

ANNEX

**Response of the Competent Authorities of Thailand to the recommendations of Report ref. DG(SANCO)/2013-6727-MR of an audit carried out from 21 January to 01 February 2013 in order to evaluate the control systems in place governing the production of poultry meat and poultry meat products intended for export to the European Union**

N°.	Recommendation	Action Proposed by the Competent Authority
1	<p>The CA should provide guarantees that establishments will be EU listed only if the approval procedure concludes unequivocally that the establishment concerned complies with the relevant EU requirements (see Article 12.2 (a) of Regulation (EC) No 854/2004).</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The DLD committee has annually scheduled to check all establishments approved for export manufacturing to the EU against all relevant EU requirements to ensure that the Article 12 of Regulation (EC) No 854/2004 is met.</li> <li>- The updated list of establishments approved for export to the EU can be accessed through the website <a href="http://www.dld.go.th/certify/th/">http://www.dld.go.th/certify/th/</a> under the menu “List of Establishments approved by the importing countries” in addition to the normal one in hard copy provided to the DLD inspectors on-site at individual establishments.</li> <li>- Since 2 April 2013, the DLD committee has specified the activity of producing meat preparations in the DLD approval document and the Official Export Establishment Certificate of each establishment approved for export manufacturing of meat preparations.</li> </ul>
2	<p>In order to guarantee equivalence with EU requirements, the CA should ensure that the deficiencies recorded by the audit team are corrected in the establishments visited and are not present in other listed ones (see Annex II to Regulation (EC) No 852/2004, and Section X of Annex III to Regulation (EC) No 853/2004).</p> <p>- <u>Section X of Annex III to Regulation (EC) No 853/2004 is for eggs and egg products. The correct one should be Point 1.3 (b) of Annex III to Council Regulation (EC) No 1099/2009.</u></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- All deficiencies associated with the maintenance and sanitary issues found in the establishments visited by the FVO audit team have already been rectified to comply with the Annex II to the Regulation (EC) No 852/2004. The establishment where insufficient cold storage capacity was recorded has transferred the products for domestic market to cold storage outside the establishment and spared the establishment cold storage only for products for export. However, the establishment has planned for cold storage expansion which will be completed in November 2013. The establishment where compromised animal welfare during the automatic bird unloading until shackling was</li> </ul>

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		<p>recorded has the machine adjusted by the European manufacturer to avoid causing distress to birds. The verification of all rectification has been conducted by the OVs, the DLD supervisors and the DLD committee.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- On 15 February 2013, the DLD had set up a special audit team headed by the Director of the BLSC to evaluate if the other EU listed establishments not visited by the FVO audit team complying with the EU requirements. The evaluation had completed on 15 March 2013.</li> <li>- The deficiencies found in any establishments shall be rectified within 45 days. If the rectification cannot be completed within 45 days, the action plan shall be submitted to the BLSC for consideration. The DLD inspection service to the establishment shall be withdrawn if the rectification is not done within the due date. The OVs and the DLD supervisors shall verify and report the establishment rectification to the Director of the BLSC and the DLD special audit team shall randomly verify if the establishments comply with the EU requirements.</li> </ul>
3	<p>The CA should ensure that the FBOs' own-check sampling plans for poultry meat products and meat preparations involve the taking of five sample units per batch in line with the requirements of Chapter 1 of Annex I to Regulation (EC) No 2073/2005.</p>	<p>On 5 February 2013, the BLSC had organised a meeting with the FBOs of the EU listed establishments to elaborate the detail of sampling plans for poultry meat products and meat preparations following the requirements of Chapter 1 of Annex I to Regulation (EC) No 2073/2005. The OVs and the DLD supervisors have regularly verified the FBOs' own-check sampling manuals and sampling processes to ensure that the five sample units per batch are taken at each sampling.</p>

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4	The CA should ensure that the official sampling plans for poultry meat products and meat preparations involve the taking of five sample units per batch in line with the DLD specific instructions and with EU requirements (see Chapter 1 of Annex I to Regulation (EC) No 2073/2005).	On 4 February 2013, the BLSC had called for a meeting of the OV's to elucidate the official sampling plans for poultry meat products and meat preparations following the DLD specific sampling instructions which is in line with the Chapter 1 of Annex I to Regulation (EC) No 2073/2005. The official sampling carried out by the OV's has been routinely verified and monitored by the DLD supervisors to ensure that the sampling plan of five sample units per batch are performed.
5	The CA should ensure that any laboratories involved in analysing ready-to-eat products intended for export to the EU use analytical methods for <i>Listeria monocytogenes</i> in line with Annex I of Regulation (EC) No 2073/2005. If alternative methods are to be used, they should be validated against the EU reference methods.	The BQCLP laboratory will validate to prove that the method used for <i>Listeria monocytogenes</i> testing (AOAC 993.09 method, 2005) against the EU reference (ISO 11290-1) analytical method by the year 2013.
6	The CA should ensure that the certification procedure is fully in line with the provisions of Article 3(2) of Council Directive 96/93/EC.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The meat transfer certificate (Form BLSC2) has been revised to include the name of importing country. This will assure the OV at the time of signing BLSC1 form attesting that the meat complies with the importing country requirements, in particular for a consignment of cooked meat destined for the EU.</li> <li>- The cause of discrepancy between the information reported in the log-book and an export certificate was from human error. The BLSC has retrained the responsible officers and ordered the veterinarians who sign the export certificate to daily check the consistency of the information reported in the log-book and the export certificates.</li> </ul>

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