Response of the Competent Authorities of Slovakia to the recommendations of Report ref. DG(SANCO)/2012-6522-MR of an audit carried out from 20 to 24 February 2012 in order to evaluate the monitoring of residues and contaminants in live animals and animal products

N°.	Recommendation	Action Proposed by the Competent Authority
1	To use in the planning process of the residue monitoring plan, information on the granting, variation and withdrawal of marketing authorisations, the use or sales of veterinary medicinal products, in line with Article 7 of Council Directive 96/23/EC, and to foster cooperation for this purpose between the SVFA and ISCVBM as required by Article 4 of Regulation (EC) No 882/2004.	1) The SVFA SR has issued the Instruction to the Institute for State Control of Veterinary Biologicals and Medicaments (hereinafter referred to as the "ISCVBM"), No. 12/2012/01464, dated 2/5/2012 on the subject of sending information about veterinary medicinal products. In line with this Instruction, the ISCVBM shall send quarterly information to the SVFA SR, comprising a summary list of imported veterinary medicinal products, giving product names and their active substances, withdrawal period, the animal species the medicinal product is intended for, and the total sales volume of these products. Accordingly, the ISCVBM shall quarterly notify the SVFA SR of summary data regarding the number of packagings (retail packs) of a veterinary medicinal product being supplied by wholesale distributors to public pharmacies, the SVFA SR, veterinary surgeons providing veterinary care, manufacturers of medicated feed and other wholesale distributors. All this information shall be taken into consideration when drafting the NRCP for 2013.
2	To ensure that certain slaughterhouses are not systematically excluded from sampling in order to comply with point 2.1 of the Annex to Commission Decision 98/179/EC and that targeting criteria for sampling are applied in line with point 2.3.3.1. of the Annex to the above Decision.	The SVFA SR has issued the Guidance Document to all DVFAs as regards the planned sampling in slaughterhouses as part of the NRCP. The Guidance Document was issued on May 16, 2012, under No. 1617/2012. In line with the Guidance Document referred above, all DVFAs are obliged to ensure:

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		1) that in executing the annual sampling plan as part of the National Residue Control Plan assigned to individual DVFAs (hereinafter referred to as the "NRCP") all establishments-slaughterhouses in the territorial scope of the competent DVFA shall be sampled, regardless of capacity, frequency of slaughtering and the number of slaughtered animals. 2) that the samples scheduled for sampling in slaughterhouses, under the scope of the NRCP 2012 will be preferentially collected from low-capacity slaughterhouses (with low production volume) if it was not possible to comply with the rule under 1) and the samples were collected from high-capacity slaughterhouses only. The State Veterinary and Food Administration of the Slovak Republic trained the inspectors for Food Hygiene in respect of the National Plan for Residue Control, including the taking of official samples from slaughterhouses at the training under the code of activity HK 1 performed on 28.3 – 30.3.2012. The State Veterinary and Food Administration of the Slovak Republic trained also the inspectors in the field of feed hygiene, ecology and veterinary pharmacy in respect of the National Plan for Residue Control

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		and the taking of official samples from slaughterhouses so that the samples were taken from all slaughterhouses. The training was carried out under the code of activity HK4 on 21.5 - 23.5.2012.
3	To ensure that prescriptions of veterinary medicinal products are kept on farms for a period of five years as required by Article 10 of Council Directive 96/23/EC.	The SVFA SR has issued the Instruction to all DVFAs, No. 1659/2012-263, dated 18/5/2012 on the subject of targeted controls in farm animal holdings aimed at keeping records of used veterinary medicinal products. Through the targeted controls it will be verified the compliance with keeping and retaining records with the Treatment Veterinary Book pursuant to Article 104 para 1 of Act No. 362/2011 Coll. on drugs and medical devices and on amendment and supplementing of certain Acts (hereinafter referred to as the "Act No. 362/2011 Coll."), keeping and retaining records with the Breeder's Register for a period of 5 years pursuant to Article 107 para 2 of Act No. 362/2011 Coll. including written records on authorization of the breeder from the treating veterinarian to administer a veterinary medicinal product within the meaning of Article 102 para 1 letter b) point 3, para 13 and para 14. The above controls are expected to be concluded by September 30, 2012.
4	In case of a non-compliant test result, to carry out an investigation on the farm of origin and identify the source of the substance, as required by Article 16 of Council Directive 96/23/EC.	The SVFA SR through the Department of Audit and Control will ensure conducting targeted audits aimed at confirming the source of the substance in case of positive findings in samples drawn within the NRCP. The aim of these audits is to verify the system for confirmation of the source of residues. The targeted audits are to be conducted in

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		those DVFAs were positive findings under the NRCP 2010 and 2011 were detected. The audits are expected to be concluded by December 31, 2013.