

ANNEX

Response of the Competent Authorities of Belgium to the recommendations of Mission report ref. DG(SANCO)/2009-8255- MR carried out from 04 May to 13 May 2009 in order to evaluate the implementation of rules on animal welfare

No.	Recommendation	Action proposed by Competent Authority
1	take measures to put in place training for inspectors in conducting checks in holdings of laying hens, calves and pigs, to ensure that the requirements of Directive 1999/74/EC, Directive 2008/119/EC and Directive 2008/120/EC respectively are adequately controlled.	The FASFC has established a pilot committee that will enlist all the training needs of the FASFC personnel and will plan and follow-up on all the trainings. The subjects mentioned have been proposed to the committee to be put in the training plan for the next three years.
2	take measures to ensure that laying hen cages comply with the space requirements of Article 5(1)(1) of Directive 1999/74/EC.	A new procedure will be put in place where overstocking in laying hens cage is concerned. First-time offenders will get a PV and the eggs will be declassified, as is the case now. Repeat offenders will also get a PV and the eggs will be declassified, but they will also be given a month's time to diminish the number of chickens until the standard is complied with. If the holder fails to find a solution the overstocked animals will be impounded and euthanized.
3	take measures to ensure that changes concerning registered laying hen flock data are notified to the CA without delay and that the register is updated immediately when such information is received in accordance with Article 1(4) of Commission Directive 2002/4/EC.	The PCU's have been reminded of the instruction which states that the PCU's have to register the information concerning the laying hen holdings and keep it up-to-date. For the future DG Control Policy will consult with DGZ and ARSIA, the institutions who keep all the information concerning the identification of animals, to see if DGZ and ARSIA wouldn't be better suited to manage this information.
4	take measures to ensure that where deficiencies are detected at initial visits performed under Article 8(1) of Directives 2008/120/EC consistent enforcement and follow up inspections are scheduled and carried out as necessary.	A new instruction on the interpretation of the checklists and follow-up has been issued on the 24 th of June 2009 and has been sent to all PCU's. Please find this instruction in annex.

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5	take measures to ensure that as stipulated in Directive 2008/120/EC, pig farmers comply with the unobstructed floor area requirements in Article 3(1a and b) and Chapter II(A) of Annex I); give manipulable material to all categories of pigs (Chapter I, point 4 of Annex I); carry out tail docking only after other measures have been taken to prevent tail biting (Chapter I, point 8 second paragraph of Annex I) and stop tethering their sows (Article 3(3)).	<p>Pig farmers will be reminded of their obligations with a letter to the pig farmers' associations and articles in the specialised press.</p> <p>AP updated – 14.4.2010: One of the new objectives for the sector heads at the PCU's is a better follow-up of the inspectors. There will be a better follow-up of inspectors at the PCU itself and at the same time a system of bench-marking is being put in place. As of now, at the monthly sector head meeting one checklist will be examined and discussed and the results between the different PCU's will be compared. Also, the Animal Welfare Council will carry out an audit of the inspections that are performed by the FASFC.</p>
6	take measures to ensure that inspections on all calf premises include all the requirements of Articles 3 and 4 of Directive 2008/119/EC.	<p>The checklist for the inspection on cattle farms will be amended, so that it will be clear for the inspectors that if calves are present, the requirements of Directive 2008/119/EC need to be met.</p>
7	take measures to ensure the procedures for the authorisation of transporters include the documentation required by Articles 10 and 11 of Regulation (EC) No 1/2005.	<p>This documentation is not asked beforehand, but is checked on the spot. If the procedure is changed in the future, these requirements will be taken into account.</p> <p>AP updated – 14.4.2010: In 2010 the procedure for obtaining a transporter authorization will be amended in such a way that all necessary documentation should be included with the application.</p>

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8	take measures to ensure that a database of authorised transporters and approved means of transport is made publicly available as required by Article 13(4) of Regulation (EC) No 1/2005.	This database will be made publicly available in the near future.
9	take measures to ensure that training of CA staff on the requirements of Regulation (EC) No 1/2005 is completed, to include the provisions concerning recording equipment for road transport and navigation system, as laid down in Article 16 of the same Regulation.	The FASFC has established a pilot committee that will enlist all the training needs of the FASFC personnel and will plan and follow-up on all the trainings. The subjects mentioned have been proposed to the committee to be put in the training plan for the next three years.
10	take measures to ensure that targets of inspections on long journeys include checks at unloading at holdings, to verify that the requirements of Regulation (EC) No 1/2005 have been complied with, as required by Articles 15(1) and 27(1) of the same Regulation.	It is difficult to perform checks at unloading at holdings because the time of arrival of the animals is either not known or a rough estimate provided by the TRACES-certificats. However, these are sometimes encoded after the journey has taken place. The technical consultation committee will take a look at how these inspections can be performed in a realistic manner.
11	take measures to ensure that adequate checks and enforcement actions are carried out at poultry slaughterhouses when deficiencies are detected in stocking densities during transport laid down in Chapter VII E of Annex I to Regulation (EC) No 1/2005 and that automated systems for handling birds do not give rise to avoidable excitement or suffering, as required by Article 3 of Directive 93/119/EC.	A new instruction will be made in which is clearly stated that if the veterinarian present at the slaughterhouse finds a non-compliance of an item that has a score of 10 in the weighted checklist, he has to fill in an information form and send it to the PCU. The PCU will then have to follow-up on this non-compliance. There will be a consultation with the slaughterhouse associations on the automated systems for handling birds. However, it seems that these systems are widely used throughout Europe, and that there haven't been any remarks on them before.

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12	<p>take measures to ensure that adequate checks are performed at assembly centres for transiting animals, to ensure that the watering and feeding intervals, journey times and resting period laid down in Chapter V of Annex I to Regulation (EC) No 1/2005 and the minimum requirements for means of transport for long journeys set out in Chapter VI of the Annex of the same Regulation are respected.</p>	<p>A new instruction on the inspection of driving and resting times in assembly centre. However, assembly centres are never considered to be a place of destination. They are a place of transit, where animals are certified again and from which they depart to their ultimate place of destination, as is allowed by directive But of course, the journey times and resting periods, as established for the species, need to be complied with.</p>
13	<p>take measures to ensure that equipment used for stunning and killing is constructed, maintained and used in such a way as to achieve rapid and effective stunning or killing in accordance with the requirements of Article 6 of Directive 93/119/EC and restraint for ritual slaughter meets the requirements of Annex B (1) of the same Directive.</p>	<p>The slaughterhouse associations will be contacted to make them aware of the observed problems and to urge them to take measures.</p> <p>AP updated – 14.4.2010: In 2010 the NICU, the National Implementation and Coordination unit of DG Control of the FASFC, will carry out an inspection of the slaughterhouses, with a focus on restraining and stunning. Any deficiencies found will be taken up with the slaughterhouses. At a later stage there will be an internal audit of the inspections performed by the FASFC in the slaughterhouses but this won't happen in 2010, due to the fact that the schedule of the internal audit service for 2010 is already complete for 2010.</p>

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14	take measures to ensure that guidance is issued on the strength and duration of current used in waterbath stunners as required by Annex C(II)(3)(B)(1) to Directive 93/119/EC.	<p>The FASFC has established a pilot committee that will enlist all the training needs of the FASFC personnel and will plan and follow-up on all the trainings. The subjects mentioned have been proposed to the committee to be put in the training plan for the next three years.</p> <p>AP updated – 14.4.2010: Guidance on strength and duration of current used in waterbath stunners will be drawn up by the FPS in 2010.</p>