

**Response of the Competent Authorities of Argentina to the recommendations of Report ref. DG(SANCO)/2012-6399-MR of an audit carried out from 20 to 30 November 2012 in order to evaluate animal health controls concerning foot-and-mouth disease and related certification procedures for bovine and ovine fresh meat intended for export to the European Union**

N°.	Recommendation	Action Proposed by the Competent Authority
1	<p>To ensure that the supervision in place of implementation of animal health controls, including if necessary a system of internal audits, can contribute to improving the effectiveness of FMD controls, in particular as regards certification of animal movements in the context of the EU closed commercial circuit and in respect of FMD vaccination. Thus, the CAs will be in a better position to provide guarantees at least equivalent to EU animal health legislation in accordance with Article 8 of Directive 2002/99/EC.</p>	<p>The structure of SENASA is being revised and modified, in particular, the functioning and dependence of the Regional Centers, which are in charge of the operative part of the sanitary programs. In that sense, Decree No. 354 has been passed on April 4, 2013, modifying, among others, the functions of the General Manager of the Entity, granting the following within its functions and powers:  <i>“Supervising and coordinating the technical and administrative activities of the Entity, according to the programs and/or action plans of the corresponding areas”.</i></p> <p><b>See attach comments on Draft Report regarding to Unit of Internal Audit.</b></p>
2	<p>To reinforce the risk mitigation measures part of the control system for preventing the entry of the FMD virus through introduction of animals and import of products of animal origin into the areas of Argentina neighbouring Bolivia, so that their status as FMD free zones can be further protected in line with Article 8.5.5 of the OIE Code.</p>	<p>Additional actions at the border with Bolivia:  A series of additional actions have been carried out in order to enhance the controls along the border stripe of land with Bolivia by Local Veterinarians, under the coordination and supervision of the Thematic Coordinator of Animal Health. Among the actions, the following outstand:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Enhancing controls of transhumant animals: periodic visits to the areas with higher risk of transhumance and sanitary actions in case of presence of these animals.</li> <li>- Revision and update of the registry of subsistence producers to improve the vaccination controls and animal movements in the zone.</li> <li>- Increase in the frequency of audits to vaccinators and</li> </ul>

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		<p>implementation of additional actions in irregular cases.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Increase in the controls of animal movements on roads (fixed and mobile posts).</li> <li>- Identification of risk areas related to the possible presence of pigs in rubbish dumps and other places of exposure to sources of irregular feeding and implementation of sanitary measures according to the findings.</li> <li>- Continuation with the awareness campaigns and education to the community on Foot and Mouth Disease and animal health in general, in order to minimize the risk of introduction of the Foot and Mouth Disease virus in the region.</li> </ul>
3	<p>To ensure sufficient enforcement of all legal requirements of the sheep identification and registration system in place in the context of the EU closed commercial circuit, such as appropriate maintenance of flock register logbooks, so that certifying officers are in a position to provide accurate animal health attestations related to the residency of animals in their holdings of origin, as required by points II.2.2 and II.2.3 of the model veterinary certificate included in part II of Annex II (Model OVI) to Regulation (EU) No 206/2010.</p>	<p>For the purpose of proper compliance with the requirements of identification and registration of ovine animals in establishments registered to export to the European Union, from the Direction of Management Control and Special Programs (DCGyPE), under the National Direction of Animal Health (DNSA - SENASA), we will enhance the frequency of inspections to establishments registered for export to the EU. Said activities will be carried out during 2013 by local veterinarians of the jurisdiction where the establishment is registered.</p>
4	<p>To ensure that operation of the early warning system including notification for and handling of FMD suspects is at least</p>	<p>The procedures of intervention are being reviewed for the cases of denunciations of diseases with symptoms or injuries compatible to vesicular</p>

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	<p>equivalent to that required by Articles 3 and 4 of Directive 2003/85/EC and can effectively contribute to provide assurances that clinical disease has been absent from Argentina for the past two years in accordance with Article 8.5.46 of the OIE Code.</p>	<p>diseases, and therefore, we are working on the process of attention of such cases by local veterinarians, as well as in the sample taking and submission to the laboratory. In this manner, we foresee an increase in the number of samples entered and processed in the laboratory for the diagnostic, as well as the number of denounces received and attended. Furthermore, we will continue with the program of sanitary education in schools, in order to contribute to the awareness of the community on the importance of the knowledge of these diseases and on the role of the Official Service.</p> <p>Besides, we continue with the training activities on surveillance, sanitary emergencies, diagnostic and sample taking for the official veterinarians. Some of these training are also offered for private veterinarians or those from other entities.</p>
5	<p>To ensure that shortcomings identified concerning design and monitoring of official controls on the FMD vaccination campaigns are addressed in order to provide the guarantees for fresh bovine and ovine meat intended for export to the EU required by point II.2.1(b) of the animal health attestation included in the model of veterinary certificate laid down in part II of Annex II to Regulation (EU) No 206/2010 (Models BOV and OVI), that this has been obtained in a territory where vaccination programmes against FMD are being officially carried out and</p>	<p>The current legislation on campaign controls is under review, specifically regarding the checklists used by the Official Local Veterinarians to perform controls to the Entities and vaccinators, as well as their systematization.</p> <p>Their frequency and time of controls are also under analysis. We foresee that it will be revised and made valid by the next vaccination campaign.</p> <p>However, in this first campaign, a study is being conducted to estimate the immunity of the bovine population resulting from the Local Plan of</p>

Action plan – received on 7 May 2013

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	controlled in domestic bovine animals.	vaccination, which shall contribute to the system of campaign control.