMP implementation, insert into the national residue database information regarding completion of sampling, review reports on non-compliances, assess and decide, together with staff leading the follow-up investigation, if a sample is compliant and finally report RMP non-compliances immediately to the director of the FSVPHI as well as to the FFMPD.
- The FFMPD receives in addition to sample data inserted by the ROs' RMP coordinators into the national RMP database, a monthly update of all samples received and tested by the three NRLs and the two subcontracted laboratories including the number of non-assayable samples. These monthly reports are then used by FFMPD to initiate additional sampling in case the planned annual sample numbers are not reached.
- The instructions regarding the selection of farms where on-farm samples are to be taken are detailing which risk criteria to consider using local knowledge or any other relevant information (e.g. size, number of species, medicines used, non-compliances, type of production system).
- Guidelines regarding use of risk-based selection criteria for animals to be sampled on-farm or slaughterhouses are also included in RO instructions and in line with the requirements of Annex III to Council Directive 96/23/EC. They also include guidance to avoid multiple sampling from one producer in accordance with point 2.3.3.1. of the Annex to Commission Decision 98/179/EC.
- Appropriate sampling materials including tamper-proof bags, as required by point 2(6) of the Annex to Commission Decision 98/179/EC, and insulated boxes for sample transport were kept by sampling officials on-the-spot.
- Sampling staff interviewed had been trained, training activities were documented and staff were well aware of the sampling requirements.
- On-farm RMP sampling is in general unannounced to the farmers and so is sampling at slaughterhouses.
- RO staff are encouraged and can take at any point in time suspect samples using the same targeting criteria as when taking RMP samples. Results of suspect samples and the respective follow-up investigations are sent to the director of the FSVPHI. In 2011, staff from the ROs took 11 suspect samples and in 2012 they took 12 suspect samples both at slaughterhouses and on farms.
- Suspect samples taken have so far not been reported to the Commission, however, staff of the FFMPD informed the audit team that this will be done as of next year.
- The laboratories involved in RMP testing inform both the FFMPD and the RO where the sample has been taken in relation to all RMP sample non-compliances found.
- Information which would be helpful to target the RMP sampling activities even more at risk are currently not systematically or timely communicated to the FFMPD and some ROs. Results of suspect samples taken and records of suspect sample follow-up investigations

carried out by the staff of the FSVPHI and ROs staff are not shared systematically with staff of the FFMPD or with other ROs not involved in the follow-up investigation. This is not fully in line with Article 4(5) of Regulation (EC) No 882/2004.

- The national residue database shows all results of laboratory RMP tests inserted by the NRLs. However, a sample is only deemed to be non-compliant when a respective decision has been taken by the RO staff responsible for the follow-up investigation or the RO RMP coordinator. This is inserted in the database at the end of the follow-up investigation which can take up to two to three months. Thus during those two to three months other ROs' slaughterhouse staff cannot use this information to target suspect samples at farms where non-compliances have been found, if they come from another region which was not involved in the follow-up investigation. This is not in accordance with Article 24 of Council Directive 96/23/EC and with Article 3(1) of Regulation (EC) 882/2004. This delay does not apply for detection of non-authorised substances. In such cases movement of the animals is banned, which is also indicated in a database visible to all ROs.
- The AFSVSPP contracts licensed private veterinarians to visit farms once a year and. as of 2013, every two years to disseminate and to collect certain information also related to use of veterinary medicinal products and record-keeping. Those controls are in addition to official controls and their outcome is not used to inform any official measure taken by the competent authority. Thus **recommendation No. 5** of the 2009 FVO audit report has been addressed.

With regard to **food chain information, veterinary medicine treatment records** and **internal or external audits** the audit team noted that:

- **Food chain information**, in the form of standardised declarations made by the producers, was in place for all animal species slaughtered and the format of the food chain information document fulfiled the relevant requirements of Annex II, Section III to Regulation (EC) No 853/2004.
- Compliance with food chain information requirements was checked both by slaughterhouse staff and the official veterinarian on a daily basis in the slaughterhouse visited and the audit team saw for all species that food chain information was properly signed, dated and that the farmer or owner had indicated if the withdrawal period was respected.
- **Veterinary medicine treatment records** at the two farms visited were in compliance with EU requirements. Based on an annual risk-based inspection programme devised by the FSVPHI, staff of the ROs conduct regular controls on compliance of veterinary medicine treatment records at farms. To do so they use a standard checklist to see if EU requirements concerning prescriptions, on-farm treatment records and compliance with withdrawal periods have been met.
- With regard to **internal and external audit**s, the audit team found that the FFMPD and the FSVPHI had not been subject to audits to verify if the overall system of residue controls achieves the objectives of Regulation (EC) No 882/2004 and of Council Directive 96/23/EC as laid down in Article 4(6) of Regulation (EC) No 882/2004. The internal audit unit of the AFSVSPP, however, has conducted audits in two ROs in 2009 and identified shortcomings had been rectified.

Conclusions on implementation of the residue monitoring plan

Overall, the implementation of the RMP has largely been carried out in line with planned arrangements and the supervision of the implementation has been mostly effective. Controls of veterinary medicinal treatment records on-farm support the effectiveness of RMP controls. However, in a few cases the effectiveness of the residue monitoring plan implementation has been potentially weakened by some deficiencies with regard to suspect sampling and with regard to

targeting of certain samples at slaughterhouses due to a lack of timely information, coordination and communication between competent authorities on non-compliances found at other slaughterhouses. Additionally, the competent authorities' performance in the residues area has not yet been subject to internal audits at central level which could have potentially detected these shortcomings.

5.1.4 Other residues monitoring programmes

Legal Requirements

In addition to the residue monitoring plan required by Article 5 of Council Directive 96/23/EC, Article 11 of said Directive gives Member States the option of conducting other residues testing, particularly in relation to detection of illegal treatment of food producing animals. Article 9 of the Directive foresees the application of own-checks by food business operators. Article 8(2) of Regulation (EC) No 882/2004 obliges Member States to have the legal provisions in place to allow competent authorities have access to such information. Competent authorities are obliged to examine inter alia records (of own checks) as laid down in Article 10(2)(e) and (g) of Regulation (EC) No 882/2004.

Findings

In Slovenia three residue testing programmes outside the RMP are in place (the aflatoxin in milk programme, the pesticide in products of e.g. animal origin programme, the antimicrobials in milk programme). In January 2013, Slovenia participated in the European Commission's reinforced testing plan for phenylbutazone in horsemeat.

The audit team noted that:

- All samples taken within the four above-mentioned residue programmes tested compliant.
- Food business operators are obliged to provide the competent authority with non-compliant residue results from their own-control programmes to avoid placing unsafe food on the market in line with Article 14 (1) of Regulation (EC) No 178/2002.

Conclusions on other residues monitoring programmes

The other residues control programmes operated in Slovenia increase confidence in competent authority guarantees on the residue status of food of animal origin in Slovenia.

5.1.5 Follow-up of non-compliant results

Legal Requirements

The measures to be taken by the competent authorities in response to the finding of non-compliant residues results are described in Articles 13, 16, 17, 18, 19, 23, 24, 27 and 28 of Council Directive 96/23/EC. In addition Article 54 of Regulation (EC) No 882/2004 lays down the principles to be followed in the application of national enforcement measures and actions to be taken in cases of non-compliance.

Findings

Detailed rules on how to conduct follow-up investigations and which measures to take when non-compliances are found in the RMP or in other residue monitoring programmes have been drawn up by the FFMPD for use by the FSVPHI and ROs who are responsible for conducting and

coordinating all RMP follow-up investigations.

Non-compliant RMP results are communicated through the national residue database directly from the relevant laboratories to staff of the ROs where the sample has been taken as well as to the FSVPHI and the FFMPD.

The audit team noted that:

- According to the FFMPD, in the period from 2011 to 2012, a total of 17 RMP non-compliant sample results were reported. All cases related to findings of Group B1 or B2b substances in eggs or Group B3c substances in horse or cattle kidneys.
- The audit team examined four RMP non-compliances (two cases of maduramicin and one case of quinolones in eggs as well as one case of cadmium in cow kidney) and three suspect sampling follow-up files. The follow-up procedures followed were similar in each case, with staff from the RO initiating and conducting the follow-up investigations. For some cases the RO requested feedback on technical questions from the FFMPD. All follow-up investigations examined by the audit team were carried out promptly and comprehensively, following requirements laid down in Article 16 of Council Directive 96/23/EC in order to identify the animal or farm of origin. Additional samples at slaughterhouse, farm or feed producer were taken as appropriate. Comprehensive closeout reports were written by the ROs about the outcome of follow-up investigations on non-compliant RMP and suspect samples.
- Where the cause of non-compliance was detected, measures were taken which had a deterrent effect. Those ranged from destruction of the commodity concerned, paying for the destruction, to fines. In two cases carcases were destroyed and fines given for wrong food chain information where withdrawal periods had not been declared correctly. Thus **recommendation No. 4** of the 2009 FVO audit report has been addressed.
- All follow-up investigation documents are stored in a central Slovenian document management system, but it is, according to staff from FFMPD, very time-consuming to extract the relevant data.
- Several non-compliant samples were found with regard to cadmium in horse and cattle kidney. In each of them the kidney had been declared not fit for human consumption. The FFMPD informed the audit team that it has started a special sampling programme regarding cadmium in cattle and horse kidney to generate reliable data, in order to decide if kidneys should as default not be fit for human consumption.
- Suspect samples have been taken regularly at farm level and at slaughterhouses (2011-11 suspect samples and 2012-12 samples). The respective follow-up investigation is carried out by RO staff.
- During 2011 and 2012 there were no RASFF notification cases related to RMP substances.

Conclusions on follow-up investigations/actions

There are well-established procedures in place to ensure that the causes of non-compliances detected in the RMP are investigated promptly and that measures are taken which have a deterrent effect.

5.2 IDENTIFICATION OF *EQUIDAE* AND MEDICINES RECORDS REQUIREMENTS

Legal Requirements

Equidae must be identified by an identification document (passport) as established in Commission Regulation (EC) No 504/2008.

Commission Regulation (EC) No 1950/2006 lists certain pharmacologically active substances which are deemed to be essential for the treatment of *equidae* and even though they are not listed in Table 1 of the Annex to Commission Regulation (EU) No 37/2010, these substances may be used to treat *equidae* intended for human consumption. The corollary of this is that if *equidae* are treated with a substance which is neither listed in Table 1 of the Annex to Commission Regulation (EU) No 37/2010 nor defined as an essential substance by Commission Regulation (EC) No 1950/2006, such a treatment permanently excludes the animal from the food chain. Exclusion from the food chain must be declared by the owner under Part 2 of Section IX of the passport.

For those *equidae* which are eligible for human consumption, treatment with pharmacologically active substances listed in Table 1 of the Annex to Commission Regulation (EU) No 37/2010 must be recorded in a medicines record kept on the farm as required by Article 10 of Council Directive 96/23/EC and Annex I, Part A, III, point 8(b) to Regulation (EC) No 852/2004. Annex II, Section III, point 3(c) to Regulation (EC) No 853/2004 lays down the content of food chain information as regards records of treatment with veterinary medicinal products and other substances which have to be checked by food business operators at slaughterhouses.

For those *equidae* which are eligible for human consumption, treatment with any of the essential pharmacologically active substances listed in Commission Regulation (EC) No 1950/2006 must be recorded in Part 3 of Section IX of the equine passport and a period of six months from the date of last treatment to time of slaughter must be observed.

In accordance with Articles 4(4), 5 and Annex I, Section I, Chapter IIA, point 1 of Regulation (EC) No 854/2004, food chain information must be checked by the official veterinarian in the slaughterhouse and he/she must verify that animals accepted for slaughter by the food business operator have been properly identified in accordance with Annex I, Section II, Chapter III, point 1 to Regulation (EC) No 854/2004.

Section IX of the equine passport is considered as part of the food chain information for *equidae* as in this section the horse may be permanently or temporarily excluded from the food chain.

Findings

Requirements of Commission Regulation (EC) No 504/2008 and the respective identification system for *equidae* have been implemented including insertion of section IX in the equine passport. *Equidae* which have been treated with veterinary medicinal products not suitable for food producing animals must be signed out of the food chain.

Equine passports are issued in Slovenia by two Passport Issuing Organisations (PIOs). The Lipica Stud farm issues passports for horses of the Lipizzaner breed and the Veterinary Faculty of the University of Ljubljana for all other equines. All data related to the equine identification are entered into one national equine database.

If an equine passport needs to be re-issued for a horse (as a replacement or a duplicate) the equine is as a default excluded from the human food chain. However, the owner requiring a duplicate passport can apply to have his horse declared fit for human consumption in line with requirements of Article 16(2) of Regulation (EC) No 504/2008.

The audit team noted that:

- According to the AFSVSPP 25,788 horses and 1,016 donkey/mules are registered with 9,253 keepers in the national equine database (Status June 2013).
- Detailed guidance setting out the requirements for equine passports and recording use of veterinary medicinal products is available on the AFSVSPP website.
- All horses arriving at the horse slaughterhouse visited by the audit team were accompanied by a passport. 20 of those were examined by the audit team and did contain all relevant information required by Regulation (EC) No 504/2004 including section IX detailing that the horses were fit for human consumption. Change of ownership in older passports was noted and corresponding food chain information was provided.
- Operators and an official veterinarian responsible for checking passports at slaughter met by the audit team, were well aware of the relevant requirements which need to be filled into section IX of the equine passport to see if the horse is fit for human consumption.
- Horses which have not received a new passport or section IX in the old passport prior to December 2009 and horses which were born after July 2009 and have not received a passport within the 6 month period, and which are older than 12 months, were allowed to be slaughtered up until 16 June 2013. The competent authority provided evidence that since that date all horses falling into these categories have been identified and that they cannot be slaughtered anymore for human consumption.
- Clear instructions to ensure that equidae presented for slaughter have not been treated with pharmacologically active substances not included in the Annex to Commission Regulation (EC) No 37/2010 or if treated with essential substances listed in Commission Regulation (EC) No 1950/2006 requiring a six month withdrawal period have been issued on 15 January 2013 thus **recommendation No. 6** of the 2009 audit report has been addressed.
- In the slaughterhouse visited, where approximately 150 horses are slaughtered per year, the official veterinarian checked all equine passports before horses were accepted for slaughter for human consumption in line with the requirements of Article 5 and Annex I, Chapter IIA point 1 of Regulation (EC) No 854/2004. In particular, section IX was checked to ensure that the horse was declared as intended for human consumption. Food chain information was available for all horses.
- All passports examined by the audit team in the slaughterhouse visited (approximately 20) had section IX inserted and horses were declared fit for human consumption. Change of ownership in older passports was noted and corresponding food chain information was provided.
- Owners of four horses had applied for duplicate passports and to have the horses declared fit for human consumption following provisions of Article 16(2) of Regulation (EC) No 504/2008. The AFSVSPP'S Animal, Identification and Registration and Information System Division could not provide the audit team with the documentation needed to evaluate on what basis the "fit for human consumption" status had been given. They subsequently informed the audit team that this status had been revoked for these horses in the equine database.
- The audit team examined four other passports where the period between birth and issuance of the passport was much longer than six months. Staff of the AFSVSPP's Animal, Identification and Registration and Information System Division provided evidence that the owners of the four horses had applied for the passport within the six month deadline. They further found that in one passport a page had been replaced. Evidence was received by the audit team after the end of the audit, that the competent authority had informed the

responsible PIO on 24th June 2013 that this is not permitted and that it is not allowed to alter passport pages and their order.

Conclusions on the identification of *equidae* and medicines records requirements

The implementation of the equine passport, identification and medical treatment record requirements in Regulation (EC) No 504/2008 has been completed and the current system can ensure that all horses submitted for slaughter for human consumption comply with the respective legal requirements.

5.3 LABORATORIES

Legal Requirements

Requirements for designating laboratories are laid down in Article 12(1) of Regulation (EC) No 882/2004 and Article 14 of Council Directive 96/23/EC. Requirements pertaining to the capacity and capability of laboratories are described in Article 4(2) (c) of Regulation (EC) No 882/2004. Requirements for accreditation of laboratories are laid down in Point 1.2. of the Annex to Commission Decision 98/179/EC and in Article 12(2) and (3) of Regulation (EC) No 882/2004. Requirements for the validation of analytical methods for residues of pharmacologically active substances and certain contaminants are laid down in Articles 3, 4, 5 and 6 of Commission Decision 2002/657/EC. Requirements for analytical methods are also laid down in the annexes to Commission Regulation (EC) No 1883/2006 (dioxins and dioxin-like PCBs in foodstuffs), Commission Regulation (EC) No 333/2007 (chemical elements in foodstuffs) and Commission Regulation (EC) No 401/2006 (mycotoxins).

5.3.1 General description

Findings

Three laboratories in Slovenia are designated as official control laboratories for the analysis of RMP samples. These are the:

- National Veterinary Institute (NVI), University of Ljubljana for Groups A1, A3, A4, A5, A6 (except chloramphenicol in urine), B1, B2a (except benzimidizoles and avermectins in fish), B2b, B2d, B2e, B3c (except mercury in fish), B3d and B3e;
- Institute of Public Health in Maribor, for Group A2, A6 (chloramphenicol in urine), B2a (avermectins in fish and benzimidazoles), B2c, B3a, B3b (except honey) and B3c (mercury in fish);
- Institute of Public Health in Nova Gorica for Group B2f (amitraz in honey) and B3b (honey)

Each laboratory is also a designated NRL for the corresponding substance groups.

The NVI subcontracts the analysis of many RMP samples to two laboratories in other Member States ("Laboratory A", a private laboratory, and "Laboratory B", a public NRL), particularly all A1, A3, A4, and A5 testing. None of the NVI's NRL obligations are subcontracted or delegated.

Appropriate contracts are in place covering laboratory designations and subcontracts, with specifications of requirements referring to the relevant European legislation and to the Slovenian RMP.

All laboratories are accredited to the International Organisation for Standardisation (ISO) 17025 by the respective national accreditation body.

The accreditation scope does not cover all method / matrix combinations in all laboratories, particularly the Group A substances tested at "Laboratory A".

5.3.2 On-the-spot visit of the NVI laboratory

The audit team noted that:

- The laboratory is suitably equipped for the analysis carried out and has knowledgeable and well trained staff.
- All samples evaluated by the audit team, including those analysed by the sub-contracted laboratories, were reported within the 20-day turnaround specified in the contract.
- There is a robust Quality Management System (QMS) with comprehensive internal and external audits, incident logging, corrective and preventative actions. Some activities (mycotoxins, and analyses using the newer of the two Liquid Chromatography-(Tandem) Mass Spectrometers (LC-MS/MS)y, are conducted in other departments within the University, which were not visited by the audit team. Laboratory staff explained that these departments come under the same QMS and ISO 17025 schedule of accreditation.
- Calibration records and equipment checks are comprehensive and well maintained.
- The use of a Laboratory Information Management System provided good traceability of samples and security of data, whilst ensuring that details of the origin of the sample were anonymised to the analysts.
- Chilled samples are usually transported to the laboratory fresh, rather than frozen, in insulated boxes containing cool-blocks. Transport may be either on the same day or by overnight delivery. There is no check on the temperature of the sample on receipt at the laboratory. Samples are placed in the refrigerator immediately after registration and then checked for assayability later in the day. Hence the risk of warming during transport is not controlled. Staff explained that there are separate procedures to verify the transport conditions for urine and milk, but these do not apply to all samples.
- All samples are fully homogenised prior to sub-sampling and storing. There is no systematic check if this practice affected the stability of certain analyte / matrix combinations, or could weaken the confidence in re-analysis or confirmatory analysis results.
- NVI has participated in appropriate proficiency tests and obtained satisfactory results. It has required its subcontracted laboratories to participate and disclose their scores. These were also satisfactory.
- Validation data of two confirmatory methods were checked by the audit team: One for avermectins by Liquid Chromatography Fluorescence and one for antibiotics and quinolones by microbial inhibition test. Both had well-controlled Standard Operating Procedures and comprehensive and well-documented validation files. Training records for staff using these methods were comprehensive and well-documented.
- For the antibiotics methods, the validation design and subsequent design of routine quality control procedures demonstrated appropriate technical knowledge of the test method and critical steps.
- For the avermectins method, staff also demonstrated appropriate technical knowledge and

understanding of the method principles. However, this did not fully apply to the extraction method. The NVI had a well-established procedure based on a European Union Reference Laboratory (EURL) method (mixing with acetonitrile) for extracting from eggs and milk. It had later applied this to meat. The meat validation complied with Commission Decision 2002/657/EC, but the validation records for meat did not include any literature references or practical verification that this procedure would extract incurred residues, when compared to more conventional extraction methods which involve physical disruption of the meat tissues. Staff were unaware if any such studies existed, or if the procedure had been based on EURL advice, as the scientist who developed the method had since left the laboratory. NVI results for a proficiency test for ivermectin in corned beef gave confidence that the extraction procedure is applicable to this analyte/matrix combination.

- Positive and negative controls are included for all reported analytes in all test methods, at half-MRL concentration or lower. For inhibition screening, the drug with the worst-case sensitivity is used as an indicator for each class.
- Validation studies are species-specific for each sample type, with methods validated for all of the most frequently encountered species. Samples of the same type from species which are infrequently sampled within the RMP, and which may not have been subject to species-specific validation, are sometimes included in batches of screening samples without any species-specific quality control samples.
- Reference standard solutions were allocated expiry dates based on technical experience, but not always on the evidence of formal stability trials as required by Commission Decision 2002/657/EC. Reference standards were otherwise well controlled, with new standard dilutions checked against previously stored equivalents. The laboratory had contributed analyte-in-matrix stability trial data to the EURL knowledge pool.
- Evidence was seen that the NVI discharged many of its NRL duties listed in Article 14 of Council Directive (EC) 96/23 e.g. providing scientific input to the formulation of the RMP, attending EURL workshops and communicating EURL guidance to their subcontractors. The NVI had also knowledgeable staff with regards to the methods it was responsible for as NRL. **Thus recommendation No. 3** of the 2009 FVO report has been addressed.
- The NVI also largely executes its task as NRL providing oversight of its subcontractors in terms of audit and assessment of proficiency test performance. However, in one aspect, it had been unaware prior to a request by the audit team of important technical details of the subcontractor's method for steroid analysis in urine (e.g. Detailed technical knowledge of the test method regarding isomer ratios, metabolites, whether substances were measured as "conjugated", "free" or "total" etc. which are helpful to decide if the steroid was of endogenous or exogenous origin) and it was unaware that 17alpha-19-nortestosterone and 3-hydroxystanazolol were not included in the analysis of steroids in urine, which are of importance to detect the parent compounds nandrolone and stanazolol. Both were due to the fact that it had not requested this level of detailed information from the subcontractor.
- The NRL had provided guidance to the ROs with regard to interpretation of sample results detecting hormones and if the hormones were of endogenous or exogenous origin. In each case a veterinarian conducted a follow-up visit and, as no evidence was found to counter the hypothesis that they were endogenous, the results were deemed to be compliant.
- The NVI has validated most but not all screening and validation methods according to Commission Decision 2002/657/EC. Some gaps with regard to screening methods exist (Chlorpromazine in kidney, urine; beta-lactams in muscle and eggs, tetracycline in muscle and eggs; macrolides in muscle, eggs and milk; aminoglycosides in muscle and eggs;

quinolones in milk. The envisaged completion of validation for these methods is planned for 2013 (chlorpromazine, beta-lactams, tetracycline and aminoglycosides in muscle) and for 2014 (beta-lactams, tetracyclines and aminoglycosides in eggs plus macrolides). Few gaps with regard to validation of confirmatory tests exist mainly in the area of some antibiotic classes. Thus **recommendation No. 2** of the 2009 FVO audit report has not been fully addressed. There is an annual workplan for validation, which is approved by the NVI management. Staff of the NVI informed the audit team that in case of a non-compliant result using an analytical method which has not been validated yet, the confirmation is performed in another accredited laboratory, which has a validated method according to Commission Decision 2002/657/EC.

Conclusions on laboratories

The fact that the laboratories involved in the RMP are all accredited to ISO 17025, that methods used for the residues monitoring plan are, for the most part, validated in accordance with EU rules, that the results of the majority of proficiency tests are satisfactory and the NRLs are largely discharging their responsibilities, gives the competent authority confidence in the reliability of laboratory performance underpinning guarantees on the residues status of food of animal origin. Nevertheless some shortcomings concerning methods validation, sample handling and oversight of the subcontracted laboratories weaken an otherwise strong laboratory performance.

5.4 Follow-up of relevant recommendations made in a previous FVO report on residues (DG SANCO 2009-8132 MR-Final)

No	Recommendation	Findings
1	Ensure that sampling is distributed throughout the year as required by Commission Decision 98/179/EC.	This recommendation has been addressed as sampling is distributed throughout the year. (see section 5.1.3).
2	Ensure that analytical methods for residues of pharmacologically active substances and certain contaminants are validated in accordance with the requirements laid down in Articles 3, 4, 5 and 6 of Commission Decision 2002/657/EC.	This recommendation has not yet been fully addressed as some methods are not yet validated contrary to the requirement laid down in Commission Decision 2002/657/EC) (see section 5.3.2). (See recommendation No 4 of the current audit report)
3	Ensure that the NRLs designated comply with Article 14 of Council Directive 96/23/EC, in particular that the designated NRLs have expertise in groups they are responsible for.	This recommendation has been fully addressed as NRLs were designated in line with Article 14 of Council Directive 96/23/EC and staff were knowledgeable with regards to the groups they are responsible for. (see section 5.3.2).
4	Ensure that animal keepers and food business operators comply with requirements laid down in Annex II Section III to Regulation (EC) No 853/2004 related to the food chain information and that officials in charge of controls in slaughterhouses take measures as required by Article 5 of Regulation (EC) No	This recommendation has been addressed as officials have taken measures if food chain information is not given or if it is misleading. (see section 5.1.3).

	854/2004 when necessary.	
5	Implement a system of verification of the official tasks carried out by licensed private veterinarians and, in particular, to ensure their freedom from conflict of interest when carrying out inspections related to the use of veterinary medicinal products on farms as required by Article 4 of Regulation (EC) No 882/2004 .	This recommendation has been addressed as the tasks conducted by private veterinarians are not official controls. (see section 5.1.3).
6	Implement a system which can ensure that *equidae* presented for slaughter have not been treated with pharmacologically active substances not included in Annexes I, II or III to Council Regulation (EC) No 2377/90 or if treated with essential substances listed in Commission Regulation (EC) No 1950/2006 have been subjected to a six month withdrawal period.	This recommendation has been addressed as clear instructions have been given which are implemented during official controls. (see section 5.2).

6 Overall Conclusions

Planning as well as implementation of the RMP is timely and in line with EU requirements and the supervision of its implementation, supported by controls of veterinary medicine treatments record on farm, has been mostly effective.

Nevertheless, the effectiveness of the RMP implementation has been partly weakened by some short backs concerning suspect sampling and targeting of certain samples at slaughterhouses. Additionally, the competent authorities' performance in the residues area has not yet been subject to internal audits at central level which could have potentially detected these shortcomings.

Prompt investigations of non-compliant results together with measure taken which have a deterrent effect as well as other residues control programmes in place increase confidence in competent authority guarantees on the residue status of food of animal origin in Slovenia.

The current system in place with regard to the implementation of the equine passport, identification and medical treatment record requirements in Regulation (EC) No 504/2008 can ensure that all horses submitted for slaughter for human consumption comply with the respective legal requirements.

The fact that the laboratories are all accredited to ISO 17025, that methods used are mostly validated and that the results of the majority of proficiency tests are satisfactory gives the competent authority confidence in the reliability of laboratory performance. Nevertheless, some shortcomings concerning methods validation, sample handling and oversight of the subcontracted laboratories weaken an otherwise strong laboratory performance.

Five out of six recommendations made during the 2009 residue audit (DG (SANCO)/2009/8132) were fully addressed.

7 Closing Meeting

A closing meeting was held on 21 June 2013 with representatives of the central competent authority. At this meeting, the audit team presented the main findings and preliminary conclusions of the audit. The authorities did not express disagreement with the presented findings and preliminary conclusions.

8 Recommendations

The competent authorities are invited to provide details of the actions taken and planned, including deadlines for their completion ('action plan'), aimed at addressing the recommendations set out below, within twenty five working days of receipt of this audit report.

N°.	Recommendation
1.	Ensure effective and efficient coordination and cooperation between different competent authorities as required by Article 4(5) of Regulation (EC) No 882/2004 to allow that official controls in slaughterhouses are carried out on a risk basis (taking account of information which might indicate non-compliance), as required by Article 3(1) of Regulation (EC) No 882/2004 and point 2.3.3.1. of Commission Decision 98/179/EC in order to comply with requirements laid down in Article 24 of Council Directive 96/23/EC.
2.	Ensure that the competent authorities responsible for the implementation of the RMP carry out internal audits or have external audits carried out as required by Article 4(6) of Regulation (EC) No 882/2004.
3.	Ensure that the National Reference Laboratory fulfils all functions as laid down in Article 14 of Council Directive 96/23/EC also with regard to coordinating the work of the subcontracted laboratories.
4.	Ensure that analytical methods for residues of pharmacologically active substances and certain contaminants are validated in accordance with the requirements laid down in Articles 3, 4, 5 and 6 of Commission Decision 2002/657/EC.
5.	Ensure that measures are taken to guarantee analyte stability and sample integrity of RMP samples, paying specific attention to temperature, as required in point 2.9 of the Annex to Commission Decision 98/179/EC.

The competent authority's response to the recommendations can be found at:

http://ec.europa.eu/food/fvo/rep_details_en.cfm?rep_inspection_ref=2013-6768

Annex 1 - Legal References

Legal Reference	Official Journal	Title
Audits by the Commission Services		
Reg. 882/2004	OJ L 165, 30.4.2004, p. 1, Corrected and re-published in OJ L 191, 28.5.2004, p. 1	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
Food Law		
Reg. 178/2002	OJ L 31, 1.2.2002, p. 1-24	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
Reg. 852/2004	OJ L 139, 30.4.2004, p. 1, Corrected and re-published in OJ L 226, 25.6.2004, p. 3	Regulation (EC) No 852/2004 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 29 April 2004 on the hygiene of foodstuffs
Reg. 853/2004	OJ L 139, 30.4.2004, p. 55, Corrected and re-published in OJ L 226, 25.6.2004, p. 22	Regulation (EC) No 853/2004 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 29 April 2004 laying down specific hygiene rules for food of animal origin
Reg. 854/2004	OJ L 139, 30.4.2004, p. 206, Corrected and re-published in OJ L 226, 25.6.2004, p. 83	Regulation (EC) No 854/2004 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 29 April 2004 laying down specific rules for the organisation of official controls on products of animal origin intended for human consumption
Monitoring and sampling of residues in food of animal origin		

Legal Reference	Official Journal	Title
Dir. 96/23/EC	OJ L 125, 23.5.1996, p. 10-32	Council Directive 96/23/EC of 29 April 1996 on measures to monitor certain substances and residues thereof in live animals and animal products and repealing Directives 85/358/EEC and 86/469/EEC and Decisions 89/187/EEC and 91/664/EEC
Dec. 97/747/EC	OJ L 303, 6.11.1997, p. 12-15	97/747/EC: Commission Decision of 27 October 1997 fixing the levels and frequencies of sampling provided for by Council Directive 96/23/EC for the monitoring of certain substances and residues thereof in certain animal products
Dec. 98/179/EC	OJ L 65, 5.3.1998, p. 31-34	98/179/EC: Commission Decision of 23 February 1998 laying down detailed rules on official sampling for the monitoring of certain substances and residues thereof in live animals and animal products
Validation of analytical methods for residues and Minimum Required Performance Limits		
Dec. 2002/657/EC	OJ L 221, 17.8.2002, p. 8-36	2002/657/EC: Commission Decision of 12 August 2002 implementing Council Directive 96/23/EC concerning the performance of analytical methods and the interpretation of results
Bans on the use of hormones and beta-agonists for growth promotion in food producing animals		
Dir. 96/22/EC	OJ L 125, 23.5.1996, p. 3-9	Council Directive 96/22/EC of 29 April 1996 concerning the prohibition on the use in stockfarming of certain substances having a hormonal or thyrostatic action and of ß-agonists, and repealing Directives 81/602/EEC, 88/146/EEC and 88/299/EEC
Maximum Residue Limits for veterinary medicinal products in food of animal origin		

Legal Reference	Official Journal	Title
Reg. 470/2009	OJ L 152, 16.6.2009, p. 11-22	Regulation (EC) No 470/2009 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 6 May 2009 laying down Community procedures for the establishment of residue limits of pharmacologically active substances in foodstuffs of animal origin, repealing Council Regulation (EEC) No 2377/90 and amending Directive 2001/82/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council and Regulation (EC) No 726/2004 of the European Parliament and of the Council
Reg. 37/2010	OJ L 15, 20.1.2010, p. 1-72	Commission Regulation (EU) No 37/2010 of 22 December 2009 on pharmacologically active substances and their classification regarding maximum residue limits in foodstuffs of animal origin
Maximum Residue Levels for pesticide residues in food of animal origin		
Reg. 396/2005	OJ L 70, 16.3.2005, p. 1-16	Regulation (EC) No 396/2005 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 23 February 2005 on maximum residue levels of pesticides in or on food and feed of plant and animal origin and amending Council Directive 91/414/EEC
Maximum Levels for contaminants in food		
Reg. 1881/2006	OJ L 364, 20.12.2006, p. 5-24	Commission Regulation (EC) No 1881/2006 of 19 December 2006 setting maximum levels for certain contaminants in foodstuffs
Authorisation of veterinary medicinal products		
Dir. 2001/82/EC	OJ L 311, 28.11.2001, p. 1-66	Directive 2001/82/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 6 November 2001 on the Community code relating to veterinary medicinal products

Legal Reference	Official Journal	Title
Dir. 2006/130/EC	OJ L 349, 12.12.2006, p. 15-16	Commission Directive 2006/130/EC of 11 December 2006 implementing Directive 2001/82/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council as regards the establishment of criteria for exempting certain veterinary medicinal products for food-producing animals from the requirement of a veterinary prescription
Reg. 726/2004	OJ L 136, 30.4.2004, p. 1-33	Regulation (EC) No 726/2004 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 31 March 2004 laying down Community procedures for the authorisation and supervision of medicinal products for human and veterinary use and establishing a European Medicines Agency
Medicated feedingstuffs and additives		
Dir. 90/167/EEC	OJ L 92, 7.4.1990, p. 42-48	Council Directive 90/167/EEC of 26 March 1990 laying down the conditions governing the preparation, placing on the market and use of medicated feedingstuffs in the Community
Reg. 1831/2003	OJ L 268, 18.10.2003, p. 29-43	Regulation (EC) No 1831/2003 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 22 September 2003 on additives for use in animal nutrition
Reg. 183/2005	OJ L 35, 8.2.2005, p. 1-22	Regulation (EC) No 183/2005 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 12 January 2005 laying down requirements for feed hygiene
Sampling methods and methods of analysis for contaminants in foodstuffs		
Reg. 333/2007	OJ L 88, 29.3.2007, p. 29-38	Commission Regulation (EC) No 333/2007 of 28 March 2007 laying down the methods of sampling and analysis for the official control of the levels of lead, cadmium, mercury, inorganic tin, 3-MCPD and benzo(a)pyrene in foodstuffs
Reg. 401/2006	OJ L 70, 9.3.2006, p. 12-34	Commission Regulation (EC) No 401/2006 of 23 February 2006 laying down the methods of sampling and analysis for the official control of the levels of mycotoxins in foodstuffs

Legal Reference	Official Journal	Title
Reg. 1883/2006	OJ L 364, 20.12.2006, p. 32-43	Commission Regulation (EC) No 1883/2006 of 19 December 2006 laying down methods of sampling and analysis for the official control of levels of dioxins and dioxin-like PCBs in certain foodstuffs
Sampling methods for pesticides in foodstuffs		
Dir. 2002/63/EC	OJ L 187, 16.7.2002, p. 30-43	Commission Directive 2002/63/EC of 11 July 2002 establishing Community methods of sampling for the official control of pesticide residues in and on products of plant and animal origin and repealing Directive 79/700/EEC
Horse identification (passport)		
Reg. 504/2008	OJ L 149, 7.6.2008, p. 3-32	Commission Regulation (EC) No 504/2008 of 6 June 2008 implementing Council Directives 90/426/EEC and 90/427/EEC as regards methods for the identification of equidae
Medicines essential for the treatment of equidae		
Reg. 1950/2006	OJ L 367, 22.12.2006, p. 33-45	Commission Regulation (EC) No 1950/2006 of 13 December 2006 establishing, in accordance with Directive 2001/82/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council on the Community code relating to veterinary medicinal products, a list of substances essential for the treatment of equidae