

ANNEX

Response of the Competent Authorities of Australia to the recommendations of Report ref. DG(SANCO)/2012-6361-MR PREFINAL of an audit carried out from 12 to 24 October 2012 in order to evaluate the operation of public health control systems and certification procedures over the production of fresh ovine, equine and wild game meat destined for export to the European Union

N°.	Recommendation	Action Proposed by the Competent Authority
1	To ensure that official controls in European Union approved establishments in the scope of this audit are applied in order to meet the requirements of Article 12(2) of Regulation (EC) No 854/2004, in particular concerning hygiene conditions and traceability and that the listing is up to date.	<p><u>Hygiene conditions</u> All EU listed establishments will be provided with a copy of the final FVO report and a checklist addressing the recommendations within one month of DAFF receiving this report from the FVO. All establishments will be required to undertake an internal audit of their systems to identify any deficiencies in HACCP, hygiene conditions, traceability and certification systems and rectify them within two months of receiving the report and the checklist from DAFF. DAFF will verify the internal audit and ensure that any deficiencies are rectified within this timeframe.</p> <p><u>Sheep traceability</u> Shortly after the audit an explanation of the requirements for abattoir holding paddocks was distributed to industry.</p> <p><u>Accuracy of listing</u> A review of the EU approved establishments will be conducted to ensure all establishments' Approved Arrangement and listings are consistent with each other. The review should be completed by 31 August 2013.</p>
2	To ensure that the post-mortem inspection system implemented by the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry in the export establishments is in line with the requirements of Regulation (EC) No 854/2004.	<p><u>Post-mortem inspection</u> Post-mortem inspection at EU listed slaughter establishments will be undertaken by FSMAs or non-FBO employed AAOs. Given the changes required are likely to be significant and will need to work in close consultation with FVO, we expect it will take a number of months to</p>

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		<p>complete the phased-in implementation of these arrangements.</p> <p><u>AAO duties reflected in AAs</u> By 31 August 2013, a review will be conducted of each establishment's approved arrangement to ensure wording relating to the use of AAOs is consistent with DAFF requirements.</p> <p><u>AAO appointment system</u> The system for appointing AAOs has now been centralised.</p>
3	<p>To ensure that, in accordance with Commission Regulation (EC) No 206/2010, Annex V, point h, the rules of certification equivalent to those laid down in Council Directive 96/93/EC are followed.</p>	<p>Since the audit, DAFF has provided industry and staff with direction about requirements for traceability and accuracy of information supporting the production of MTCs and RFPs through DAFF Meat Notice 2012/05.</p> <p>DAFF conducted training for ATMs in March 2013 on a more forensic approach to auditing the accuracy of validated RFPs.</p> <p>DAFF will require export permit validation to be undertaken by DAFF staff.</p>
4	<p>To ensure that the <i>Trichinella</i> testing methods, the supervision of the laboratories and the proficiency tests are brought in line with the requirements of Regulation (EC) No 2075/2005, as required by point II.1.3 of the export certificate.</p>	<p>DAFF will ensure establishments either send samples to an approved laboratory overseas or if testing in Australia, require persons undertaking testing to participate in DAFF organised proficiency testing for <i>Trichinella</i>. Negotiations are underway with an overseas laboratory to allow staff performing <i>Trichinella</i> testing in Australia to demonstrate</p>

CA response received 26 August 2013

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		<p>proficiency. Within two years all staff performing Trichinella testing will have completed proficiency testing.</p> <p>DAFF is also exploring the possibility of importing post-digest samples (non-viable larvae) into Australia for use by on-site laboratories. Access to these samples will depend on a decision relating to Australian quarantine restrictions. In addition, DAFF will increase the number of audits by a laboratory expert to twice per year and require OPVs to review laboratories four times per year.</p>
5	<p>To ensure that the Food Chain Information, as required by Section III, Annex II to Regulation (EC) No 853/2004, in particular regarding the administration of veterinary medicinal products and their withdrawal period, is complete and reliable, as required by point II.1.7 of the export certificate.</p>	<p>DAFF has worked with industry to clarify traceability requirements when using abattoir holding paddocks. A document was distributed to establishments in December 2012 and covers goats, sheep and cattle. DAFF will verify all EU abattoirs that use holding paddocks are in compliance with NLIS (and therefore EU requirements) by 31 August 2013.</p>
6	<p>To ensure that the identification of horses, at least six months prior to slaughter is achieved and to ensure the reliability of the guarantee that horses are not treated with the essential substances included in the Annex of Commission Regulation (EC) No 1950/2006, during the 180 days prior to slaughter.</p>	<p>DAFF will ensure that when horses are first purchased for slaughter and a collar is applied, the vendor must have owned the horse for the previous 6 months and so can guarantee the treatment history for this period. Other aspects of the system of identification for horses in Australia is as agreed previously with DG(SANCO).</p>