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FINAL REPORT OF AN AUDIT
CARRIED OUT OF
ITALY
FROM 18 JANUARY 2021 TO 29 JANUARY 2021
IN ORDER TO
EVALUATE THE FOOD SAFETY CONTROL SYSTEMS IN PLACE GOVERNING THE
PRODUCTION AND PLACING ON THE MARKET OF BOVINE MEAT, INCLUDING
TRACEABILITY

Executive Summary

This report describes the outcome of an audit of Italy from 18 to 29 January 2021 by the Directorate-General for Health and Food Safety in order to assess the official controls related to the production of bovine meat, including traceability. In addition, the audit gathered information on the ante- and post-mortem arrangements in place regarding the poultry sector.

The COVID-19 pandemic precluded on-site verifications and assessment of the performance of official controls. The audit outcome is therefore based on a review of documentation and control records pertinent to the audit scope, and interviews of and discussions with representatives of the competent authorities at various levels, via videoconference.

The Ministry of Health is the central competent authority over the bovine sector, including food safety, animal health, welfare and animal identification.

Legislation, procedures and guidelines for official controls are in place at national, regional and local competent authority levels.

The system largely fulfils the legal requirements of the Official Controls Regulation, excluding the procedures that allow the emergency slaughter of bovine animals that do not meet the criteria established in EU law. However, certain procedures/guidelines were not up-to-date and, as a result, contrary to certain provisions in the EU legislation. Consequently, there is a small number of animals subject to emergency slaughter that do not fit this requirement (i.e. animals suffering from metabolic disorders or pregnant animals with difficulty calving (dystocia) and which are considered as unfit for transport).

The official staff performs controls regarding bovine identification and holding registration, animal welfare, checks of the food chain information and on hygiene requirements during slaughter. Evidence was available that non-compliances are followed up properly and that enforcement measures (including the imposition of sanctions) were taken.

The National Register for Holdings and Animals is highly developed/elaborated (includes electronic animal movement documents and automatic entry/exit movement registration) and equipped with analytical, statistical, and reporting tools supporting official controls as well as food business operators.

Ante-mortem and post-mortem inspection for both bovine animals and poultry are organised in line with the relevant EU requirements and the procedures in place deal with any potential conflict of interest.

The procedures in place and the controls implemented can, to a large extent, prevent the transport of unfit animals to the slaughterhouse.

Approximately 10,000 bovine animals per annum, deemed unfit for transport, are subject to emergency slaughter on farm, and around half of these are cull cows. The data provided shows that the majority of these animals had suffered an accident preventing their transport for welfare reasons.

The national requirements on emergency slaughter (sampling for laboratory analyses at post-mortem inspection) provide a high level of assurance that meat unfit for human consumption does not enter the food chain.

The report contains a recommendation to the central competent authority to address the shortcomings identified and to further enhance the control system.

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ABBREVIATIONS AND DEFINITIONS USED IN THIS REPORT

Abbreviation	Explanation
AMI	<i>Ante-mortem</i> Inspection
ASL	Local Health Unit (<i>Aziende Sanitarie Locali</i>)
BDN	National Register for Holdings and Animals
CA(s)	Competent Authority(ies)
CCA	Central Competent Authority
CSN	National Service Centre for Animal Registration (<i>Centro Servizi Nazionale</i>)
Cull cow	Cows at the end of their production life
DG Health and Food Safety	Directorate-General for Health and Food Safety of the European Commission
EU	European Union
FBO(s)	Food Business Operator(s)
FCI	Food Chain Information
HACCP	Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Points
IZS	Experimental Zooprophyllaxis Institute (<i>Istituti Zooprofilattici Sperimentali</i>)
MH	Ministry of Health (<i>Ministero della Salute</i>)
MS	Member State(s)
OCR	Official Controls Regulation
OV(s)	Official Veterinarian(s)
PMI	<i>Post-mortem</i> Inspection
RASFF	Rapid Alert System for Food and Feed
SINTESIS	Integrated Information System for Trade, Import and Establishments (<i>Sistema Integrato Scambi Importazioni e Stabilimenti</i>)
VC	Videoconference

1 INTRODUCTION

The audit took place from 18 to 29 January 2021. The audit team comprised two auditors from Directorate-General for Health and Food Safety of the European Commission (DG Health and Food Safety) and included the participation of the representatives of the central competent authority (CCA), the Ministry of Health (MH). In addition, representatives of regional and local authorities and official veterinarians (OVs) involved in the implementation of the control system participated in the relevant sessions of the audit.

An opening meeting was held by videoconference (VC) on 18 January 2021. At this meeting, the audit team confirmed the objectives of, and agenda for, the audit, and requested some additional information required for the satisfactory completion of the audit.

NOTE: The COVID-19 pandemic precluded on-site verifications and assessment of the performance of official controls. The audit outcome is therefore based on a review of documentation and control records pertinent to the audit scope, and interviews of/discussions with representatives of the competent authorities at various levels, via VC.

2 OBJECTIVES AND SCOPE

The main objective of the audit was to evaluate the operation of official controls and the enforcement of the applicable European Union (EU) requirements over and along the production chain of bovine meat. In particular, the audit focused on the official controls exerted over cull cows (at the end of their production life).

In terms of scope, the audit covered bovine slaughter, and in particular:

- the organisation and competencies of the competent authorities (CAs), including oversight and enforcement, at all relevant levels, in particular the controls over production and traceability of bovine animals at the end of their production life, and certain aspects of animal welfare especially the evaluation of fitness for transport and slaughter;
- The CAs' performance in terms of the design and implementation of the official control systems covering the production, processing and distribution chains of beef, and products derived therefrom.

This included the gathering of relevant information and verification as appropriate, by means of interviews/discussions and review of documents and records.

In addition, the audit team collected information on the *ante-mortem* inspection (AMI) and *post-mortem* inspection (PMI) arrangements in place in Italy regarding the poultry sector.

The table below lists the VC meetings held in order to achieve the above-mentioned objectives:

COMPETENT AUTHORITY		
Central	6	Including opening and closing meetings
Regional	3	With officials from three regional offices
Local	3	With OV's performing their duties in slaughterhouses.
Central Bovine Database	1	With representatives from the CCA.
FOOD BUSINESS ESTABLISHMENTS		
Bovine slaughterhouses	3	One large- and two medium-capacity slaughterhouses

3 LEGAL BASIS

The audit was carried out under the general provisions of EU legislation and, in particular Articles 116, 117 and 119 of Regulation (EU) 2017/625 of the European Parliament and of the Council (Official Controls Regulation - OCR).

A full list of the EU legal instruments relevant to the scope of this audit is provided in Annex 1 to this report. Legal acts quoted refer, where applicable, to the last amended version.

4 BACKGROUND

This audit took place as part of an audit series planned and initiated in 2019 in the Member States (MS) after media allegations of slaughter for human consumption, in several MS, of unfit cows. Recent Commission audits ⁽¹⁾ and those media reports have pointed to gaps in the official control systems that could have an impact on the slaughter of cows.

Against this background, and in the context of the enactment of Regulation (EU) 2017/625, Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) 2019/624 and Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2019/627, DG Health and Food Safety initiated this audit series with the aim to assess the performance of the CAs in this area of official controls. The table below indicates the number of adult cattle slaughtered in Italy during the previous years.

YEAR	CATTLE SLAUGHTERED
2018	2,854,190
2019	2,824,754
2020	2,827,663

(1) Audit report DG(SANTE)/2019-6839, 2019-6843 and 2019-6848

5 FINDINGS AND CONCLUSIONS

5.1 LEGISLATION AND IMPLEMENTING MEASURES

Legal requirements

Article 291(1) of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union and Articles 1(3)(d) and (4) of Regulation (EC) No 853/2004 of the European Parliament and of the Council.

Article 5(1)(g) and (h) and Article 18(1) of Regulation (EU) 2017/625.

Findings

1. The audit team was informed by the MH that for the bovine meat sector, the CAs follow the relevant EU, national and regional legislation/guidelines.
2. The national legislation contains, among others, provisions on the functioning of the bovine registry and sanctions related to identification and registration of bovine animals.
3. In addition, the MH prepared several national guidelines (adopted by the State-Regions conference) on official controls. For example: “National guidelines for uniform interpretation of non-compliances and related sanctions”; “National guidelines on official controls under Regulations (EC) Nos 882/2004 and 854/2004”. The latter includes detailed guidelines in relation to prioritisation of official controls, to verification of Food Business Operators’ (FBOs’) own-check systems based on Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Points (HACCP) principles and their compliance with microbiological criteria.
4. In addition, the audit team noted that regional and local CA guidelines are available to the CA staff performing official controls within the scope of this audit: e.g. guidelines on AMI/PMI, on emergency slaughter, information on the new applicable EU legislation (OCR and the related implementing and delegated acts, etc.) in the form of circulars.
5. The audit team also noted that some of these guidelines/circulars (including the national ones) need to be updated to take into account the legislative changes in the relevant EU legislation (see Annex 1). An example was seen by the audit team where, based on an outdated MH circular (from 2006), the CA allowed slaughtering of bovine animals with “metabolic disorder” as emergency slaughter on the farm, which is not in line with the provisions of Regulation (EC) No 853/2004 (see paragraph 91.).
6. There are no derogations (flexibilities) in place, as permitted by Article 10(3) of Regulation (EC) No 853/2004, in the form of national legislation adapting the requirements laid down in Annex III of this Regulation covered by the scope of this audit.

Conclusion on legislation and implementing measures

7. Italy has issued national and regional legislation and guidelines necessary to ensure implementation and/or enforcement of the EU requirements applicable to the bovine meat sector and, from a summary analysis, they are largely in line with EU legislation. However, certain procedures/guidelines were not up-to-date and, as a result, contrary to certain provisions in the EU legislation.

5.2 COMPETENT AUTHORITIES

Legal requirements

Articles 4, 5, 6, 138 and 139 of Regulation (EU) 2017/625.

Article 13 of Regulation (EU) 2019/624.

Findings

5.2.1 Structure and organisation

8. The CAs relevant for this audit and the control systems are described in the country profile for Italy, available at the following link: https://ec.europa.eu/food/audits-analysis/country_profiles/details.cfm?co_id=IT.

At national level

9. The MH is responsible for animal health, food and feed safety, animal welfare and risk assessment in the food chain. The MH drafts national legislation/guidelines and manages co-ordination of all food safety controls including those on bovine meat. It also has responsibilities in the field of import controls, and for international disease protection, national cooperation, guidance and monitoring. It also operates national databases/registers relevant for the foodstuff covered by this audit e.g. the Integrated Information System for Trade, Import and Establishments (SINTESIS) and the National Register for Holdings and Animals (BDN).
10. Within the MH, three directorates have responsibilities in relation to the scope of this audit: the Directorate General for Animal Health and Veterinary Medicinal Products, the Directorate General for Food Hygiene, Food Safety and Nutrition and the Directorate General for Advisory Bodies for Health Care.
11. Under the Italian constitution, responsibilities for official controls in the field of animal health, food and feed safety and animal welfare are shared between national and regional CAs.

At regional level

12. The CAs of the 19 regions and the 2 autonomous provinces are responsible for the planning, coordination, guidance and for preparing regional legislation on food safety

and for the supervision of the Local Health Units (*Aziende Sanitarie Locali* - ASLs). For the purpose of this report, references to "regions" should be understood as including the two autonomous provinces. The internal organisation of the services differs between regions.

13. The regions are responsible for granting approval (which may be delegated to the ASLs) for food establishments, including bovine slaughterhouses.

At local level

14. The implementation of official controls on cattle identification, registration, and movement controls, on cattle dealers/assembly centres, on animal welfare and on bovine meat (including AMI and PMI) is carried out at local level by 123 ASLs. The structure of an ASL may vary depending on the region. In general, they are divided into departments. Under the Department of Prevention, there are the Local Veterinary Services that are responsible for the official controls (see above).
15. MH informed the audit team that there are no delegated bodies involved in official controls within the scope of this audit.
16. Coordination between the State and Regions are managed through the State-Regions Conference, which has a permanent "Inter-Regional Committee on Prevention and Public Health" (including food safety). This committee is assisted by technical working groups (see more details in the country profile for Italy: paragraph 8.).
17. The audit team saw examples of cooperation between the regions during investigation of a Rapid Alert for Food and Feed (RASFF) notification (see Chapter 5.5) and during investigation of breaches of animal welfare rules.

5.2.2 Impartiality, freedom from conflict of interest

18. The Presidential Decree No 62 of 2013 establishes a code of conduct for civil servants and prescribes the obligation of public officials as regards independence and involvement in other activities.
19. The CAs at all levels employ only official staff, all of which are public servants. Their salaries are paid from the CAs' budgets. The type or size of the establishments where officials carry out their duties does not have an impact on their remuneration.
20. The audit team noted that the involvement of private veterinarians in official duties relevant to the scope of the audit is rather limited: e.g. in large capacity slaughterhouses, the ASL (based on the authorisation of the regional CA) may contract private veterinarians to assist the OV at PMI during peak production seasons (usually before Christmas). The audit team noted and saw evidence that their contract contains provisions to avoid any potential conflict of interest.
21. An MH circular (dated 10 December 2019) provides the regional CAs with information on the requirements regarding AMI in the case of emergency slaughter outside the

slaughterhouse. According to this circular, AMI of emergency slaughtered animals on the farm should be carried out by an OV employed by the ASL but if the OV is not available, AMI can be carried out by a “freelance veterinarian” (*veterinario libero professionista*) (in this context: a veterinarian designated by the CA to perform certain official tasks). In the latter case, the audit team noted that there is a safeguard mechanism in place to avoid any conflict of interest.

22. In each of the three regions included in this audit, a list of “freelance veterinarians”, who are designated to carry out AMI and to sign the required certificate in the case of emergency slaughter outside the slaughterhouse, is publicly available. In order to be listed as a “freelance veterinarian”, the veterinarian has to undergo specific training and to sign a declaration regarding any potential conflict of interest. False declaration would involve sanctions. In addition, the relevant regional guidelines clearly state that if the “freelance veterinarian” was contacted by an operator (farmer) requesting the service in a situation of actual or possible conflict of interest, he/she must refrain from performing the service. The regional CAs informed the audit team that operators do not pay fees for this service directly to such veterinarians but through the ASL.

5.2.3 Staffing and equipment

23. In Italy, the CAs employ approximately 6,000 OVs, out of which around 1,200 are employees with a fixed-term contract.
24. Official staff has access, via the internet portal www.vetinfo.it, to a central information system, which provides a wide range of services e.g. access to legislation, guidelines, checklists, databases (including the BDN) and several reporting and statistical IT tools (see also Chapter 5.4.1).
25. The OVs interviewed during the VCs stated that, at the slaughterhouses, they have access to the internet and to databases including the BDN.

5.2.4 Training

26. There is a system of training in place for the officials (see the country profile for Italy for details). Evidence was provided to the audit team on OVs` participation in training sessions: e.g. in 2019 one of the regions organised training sessions on the new applicable EU legislation (i.e. the OCR and the related implementing and delegated regulations). The audit team noted that due to the Covid-19 pandemic, in 2020 the training provided was performed mostly on-line.
27. One of the regional CAs informed the audit team that newly appointed OVs work under the supervision of other experienced OVs for at least the first 2 months to ensure that he/she acquires adequate knowledge.
28. All staff interviewed during this audit had a good knowledge of the tasks that they have to carry out and the applicable EU and national legislation.

5.2.5 Supervision and Audits

29. In the field of food safety and veterinary public health, the national audit system consists of a “cascade mechanism” where the MH carries out audits on the regional CAs and these carry audits on the ASLs. These audits are considered by MH to be internal audits in accordance with Article 6 of Regulation (EU) 2017/625. The audits comprise “system audits” of the overall management structure of the regional CAs and sectoral audits looking vertically at the implementation of controls.
30. More information can be found on the national audit system in the country profile for Italy (paragraph 8.) and in the audit report DG(SANTE) 2018-6314 ⁽²⁾.
31. According to the information available on the MH’s website, between 2011 and 2019 a total of 11 regions were subject to sectoral audits by the MH on the animal identification and registration systems.
32. Between 2017 and 2018, three regions were audited on this subject (including the implementation of official controls in relation to the BDN). During these audits of the regional CAs, in addition to the ASLs, animal holdings (including bovines) were visited. According to the summary reports, these audits concluded (in all three of the regions audited by the MH) that: “in general, the regional control system for livestock registers is implemented throughout the region and is robust, well structured and has good organisational and intervention capacity. The CA has tools at its disposal to monitor the registration and updating of biographical data in the BDN, as provided for in the relevant legislation.” However, some shortcomings were noted in all the regions audited which were mainly related to risk categorisation of holdings to be inspected, to lack of systematic coordination of supervisory and control activities and to lack of sufficient training for OV’s and operators.
33. The audit team saw evidence that corrective actions had been requested by the CA at central level and executed by the regional CAs.
34. The regions carry out internal audits on the ASLs in accordance with their annual audit plans. These audits comprise reviews of documentation and on-site visits to establishments. One of the regional CAs provided the audit team with a report on a regional audit carried out in 2019 on the official controls in relation to animal welfare during slaughter and killing (see paragraph 107. for details).

5.2.6 Actions in case of non-compliance

35. The system for enforcement measures are described in the country profile for Italy.
36. The “National guidelines for uniform interpretation of non-compliances and related sanctions” provides the CAs’ staff with detailed information (including case studies) on

⁽²⁾ https://ec.europa.eu/food/audits-analysis/audit_reports/details.cfm?rep_id=4042

the applicable measures to be taken and sanctions to be imposed regarding non-compliances detected, in relation to Regulations (EC) 852/2004 and 853/2004.

37. Legislative Decree No. 58/2004 contains the applicable sanctions to be imposed in relation to breaching of the requirements concerning the identification and registration of cattle.
38. The audit team saw examples in each region audited that when non-compliances were detected, the OV requested corrective actions within a set deadline from the operator, which were then adequately followed up. Evidence on imposing sanctions was provided to the audit team e.g. due to breaching animal welfare rules (see paragraph 58.) or due to non-compliances related to registration/identification of animals (see paragraphs 57. and 103.).

Conclusions on competent authorities

39. The structure and organisation of the official control system are in line with EU requirements and provide an adequate basis for the CAs to deliver the level of assurances on public health conditions required for the production of beef.
40. The system in place provides official staff with legal powers for the performance of official controls and the enforcement of legal requirements.
41. Cooperation and coordination arrangements between and within the CAs involved in the controls for the areas covered by this audit are in place. The mechanisms in place (such as documented procedures and training) give the CA a reasonable level of assurance that controls are carried out uniformly and consistently.
42. Measures are in place to ensure that officials performing official controls are free from conflict of interest and, in particular, in the case of veterinarians performing AMI at holdings for emergency slaughtered animals.
43. The system in place ensures that officials performing the controls on the ground have equipment, sufficient knowledge and support when necessary, to perform effectively.
44. An internal audit system is in place in line with the requirements of Article 6(1) of Regulation (EU) No 2017/625, which covers aspects relevant to the official controls carried out over the bovine sector.

5.3 APPROVAL OF ESTABLISHMENTS

Legal requirements

Article 6(3) of Regulation (EC) No 852/2004 of the European Parliament and of the Council.

Article 4 of Regulation (EC) No 853/2004 of the European Parliament and of the Council.

Articles 10(2), 138(2)(j) and 148 of Regulation (EU) 2017/625.

Findings

45. An FBO has to submit an application, with the required relevant documentation, to the ASL responsible for the geographical area in which the establishment is situated. Following assessment of the documentation provided and an on-the-spot inspection of the premises, the ASL forwards the application to the regional CA together with the inspection report. The regional CA reviews all the documents and, if the establishment meets all the relevant requirements of EU legislation on the infrastructure and equipment, issues a conditional approval for 3 months. If clear progress has been made but the establishment does not fully comply with the relevant requirements, the regional CA can extend the conditional approval for another 3 months. However, conditional approval cannot exceed a total of 6 months. Final approval is granted by the regional CA, following an on-site inspection by the ASL confirming that all conditions of the food law are met, including an effective own-check system based on HACCP principles. All approved establishments are recorded in, and the approval number is issued by, the central database (SINTESIS) (see paragraph 9.).
46. Some regional CAs have delegated the issuance of the establishment approval Decree to the ASL.
47. The list of all approved establishments is available at the following link: http://www.salute.gov.it/portale/temi/trasferimento_PROD.jsp
48. The audit team noted that according to the provisions of the “National guidelines for uniform interpretation of non-compliances and related sanctions” not notifying the CAs of significant changes in an establishment’s activity constitutes a breach of the regulations and would involve imposition of fines (between EUR 500 and EUR 3,000). Examples of significant changes are provided in the guidelines.
49. The audit team reviewed the approval documentation of three slaughterhouses and noted that the documentation was in line with the procedures and legal requirements in place.

Conclusion on approval of establishments

50. Procedures are in place for the approval of establishments and they are in line with the relevant EU requirements.

5.4 ORGANISATION AND IMPLEMENTATION OF OFFICIAL CONTROLS

5.4.1 Official controls on cattle identification and movements of animals

Legal requirements

Articles 3, 5, 6, 7, and 9a of Regulation (EC) No 1760/2000 of the European Parliament and of the Council.

Findings

On farm/dealer control

51. Keepers of bovine animals must register their premises/holdings in the BDN.
52. Official controls on cattle identification and registration at holdings, animal dealers and assembly centres are carried out by OV's of the ASL based on the requirements of the relevant EU legislation and on Legislative Decree No. 196/1999.
53. The number of farms to be checked annually is at least 3% of active bovine holdings as at 1 January each year. The holdings for on-site inspection are selected by the ASL official based on risk assessment, taking into account the information recorded in the BDN.
54. Different web applications are available (via the www.vetinfo.it website) to the official staff (accessible with a username and password) for planning and recording official controls on bovine identification, registration and movement controls. "Statistics – evaluation of the BDN implementation" web application is used for planning controls (e.g. in holdings) or for supervision of controls carried out. The "Statistics" application provides reports in the form of tables and diagrams. It provides data, among others, on the number of controls carried out (e.g. by date, by activities), the results of these controls (number of non-compliances detected, favourable or unfavourable outcome) and the measures applied in case of shortcomings detected. Holdings with certain risk criteria (e.g. at least one non-compliance detected in a given year, having bovine animals above a given number, delayed notification of movements, etc.) can be filtered from the application.
55. All information related to official controls carried out by the ASL are recorded in the web application "Controls" (*Controlli*). After each official control, a report is prepared, in the form of a checklist, which includes: the criteria used for selecting the holding, the reason for the control, the evidence collected, the results of controls, the persons present, the shortcomings observed and the corrective measures requested by the ASL. When needed, the MH prepares and updates the checklist templates in the web application.
56. The audit team saw evidence (inspection reports) that the checklists were used during inspections. The audit team also saw some examples when the ASL inspectors detected non-compliances (e.g. some of the animals present in the holding register were no longer present at the farm; animal identification issues, etc.). The ASL inspectors requested the operator to take corrective actions within a set deadline.
57. The CCA provided the audit team with data of official controls carried out on cattle and buffalo holdings in 2019. According to the data 4.82% of the holdings were inspected (corresponding to 5,432 farms) which goes beyond the EU requirements (3%). In the case of 1,754 farms, the inspectors detected shortcomings, which in most cases were related to delays in the notification of movements, births or deaths of animals (1,306

farms). Corrective action was requested in the case of 1,190 farms and administrative fines were imposed in the case of 409 holdings.

58. Cattle dealers are inspected at least once every 3 months (up until June 2020 the frequency was once a month) by the ASL. Checks cover both the premises and the animals (i.e. identification, traceability, use of veterinary medicinal products, and animal welfare). In the case of assembly centres, these controls cover each group of animals to be sent to another MS. The audit team noted that checklists provided by the MH are used for these controls. The audit team was provided with records of a case where a non-compliance related to animal welfare was detected, corrective action was requested and a fine was imposed by the ASL.

Central Bovine Database

59. The National Service Centre for Animal Registration (*Centro Servizi Nazionale - CSN*) operates the central register of bovine animals (and other livestock) under the MH. CSN is located at the Experimental Zooprohylaxis Institute (*Istituti Zooprofilattici Sperimentali - IZS*) of Abruzzo and Molise (in Teramo). The BDN has been in operation since 2000.
60. The BDN can be accessed through the www.vetinfo.it website after user authentication. Users (e.g. breeders, breeders' associations, CAs, slaughterhouse FBOs, ear tag producers, etc.) can enter data directly or through a delegate (e.g. private veterinarian or breeders' associations on behalf of a farmer) and they must have a digital authentication certificate (for entering and modifying data). Around 40,000 users have been activated in the BDN since the start of its operation.
61. Some elementary aggregate data present in the BDN is publicly available on the www.vetinfo.it website, e.g. data on the number of establishments, farms, animals and further information on the national livestock are available for consultation by date/territory/species. In addition, by entering the ear tag number of the animal concerned, some data is also publicly available on the website (e.g. date of birth, sex, breed and type of movement).
62. The audit team noted that as of 31 December 2020 138,925 cattle holdings and 5,632,978 bovine animals (2,655,149 dairy cows) were registered in the database.
63. All information is recorded in the BDN in real-time, therefore all changes made to the data are effective and visible immediately. In addition to the web application, a mobile device (e.g. tablet or phone) application is available for users.
64. The BDN is the official national registry for farms, each of which is identified by a unique national code, address and geographical coordinates. It keeps information on the registration and identification of bovine animals (cattle and buffalos), on events (e.g. births, deaths, thefts, losses, etc.) and on movements related to bovine animals. It also keeps information on slaughter activities (i.e. if a bovine animal was slaughtered as emergency or if it was found fit for consumption after the PMI).

65. Movements are recorded in accordance with the Ministerial Decree of 31 January 2002 and the operating manual of the BDN.
66. Animals are accompanied by the document of origin and destination (“Model 4” document) that includes information on:
 - the farm of origin and destination and the identification of the animals;
 - treatments with veterinary medicinal products and the food chain information (FCI) in line with the provisions of Regulation (EC) No 853/2004;
 - transport details (transporter’s name and surname, license plate number and authorisation of the vehicle);
 - where necessary, the health certificate issued by the veterinarian (veterinary validation of the electronic “Model 4” document).
67. In accordance with the Ministerial Decree of 28 June 2016, “Model 4” has been filled in electronically in the BDN since 2 September 2017, thus eliminating any paper document.
68. Since 2 March 2020, bovine movements can be recorded automatically in the BDN, starting from the electronic “Model 4” document.
69. Before the outgoing movement, the operator (or his/her delegate) of the farm of departure prepares the electronic “Model 4” document with all the information required and inputs it into the BDN. The BDN generates a message on the planned movement and submits it with the completed “Model 4” document to the CA, to the destination and to the transporter. The CA can see the movement document by accessing the BDN.
70. Within 7 days of the date of departure/expected date of arrival of the animals indicated in the document (“transport” section), the operators of the farms of departure/arrival can record the information in the BDN, which confirms or corrects the data entered at the time of creation of the “Model 4” document.
71. On the seventh day from the date of departure/expected date of arrival, the information system checks the movement registration and, if not already recorded by the operator manually, the incoming/outgoing movement is automatically recorded in the BDN using the information contained in the “Model 4” document. Within the seven-day period, in the case of any mistake, the operator can cancel the movement or amend the data entered (see also paragraph 78.).
72. The movement cannot be completed if the release of the “Model 4” document is blocked by the system, e.g. for animal health or other reason.
73. Passports (individual identification documents) are mandatory when the animals are transported abroad (to other MS or to third countries). For movements within the territory of Italy, all data required are available in the form of the “Model 4” document, therefore no passports are required.

74. Operators, their delegates and CAs have been provided with technical information in the form of ministerial circulars published on the www.vetinfo.it website. If help is needed, operators and CAs can contact the CSN through the call centre or by e-mail.
75. Farmers may order ear tags to identify animals from a supplier through the BDN, which generates the unique identification code (ear tag number). This request is verified by the ASL.
76. In accordance with the relevant national requirements, slaughterhouse operators (or their delegates) are required to register the information on slaughtered cattle in the BDN within 7 days of slaughter. The CSN informed the audit team that this registration is not automatically recorded by the system after 7 days.
77. For the consistency and quality of the data contained in the database, the system periodically prepares indicators on the data quality and reports on anomalies, which are presented on specific dashboards and reported to the system users and to the responsible CAs. Some of these indicators are, for example, the percentage of breeding farms with: a high number of animals with anomalies; a high number of twin births; a high number of ear tag replacements, a high number of incomplete movements, etc.
78. The system provides the users with a full list of anomalies and descriptions of how to correct them. Operators are obliged to correct those anomalies that are under their responsibility. ASL can see all anomalies for which the operators under their jurisdiction have responsibility and may impose sanctions if operators do not fulfil their obligations regarding their correction.
79. In addition, the system provides the CAs with functionalities that allow the continuous monitoring and evaluation of the data present in the BDN through thematic dashboards and regular reports. One of the reports provided by the system allows the CA to monitor the recording time of events or movements by the operators (i.e. whether they comply with the seven-day deadline). According to the data (from November 2020) provided by the CNS, 97.9% of the entry movements and 97.3% of the exit movements are registered within 7 days (in 2019 these figures were 93% and 89.3% respectively), while for slaughter registration this figure is 89.8%. The CCA confirmed to the audit team that the introduction of the electronic transport document (“Model 4”) and the automatic registration of the movements in the BDN, have significantly reduced the delays in movement registration.
80. The audit team also noted that there are approximately 2,000 bovine animals in the system with incomplete movements (“floating animals”) on a monthly basis.

5.4.2 Official controls at establishment level (slaughterhouses)

Legal requirements

Article 18(1) to (5) of Regulation (EU) 2017/625.

Articles 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 and 8 of Regulation (EU) 2019/624.

Articles 10 to 19, 29, 30, 33, 34 and 43 of Regulation (EU) 2019/627.

Findings

Ante-mortem inspection

81. The AMI at slaughterhouses of domestic ungulates is always carried out by OVs irrespective of the size of the slaughterhouse. The audit team was informed by the CCA that there are no official auxiliaries in Italy. There are no national guidelines on AMI. The audit team noted that two of the regions audited have issued guidelines on AMI requirements to support the work of their OVs when carrying out AMI at the slaughterhouse.
82. AMI consists of controls on animal welfare during transport and unloading, on identification of animals, checks on the documents accompanying the animals (“Model 4” document which includes FCI), and clinical examination of animals (detailed if abnormalities are observed). AMI also includes controls on the cleanliness of animals sent for slaughter.
83. The audit team was informed by the OVs interviewed during the VC meetings that identification checks mainly consist of verifying whether the FBO of the slaughterhouse fulfils his/her obligations in this regard. For example, in one of the slaughterhouses, the OV explained to the audit team that he/she cross-checks the ear tag numbers of all inspected animals against a list of animals whose identities had already been verified by the FBO in BDN. In the case of any suspicion, the OV can verify the identity of the animal concerned directly in the BDN as OVs have full access to the database. In addition, the FBO is obliged to inform the OV on any non-compliances detected in relation to the traceability of the animals for slaughter.
84. In the case where the traceability of the animal is not provided, the animal is killed and disposed of or, if already slaughtered, the carcass is condemned at PMI.
85. OVs must record all AMI findings and, based on the results, the animals are either released for slaughter or are rejected. According to the information provided by the OVs based in a large-capacity slaughterhouse, in 2019, 438 cows were rejected at AMI out of a total of 160,928 cows slaughtered. The audit team noted that the majority of these animals (308) were found dead on arrival at the slaughterhouse.

Procedures for poultry

86. The CCA and the Regional CAs informed the audit team that AMI of poultry is always carried out by OVs (i.e. no official auxiliary or slaughterhouse staff involved). The audit team was also informed that AMI can be carried out both on the farm (in some cases) and in the slaughterhouse, depending on the arrangements, but an OV is always present at the slaughterhouse (regardless of its capacity) and performs the AMI.

Post-mortem inspection

87. Similarly to AMI, there are no national guidelines on PMI. PMI is carried out exclusively by OV(s) who, in large/medium-capacity bovine slaughterhouses are permanently present during slaughter operation. In a large-capacity slaughterhouse, slaughtering approximately 190,000 heads of cattle annually, the audit team was informed by the ASL that two OVs are always present at PMI (in addition to two OVs also present at AMI). However, in low-capacity slaughterhouses (slaughtering fewer than 1,000 livestock units per year), there are procedures in place that the meat and offal are stored by the FBO until the PMI is carried out by the OV, in line with the provisions of Article 13(1) of Regulation (EU) 2019/627 (Derogation on the timing of PMI). Guidelines are available at regional level on the risk assessment to be performed in order to grant such a derogation. The audit team saw evidence when an administrative order was issued by the ASL to provide an FBO with the requirements he/she had to comply with (e.g. no parts of the carcass can be removed from the slaughterhouse until the completion of the PMI). In addition, OV must carry out PMI on the same day that the animals are slaughtered (PMI is usually completed the same morning).
88. The audit team saw evidence that PMI findings are duly recorded and the OVs interviewed during the VC meetings provided the audit team with detailed statistical information on the results of PMI. In a large-capacity slaughterhouse, in 2020, 1,498 cows' carcasses were condemned out of the 146,617 cows slaughtered. The audit team was also informed by the OVs that any suspicion detected at AMI is communicated to the OV performing PMI. In addition, one of the OVs interviewed informed the audit team that in the case of PMI findings which would be relevant to the holding of provenance (e.g. *cysticercosis*), feedback is given to the breeder of the animal on the form provided in Annex I to Regulation (EU) 2019/627.
89. Health marking of carcasses of animals found fit for consumption is either carried out by the OV himself/herself or by FBO staff under the OV's supervision.

Procedures for poultry

90. The CCA and the regional CAs informed the audit team that PMI arrangements for poultry are the same as described for bovine animals, including those for low-capacity establishments (slaughtering fewer than 150,000 poultry per year).

Emergency slaughter at the holding of provenance

91. Annually, approximately 10,000 bovine animals are subject to emergency slaughter on the farm (due to being unfit for transport) and around half of these are cull cows (cows older than 4 years). The majority of these animals had suffered an accident, which prevented their transport for welfare reasons. Nonetheless, there is a small number of animals – in a large-capacity slaughterhouse approximately 11% (513 animals) in 2019 and 23% (851 animals) in 2020 – that have been subject to emergency slaughter for other reasons (i.e. animals suffering from metabolic disorders (see paragraph 5.) or

pregnant animals with difficulty calving and which are not considered as fit for transport). This practice is not in line with the provisions of point (1) of Chapter VI of Section I of Annex III to Regulation (EC) No 853/2004.

NB.: It should be noted that the EU legislation concerning slaughter at the holding of provenance of animals, other than emergency slaughter, is currently under review, the outcome of which could impact on the legality or otherwise of this practice as described above.

92. The audit team noted that stunning, sticking and bleeding of animals for emergency slaughter on the farm requires an official certificate of competence in accordance with Article 7 of Regulation (EC) No 1099/2009.
93. AMI of emergency slaughtered animals on the farm are mainly carried out by OVs (see paragraphs 21. and 22. for more details). After the AMI, the OV issues a health certificate, in accordance with Annex V of Regulation (EU) 2019/628, which accompanies the carcass to the slaughterhouse.
94. PMI of emergency slaughtered animals are carried out at the slaughterhouse by an OV and includes taking muscle and liver samples for laboratory analyses (bacteriological and residues). The carcass must be retained until the laboratory results are available.
95. According to the information received from the OV based in a large-capacity slaughterhouse, approximately 10% of carcasses from emergency slaughter outside the slaughterhouse were found unfit for human consumption at the PMI.
96. The audit team noted that there are also arrangements in place to carry out PMI of emergency slaughtered animals outside of normal working hours and on public holidays.

Other official controls at slaughterhouse level

97. The “National guidelines on official controls under Regulations (EC) Nos 882/2004 and 854/2004” includes the provision of guidance for CAs at all levels on the prioritisation of official controls.
98. Based on the review of documentation the audit team noted that in all three of the reviewed slaughterhouses the frequency of official controls is based on risk assessment. The minimum inspection/verification/audit frequency is determined annually by the ASLs and, in general, checklists are used during visits. Official control reports were made available to the audit team.
99. These checks, *inter alia*, cover pre-operational sanitation procedures, Good Hygiene Practices, HACCP, traceability, FBOs` compliance with microbiological criteria, health marking, compliance with the importing third country`s requirements (if applicable) and animal welfare at the time of slaughter (see Chapter 5.4.3).

5.4.3 Animal welfare at transport and at the time of slaughter or killing

Legal requirements

Article 18(2)(d)(vi) of Regulation (EU) 2017/625.

Regulation (EC) No 1099/2009

Articles 38 and 44 of Regulation (EU) 2019/627.

Findings

100. The MH has issued national guidelines on the implementation of Regulation (EC) No 1099/2009. These guidelines contain provisions regarding the official controls to be carried out by OVs, and include a checklist to be applied. It is mandatory for these checks to be performed with the checklist at least once a year, or whenever considered necessary based on risk assessment.
101. The audit team noted that the minimum frequency of animal welfare controls at the time of slaughter was achieved in 2020 in all three of the reviewed slaughterhouses (the frequency of these controls varied from once to four times a year).
102. The audit team also noted that official controls identify animals unfit for transport that have not had an accident and also evaluate fitness for transport before unloading the animals from the vehicle. In accordance with the procedure in place, animals are slaughtered on the truck if they are incapacitated or are euthanized when they are found to be unfit for slaughter during the AMI.
103. Evidence was seen of when the OV had launched an investigation and imposed a fine (in accordance with the provisions of Legislative Decree No 151 of 25 July 2007) against the transporter and/or the breeder concerned. In the cases presented to the audit team the fine imposed was approximately EUR 2,000. The official control reports contained the detailed description of the case, including AMI and PMI findings which were illustrated with photos of the injured animals.
104. In a large capacity slaughterhouse, the audit team noted that only a small number of animals were found to be unfit for transport (in 2019, 14 animals out of 188,152 and in 2020, 19 animals out of 172,896). In this context, the audit team also noted that most of the animals considered unfit for transport were emergency slaughtered on the farm and the carcasses were transported to the slaughterhouse (see paragraph 91.).
105. As regards controls on animal welfare during transport, in 2019, a total of 34 non-compliances were found with respect to bovine animals. Checks were performed at the arrival at the slaughterhouses for both long and short journey transports, but were also performed at the beginning of long journeys.
106. Roadside checks to monitor animal welfare during transport are carried out by the police in cooperation with the ASLs.

107. One of the regional CAs provided the audit team with a report on a regional audit, carried out in 2019, on the official controls under the Regional Animal Welfare Plan during slaughter and killing (including verification of official controls on fitness of animals for transport and on the related documents). During this audit, the performance of OVs in a large-capacity slaughterhouse and of the competent Local Veterinary Services in relation to the mentioned animal welfare checks were evaluated. The audit concluded that the findings demonstrated the effectiveness of the official controls and that these controls were in line with the regional and national guidelines.

Conclusions on organisation and implementation of official controls

108. Official controls on holdings, bovine identification and registration are risk-based, are supported by IT systems and are in line with EU requirements.

109. The BDN is highly developed/elaborated and equipped with IT tools supporting both official controls and FBOs. The introduction of the electronic transport document and the automatic registration of movements in the BDN have significantly reduced the delays in movement registration.

110. AMI and PMI procedures at bovine and poultry slaughterhouses are in line with the relevant EU requirements.

111. The emergency slaughter system is largely in line with the requirements of Regulation (EC) No 853/2004 and is mainly used for healthy animals that have suffered an accident and are unfit to travel to the slaughterhouse for welfare reasons. Nonetheless, there is a small number of bovine animals, subject to emergency slaughter, that do not match this requirement. The national requirements on emergency slaughter (sampling for laboratory analyses at PMI) provide a high level of assurance that meat unfit for human consumption does not enter the food chain.

112. The procedures in place and the controls implemented can, to a large extent, prevent the transport of unfit animals to the slaughterhouse.

113. Official controls on general and specific hygiene requirements at slaughterhouses are risk-based. When non-compliances are detected, follow up is carried out.

5.5 RAPID ALERT SYSTEM FOR FOOD AND FEED (RASFF)

Legal requirements

Article 50 of Regulation (EC) No 178/2002 of the European Parliament and of the Council and Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2019/1715 (IMSOC Regulation).

Findings

114. The audit team followed up a fraudulent case of when Italy launched a RASFF notification due to forged identity documents (bovine passports) accompanying some

bovine animals coming from another MS to an Italian slaughterhouse for slaughter. The audit team noted that the false identity of the animals concerned was recognised and measures were taken by the CAs to withdraw the meat from the market. The audit team noted that the investigation and the measures taken were in cooperation with the MH (RASFF contact point) and with other regions concerned.

Conclusion on Rapid Alert System for Food and Feed

115. CAs procedures ensure that the RASFF notifications are followed up in a satisfactory way.

6 OVERALL CONCLUSIONS

The MH is the CCA over the bovine sector, including food safety, animal health, welfare and animal identification.

Legislation, procedures and guidelines for official controls are in place at national, regional and local CA levels.

The system largely fulfils the legal requirements of the OCR, excluding the procedures that allow the emergency slaughter of bovine animals that do not meet the criteria established in EU law. However, certain procedures/guidelines were not up-to-date and, as a result, contrary to certain provisions in the EU legislation. Consequently, there is a small number of animals subject to emergency slaughter that do not fit this requirement (i.e. animals suffering from metabolic disorders or pregnant animals with difficulty calving (*dystocia*) and which are considered as unfit for transport).

The official staff performs controls regarding bovine identification and holding registration, animal welfare, checks of the FCI and on hygiene requirements during slaughter. Evidence was available that non-compliances are followed up properly and that enforcement measures (including the imposition of sanctions) were taken.

The BDN is highly developed/elaborated (includes electronic animal movement documents and automatic entry/exit movement registration) and equipped with analytical, statistical, and reporting tools supporting official controls as well as FBOs.

AMI and PMI for both bovine animals and poultry are organised in line with the relevant EU requirements and the procedures in place deal with any potential conflict of interest.

The procedures in place and the controls implemented can, to a large extent, prevent the transport of unfit animals to the slaughterhouse.

Approximately 10,000 bovine animals per annum, deemed unfit for transport, are subject to emergency slaughter on farm, and around half of these are cull cows. The data provided shows that the majority of these animals had suffered an accident preventing their transport for welfare reasons.

The national requirements on emergency slaughter (sampling for laboratory analyses at PMI) provide a high level of assurance that meat unfit for human consumption does not enter the food chain.

7 CLOSING MEETING

A closing meeting was held on 29 January 2021 with the CCA. At this meeting, the audit team presented the main findings and preliminary conclusions of the audit and advised the CCA of the relevant time limits for the production of the report and their response.

The representatives of CCA acknowledged the findings and conclusions presented by the audit team.

8 RECOMMENDATIONS

The central competent authority should provide the Commission services with an action plan, including a timetable for its completion, within 25 working days of receipt of the translated draft report, intended to address the shortcomings identified and, in particular, the following recommendation:

No.	Recommendation
1.	<p>The CCA should ensure that the procedures applied and the relevant guidelines concerning the bovine meat sector (including those related to emergency slaughter of domestic ungulates outside the slaughterhouse) are updated to ensure that they are in line with the requirements of relevant EU legislation.</p> <p><i>Recommendation based on conclusion No 7.</i></p> <p><i>Associated finding No 5.</i></p>

The competent authority's response to the recommendations can be found at:

http://ec.europa.eu/food/audits-analysis/rep_details_en.cfm?rep_inspection_ref=2021-7186

ANNEX 1 – LEGAL REFERENCES

Legal Reference	Official Journal	Title
Reg. 1760/2000	OJ L 204, 11.8.2000, p. 1-10	Regulation (EC) No 1760/2000 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 17 July 2000 establishing a system for the identification and registration of bovine animals and regarding the labelling of beef and beef products and repealing Council Regulation (EC) No 820/97
Reg. 1825/2000	OJ L 216, 26.8.2000, p. 8-12	Commission Regulation (EC) No 1825/2000 of 25 August 2000 laying down detailed rules for the application of Regulation (EC) No 1760/2000 of the European Parliament and of the Council as regards the labelling of beef and beef products
Reg. 178/2002	OJ L 31, 1.2.2002, p. 1-24	Regulation (EC) No 178/2002 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 28 January 2002 laying down the general principles and requirements of food law, establishing the European Food Safety Authority and laying down procedures in matters of food safety
Reg. 1082/2003	OJ L 156, 25.6.2003, p. 9-12	Commission Regulation (EC) No 1082/2003 of 23 June 2003 laying down detailed rules for the implementation of Regulation (EC) No 1760/2000 of the European Parliament and of the Council as regards the minimum level of controls to be carried out in the framework of the system for the identification and registration of bovine animals
Reg. 852/2004	OJ L 139, 30.4.2004, p. 1, Corrected and re-published in OJ L 226, 25.6.2004, p. 3	Regulation (EC) No 852/2004 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 29 April 2004 on the hygiene of foodstuffs
Reg. 853/2004	OJ L 139, 30.4.2004, p. 55, Corrected and re-published in OJ L 226, 25.6.2004, p. 22	Regulation (EC) No 853/2004 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 29 April 2004 laying down specific hygiene rules for food of animal origin

Reg. 911/2004	OJ L 163, 30.4.2004, p. 65-70	Commission Regulation (EC) No 911/2004 of 29 April 2004 implementing Regulation (EC) No 1760/2000 of the European Parliament and of the Council as regards eartags, passports and holding registers
Reg. 2074/2005	OJ L 338, 22.12.2005, p. 27-59	Commission Regulation (EC) No 2074/2005 of 5 December 2005 laying down implementing measures for certain products under Regulation (EC) No 853/2004 of the European Parliament and of the Council and for the organisation of official controls under Regulation (EC) No 854/2004 of the European Parliament and of the Council and Regulation (EC) No 882/2004 of the European Parliament and of the Council, derogating from Regulation (EC) No 852/2004 of the European Parliament and of the Council and amending Regulations (EC) No 853/2004 and (EC) No 854/2004
Reg. 2073/2005	OJ L 338, 22.12.2005, p. 1-26	Commission Regulation (EC) No 2073/2005 of 15 November 2005 on microbiological criteria for foodstuffs
Reg. 931/2011	OJ L 242, 20.9.2011, p. 2-3	Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) No 931/2011 of 19 September 2011 on the traceability requirements set by Regulation (EC) No 178/2002 of the European Parliament and of the Council for food of animal origin
Reg. 1169/2011	OJ L 304, 22.11.2011, p. 18-63	Regulation (EU) No 1169/2011 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 25 October 2011 on the provision of food information to consumers, amending Regulations (EC) No 1924/2006 and (EC) No 1925/2006 of the European Parliament and of the Council, and repealing Commission Directive 87/250/EEC, Council Directive 90/496/EEC, Commission Directive 1999/10/EC, Directive 2000/13/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council, Commission Directives 2002/67/EC and 2008/5/EC and Commission Regulation (EC) No 608/2004

Dir. 98/83/EC	OJ L 330, 5.12.1998, p. 32-54	Council Directive 98/83/EC of 3 November 1998 on the quality of water intended for human consumption
Reg. 1099/2009	OJ L 303, 18.11.2009, p. 1-30	Council Regulation (EC) No 1099/2009 of 24 September 2009 on the protection of animals at the time of killing
Reg. 1/2005	OJ L 3, 5.1.2005, p. 1-44	Council Regulation (EC) No 1/2005 of 22 December 2004 on the protection of animals during transport and related operations and amending Directives 64/432/EEC and 93/119/EC and Regulation (EC) No 1255/97
Reg. 2017/625	OJ L 95, 7.4.2017, p. 1-142	Regulation (EU) 2017/625 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 15 March 2017 on official controls and other official activities performed to ensure the application of food and feed law, rules on animal health and welfare, plant health and plant protection products, amending Regulations (EC) No 999/2001, (EC) No 396/2005, (EC) No 1069/2009, (EC) No 1107/2009, (EU) No 1151/2012, (EU) No 652/2014, (EU) 2016/429 and (EU) 2016/2031 of the European Parliament and of the Council, Council Regulations (EC) No 1/2005 and (EC) No 1099/2009 and Council Directives 98/58/EC, 1999/74/EC, 2007/43/EC, 2008/119/EC and 2008/120/EC, and repealing Regulations (EC) No 854/2004 and (EC) No 882/2004 of the European Parliament and of the Council, Council Directives 89/608/EEC, 89/662/EEC, 90/425/EEC, 91/496/EEC, 96/23/EC, 96/93/EC and 97/78/EC and Council Decision 92/438/EEC (Official Controls Regulation)Text with EEA relevance.
Reg. 2019/624	OJ L 131, 17.5.2019, p. 1-17	Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) 2019/624 of 8 February 2019 concerning specific rules for the performance of official controls on the production of meat and for production and relaying areas of live bivalve molluscs in accordance with Regulation (EU) 2017/625 of the European Parliament and of the Council

Reg. 2019/627	OJ L 131, 17.5.2019, p. 51–100	Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2019/627 of 15 March 2019 laying down uniform practical arrangements for the performance of official controls on products of animal origin intended for human consumption in accordance with Regulation (EU) 2017/625 of the European Parliament and of the Council and amending Commission Regulation (EC) No 2074/2005 as regards official controls
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