

Ref: Comments on the draft report of mission DG(SANCO)/2012-6399

This National Service wishes to make the following clarifications regarding the Draft Report:

- 1- Where it says National Direction for Animal Health as DGSA, it should say DNSA, according to its acronym in Spanish.
- 2- In item **4. BACKGROUND 4.1 SITUATION OF ARGENTINA REGARDING FMD, the following paragraph should be modify:**

In addition, according to the OIE, since February 2011 Argentina is divided into a zone free of FMD where vaccination is practiced (North to the 42nd parallel South, in brown in map 1 here below) and a zone free of FMD where vaccination is not practised (South to the 42nd parallel South, in green in the same map). This separation defines the border between the provinces of Rio Negro, to the North, and Chubut, to the South. Map 1 provides a description of this zoning, including a buffer area of 25 km from the border with Bolivia and Paraguay (in red in the same map), considered free of FMD where vaccination is practiced, where additional control measures apply in the context of the MERCOSUR free from FMD action programme (Programa de acción MERCOSUR libre de fiebre aftosa – PAMA).

The mentioned paragraph has mistakes on the separation of the zones. The separations of the zones should be as follows:

The country has **three zones free from FMD** recognized by the World Organization for Animal Health (OIE):

- Patagonia – South Patagonia and Patagonia North B-recognized Free of FMD without vaccination (GREEN COLOUR IN THE MAP).
- The rest of the country that applies massive bovine/buffalo vaccination is divided in **two free zones with vaccination**, North Center (BROWN COLOUR IN THE MAP) and the Border Strip (RED COLOUR IN THE MAP, restituted as zone free from FMD differentiated from the rest of the zone free with vaccination, in February 2011).

Illustration 1: sanitary status recognized by OIE



3- Item 5.1.2 mentions the Unit of Internal Audit (UAI) from SENASA.

For the purpose of clarifying its functions and activities, we communicate that UAI, working directly under the Presidency, is the area of the Service in charge of applying an integral control to promote the achievement of the objectives set by the National Agri-food Health and Quality Service, privileging the guidelines issued by the criteria of economy, efficacy and efficiency of the operative management.

Among its main actions, the following outstand:

1. Drawing up an annual plan of internal audits, in the Entity, according to the general rules of control and internal audit.
2. Submitting said documents to the highest institutional authorities and to the National Auditing Office.
3. Assessing the compliance of the policies, plans and procedures established by the higher authority of the Entity.
4. Drawing up reports of the audits carried out, according to the performed program and to those requested by the Authorities from SENASA and from the National Auditing Office.
5. Informing the higher authorities of the entity and of the National Auditing Office on the result of the follow-up of the observations, conclusions and recommendations that may arise from the Audit Reports.
6. Drawing up of the situation statements that the entity may determine on the administrative and technical activities of the executing units.
7. Informing the National Auditing Office on the issues required, related to the development of the activities of the Unit of Internal Audit (UAI).