



EUROPEAN COMMISSION
HEALTH & CONSUMER PROTECTION DIRECTORATE-GENERAL
Directorate F - Food and Veterinary Office

DG(SANCO)/8182/2006 – MR Final

**FINAL REPORT OF A MISSION
CARRIED OUT IN IRELAND
FROM 24 APRIL TO 5 MAY 2006
IN ORDER TO EVALUATE THE IMPLEMENTATION
OF EU ANIMAL HEALTH REQUIREMENTS FOR
INTRA-COMMUNITY TRADE IN LIVE ANIMALS**

Please note that factual errors in the draft report have been corrected. Clarifications provided by the Irish Competent Authorities are given in footnotes, in bold, italic, type, to the relevant part of the report.



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ABBREVIATIONS & SPECIAL TERMS USED IN THE REPORT

AAC	Approved Assembly Centre
AH	Animal Health
AHCS	Animal Health Computer System
CCA	Central Competent Authority
CMMS	Cattle Movement and Monitoring System
CSF	Classical Swine Fever
CVO	Chief Veterinary Officer
DAF	Department of Agriculture and Food
DVO	District Veterinary Office
EBL	Enzootic bovine leucosis
FVO	Food and Veterinary Office
ICT	Intra-Community trade (of live animals)
NGIS	National Goat identification System
NI	Northern Ireland
NSIS	National Sheep Identification System
NPITS	National Pig Identification and Tracing System
OV	Official veterinarian
PH	Public Health
PVP	Private Veterinary Practitioner
UK	United Kingdom
SVD	Swine Vesicular Disease
SVI	Superintending Veterinary Inspector
SSVI	Senior Superintending Veterinary Inspector
TAO	Technical Agricultural Officer
TB	Bovine tuberculosis
TRACES	Trade Control and Expert System
TVI	Temporary Veterinary Inspector
UK	United Kingdom
VI	Veterinary Inspector

1. INTRODUCTION

The mission took place in Ireland from 24 April to 5 May 2006. The mission team comprised 2 inspectors from the Food and Veterinary Office (FVO).

The mission was undertaken as part of the FVO's planned mission programme.

The inspection team was accompanied during the whole mission by a representative from the central competent authority (CCA) - Department of Agriculture and Food (DAF), Veterinary Inspectorate.

An opening meeting was held on 24 April 2006 with the CCA. At this meeting, the objectives of, and itinerary for, the mission were confirmed by the inspection team, and additional information required for the satisfactory completion of the mission requested.

2. OBJECTIVES OF THE MISSION

The objective of the mission was to evaluate the measures and control systems put in place to give effect to requirements of the European Union (EU), concerning intra-Community trade in live animals of the bovine, porcine, ovine, caprine and equine species (ICT), in the framework of Council Directives 64/432/EEC, 91/68/EEC and 90/425/EEC¹.

In pursuit of this objective, the following sites were visited:

VISITS		COMMENTS
COMPETENT AUTHORITIES		
CENTRAL	1	
REGIONAL		None visited but the CAs of 2 regions were present at visits in the District Veterinary Offices (DVOs)
LOCAL	5	DVOs
BORDER INSPECTION POINTS	1	Dublin port
LIVE ANIMALS CONTROL SITES		
Animal holdings	10	3 cattle, 3 sheep and 2 pig holdings, 2 stud farms
Approved Assembly centres (ACCs)	2	1 for cattle, 1 for sheep and goats
Approved dealers	4	4 cattle dealers with their own premises
Transporters	1	
ESTABLISHMENTS		
Slaughterhouses	1	Approved for cattle and sheep

¹ References to EU legislation cited in this report are set out in the Annex attached.

3. LEGAL BASIS FOR THE MISSION AND OTHER RELEVANT LEGISLATION

The mission was carried out under the general provisions of Community legislation, and in particular Article 45 of Regulation (EC) No 882/2004 of the European Parliament and of the Council.

The EU legislation relevant to this mission is listed in the Annex.

4. BACKGROUND

4.1. Background to the series of missions

Council Directives 64/432/EEC and 91/68/EEC lay down the animal health (AH) requirements applicable to ICT.

In accordance with Council Directive 90/425/EEC the Member States shall establish control systems in order to ensure the implementation of veterinary and zootechnical checks applicable in intra-Community trade.

The considerable volume of intra-Community trade between Member States represents a risk of spreading animal diseases.

Furthermore, previous FVO missions to Member States have identified deficiencies in the control systems in place in respect of animal health requirements for intra-Community trade. These mission reports can be consulted on the following Internet website:

http://europa.eu.int/comm/food/fs/inspections/index_en.html

Whilst certain aspects of intra-Community trade have been subject to various FVO inspections, the control systems as a whole have not yet been evaluated.

4.2. Intra-Community trade information

The CA provided the following data, in relation to ICT in live animals in 2005:

	ANIMALS LEAVING IRELAND	ANIMALS ARRIVING IN IRELAND
Cattle for slaughter (to UK only)	N.a*	0
Cattle "other reasons"	176 111	998
Pigs for slaughter (to/from UK only)	488 174	53 292
Pigs "other reasons"	3 218	62
Equidae **(Non-Tripartite)	1 864	N.a. *
Sheep and goats for slaughter	104 202	281 314 (only from UK)
Sheep and goats "other reasons"	645	931 (only from UK)
In TOTAL	774 214	336 597

* N.a. Data was not available. However, most Irish cattle destined for UK (26 897 in 2005) were in this category.

** No statistics were available on "Tripartite" equidae.

4.3. Animal health situation in Ireland

The AH situation of Ireland in relation to the most relevant diseases which affect ICT are presented in the following table:

DISEASE	LAST CASE REPORTED	REFERENCE
Foot-and-mouth disease	2001	CCA
Bovine tuberculosis (TB)*	2006	CCA
Bovine brucellosis*	2006	CCA
Enzootic bovine leucosis (EBL)	Officially free	Commission Decision 2003/467/EC
<i>Brucella melitensis</i> in sheep and goats*	Officially free	Commission Decision 93/52/EC
Anthrax	1970	CCA
Rabies	1903	CCA
Classical swine fever (CSF)	1858	CCA
African swine fever (ASF)	Never	CCA
Swine vesicular disease (SVD)	Never	CCA
Aujeszky's disease**	2006	CCA
African horse sickness	Never	CCA

* Approved control programmes (Commission Decision 2005/873/EC)

** National control programme

5. MAIN FINDINGS

5.1. Legislation

Ireland has transposed legislation on ICT into national law.

France, Ireland and UK have a tripartite agreement concerning the movement and trade of equidae, is based on Art 6 of Council Directive 90/426/EEC, which allows MS to grant one another derogations from the requirements for inspection and certification prior to movement and ICT between them provided that equivalent AH guarantees are implemented. The agreement exempts registered equidae and equidae for breeding and production from the requirement for an inspection as set out in Art 4(1), second sentence, and a health certificate as laid down in Annex B or Annex C of Council Directive 90/426/EEC. The registered equidae are also exempt from the requirement for the route plan required under Council Directive 91/628/EEC and Council Regulation (EC) No 1/2005.

Some discrepancies were noted between the Community legislation and the national legislation:

- Ireland still applies a residency and standstill derogation for ICT of slaughter sheep between Ireland and Northern Ireland (NI) as given in Art 5(4) of Commission Decision 2003/483/EC, although this Decision expired on 1 July 2004. The CAs of NI and Ireland agreed to continue with the existing arrangement on the understanding that the Commission would make a proposal to extend this derogation (evidence of correspondence between the Commission Services and Ireland was seen by the FVO inspection team)².
- The definition of dealers, as given in Statutory Instrument No 79 of 2001 (Approval and Registration of Dealers and Dealers' Premises Order), differs from the definition in Art 11 of Council Directive 64/432/EEC. According to the national legislation, the dealer is someone who buys and sells the animals within 45 days, whereas in Community legislation the limit is 30 days³.

5.2. Competent authority performance

5.2.1. Designation of competent authorities and operational criteria

The Irish CAs responsible for ICT of live animals comprise the CCA, 4 regional CAs (RCA, South East, South West, North East and North West), and 28 DVOs in 26 districts.

CCA

The CCA, the Veterinary Inspectorate of DAF, is headed by the Chief Veterinary officer (CVO) and 3 Deputy CVOs. One deals with EU policy, international trade and epizootics, another with DVOs/Field operations and List B diseases and the third with public health (PH). The veterinary PH inspection service is involved in ICT of live animals only in relation to arriving slaughter animals.

Official veterinarians (OVs) assigned to international trade in live animals comprise one Senior Superintending Veterinary Inspector (SSVI), one Superintending Veterinary Inspector (SVI) and one Veterinary Inspector (VI), reporting to a Deputy Chief Veterinary Officer (DCVO). All OVs report ultimately to the CVO.

The CCA has the overall responsibility for the preparation of legislation and co-ordination of activities of the RCAs and local CAs (LCAs) in relation to ICT.

² *In their response to the draft report, the Irish Authorities noted that they have received a commitment from the Commission to amend the legislation to include the residency and standstill derogation and that they await the Commission submission of a proposal to meet this commitment.*

³ *In their response to the draft report, the Irish Authorities noted that the legislation is under review and is likely to be brought into line with the EU legislation.*

Regional and local CA

OVs involved with ICT are based at local DVOs. At regional level, these DVOs are under the supervision of four regional SSVIs. Each DVO is staffed by one SVI, a variable number of VIs, and occasionally temporary VIs (TVIs). The DVO is also supported by a complement of administrative and technical staff, including technical agricultural officers (TAOs). The total number of full-time VIs employed at DVOs was 330.

The OVs in the slaughterhouses oversee the implementation of veterinary controls in relation to arriving slaughter animals. These OVs are under the supervision of six regionally-based SVIs. The OVs in the slaughterhouses are assisted by TAOs and TVIs.

Contracted staff

In addition to the VIs, private veterinary practitioners (PVPs) are contracted to carry out testing of cattle for TB and brucellosis, and of swine for Aujeszky's disease.

5.2.2. Co-ordination, information flow and official controls within the veterinary service

Regular meetings are held within the CCA. Regional meetings covering all DVOs are organised four times yearly. Minutes of these meetings were available (the last one was in February 2006). The CA in the DVOs visited stated that the RCA would come and visit them once every two months. The DVOs in the districts visited had monthly meetings with their staff and the PVPs contracted to carry out AH tasks.

The VIs of the DVOs carry out annual controls of the performance of the PVPs and evidence was seen of actions taken in the case of insufficient performance. The DVOs send monthly reports of their activities to the RCAs, who compile and forward them to the CCA (examples of reports seen).

An internal audit unit has been established within the Veterinary PH Division of DAF to meet the requirements of Art 4(6) of Council Regulation (EC) No. 882/2004.

The CCA has issued a Live Animal Trade Manual comprising guidelines for certification and international transport of live animals, including detailed instructions for the sending of cattle, pigs and sheep to other MS. In addition, several separate notices on ICT have been issued (these were also available on the intranet). Instructions in relation to ICT of equidae are not included in the manual, as the processing of all documents relating to such trade is carried out centrally and is subject to separate instruction.

A separate, detailed TRACES manual with guidelines for using TRACES for ICT was available.

Both manuals had been updated regularly and the updates were also available on the intranet.

A notice on the lifting of the UK BSE embargo (entry into force of Commission Regulation (EC) No 657/2006) was issued on 2 May 2006.

The CAs met used the different computer databases effectively.

5.2.3. Training

The CCA participated in TRACES training organised by the Commission in 2005 and has organised training for TRACES for the DVOs in 2004 and 2005. The participants were then expected to assist in the training of the remaining personnel in their DVOs. In 2005, training was also organised on the use of the new AH database (AHCS). Staff training records were available at the headquarters.

Some shortcomings were noted in relation to the performance of the CA:

- The internal audit unit has not yet started carrying out audits;
- Some meetings between the different CAs or between the CA and PVPs were not documented;
- The VIs at the slaughterhouses had not yet participated in TRACES training;
- The instructions on ICT for arriving animals in the Live Animal Trade Manual were limited to cattle; and
- The TRACES Manual concentrated on the main species subject to ICT (cattle, pigs and sheep). Instructions for other species were limited or absent.

5.3. Animal identification, holding registration and movement controls

5.3.1. Animal identification

Cattle and pigs

The system of cattle identification and holding registration has been described in the report DG(SANCO)/8668/2002 available on the DG SANCO's Internet website.

The CA stated that pigs going for slaughter are identified with a slapmark. The device for slap-marking was demonstrated in one of the two pig holdings visited.

The cattle seen were all identified with two eartags and the pigs seen were identified either with a slapmark or, in the case of sows, eartags.

Sheep and goats

The system for the identification and registration of sheep in Ireland has been recognised as fully operational according to Art 4, point (2)(d) of Council Regulation (EC) No 21/2004 as of 9 July 2005 (Commission Decision 2005/597/EC).

The system for sheep identification has been described in detail in the report DG(SANCO)/7542/2005, available on the DG SANCO's Internet website.

All sheep destined for ICT must be double tagged before export, except slaughter sheep destined for NI, which can be exported with one eartag only. The two eartags for sheep destined for the continent have to be identical, bearing the same individual number and flock originator. In the case of fattening and breeding sheep for Great Britain or NI and slaughter sheep for Great Britain, the tags do not have to be identical. In this case the details of the right eartag should be recorded on the health certificate.

According to the CA, since 1 December 2005 all goats over 6 months old have to be double tagged (a tag in each ear), or earlier if moved from the holding of origin. The tags show the herd designator and an individual number.

The sheep seen were identified with double eartags, eartag and tattoo, or one ear tag only (slaughter sheep destined to NI or for domestic slaughter).

Horses

The horses seen were identified by means of an identification document attached to their passports. These documents had been issued by the breeding authority or CA which manages the studbook in the country of origin or an international organisation which manages the horses for competition or racing.

The following deficiencies were noted in relation to animal identification:

- The Community requirement of double eartags for slaughter sheep destined for ICT, as specified in Art 4, point 2 c, of Council Regulation (EC) No 21/2004, is not implemented for slaughter sheep traded between the UK and Ireland; and
- Some deficiencies were noted in relation to the identification documents of horses (for example, sometimes the wording of the identification in two different languages was not exactly the same; for one horse, two different identification documents existed. The extent of the difference in the two documents seen may suggest they did not describe the same animal).

5.3.2. Holding registers

All holdings have to be registered. The registration of cattle, sheep and goat holdings is administered by the DVOs, whereas the registration of pig holdings is carried out by a subcontracted company. The DVOs visited received information on new pig holdings from the company via email and did not have direct access to the database.

The format of the holding registers for pigs has not been fixed and registers were also kept in an electronic format. The format of the holding registers for cattle, sheep and goats has been fixed by the CCA.

The holding registers on sheep and pig holdings visited were well kept.

The following deficiencies were noted:

- The registers of one cattle dealer and one bovine holding visited were not up-to-date; and
- One DVO visited did not have up-to date information on the number of registered goat holdings.

5.3.3. *Movement controls and databases*

The systems of movement controls have been described in earlier reports (reports DG(SANCO) 8511/2002, 8668/2002, 9193/2003, and 7542/2005).

Cattle births, movements (holding to holding, through markets and to slaughter), and disposal are notified to the central database, the Cattle Movement Monitoring System (CMMS) managed by the CCA. The CCA has subcontracted the notification of births and the issuing of passports to a company (Calf Birth Registration Agency).

The livestock markets visited had on-line access to notify cattle movements to the CMMS. The cattle to be moved were accompanied by different dispatch documents, in addition to the passports, depending on the type of movement.

The passports of cattle inspected included records of movements and tests for bovine TB and brucellosis.

The CA met stated that movements of pigs are registered in the National Pig Identification and Tracing System (NPITS). This database is managed centrally by a private company. The movements are notified by the senders and recipients (each having their own individual password) by telephone.

Livestock are not allowed to move without dispatch documents.

Valid movement documents were available for the livestock seen at the dealers' premises, markets, assembly centres and slaughterhouse visited.

The following deficiencies were noted in relation to movement controls:

- Some delays in notification of the birth and of movements of cattle were sometimes noted;
- The original passports of cattle arriving from other MS are not sent back to the CA of the MS of origin, contrary to Art 6(1) of Regulation (EC) No 1760/2000;
- Some delays in issuing Irish passports for cattle arriving from other MS had occurred (for example, in one DVO, two animals had arrived from another MS in November 2005. These animals had not yet received their Irish passports as they had not yet been tested for bovine TB, brucellosis or EBL (see Chapter 5.6.2. for the testing regime of arriving cattle);
- The LCA do not have direct access to NPITS; and

- Some of the dispatch documents seen for sheep lacked some details (for example, signatures missing in relation to stays on markets).

5.4. Animal health requirements

Commission Decision 2003/467/EC recognises Ireland's official freedom from EBL and Commission Decision 93/52/EC recognises its freedom from *Brucella melitensis* infections in sheep and goats.

The CCA stated that samples from approximately 1400 flocks are selected at random throughout the country annually and tested for *Brucella melitensis*. All samples in 2004 and 2005 were negative.

National eradication programmes approved by the Commission Services were in place for bovine TB and brucellosis, bovine spongiform encephalopathy and scrapie. A national control and eradication programme for Aujeszky's disease was launched in 2002, including annual testing of all herds in the initial phase. The CCA stated that all cattle herds are subjected to annual testing for TB and brucellosis. Brucellosis and TB statistics for 2005 were received.

The testing results for TB and brucellosis are recorded in cattle passports. Evidence of movement restrictions based on AH problems was seen in the DVOs visited. For example, in the case of test results indicating a TB outbreak the cattle passports were withdrawn and the affected herd was under movement restrictions. The data were also entered into the national AH database, the AHCS. Information on the affected herds could be easily obtained.

Movement restrictions were also applied for pigs in relation to the eradication programme on Aujeszky's disease.

5.5. Controls on on assembly centres, dealers and transporters

5.5.1. Approval of sites

A clear procedure was in place for the approvals or registration of assembly centres, dealers, transporters. The approvals of the livestock markets visited dated back to 1967. Approvals were available for livestock (except equidae) transporters going overseas and for transporters going to NI if the transport time exceeded 8 hours. Transport vehicles used for shorter transports between NI and Ireland do not have to be authorised. The CCA stated that transporters of equidae would be subject to authorisation from 1 July 2007 onwards (date of entry into force of Council Regulation (EC) No 1/2005). The cleaning and disinfection sites for livestock vehicles at approved assembly centres, markets and slaughterhouses were not subject to a separate approval.

Ireland does not have any approved staging points.

The following shortcomings were noted:

- Approvals for livestock markets visited were not retrievable for the markets visited except for one (dating from 1967);

- The lists of livestock markets in operation were not always updated;
- One of the approved assembly centres (AAC) visited in connection with a dealers premises did not fulfil all Community requirements for an AAC. The CA met stated that this was because of emerging planning difficulties (for example, the weather protection for the loading bay was not completed); and
- Transporters of equidae do not have to be approved.

5.5.2. *Official control of the sites*

Approved assembly centres and markets

The AACs visited had, in general, adequate premises and installations, except for one AAC for cattle. The documentation of the movements was well kept and traceability was guaranteed for the cattle. At the sheep AAC visited, documentation on the movements was available for sheep sent on but not for sheep rejected for ICT.

Regular inspections of cattle markets visited had been carried out by TAOs (separate reports and checklists were available for inspections on cattle identification/passports hygiene, structures, animal welfare and transport). Annual inspection reports of the cattle markets by an OV were available.

The following shortcomings were noted:

- Sheep intended for ICT, but being rejected and returned to their holding of origin, were not recorded as having visited the AAC, and
- In the districts visited, sheep markets operated without being under supervision of the CA. (However, the CA met stated that they intend to have them under official supervision in the future).

Dealers

Three cattle dealers with their own premises were visited. All had, in addition, their own “static” bovine holding in the neighbourhood. These holdings were included in the visits. Inspection reports by OVs were available.

Two of the dealers visited had adequate premises and documentation of the animal movements.

The following deficiencies were noted:

- Although an isolation pen was available at one dealer’s premises visited two sick cattle were amongst the healthy animals (one very lame, one with a serious eye infection);
- The inspection report on the above dealer did not include all deficiencies noticed by the mission team; and

- Several cattle which were registered to be on one dealer's premises were found grazing on this dealer's own "static" holding premises. According to the CCA, these animals had been moved only one day before the FVO inspection team visit from the dealer's premises. However, some of these animals had arrived to the dealer's premises in February-March 2006 and had thus exceeded the national 45 days limit of stay on dealer's premises. In addition, the holding register of this holding had not been including in the official controls on the dealers activities.

Transporters

Lists of authorised transporters were available at the CCA and LCA. The transport vehicles were inspected regularly by specialist inspectors of the Wexford DVO at Rosslare Port (reports seen).

Cleaning and disinfection of livestock vehicles

The following shortcomings were noted:

- The official supervision of cleaning and disinfection of livestock transport vehicles was insufficient and lacked documentation;
- The livestock transporters did not keep any documentation on the cleaning and disinfection of their vehicles;
- The capacity of some of these sites was insufficient taking into account the large number of livestock vehicles seen on the sites; and
- At the slaughterhouse premises visited the drainage of this site was insufficient.

5.6. Controls on Intra-Community trade of live animals

5.6.1. Specific situation regarding ICT of sheep and goats for slaughter between NI and IE

Ireland and the UK have decided not to respect the provisions of residency and standstill requirements as laid down in Articles 4a(1)(b) and 4c(1) of Council Directive 91/68/EC, for trade of sheep and goats for slaughter between Ireland and NI.

Such a derogation was possible according to Article 5 (4) of Commission Decision 2003/483/EC, which expired on 30 June 2004.

The Irish CCA contacted the Commissioner for Health and Consumer Protection on 29 June 2004, requesting the Commission to put forward a proposal to allow the extension of the derogation. The same letter also mentioned that both countries had the intention to continue with existing certification arrangements for cross-border trade in sheep for slaughter.

This trade is still subject to certification from either side of the border. Certificates from NI and Ireland were seen, referring to the (expired) Commission Decision 2003/483/EC. The certificates from Ireland that the

mission team examined had the part of the certificate related to residency and standstill crossed out.

5.6.2. *For animals arriving in Ireland*

Systematic, discriminatory checks were in place for cattle arriving from other MS, including additional testing for bovine TB, brucellosis and EBL and treatment against warble flies⁴. According to the CCA, other livestock species were subjected to random checks at the point of destination at the discretion of the DVO. In the DVOs visited, TRACES was used to check if pre-notifications of arriving animals had arrived.

Cattle

The CCA stated that all arriving cattle are checked by the DVO staff for identity and AH status and their passports are taken. This check should take place within 7 days. The animals may not be moved further before they have been tested for bovine TB, brucellosis and EBL with satisfactory results and have received their Irish passports. The CA met stated that the costs of the tests and warble fly treatment is paid for from the CA budget (a receipt for warble fly treatment was seen).

Pigs

In one district visited the CA met stated that arriving breeding pigs were subjected to documentary, identity and AH checks. In other districts visited, the checks comprised documentary checks only.

Sheep and goats

The CA met stated that the arriving sheep and goats for breeding, production and fattening are only subjected to a documentary check.

In the slaughterhouse visited, the arriving sheep were given an AH check. The number of sheep per lot checked for their identity by the VI was limited to 3-5 animals. The slaughterhouse visited had also a fenced field which was used as an additional “lairage” (some sheep were out grazing on the day of the visit).

Ante-mortem records were available for the arriving sheep. Separate records were kept for sheep rejected for slaughter or arriving dead. However, there were some discrepancies between the sheep marked as rejected in the ante-mortem records and the rejects/dead at arrival records. Likewise, some discrepancies were noted between the number of sheep recorded in the certificate and the number of sheep in the commercial documents of the slaughterhouse (number of sheep paid for).

⁴ *In their response to the draft report, the Irish Authorities noted that such checks are necessary in the context of absorbing such animals into Ireland’s identification system, and are desirable in any event.*

The following shortcomings were noted in relation to checks on arriving slaughter sheep:

- No procedure had been put in place to ensure that sheep arriving are slaughtered at least within 72 hours of arrival at the slaughterhouse as required in Art 4b, point (5), of Council Directive 91/68/EEC⁵. (However, the CA met stated that slaughter sheep originating from NI are not allowed to enter the field and that they are slaughtered the following day at the latest);
- No procedure had been established to ensure that sheep arriving from other MS could not enter the pasture used as a provisional lairage⁶; and
- No clear explanation was available for the discrepancies between the number of sheep presented in the certificates and the number of sheep carcasses paid for. Furthermore, this discrepancy had not been noticed by the OV responsible for the supervision of the plant.

Equidae

Registered equidae and equidae for breeding and production arriving from France and the UK are exempted from checks (Tripartite agreement, see Chapter 5.1.). In one district visited stallions arriving from other MS were subjected to identity and documentary check, including the required test results for equine diseases. In other districts, the checks on horses comprised documentary checks only.

5.6.3. For animals leaving Ireland

Clear instructions were available for cattle, sheep, goats and pigs destined for ICT. These were compiled in the Live Trade Manual, which was available in the DVOs visited and also on the intranet.

Depending on the species and type of animal (breeding/production/slaughter), and destiny, the procedure comprised pre-announcement of the dispatch for ICT, inspection of the AH status and fitness for transport within 24 hours, check of their identity and of the required documentation (passports for cattle, movement documents for the other livestock species and test results (for example, for TB and brucellosis in cattle), and the issuing of the certificate.

Cattle leaving Ireland are channelled via AACs, where the final export certificates are issued.

⁵ *In their response to the draft report, the Irish Authorities noted that all slaughter sheep arriving from NI are slaughtered within 72 hours. The SOP of the slaughterhouse visited has been amended to ensure the slaughter of all sheep arriving from NI within 72 hours.*

⁶ *In their response to the draft report, the Irish Authorities noted that the SOP of the slaughterhouse visited has been amended to ensure that no sheep arriving from NI are allowed on to this pasture.*

The certification of equidae (except for equidae traded under the Tripartite agreement) takes place at ports and airports. The OV's at the point of exit carry out the official certification of the equidae based on supporting certificates issued by a PVP.

The border inspection point at Dublin port was visited as it also handles ICT of live equidae. Documentation of the inspections and statistics of the equidae leaving Ireland via Dublin port was available. However, no copies of the certificates were available as these are sent to the CCA.

5.6.4. *Traces and certification*

In the DVOs visited TRACES was used for issuing pre-notifications for animals to be sent to other MS. The operators have not yet been given access to the pre-notification system.

However, the use of TRACES certificates was not common. The CCA had instructed the LCAs to use the traditional paper certificates as they had not been satisfied with the wording in TRACES model health certificates for cattle and sheep. For cattle certificates, the CA had continued to use the provisions of a derogation included in the old certificates (derogation is now expired) which allows for TB testing of cattle for export outside the holding of origin during the 30 days before the export. The CCA stated that they have been in communication with the Commission services about the issue and have received assurances that the legislation will be amended to allow this practice. In respect of TRACES sheep certificates the CCA stated that they had been unable to certify the residency and standstill requirements and that these statements should be based on the farmer's declaration. The Irish CA had requested the Commission Services to modify these points in the certificates.

Meanwhile, the sheep and goat model certificates have been modified. On 13 February 2006 the CCA had also received an answer from the Commission Services that the issue with the cattle certificates will be taken up (letter seen). However, there were no reasons to explain the slow start to use TRACES certificates for horses and pigs. The CCA stated they would start to advise the DVOs to use the TRACES certificates for sheep, pigs and equidae⁷.

The route plans seen often contained a note that they should be sent back within 10 days of arrival.

The following shortcomings were noted in relation to controls on animals leaving Ireland:

- Dublin port lacked facilities for unloading of equidae, which hampers their inspection for animal health and fitness for transport;
- TRACES not used for issuing certificates;

⁷ *In their response to the draft report, the Irish Authorities noted that they have instructed their staff to use the sheep TRACES certificates.*

- Certificates not written in the language of the country of destination;
- Statements not crossed out in certificates; and
- Although most route plans were satisfactorily completed some were missing minor details (for example, the number of animals not included).

5.6.5. *Checks on the road*

The animal welfare checks on the road according to Art 8 of Council Directive 91/628/EEC have not yet started. The animal transport welfare checks have so far been carried out at the places of loading and unloading (livestock markets, ports, assembly centres, and slaughterhouses). The CCA stated that they intend to start these checks when Council Regulation (EC) No 1/2005 enters into force.

5.7. **Miscellaneous**

Records of veterinary medicinal treatments were available at the sites visited sites. However, sometimes the treated animals were not identified in the treatment book and withdrawal periods were not always noted. It was thus possible that they were dispatched to other MS for slaughter without information on recent treatments.

6. **CONCLUSIONS**

6.1. **Legislation**

The main Community legislation on ICT has been correctly transposed, except for the specific situation in relation to ICT trade conditions of slaughter sheep between NI and Ireland and the definition of a dealer.

6.2. **Competent authority performance**

The Irish CAs have a clear pyramidal structure and their operation is well co-ordinated.

Although an internal audit unit has been established within the CCA to meet the requirements of Art 4(6) of Council Regulation (EC) No 882/2004 the audits have not yet been started.

Instructions on ICT were available but these did not cover all livestock species to the same detail. Training on TRACES has been organised but not all CAs dealing with ICT have yet been included.

6.3. **Animal identification, holding registration and movement controls**

The cattle and pigs seen by the mission team were all correctly identified.

The implementation of certain aspects of Council Regulation (EC) No 21/2004 on sheep identification was insufficient. Sheep born after 5 July 2005, which had not been identified in accordance with Art 4.2 of Council Regulation (EC) No 21/2004 from the holding of birth, were allowed to enter ICT.

Some delays were noted in relation to notification of cattle births and movements and issuing new passports for animals arriving from other MS.

The system of movement documents was in general well implemented.

6.4. Animal health requirements

The control system in place in relation to animal diseases was well implemented and the AH database was functioning well.

6.5. Controls on assembly centres, dealers and transporters

The approvals of livestock markets were often not available and had not been updated.

Although cattle AACs and dealers were inspected regularly the inspections did not always cover all relevant aspects. The official supervision of sheep markets was insufficient.

The official supervision of cleaning and disinfection of livestock vehicles was insufficient.

6.6. Controls on intra-Community trade of live animals

6.6.1. Specific situation regarding ICT of sheep and goats for slaughter between NI and IE

Despite the lack of a legal basis, the CCAs of UK and Ireland have decided not to respect significant provisions of Council Directive 91/68/EEC (Art 4s(1)(b) and 4c(1) regarding the movement control of sheep and goats for slaughter between NI and Ireland⁸.

6.6.2. Controls on animals arriving in Ireland

The principle of non-discriminatory veterinary spot checks on arrival as laid down in Art 5, point 1(a) of Council Directive 90/425/EEC is not applied for cattle. Instead, cattle are subjected to discriminatory checks for TB, brucellosis EBL and warble fly treatment⁹.

The checks at slaughterhouses receiving animals from other MS, as required, by Art 5 point 1 (b) (ii) of Council, Directive 90/425/EEC, were insufficient in certain aspects in the one slaughterhouse visited.

6.6.3. Controls on animals leaving Ireland

Clear procedures were in place and followed for the controls of cattle, sheep and pigs leaving for ICT.

⁸ See footnote 2 on page 7.

⁹ See footnote 4 on page 15.

Although the OVs at DVOs visited had received training on TRACES and were familiar with the system it was used only to a limited extent. The old paper model certificates were still used (see Chapter 5.6.4. for details) .

Some of the certificates seen contained some errors. The recovery of route plans was effectively enforced.

6.6.4. Controls on the road

The animal welfare checks on road, as required by Art 8 of Council Directive 91/628/EEC, are not implemented (instead, checks are carried out at places of loading and unloading).

6.7. Animal health controls

Evidence of effective AH controls was available. The established AH database was operational for bovines and most of the sheep holdings and is a useful tool. The CA stated it will be extended to other livestock species.

6.8. Miscellaneous

Deficiencies were sometimes noted in relation to record keeping of veterinary medicinal treatments.

6.9. Overall conclusion

A clear system on controls for ICT in live animals has been established by the Irish CA. However, the system in place does not fully comply with all Community requirements. Deficiencies were noted in particular in the following areas: The Irish CA still apply the residency and standstill derogation for slaughter sheep trade between Ireland and NI, as given in Commission Decision 2003/483/EC, although now expired. Arriving cattle are subjected to discriminatory checks. The use of TRACES was limited and old paper model health certificates were used. The controls and documentation of cleaning and disinfection of animal transporters were insufficient. The animal welfare checks on the road, required by Council Directive 91/628/EEC, have not yet started.

7. CLOSING MEETING

A closing meeting was held on 5 May 2006 with the central competent authority, the Department of Agriculture and Food, Veterinary Inspectorate. At this meeting, the main findings and conclusions of the mission were presented by the inspection team.

8. RECOMMENDATIONS

To the competent authorities of Ireland

- 1) To organise training on TRACES for all CAs involved in ICT, to instruct staff to use TRACES for certification and to ensure correct use of the certification system.

- 2) To apply and enforce the residency and stand still requirements of Art. 4a of Council Directive 91/68/EC for trade of sheep and goats for slaughter between Northern Ireland and Ireland.
- 3) To ensure that legal provisions of Art. 4, point 2, of Council Regulation (EC) No 21/2004, regarding the rules on identification of sheep and goats for intra-community trade are fully applicable in Ireland and to ensure that sheep or goats born after 9/07/2005 will not enter ICT if they have not been identified before the animals leave the holding on which they were born, in accordance with Article 4 (1) and 4. (2)(a) and (b) of that Directive.
- 4) To ensure that movements of all sheep which enter assembly centres are recorded.
- 5) To ensure that all cattle herds belonging to a dealer are subjected to controls on animal identification, holding registration and movement controls.
- 6) To update the approvals of live animal markets.
- 7) To ensure that official controls on approved cattle assembly centres take into account all requirements of Art 10 of Council Directive 64/432/EEC.
- 8) To ensure that sheep markets are under official supervision.
- 9) To enforce and control the cleaning and disinfection of livestock vehicles at assembly centres, livestock markets, and slaughterhouses.
- 10) To cease the discriminatory check on cattle arriving in Ireland from other Member States and to ensure that checks carried out on live animals at their destination are in accordance with Art 5(1) of Council Directive 90/425/EEC.
- 11) To implement animal welfare checks on the road as required by Art 8 of Council Directive 91/628/EEC and to ensure that horse transporters used for transports of over 8 hours are included in the authorisation process.

9. COMPETENT AUTHORITY RESPONSE TO RECOMMENDATIONS

The Competent Authority's response to the recommendations can be found at: http://ec.europa.eu/comm/food/fvo/ap/ap_ireland_8182_2006.pdf

ANNEX

RELEVANT LEGISLATION

The following is a list of EU legislation¹⁰ relevant to this series of missions:

LEGISLATION RELATED TO OFFICIAL CONTROLS IN THE VETERINARY FIELD		
Council Directive 90/425/EEC	Council Directive 90/425/EEC of 26 June 1990 concerning veterinary and zootechnical checks applicable in intra-Community trade in certain live animals and products with a view to the completion of the internal market	OJ L 224, 18/08/90, p. 29
Council Regulation (EC) No 882/2004	Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council of 29 April 2004 on official controls performed to ensure the verification of compliance with feed and food law, animal health and animal welfare rules	OJ L 165, 30/04/2004, p. 1
Commission Decision 98/139/EC	Commission Decision 98/139/EC of 4 February 1998 laying down certain detailed rules concerning on-the-spot checks carried out in the veterinary field by Commission experts in the Member States	OJ L 38, 12/02/1998 p. 10
LEGISLATION RELATING TO INTRA-COMMUNITY TRADE OF LIVE ANIMALS		
Council Directive 64/432/EEC	Council Directive 64/432/EEC of 26 June 1964 on animal health problems affecting intra-Community trade in bovine animals and swine	OJ L P 121, 29/07/1964, p. 1977
Council Directive 90/426/EEC	Council Directive 90/426/EEC of 26 June 1990 on animal health conditions governing the movement and import from third countries of equidae	OJ L 224, 18/08/90, p. 42
Council Directive 91/68/EEC	Council Directive 91/68/EEC of 28 January 1991 on animal health conditions governing intra-Community trade in ovine and caprine animals	OJ L 46, 19/02/91, p. 19
Commission Decision 2003/483/EC	Commission Decision 2003/483/EC of 30 June 2003 establishing transitional measures for the control on the movement of animals of susceptible species with regard to foot-and-mouth disease.	OJ L 162, 01/07/2003, p. 72
Commission Decision 2004/315/EC	Commission Decision 2004/315/EC of 26 March 2004 recognising the system of surveillance for bovine holdings implementing in Member States or regions of Member States under Directive 64/432/EEC	OJ L 100, 06/04/2004, p. 43
Council Directive 2004/68/EC	Council Directive 2004/68/EC of 26 April 2004 laying down animal health rules for the importation into and transit through the Community of certain ungulate animals, amending Directive 90/426/EEC and 92/65/EEC and repealing Directive 72/462/EEC	OJ L 139, 30/04/2004, p. 320
Commission Regulation (EC) No 657/2006	Commission Regulation (EC) No 657/2006 of 10 April 2006 amending Regulation (EC) No 999/2001 of the European Parliament and the Council as regards the United Kingdom and repealing Council Decision 98/256/EC and Decisions 98/351/EC and 1999/514/EC	OJ L 116, p. 9 of 29.04.2006

¹⁰ EU legislation quoted in the Annex refer to the last amended version.

LEGISLATION RELATED TO THE NOTIFICATION OF ANIMAL DISEASES		
Council Directive 82/894/EEC	Council Directive 82/894/EEC of 21 December 1982 on the notification of animal diseases within the Community	OJ L 378, 31/12/82, p. 58
LEGISLATION RELATED TO ERADICATION PROGRAMMES OF ANIMAL DISEASES AND TO THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE FREE STATUS IN RESPECT OF CERTAIN DISEASES IN MEMBER STATES OR CERTAIN AREAS OF THEM		
Commission Decision 81/400/EEC	Commission Decision 81/400/EEC of 15 May 1981 establishing the status of Member States as regards classical swine fever with a view to its eradication	OJ L 152, 11/06/1981, p.37
Commission Decision 2004/215/EC	Commission Decision 2004/215/EC of 1 March 2004 implementing Council Directive 64/432/EEC as regards additional guarantees for intra-Community trade in bovine animals relating to infectious bovine rhinotracheitis and the approval of eradication programmes presented by certain Member States	OJ L 67, 05/03/2004, p. 24
Commission Decision 93/52/EEC	Commission Decision 93/52/EEC of 21 December 1992 recording the compliance by certain Member States of regions with the requirements relating to brucellosis (<i>B. melitensis</i>) and according them the status of a Member State or region officially free of the disease	OJ L 13, 21/01/1993, p. 14
Commission Decision 2001/618/EC	Commission Decision 2001/618/EC of 23 July 2001 on additional guarantees in intra-Community trade of pigs relating to Aujeszky's disease, criteria to provide information on this disease and repealing Decision 93/24/EEC and 93/244/EEC	OJ L 215, 09/08/2001, p. 48
Commission Decision 2003/467/EC	Commission Decision 2003/467/EC of 23 June 2003 establishing the official tuberculosis, brucellosis, and enzootic-leukosis-free status of certain Member States as regards bovine herds	OJ L 156, 25/06/2003, p. 74
Commission Decision 2003/526/EC	Commission Decision 2003/526/EC of 18 July 2003 concerning protection measures relating to classical swine fever in certain Member States	OJ L 183, 22/07/2003, p. 46
Commission Decision 2005/873/EC	Commission Decision 2005/873/EC of 30 November 2005, approving programmes for the eradication and monitoring of animal diseases, of certain TSEs, and for the prevention of zoonoses presented by the Member States for year 2006	OJ L 322, 09/12/2005, p. 21
LEGISLATION RELATED TO FARM REGISTRATION, ANIMAL IDENTIFICATION AND MOVEMENT CONTROL		
Council Directive 92/102/EEC	Council Directive 92/102/EEC of 27 November 1992 on the identification and registration of animals	OJ L 355, 05/12/1992, p. 32
Commission Regulation (EC) No 2628/97	Commission Regulation (EC) No 2628/97 of 29 December 1997 laying down detailed rules for the implementation of Council Regulation (EC) No 820/97 as regards transitional provisions for the start-up period of the system for the identification and registration of bovine animals	OJ L 354, 30/12/97, p. 17
Regulation (EC) No 1760/2000	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	OJ L 204, 11/08/2000, p. 1

LEGISLATION RELATED TO FARM REGISTRATION, ANIMAL IDENTIFICATION AND MOVEMENT CONTROL (CONTD.)		
Commission Decision 2000/678/EC	Commission Decision 2000/678/EC of 23 October 2000 laying down detailed rules for registration of holdings in national databases for porcine animals as foreseen by Council Directive 64/432/EEC	OJ L 281, 07/11/2000, p. 16
Commission Regulation (EC) No 1082/2003	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.	OJ L 156, 25/06/2003, p. 9
Commission Regulation (EC) No 911/2004	Commission Regulation (EC) No 911/2004 of 29 April 2004 implementing Regulation (EC) No 1760/2000 of the European Parliament and the Council as regards eartags, passports and holding registers	OJ L 163, 30/04/2004, p. 65
Commission Decision 2004/292/EC	Commission Decision 2004/292/EC of 30 March 2004 on the introduction of the Traces system and amending Decision 92/486/EEC	OJ L 94, 31/03/2004, p. 63
Council Regulation (EC) No 21/2004	Council Regulation (EC) No 21/2004 establishing a system for identification and registration of ovine and caprine animals and amending Regulation (EC) No 1782/2003 and Directives 92/102/EEC and 64/432/EEC	OJ L 5, 09/01/2004, p.8
Commission Decision 2005/597/EC	Commission Decision of 2 August 2005 recognising the system for identification and registration of ovine animals in Ireland according to Article 4(2)(d) of Council Regulation (EC) no 21/2004	OJ L 204, 05/08/2005, p. 21
LEGISLATION RELATED TO ANIMAL WELFARE		
Council Directive 91/628/EEC	Council Directive 91/628/EEC of 19 November 1991 on the protection of animals during transport and amending Directives 90/425/EEC and 91/496/EEC	OJ L 340, 11/12/91, p. 17
Council Regulation (EC) No 1255/97	Council Regulation (EC) No 1255/97 of 25 June 1997 concerning Community criteria for staging points and amending the route plan referred to in the Annex to directive 91/628/EEC	OJ L 174, 02/07/97, p. 1
Council Regulation (EC) No 411/98	Council Regulation (EC) No 411/98 of 16 February 1998 on additional animal protection standards applicable to road vehicles used for the carriage of livestock on journeys exceeding eight hours	OJ L 52, 21/02/98, p. 8
Council Regulation (EC) No 1/2005	Council Regulation (EC) No 1/2005 on the protection of animals during transport and related operations and amending Directives 64/432/EEC and 93/199/EC and Regulation (EC) No 1255/97	OJ L 3, 05/01/2005, p.1.
LEGISLATION RELATING TO CERTIFICATION		
Council Directive 96/93/EC	Council Directive 96/93/EC of 17 December 1996 on the certification of animals and animal products	OJ L 13, 16/01/1997, p. 28
LEGISLATION RELATING TO OTHER TOPICS COVERED BY THE MISSION		
Council Directive 96/23/EC	Council Directive 96/23/EC of 29 April 1996 on measures to monitor certain substances and residues thereof in live animals and animal products and repealing Directives 85/358/EEC and 86/469/EEC and Decision 89/187/EEC and 91/664/EEC	OJ L 125, 23/05/1996, p. 10