

Action Plan submitted by the Competent Authorities of Cyprus on 04 July in response to Report ref. DG(SANCO)/2013-6867-MR of an audit carried out from 26 February to 08 March 2013 in order to evaluate the official controls on food safety and process hygiene criteria (Commission Regulation (EC) No 2073/2005)

<i>N°.</i>	<i>Recommendation</i>	<i>Action Proposed by the Competent Authority</i>
1	To further develop national official interpretations of the requirements of Regulation (EC) No 2073/2005.	<p>VETERINARY SERVICES</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The check lists used for the official controls have been reviewed by the VPHD. The check lists included the requirements mentioned in Reg. (EC) No 2073/2005 and the control of HACCP system used by FBOs. (VS- Attachment 1). 2. Instructions have been given either to DVOs or FBOs as regards the implementation of the above requirements. (VS- Attachments 3-7, 9-15a) 3. Instruction has been given to the private laboratories for the validation of the alternative methods based on internationally accepted protocols. (VS- Attachment 2) 4. Instruction has been send by the NRL of VS to the SGL for the coordination as regards the obligations of the NRLs for Salmonella & E.coli (VS- Attachment 8) <p>PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICES</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Inclusion in the current Code of Practice for the Official Controls of Food Businesses a separate chapter in relation to the enforcement of the Regulation. Deadline: 30/9/2013 2. Preparation of a Guidance Document for the FBOs which will include all necessary information as regards the implementation of the Regulation. Deadline: 30/9/2013 3. Training of all the involved staff for the provisions of the Regulation as well as for its enforcement. Deadline: 30/9/2013 <p>GENERAL STATE LABORATORY</p> <p>The SGL is willing, if asked by the PHS, to contribute to this procedure</p>
2	To ensure efficient and effective co-ordination between and within Competent Authorities as	<p>VETERINARY SERVICES</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Instruction has been send by the NRL of VS to the SGL for the coordination as regards

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	<p>required by Article 4 (5) of Regulation (EC) No 882/2004 in order to ensure effective enforcement actions in case of non-compliant test results with regard to Regulation (EC) No 2073/2005.</p>	<p>the obligations of the NRLs for Salmonella & E.coli (VS- Attachment 8) 2. A letter has been sent from VPHD to PHS to send directly the information by fax, and verify the receiving by phone, in order to avoid the delays of taking the adequate corrective action in due time. (VS- Attachment 6)</p> <p>PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICES 1. As regards the co-ordination within the Public Health Services, the Public Health Inspectors in charge of each District were re-informed, in writing, on their obligation, in cases where they receive non-compliant results from the State General Laboratory of samples of food that fall in the responsibility of the Veterinary Services, to send, immediately, by fax, these results to the Director of the Veterinary Services. Deadline: Done</p> <p>GENERAL STATE LABATORY It has already been agreed that any non-compliant results from the official control carried out by the VS will be communicated to the PHS, so that the PHS and the SGL will adapt their annual microbiological control of foodstuffs programme accordingly.</p> <p>The non-compliant results from the PHS/SGL official control programme, which relate to locally produced foodstuffs, have been communicated to the VS via the PHS. The SGL will ensure that such results will be communicated as early as possible in order to facilitate timely action taken by the VS.</p>
3	To further develop appropriate documented	VETERINARY SERVICES

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	<p>procedures for official controls of Regulation (EC) No 2073/2005 as required by Article 8 (1) of Regulation (EC) No 882/2004.</p>	<p>1. The check lists used for the official controls have been reviewed by the VPHD. The check lists included the requirements mentioned in Reg. (EC) No 2073/2005 and the control of HACCP system used by FBOs. (VS- Attachment 1)</p> <p>2. A letter prepared by the VPHD has been send to the FBOs of ready to eat food explained them that for the determination of the shelf life must take into account all the possible temperatures and taking consumer behaviour into account. (VS- Attachment 5)</p> <p>3. A letter prepared by the VPHD has been send to the DVOs clarified that the determining the frequency of the official controls and sampling based on risk analysis should take into account the non-conformities of FBO such as non-conformities on the microbiological criteria, implementation of HACCP, etc and giving the highest score so the frequency of the controls will be increased. (VS- Attachment 3)</p> <p>PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICES</p> <p>4. Inclusion in the current Code of Practice for the Official Controls of Food Businesses a separate chapter in relation to the enforcement of the Regulation (see Action 1 of Recommendation 1). Deadline: 30/9/2013</p> <p>5. Preparation of a Checklist which will include the provisions of the Regulation which will be filled in by the Public Health Officers during the official controls of those food businesses that fall under the Regulation. Deadline: 30/9/2013</p>
4	<p>To ensure appropriate co-ordination by the National Reference Laboratories of the participation of official laboratories in relevant</p>	<p>VETERINARY SERVICES</p> <p>1. Instruction has been send by the NRL of VS to the SGL for the coordination as regards the obligations of the NRLs for Salmonella & E.coli (VS- Attachment 8)</p>

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	<p>proficiency tests and to improve the flow of the European Union Reference Laboratory information to the official laboratories as required by Article 33 of Regulation (EC) No 882/2005</p>	<p>GENERAL STATE LABORATORY The SGL Food Microbiology Laboratory will inform the NRL (VS) of the interlaboratory quality control schemes it participates for Salmonella and E. coli and of its performance on an annual basis. At the same time, it will receive information from the NRL regarding the topics that are discussed in NRL workshops or any communication from the relevant EU RL.</p>
5	<p>To ensure that all microbiological tests for official control are accredited as required by Article 12 of Regulation (EC) No 882/2004.</p>	<p>GENERAL STATE LABORATORY The method for the detection of Cronobacter spp will be accredited in 2013. The method for the detection of staphylococcal enterotoxins will be accredited in 2014 after the completion of the interlaboratory standardization study, in which the SGL participates in.</p>
6	<p>To ensure that when alternative sampling methods are used by the food business operator when testing for compliance with process hygiene criteria that these procedures provide at least equivalent guarantees as required by Article 5 (5) of Regulation (EC) No 2073/2005 and that all laboratory methods are validated against the reference method.</p>	<p>VETERINARY SERVICES 1. A letter prepared by the VPHD has been send to the private laboratories that theirs alternative methods used should be validated according to internationally accepted protocols by the NRL of the VS. The validation in issue should be notified to the VPHD and the DVOs. The list with the validated methods will be available in the VS website and it will be updated regularly. (VS- Attachment 2)</p> <p>PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICES 2. Preparation of a Guidance Document for the FBOs which will include all necessary information as regards the implementation of the Regulation. (See Action 2 of</p>

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		Recommendation 1). Deadline: 30/9/2013
7	To ensure that the system of official controls of the Veterinary Public Health Division is organised in a way that ensure that the applied frequency is appropriate in all cases taking into account the relevant risks as required by Article 3 (1) of Regulation (EC) No 882/2004.	<p>VETERINARY SERVICES</p> <p>2.A letter prepared by the VPHD has been send to the DVOs clarified that the determining the frequency of the official controls and sampling based on risk analysis should take into account the non-conformities of FBO such as non-conformities on the microbiological criteria, implementation of HACCP, the possibility of the presence of pathogenic factors etc and giving the highest score so the frequency of the controls will be increased. (VS-Attachment 3)</p>
8	To ensure that the systems of audits of Hazard Analysis Critical Control Point procedures verify compliance with microbiological criteria as required by Article 4.5 (a) of Regulation (EC) No 854/2004 in all cases.	<p>VETERINARY SERVICES</p> <p>1. The check lists used for the official controls have been reviewed by the VPHD. The check lists included the requirements mentioned in Reg. (EC) No 2073/2005 and the control of HACCP system used by FBOs. (VS- Attachment 1).</p> <p>2. Instructions have been given either to DVOs or FBOs as regards the implementation of the above requirements. (Attachments 3-, 9-15a).</p> <p>3. Follow up inspections took place and there was conformity of the FBOs. (VS-Attachments 9-14)</p> <p>PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICES</p> <p>1. Inclusion in the current Code of Practice for the Official Controls of Food Businesses a separate chapter in relation to the enforcement of the Regulation (see Action 1 of Recommendation 1). Deadline: 30/9/2013</p>

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		<p>2. Preparation of a Checklist which will include the provisions of the Regulation which will be filled in by the Public Health Officers during the official controls of those food businesses that fall under the Regulation. (See Action 2 of Recommendation 3). Deadline: 30/9/2013</p> <p>3. Preparation of a Guidance Document for the FBOs which will include all necessary information as regards the implementation of the Regulation. (See Action 2 of Recommendation 1). Deadline: 30/9/2013</p> <p>4. Training of all the involved staff for the provisions of the Regulation as well as for its enforcement. (See Action 3 of Recommendation 1). Deadline: 30/9/2013</p>
9	<p>To ensure that reasonably foreseeable storage conditions are taken into account when shelf-life studies are carried out as required by Annex II of Regulation (EC) No 2073/2005 and compliance with the labelling requirements laid down in Article 6 of Regulation (EC) No 2073/2005.</p>	<p>VETERINARY SERVICES</p> <p>1. A letter prepared by the VPHD has been send to the FBOs of ready to eat food explained them that for the determination of the shelf life must take into account all the possible temperatures and taking consumer behaviour into account. (VS- Attachment 5)</p> <p>PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICES</p> <p>2. Inclusion in the current Code of Practice for the Official Controls of Food Businesses a separate chapter in relation to the enforcement of the Regulation (see Action 1 of Recommendation 1). Deadline: 30/9/2013</p> <p>3. Preparation of a Checklist which will include the provisions of the Regulation which will be filled in by the Public Health Officers during the official controls of those food businesses that fall under the Regulation. (See Action 2 of Recommendation 3). Deadline: 30/9/2013</p> <p>4.Preparation of a Guidance Document for the FBOs which will include all necessary</p>

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		information as regards the implementation of the Regulation. (See Action 2 of Recommendation 1). Deadline: 30/9/2013 5. Training of all the involved staff for the provisions of the Regulation as well as for its enforcement. (See Action 3 of Recommendation 1). Deadline: 30/9/2013