

CA response received 11 April 2014

ANNEX

Response of the Competent Authorities of Poland to the recommendations of Report ref. DG(SANCO)/2013-6874 -MR of an audit carried out from 26 November 2013 to 06 December 2013 in order to evaluate the official controls related to the safety of food of animal origin, in particular milk and dairy products

N°	Recommendation	Action Proposed by the Competent Authority
1	The Competent Authority should ensure that establishments such as milk collection centres meet all the relevant requirements of Regulations (EC) No 852/2004 and 853/2004 when these are approved.	In the case of the milk collection centres checked, corrective measures were taken as regards the structural weaknesses observed by the audit team: - the ceiling of the milk collection centre was upgraded by replacing it with plastic panels which can be cleaned and disinfected effectively, pest control was ensured at the entrance doors, gaps in floor welds were filled, gaps in wall tiles under the wash basin and by the doors were filled in such a way as to ensure a smooth and easily cleanable surface; - doors opening directly onto the outside were secured with protective foil strips to keep out pests, and employees of the milk collection centre were given access to toilets in the neighbouring building.
2	The Competent Authority should ensure that adequate guidance is provided to support staff responsible for the official controls in milk collection centres (Article 8(1) of Regulation (EC) No 882/2004).	A specific checklist was prepared for milk collection centres and will be sent in mid-April 2014 to the local veterinary inspection authorities for their opinion. This list is expected to be finalised and implemented by 1 July 2014.
3	The Competent Authority should ensure that monitoring of the checks performed by food business operators on raw milk upon collection, as laid down in Article 8 and Annex IV, Chapter II to Regulation (EC) No 854/2004, is effective.	Annex 1 of 23 December 2013 to CVO Instruction No GIWhig-500-5/06 of 29 December 2006 on the official procedures to be followed by veterinary officers when implementing the provisions of Regulation (EC) No 853/2004 introduced the “Pilot programme on the control of the quality of raw milk from holdings”. This programme introduces new procedures for overturning administrative decisions suspending supplies of raw milk from holdings where somatic cell count and/or plate count limits have been exceeded. These procedures are based on official controls, sampling and testing in official laboratories. The changes concern monitoring the results of testing for the somatic cell count and general plate count. Where the results obtained by a holding are

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		<p>very low or point to an inconsistency between the somatic cell count and the plate count, they must be verified by means of official sampling and an inspection of the holding concerned (annex introducing changes to the Instruction attached).</p> <p>In addition, the PIW-PIB in Puławy (national reference laboratory) announced the completion of the programme for determining the conversion relationship between the results of the instrumental method and those of the reference method for determining the general plate count of raw milk. This relationship will be introduced in routine testing in company and services laboratories in the second half of this year.</p> <p>Furthermore, the shortcomings identified during the FVO visit were discussed in a meeting with the RVO in December 2013.</p>
4	The Competent Authority should ensure that appropriate measures are taken when non-compliances and /or infringements of the feed and food law are identified (Articles 54 and 55 of Regulation (EC) No 882/2004).	In its letter (GIWbż-502-8/2014(1)) of 18 March 2014, the General Veterinary Inspectorate asked the Department of Food Safety and Veterinary Matters to consider providing for effective and proportional penalties under national law for the placing on the market by the holding of non-compliant raw milk during the period of validity of the DVO's decision to suspend its supply (copy of the letter attached).
5	The Competent Authority should ensure the effectiveness of official controls in particular on Hazard Analysis Critical Control Point-based procedures (Article 4(3)(a) of Regulation (EC) No 854/2004), on the efficiency of pest controls in milk storage areas and on the animal hygiene on farm (Article 8 of Regulation (EC) No 854/2004) and on animal welfare (Council Directive 98/58/EC).	<p>Shortcomings concerning HACCP-based procedures were identified in the following establishments:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - an establishment with HACCP procedures covering different products with similar processes made changes to its systems and operations documentation concerning the production of fermented beverages; - in an establishment in which the CCP limit values concerned the maximum pasteurisation temperature, a risk analysis was again carried out in connection with the exceeding of the maximum pasteurisation temperature of 79°C. Since the analysis did not indicate that the product

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		<p>posed any health risk, the establishment assumed within the HACCP system that the CCP during pasteurisation (as the final point during heat processing in the production of ripened cheese) is a temperature of no lower than 73°C. A temperature exceeding 79°C was considered to be only a CP, given the technological conditions.</p> <p>As regards the shortcomings identified on holdings producing milk:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- on a holding where calves were fed with milk from cows which had been given antibiotics, the DVO undertook to implement measures aimed at eliminating the procedure of feeding animals milk containing residues of veterinary medicines in accordance with Article 5(4) of Regulation (EC) No 1831/2003 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 22 September 2003 on additives for use in animal nutrition, which states that 'antibiotics other than coccidiostats or histomonostats shall not be authorised as feed additives'. In addition, the entity was required to keep a record of the quantity of milk obtained from treated cows and to dispose of it in accordance with the relevant legislation. <p>Today, milk from cows undergoing treatment is no longer used to feed animals. Milk from cows treated with antibiotics is now poured into a slurry pit. The entity undertook to draw up a procedure for the disposal of milk containing antibiotics, which will be submitted to the DVO for approval by 16 April 2014. The DVO plans to carry out a verification control by 18 April 2014.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- On another holding infringements were identified in the area of animal welfare. The DVO recommended that places where milk is stored should be properly secured
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		against pests.
6	The Competent Authority should ensure the effectiveness of official controls in establishments regarding traceability of food and of any other substance incorporated into a food so that the food business operators comply with the requirements of Article 18 of Regulation (EC) No 178/2002.	<p>As regards the shortcomings identified in connection with traceability in the establishments inspected:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - in a whey-producing establishment, the book-entry system was streamlined in such a way as to clearly show the quantity of semi-finished products at each of the production stages and the moment when the entry in litres becomes an entry in kilograms. During the verification control, no infringements with regard to traceability were identified, and during subsequent inspections of the entity traceability will be checked for every range produced. - In the remaining establishments, documentation was corrected so as to record all products added to milk in the silos. <p>The shortcomings identified during the FVO mission were discussed in a meeting with the RVO in December 2013. Moreover, it was planned to introduce in the second half of 2014 changes to the CVO instructions as regards the official controls of traceability, so as to include in the official verification a comparison of the share of individual ingredients in raw and finished products.</p>
7	The Competent Authority should ensure the effectiveness of official controls on farms so that all treatments applied to food producing animals are recorded as required in Article 10 of Council Directive 96/23/EC and Annex I, Section III, part 8 (b) to Regulation (EC) No 852/2004.	<p>According to the Regulation of the Minister for Agriculture and Agricultural Development of 29 September 2011 on the method and scope of keeping treatment records for animals and medical-veterinary documents, and on the specimens of those documents and records (Journal of Laws No 224, item 1347) confirmation that farm animals are being treated is provided on a page of the treatment record book (original version) kept on the holding.</p> <p>The veterinarian and livestock keeper or person responsible for the animals are required to keep the veterinary documentation for five years in accordance with Article 69(4) of the Medicinal</p>

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		<p>Products Act of 6 September 2001 (Journal of Laws 2008, No 45, item 271, as amended).</p> <p>The CVO would ask the Department of Food Safety and Veterinary Matters in the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Affairs to introduce legislative changes to the Regulation of the Minister for Agriculture and Rural Affairs of 29 September 2011 on the method and scope of keeping treatment records for animals and medical-veterinary documents, and on the specimens of those documents and records (Journal of Laws No 224, item 1347) with a view to recording all forms of treatment used on food-producing animals in one medical-veterinary document kept on the holding.</p> <p>The above changes relate to the introduction of a requirement to keep on holdings animal treatment record books containing confirmation by the veterinarian of the treatment received by animals kept on the holding concerned.</p>
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