

ANNEX

Response of the Competent Authorities of Swaziland to the recommendations of Report ref. DG(SANCO)/2014-7245 -MR of an audit carried out from 28 January 2014 to 04 February 2014 in order to evaluate the operation of controls over the production of fresh bovine meat destined for export to the European Union, as well as certification procedures.

N°	Recommendation	Action Proposed by the Competent Authority
1	To ensure that the national veterinary service has all the necessary resources to carry out all relevant controls to ensure that the cattle from which the meat is destined for export to the European Union fulfil all the animal health requirements as laid down in Regulation (EU) No 206/2010.	<p>A. Human Resource: During the audit mission, the recruitment/promotions of 16 new Animal Health Inspectors (AHI) by the Civil Service Commission (CSC) was on-going. As such, the AHI complement is full. CSC has since recruited new Veterinary Assistants (VA) to replace those promoted to the posts of AHI. The VAs assumed duties on the 8th April 2014.</p> <p>B. Transport: Acute shortage of transport is acknowledged. This is a result of the fiscal challenges the country faced in the last 2-3 years. The situation has since improved and government has initiated the procurement process for vehicles. It is anticipated that in the 2014/2015 financial year, the National Veterinary Services will receive not less than 8 vehicles.</p> <p>C. Durable equipment: there is no budgetary allocation for durable equipment in the budget estimates. However, Ministries or Departments are expected to make special request for such budgets either through re-allocation or supplementary budget. CCA has requested for carryover of savings of the Capital Budget of the financial year 2013/2014 for SLITS equipment. An additional 34 computers and 28 printers will be procured.</p> <p>CCA has continued to access resources for computerization and networking of veterinary offices. During the audit mission only 16 /26 offices were connected. Since then, another two (2) have been connected to make a total of 18/26. One more is in the</p>

CA response received 28 april 2014

ANNEX

Response of the Competent Authorities of Swaziland to the recommendations of Report ref. DG(SANCO)/2014-7245 -MR of an audit carried out from 28 January 2014 to 04 February 2014 in order to evaluate the operation of controls over the production of fresh bovine meat destined for export to the European Union, as well as certification procedures.

		<p>process of being connected.</p> <p>D. Emergency fund for Laboratory testing: In a private-public partnership agreement entered into recently, CCA is guaranteed access to funds for payment of FMD laboratory fees to ensure speedy release of results. This partnership is aimed at overcoming the Government's inherent delays in payment of services provided by external laboratories.</p>
2	<p>To ensure that the cattle from which the meat derived is destined for export to the European Union are either transported directly from the holding of dispatch to the European Union-export slaughterhouse or that the assembly centre for cattle destined for European Union slaughter is approved by the Commission as an assembly centre for slaughter animals destined to be slaughtered in the European Union-export slaughterhouse, in line with the requirements given in Commission Regulation (EU) No 206/2010.</p>	<p>A. Slaughter Cattle Assembly Centre: The FBO has constructed a Cattle Assembly Centre SGI with the intention to improve slaughter volumes and increasing the involvement of subsistence farmers. CCA is in the process of approving and registering the Cattle Assembly Centre. In the meanwhile, CCA has prohibited the export beef derived from slaughter cattle that go through the Cattle Assembly Centre SG1 (CAC-SG1) since it is not yet approved by the EU.</p> <p>CCA has applied for a "J" approval ; guarantees regarding movement of bovine to the slaughter house via an Assembly Centre in compliance with Commission Regulation (EU) 810/2010 and 64/432EEC</p>
3	<p>To ensure that instructions and guidelines on controls for European Union-eligibility cover all requirements as laid down in the model certificate BOV of Commission Regulation (EU) No 206/2010</p>	<p>A. Certificate Security Features: The following security features will be added to the certificates: An intricate Guilloche design, bespoke watermarked paper and other features to make it difficult to reproduce.</p> <p>B. Cattle from the Lubombo Protection Zone (LPZ): are prohibited from direct slaughter at the export abattoir. However, if such animals are moved to 'SZ-I' and have</p>

ANNEX

Response of the Competent Authorities of Swaziland to the recommendations of Report ref. DG(SANCO)/2014-7245 -MR of an audit carried out from 28 January 2014 to 04 February 2014 in order to evaluate the operation of controls over the production of fresh bovine meat destined for export to the European Union, as well as certification procedures.

		<p>obtained 90 days residency, they can be admitted for slaughter at the export abattoir. The SLITS system identifies animals individually to the diptank of origin and therefore allows the identification of LPZ animals and verification of the 90 days residency in 'SZ-1'.</p> <p>On another note Swaziland is recognized by the OIE as 'Country free of FMD Where vaccination is not practised' which effectively means the FMD status of the LPZ is the same as 'SZ-1'. In accordance with Commission Regulation (EU) No.810/2010 CCA has applied for the amendment of part 1 'List of third countries, territories and parts thereof' to designate the LPZ as 'SZ-3', <i>an area east of the 'green-line fences' which extends northwards from the river Usuthu to the frontier with South Africa west of Nkalashane</i>. It is further requested that the said area be approved as another catchment area for bovine meat export to the EU.</p> <p>C. Guidelines for repatriation of cattle from neighbouring countries;</p> <p>The Competent Authority has issued a directive on the identification of returning cattle. These are to be 'CI' branded and tagged with blue tags signifying that they are now considered as imported animals and treated as such. Also draft guidelines for handling returning cattle have been formulated and shared with the Royal Swaziland Police in particular the Stock Theft Unit. These are already partially implemented, however will be finalised and/or officially adopted by the National Commissioner of Police and the Director of Veterinary and Livestock Services.</p>
--	--	--

CA response received 28 april 2014

ANNEX

Response of the Competent Authorities of Swaziland to the recommendations of Report ref. DG(SANCO)/2014-7245 -MR of an audit carried out from 28 January 2014 to 04 February 2014 in order to evaluate the operation of controls over the production of fresh bovine meat destined for export to the European Union, as well as certification procedures.

		<p>D. Distance from FMD outbreak: The use of SLITS allows identification of animals to diptank of origin and therefore the 10km distance of holding from previous FMD outbreak shall be ascertained</p>
4	<p>To complete the identification of national cattle herd and to record all the movements in the electronic database SLITS (Swaziland Livestock Information and Traceability System).</p>	<p>A. Complete Eartagging of outstanding SNL diptanks: A total of 2 out of 524 SNL diptanks are yet to be tagged. It is anticipated that they will be completed by end June 2014:</p> <p>B. Eartagging of TDL diptanks: Eartagging of TDL diptanks ongoing. A total of 199 out of 264 diptanks have been eartagged. It is anticipated that they will be completed by end August 2014.</p> <p>C. SLITS data input: Five Data Entry Clerks were engaged under the private-public partnership agreement to enter the outstanding records into the SLITS database. The Data Clerks entered an additional 140 diptanks into the database. The transition from paper based information system to an electronic system has surpassed expectations in terms of the acceptability and the speed of implementation of this major change.</p>
5	<p>To ensure that the specific controls on foot and mouth disease and maturation in the European Union-export approved slaughterhouse are carried out correctly and documented in sufficient detail.</p>	<p>A. FMD Inspection after Stunning: The following measures have been implemented: Additional light has been installed in the inspection area. To increase the inspection time the line has been slowed down and also only hind hooves are inspected soon after stunning and the fore hooves are inspected after bleeding.</p> <p>B. Maturation: The SG1 maturation form has been improved to cover the following; Time chiller was loaded/closed, end maturation time, list of all carcasses admitted into the chiller and a sample of carcasses</p>

CA response received 28 april 2014

ANNEX

Response of the Competent Authorities of Swaziland to the recommendations of Report ref. DG(SANCO)/2014-7245 -MR of an audit carried out from 28 January 2014 to 04 February 2014 in order to evaluate the operation of controls over the production of fresh bovine meat destined for export to the European Union, as well as certification procedures.

		measured temperature. The maturation form is also considered a certificate that is now signed by the Official Veterinarian.
6	To ensure the staff carrying out the official controls related to the export of bovine meat to the European Union have access and are kept updated of the relevant European Union legislation.	<p>A. Latest EU Legislation: In a Public Private partnership, CCA will receive the latest EU legislation electronically and further distribute it to an E-group of all the Government Veterinarians.</p> <p>B. Workshops and Audits: CCA will continue to organize in-service training of Veterinary Officials. Three workshops are planned for the 2014/2015 Government Financial year.</p>