

## ANNEX

**Response of the Competent Authorities of the United Kingdom to the recommendations of Report ref. DG(SANCO)/2012-6582-MR of an audit carried out from 02 to 12 October 2012 in order to evaluate the follow-up action taken by the Competent Authorities with regard to the import/transit control system and border inspection posts**

N°.	Recommendation	Action Proposed by the Competent Authority
1	To ensure that, when sanctions are deemed appropriate for non-compliances with EU import rules, e.g., late or no pre-notification of consignments, such sanctions are effective, proportionate and dissuasive as referred to in Article 55 of Regulation (EC) No 882/2004.	Defra is considering use of article 28 of Regulation (EC) No 882/2004 to provide a mechanism for border inspection posts to recover the additional costs associated with lack of pre-notification from importers. This should provide proportionate sanction for late notifications. Our intention is to introduce the additional charge from 1 April 2013.
2	To further develop the internal audit system with respect to the import/transit controls to ensure that the requirements of Article 4 (6) of Regulation (EC) No 882/2004 are satisfied.	<p>AHVLA has put in place a system of audit of their own staff inspecting at live animal BIPs and Port Health Authority staff inspecting at product BIPs. Regular training for BIP staff is run by AHVLA. This training addresses new and changed legislation, and also areas of controls where issues were arising and that the audit system and identified inconsistency. In AHVLA there is a differing management chain between those doing the auditing and those managing the staff whom carry out the inspections, so there is a clear management chain of responsibility. In addition AHVLA is creating an Operational Co-ordination Unit which will look at consistency across the AHVLA delivery landscape.</p> <p>Furthermore following the merger of the Veterinary Laboratories Unit with Animal Health there is a need to consider quality assurance, auditing, standards and verification across the piece. This is a major piece of work being undertaken by the agency and the first version has been commented on by the AHVLA Executive team and will be updated and represented before the New Year. Fundamental to quality and auditing is having good guidance and instructions for staff to follow. This is being considered by the newly formed Quality Assurance team. Staff carrying out the audit and</p>

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N°.	Recommendation	Action Proposed by the Competent Authority
		<p>quality assurance checking will have appropriate training and there will be overall monitoring of the audit process to ensure consistency of audits. Defra has an independent technical assurance vet who will monitor and review the quality reports produced and provide support and advice to policy teams, and facilitate discussions with the agency where changes are necessary. We will update you on progress in 3 months.</p>
3	<p>To further strengthen the system in place to identify and select consignments which require veterinary checks at the BIP, including those transhipped, in order to fully implement Article 3 (1) and Article 9 of Directive 97/78/EC and Article 2 (1) of Regulation (EC) No 136/2004.</p>	<p>The competent authorities are currently working together with system developers and key stakeholders to ensure that an electronic system for checking manifest information is in place at UK airports. It is envisaged that this will include the ability to better identify commodities which require veterinary checks and transhipments. The project is at the development stage currently and will help to provide a more robust system of checking manifests at UK ports of entry.</p>