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FINAL REPORT OF A SPECIFIC AUDIT

CARRIED OUT IN

LITHUANIA

FROM 20 TO 24 JULY 2009

IN ORDER TO EVALUATE THE CONTINGENCY PLANS FOR EPIZOOTIC DISEASES AND  
THE ERADICATION PROGRAMME FOR RABIES

IN THE CONTEXT OF A GENERAL AUDIT

## *Executive Summary*

This report describes the outcome of a specific audit mission carried out by the Food and Veterinary Office in Lithuania from 20 to 24 July 2009, as part of the General Audit in that country.

The objectives of the mission were to verify that the approved eradication programme for rabies was being implemented, and that contingency plans and other preparations were in place to deal with possible outbreaks epizootic diseases, as required by Community legislation. Findings and conclusions related to the implementation of Regulation (EC) No 882/2004 are addressed separately in the General Audit report.

The declining number of rabies cases (from 2 232 in 2006 to 69 in 2008) demonstrates the overall effectiveness of the Community-funded eradication programme. However, official monitoring surveys indicate that 40% of wild foxes and raccoon dogs have protective levels of immunity. Although rabies vaccination of dogs and cats is mandatory according to national rules, systems for the registration of dogs are not harmonized across the territory and the competent authorities do not ensure that official controls to enforce these rules are carried out in urban areas.

National contingency plans (CPs) have been prepared for most of the major epizootic diseases and systems are in place to carry out regular real time exercises and reviews of these plans. The competent authorities at county and district levels have their own versions of the CPs tailored to local needs, in terms of contact information and the allocation of responsibilities. The units visited were generally prepared to deal with a disease outbreak, although the emergency equipment and supplies prescribed in CPs were not always present. The mission team noted that a delay in the activation of the classical swine fever (CSF) CP during a recent confirmed outbreak meant that some control measures were not carried out in accordance with CP requirements. However, no further spread of the disease was detected and the competent authorities did apply most of the other control measures foreseen in the CP, which exceeded Community requirements in some respects.

The report includes a number of recommendations addressed to the Lithuanian competent authorities aimed at rectifying the identified shortcomings and enhancing the control system in place.

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**ABBREVIATIONS AND DEFINITIONS USED IN THIS REPORT**

<b>Abbreviation</b>	<b>Explanation</b>
AHS	African Horse Sickness
AI	Avian Influenza
ASF	African Swine Fever
AV	Authorised Veterinarian
BT	Bluetongue
CA	Competent Authority
CCA	Central Competent Authority
CCCD	Centre (Department) for Contingencies and Contagious Diseases
CDB	Central Database
CP	Contingency Plan
CSF	Classical Swine Fever
FMD	Foot-and-mouth Disease
FVO	Food and Veterinary Office
LDCC	Local Disease Control Centre
MS	Member State
ND	Newcastle Disease
NDCC	National Disease Control Centre
NFVRAI	National Food and Veterinary Risk Assessment Institute ( <i>Nacionalinis Maisto ir Veterinarijos Rizikos Vertinimo Institutas</i> )

OIE	World Organisation for Animal Health
SCAHAW	Scientific Committee on Animal Health and Animal Welfare
SFVS	State Food and Veterinary Service of the Republic of Lithuania ( <i>Lietuvos Respublikos Valstybinė Maisto ir Veterinarijos Tarnyba</i> )
SVD	Swine Vesicular Disease
TU	Territorial Unit

## 1 INTRODUCTION

The specific audit formed part of the Food and Veterinary Office (FVO) planned mission programme and was carried out as a component of a general audit, as described in Article 45 of Regulation (EC) No 882/2004 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.

This report focuses on the sector specific issues identified during the audit. The aspects relating to Regulation (EC) No 882/2004 will be addressed in the subsequent General Audit report.

The mission took place in Lithuania from 20 to 24 July 2009. The mission team comprised two inspectors from the FVO and was accompanied during the whole mission by representatives of the Lithuanian State Food and Veterinary Service (SFVS) (*Valstybinė maisto ir veterinarijos tarnyba*), which is the Central Competent Authority (CCA) within the scope of this mission.

## 2 OBJECTIVES OF THE MISSION

The objective of the mission was to verify that official controls are carried out in accordance with the multi-annual national control plan referred to in Article 41 of Regulation (EC) No 882/2004, and in compliance with Community law, specifically in relation to EU requirements concerning:

- The implementation of the programme for the eradication of rabies, approved by Commission Decision 2007/782/EC. This evaluation included a revision of the actions taken by the Competent Authorities following the recommendations of the previous mission on a similar topic (mission DG(SANCO)/2007-7359: [http://ec.europa.eu/food/fvo/rep\\_details\\_en.cfm?rep\\_id=1901](http://ec.europa.eu/food/fvo/rep_details_en.cfm?rep_id=1901)), which is referred to elsewhere in this report as the ‘previous FVO report on Rabies’.

- Contingency plans (CPs) in the event of one or more outbreaks of epizootic diseases, with special regard to Foot and Mouth Disease (FMD), Classical Swine Fever (CSF), Avian Influenza (AI), Bluetongue (BT), African Horse Sickness (AHS), African Swine Fever (ASF), Newcastle Disease (ND), and Swine Vesicular Disease (SVD). This evaluation included a revision of the actions taken by the competent authorities following the recommendations of the previous mission which dealt with a similar topic (mission DG(SANCO)/7621/2005: [http://ec.europa.eu/food/fvo/rep\\_details\\_en.cfm?rep\\_id=1516](http://ec.europa.eu/food/fvo/rep_details_en.cfm?rep_id=1516)), which is referred to elsewhere in this report as the ‘previous FVO report on CPs’.

In pursuit of these objectives, the following sites were visited:

<b>Competent Authorities</b>	
Central competent authority	1
Regional competent authority (including a Local Disease Control Centre)	2
Animal identification data centre	1
<b>Sites visited</b>	

National laboratory	1
County laboratory	1
Slaughterhouse	1
Rendering plant	1
Vehicle washing point	1
Animal holdings (farm, dealer's premises)	2

### 3 LEGAL BASIS FOR THE MISSION

The mission was carried out in agreement with the Lithuanian authorities and under the general provisions of Community legislation and, in particular, Article 45 of Regulation (EC) No 882/2004.

Full legal references are provided in Annex 1. Legal acts quoted in this report refer, where applicable, to the last amended version.

### 4 BACKGROUND

#### 4.1 RABIES ERADICATION PROGRAMME

Programmes for the eradication of rabies in Lithuania have been approved and partly financed by the European Commission each year since 2005. The annual plans for 2008 and 2009 were approved by Commission Decision 2007/782/EC and Commission Decision 2008/897/EC respectively and included biannual oral vaccination campaigns in wildlife reservoirs, and controls to monitor the efficacy of these campaigns.

The number of declared cases of rabies in Lithuania in recent years is as follows:

Year	Domestic carnivores	Other domestic animals	Wild animals	Total
2006	199	150	1 883	2 232
2007	77	42	313	432
2008	11	11	47	69

(Source: CCA)

The prevalence of the disease in Lithuania's Third Country neighbours and the migratory nature of its wildlife hosts jeopardises its eventual eradication. The Lithuanian CCA proposed to extend its

oral vaccination programme into Kaliningrad and Byelorussia during 2009. However, it was not possible to make all necessary logistical arrangements and no vaccination took place. Subsequently, Commission Decision 2009/582/EC of 29 July approved the funding of a three year vaccination programme in Kaliningrad covering up to 100% of the cost of vaccine bait purchase and distribution.

#### 4.2 CONTINGENCY PLANS AND EPIZOOTIC DISEASES

In recent years, missions covering contingency planning were carried out by the FVO in all Member States (MSs). Whilst it was found that MSs were aware of the threats posed by epizootic disease to the health status of their national livestock populations, and that all had contingency plans in place, deficiencies were detected and there was considerable variation in the level of preparedness in the various MSs.

Recent outbreaks of epizootic diseases such as avian influenza, foot-and-mouth disease and bluetongue in previously unaffected territories of the European Union, as well as the recent, unexplained outbreak of CSF in Lithuania, highlight the threat posed by the sudden and sometimes unexpected spread of such diseases, and further emphasize the need for well-developed and adequately resourced CPs in order to ensure that emergency measures can be applied immediately.

The latest reported occurrence of certain epizootic diseases in Lithuania is as follows:

<b>Disease</b>	<b>Last occurrence</b>
Avian influenza (AI)	never reported
Newcastle disease (ND)	1989
Foot and Mouth disease (FMD)	1982
Swine vesicular disease (SVD)	never reported
Classical swine fever (CSF)	1992, July 2009
African swine fever (ASF)	never reported
Bluetongue (BT)	never reported
African horse sickness (AHS)	never reported

*(source:CCA)*

The outbreak of CSF that was confirmed in July 2009 occurred on a pig breeding farm in Panevėžys county, which is in the central part of Lithuania. The pigs on the affected farm were killed and destroyed prior to the confirmation of the disease. The Lithuanian CAs applied control measures were applied to other holdings within the area and no cases of spread to other holdings were detected.

## 5 FINDINGS AND CONCLUSIONS

### 5.1 RABIES ERADICATION PROGRAMME

#### 5.1.1 *Legal Basis*

Article 24 of Council Decision 90/424/EEC empowers the Commission to reimburse from Community funds the expenditure incurred by MSs in the course of implementing national programmes for the eradication, control and monitoring of certain animal diseases and zoonoses, including rabies.

Annex III of Council Decision 90/638/EEC establishes the criteria that programmes for the control of rabies must satisfy in order to qualify for Community funding. These include:

- description of the epidemiological situation of the disease;
- detailed information regarding the vaccination programme, including the regions to be included and the vaccines to be used
- information concerning the costs, benefits and duration of the programme;
- designation of the competent authorities responsible for supervising and coordinating the programme;
- details of the system in place to ensure the notification of all suspected or confirmed outbreaks of the disease;
- details of the control procedures and inspections carried out within the areas concerned.

Article 21 of Commission Decision 2007/782/EC and Article 19 of Commission Decision 2008/897/EC establish certain conditions that MSs conducting programme for the eradication of animal diseases during 2008 and 2009, including rabies, must satisfy in order to be eligible to receive payment. These include:

- implementation in accordance with the provisions of Community law, including rules on competition and on the award of public contracts;
- introduction of regulations and administrative provisions necessary for the implementation of the programme;
- submission of intermediate and final technical and financial reports covering each year of the programme;
- ensuring that the programme is implemented efficiently.

Prior to the establishment of the European Food Safety Authority in 2003, and in accordance with Commission Decision 97/579/EC, the Commission received scientific guidance from committees composed of independent scientists, including the Scientific Committee on Animal Health and Animal Welfare (SCAHAW). At the request of the Commission, SCAHAW issued a report in 2002 assessing the reasons for failures noted in the implementation of certain rabies control protocols within the EU and recommending actions that should be taken to bring about the eradication of rabies in the Community as soon as possible. A copy of this report may be downloaded from [http://ec.europa.eu/food/fs/sc/scah/out80\\_en.pdf](http://ec.europa.eu/food/fs/sc/scah/out80_en.pdf). It contains recommendations intended to bring about the eradication of rabies in the Community as soon as possible, including the following, which are particularly relevant in the context of the Lithuanian eradication programme:

- Monitoring rabies incidence, bait uptake and immunity in the fox population - this is particularly important because a drop in the disease incidence allows the number of foxes to increase, diluting the overall level of population immunity. The report specifically recommends that foxes found dead and road kills should be investigated for evidence of rabies infection;
- All rabies virus isolates should be typed in areas where attenuated rabies virus vaccines are used, in order to distinguish between vaccine and field virus strains;
- Serological methods to be used for quantification of the antibody response in foxes following vaccination should be standardised;
- Vaccine titre in baits at batch release should be at least ten times the experimental 100% protective dose and the vaccine titre should not fall below the indicative 100% protective dose following exposure to 25°C for seven days. Each vaccine batch should be tested and approved for titre and stability and laboratories involved in the monitoring and evaluation of rabies programmes should monitor these titres before and during release into the field;
- The use of fixed-wing aircraft is only recommended for the treatment of uniform and large areas of low density inhabitation (e.g. large forests, mono-agricultural areas). Distribution by hand is the preferred system in urban and suburban areas, in combination with the use of an aerial distribution whenever possible;
- Homogeneous distributions of 18-20 and 20-30 baits per km<sup>2</sup> are recommended for low and high fox population densities, respectively;
- When using the aerial method of bait distribution, flight line distance should not exceed 500 metres, dropping to 300m in areas of high fox population density.

### *5.1.2 Development of the eradication programme*

- Although the oral vaccination of foxes in Lithuania began during the 1980s and continued until 2000, the results of these campaigns were patchy and they were eventually discontinued due to lack of funds. Since 2006 and with the support of the EC, the entire territory of Lithuania (65,000 km<sup>2</sup>, including lakes and urban areas) has been subject to twice yearly campaigns. Approximately 1.3 million baits are distributed by airplane during each campaign (that is, 2.6 million baits per year), which corresponds to a vaccination density of somewhat more than 20 baits/km<sup>2</sup>. As indicated in section 4.1 above, the number of confirmed cases of rabies has fallen over recent years;
- The CCA, with support from the Ministry of the Environment, has secured a specific budget to implement the rabies vaccination programme and associated laboratory monitoring surveys in 2009;
- A meeting was held with other institutions, including the Ministry for the Environment, in March 2009 to discuss joint cooperation on the implementation of the Rabies Eradication Programme. In addition, regular meetings were organised at territorial level between the CAs, Ministry of the Environment inspectors and hunters' clubs before, during and after each vaccination campaign.

### *5.1.3 Case investigation*

- Hunters are obliged to notify the CCA of wild animals showing signs of rabies or which are found dead. The CCA then submits samples for rabies testing. The Lithuanian Ministry of the Environment is responsible for monitoring hunting activities and for ensuring that

hunters respect the legal requirements in force. However, the CCA does not have information on the number of controls performed or on sanctions imposed on hunters who fail to notify suspect cases;

- Samples from suspect animals are examined using immuno-fluorescent techniques either in territorial laboratories or the NFVRAI, if the outbreaks occur nearby. All samples deemed to be negative in territorial laboratories are submitted to the NFVRAI for supplementary testing using direct testing methods;
- The NFVRAI organizes proficiency testing exercises for all 10 laboratories carrying out immuno-fluorescence tests on suspect cases. All of the laboratories performed satisfactorily during 2008 and 2009. New staff performing these tests must undergo training at the NFVRAI.
- One of the recommendations made during the previous FVO mission on rabies was to improve documentation on the geographical distribution of cases. Since 2008, detailed location information is reported to the CCA as part of the epidemiological investigation report. The CCA presented maps showing that the majority of the rabies outbreaks in 2008 occurred in areas close to Lithuania's borders;
- Although no virus isolates from recent rabies cases have been submitted for genome sequencing, the NFVRAI stores samples from all positive cases that it investigates, which could in future be used to investigate possible reversion of vaccine virus to a lethal form. However, no arrangements have been made to isolate or store virus from positive cases detected by the territorial laboratories, which handle more than 25% of all confirmed cases.

#### *5.1.4 Population dynamics in fauna*

- One of the recommendations made in the previous FVO report on rabies was to initiate a national strategy for the control of foxes and racoon dogs. In 2008, the Ministry of the Environment conducted an exercise to survey of the racoon dog population and identify measures for the control of these animals. This survey estimated the population at approximately 63,000 animals and concluded that the hunting bag for these animals could be doubled without endangering the population;
- No estimate of the size of the fox population is available. However, the Ministry for the Environment evaluates the dynamics of the fox population by monitoring the number of foxes shot each year. This figure increased from 15 826 in 2007 to approximately 23 000 in 2008. The SCAWAH report concluded that hunting trends are generally a reliable indicator of changes in population size. However, the Ministry for the Environment considers that this increase was due to more intensive hunting rather than an increase in the underlying population.

#### *5.1.5 Vaccine used for oral immunisation*

- One of the recommendations made in the previous FVO report on rabies was to ensure that the vaccines used are in accordance with specifications, guaranteeing sufficiently high titres under field conditions;
- The formal purchase agreements signed between the CCA and designated vaccine suppliers requires the manufacturer to specify the vaccine titre and to supply laboratory certification by an OIE accredited laboratory that supplied batches contain at least the minimal titre and are stable under a variety of environmental conditions. Records for each batch of vaccine used during 2008 and 2009 were checked by the FVO audit team and were found to be in

order;

- The NFVRAI does not conduct any additional tests to verify the stability of the virus under field conditions.

#### *5.1.6 Storage and distribution of oral vaccine*

- Following an open tendering procedure, the CCA awarded a contract valid for one year to a single company for the distribution of vaccines throughout the country. The company was required to maintain detailed records at each stage of distribution, including temperature records, the numbers of baits dropped and the flight paths followed. The company's operations and records were subject to regular supervision by the CAs, which reported no major problems in terms of vaccine supply, distribution or monitoring during each of two vaccination campaigns per year since 2006;
- The SCAWAH report recommended that vaccine should be distributed by hand in areas where aerial vaccination is not possible. This was also included as a recommendation in the previous FVO report on rabies. However, taking account of the small sizes of the areas involved (typically sites surrounding the nuclear power station and oil refinery) and the absence of any confirmed cases of rabies in these areas since 2006, the CAs have decided not to distribute baits manually.

#### *5.1.7 Monitoring of vaccination*

- The previous FVO report on rabies recommended that at least 8 foxes per 100 km<sup>2</sup> should be tested each year to determine the efficacy of oral vaccination. 4 833 foxes and racoon dogs were tested during 2008. This figure represents approximately 7.3 animals tested per 100 km<sup>2</sup> (somewhat more if one excludes parts of the territory that cannot be inhabited by foxes and racoon dogs). Samples collected during the survey were tested in two phases: in the first phase, pathological tissues were tested for the presence of the vaccine marker, which indicates whether the animal has consumed a bait. Positive samples from the first phase were then tested serologically to determine whether those animals had acquired protective levels of immunity against the disease. A quantitative ELISA test was used to determine the serological titres of samples. Animals with an antibody titre exceeding 0.5 international units were considered to be immune;
- The results of the survey indicated that 61.7% of the animals had ingested baits. Further analysis of the data showed that 68% of foxes had consumed baits, against 45% of racoon dogs. It should be noted that the number of cases of rabies recorded in racoon dogs and in foxes between 2006 and 2008 was 1 130 and 842 respectively;
- The number of serological analyses performed for each species was not available. However, combined data on the serological tests performed on samples from foxes and racoon dogs that had consumed baits revealed that 62.2% had protective antibody titres, indicating that the overall percentage of the total wildlife population rendered immune as a result of vaccination was approximately 40%;
- In fact, serological tests were performed on approximately one third of the samples from marker-positive animals. The CAs explained that it was frequently not possible to collect blood samples, either because of the condition of the carcass or due to extreme cold;
- So far, more than 1 700 samples have been analysed during 2009. Although the vaccine uptake has improved (76%), serological conversion rates were lower than in previous years (40%).

### 5.1.8 *Control in domestic carnivores*

- SFVS order B1-146 of 11 May 2007 on Rabies Control requirements obliges animal keepers to vaccinate dogs, cats and ferrets. Keepers are also obliged to register their pets by municipal bye-laws enacting Government Resolution 325 of 23 March 1999, which establishes the Law on Keeping, Care and Use of Animals. Currently these registers are not harmonised. However, the Small Animals Veterinary Association has established guidelines and a central register for animals intended for non-commercial movements to other MS. The Ministry of Agriculture also proposes to establish a central national register of dogs and cats;
- Private veterinary practitioners are obliged to report the numbers of domestic animals they vaccinate against rabies to the SFVS;
- The previous FVO report on rabies recommended the CAs to take measures to ensure compliance with national requirements concerning the identification and mandatory vaccination of pets. In their response to that recommendation, the CAs indicated that SFVS inspectors should check compliance with these requirements during Animal Identification controls, which are performed on 10% of livestock holdings each year. However, no reference to these checks is made in either the standard operating procedure for these controls (B1-138) or in the official checklist. On the other hand, the FVO audit team saw several checklists in which observations on the vaccination of dogs had been added in the comments section;
- Rabies vaccination records were available for one of five dogs kept on the farm visited by the mission team and none of the dogs had been registered with the municipality. However, the Authorised Veterinarian responsible for the holding indicated that the animals would be vaccinated this year. The County CAs observed that the requirement to obtain an official vaccination record for dogs was generally met only in the case of dogs intended for non-commercial movement to another MS;
- Responsibility for carrying out controls in urban areas has not been designated at central level.

### 5.1.9 *Conclusions*

The marked improvement in the incidence of rabies in domestic and wild animals leads to a generally favourable conclusion. Sensitive and reliable systems have been established for the laboratory investigation of suspect rabies cases. However, limited analysis has been carried out to investigate the possible causes of disease persistence, including possible vaccine failure or reversion, which is particularly relevant in cases that are not contiguous to foreign territories with known rabies problems. In the absence of supplementary means to estimate the fox population, the increase recorded in the hunting bag may indicate a rise in the fox population density. The SCAHAW report in 2002 associated such a rise with a heightened risk of vaccination failure and disease breakthrough.

Procedures are in place to ensure that rabies baits contain recommended titres of vaccine at the time of purchase and that baits are stored and distributed in accordance with manufacturers' requirements and the approved eradication programme. However, contrary to the SCAHAW report recommendation, the CAs do not ensure that additional tests are performed during distribution as a means to provide additional assurance that baits are stored and handled correctly. The CA can justify its decision not to follow the SCAHAW recommendation concerning hand distribution of baits in areas where aerial distribution is not feasible.

The CAs have taken measures to ensure that samples are collected from a sufficient numbers of wild animals in order to assess the efficacy of the vaccination programme. However, practical limitations in the currently applied sampling and serological methods limit the extent to which meaningful conclusions can be drawn on the level of immunity achieved in fox and in racoon dog populations. The available data indicate significant differences in the effectiveness of the programme in each species.

The limited scope and frequency of official controls to verify compliance with mandatory identification and vaccination requirements mean that the level of protection against rabies within the pet population cannot be reliably assessed.

## **5.2 CONTINGENCY PLANNING**

### *5.2.1 Animal identification, holding registration, movement controls and traceability*

#### *5.2.1.1 Legal basis*

Regulation (EC) No 1760/2000 of the European Parliament and of the Council defines the conditions for identification and registration of bovine animals. They must be individually identified with two ear tags , been issued an individual passport (with a possible derogation for national movements in a country with a database recognised as fully operational). Animal keepers (except transporters) must keep a movement register of a format approved by the CA on their holding, and notify them within seven days to a computerised database, record movements in the passport. The formats of ear tags, passport and holding registers are further detailed in Commission Regulation (EC) No 911/2004).

Commission Regulation (EC) No 1082/2003 lays down rules 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, requiring at least 10% of holdings to be controlled in that framework (unless exception), selected following to a risk analysis.

Council Regulation (EC) No 21/2004 defines the conditions for identification and registration of ovine and caprine animals. They must be individually identified with an ear-tag and another means of identification. Animal keepers (except transporters) must keep a movement register of a format approved by the CA on their holding. All holdings must be registered by the CA, and movements must be either recorded in the computerised database (within seven days), or be accompanied by a movement document. The database must contain a data field where animal health information, for example restrictions on movements, or status, can be entered by the CA.

Commission Regulation (EC) No 1505/2006 lays down rules as regards the minimum level of controls to be carried out in the framework of the system for the identification and registration of ovine and caprine animals, requiring at least 3% of holdings (comprising at least 5% of the animal population) to be controlled in that framework (unless exception), selected following to a risk analysis.

Council Directive 2008/71/EEC defines the obligation of identification for pigs (before they leave their holding of birth, with an eartag or tattoo making it possible to determine the holding from which they came), and requires the presence of a movement register on each holding, and a registration of all holdings by the CA. Commission Decision 2000/678/EC lays down detailed rules for the registration of holdings in national databases for porcine animals. This Decision states that the database registering pig holdings must contain a data field where animal health information, for example restrictions on movements, or status, can be entered by the CA.

Commission Regulation (EC) N° 504/2008 defines the rules for identification of equidae. The rules include the issuing of a passport, an electronic identification (or, by derogation, an alternative method of identification), and a database to record the identification of the equidae. This regulation applies from 1 July 2009. Beforehand, Commission Decisions 93/623/EEC and 2000/68/EC established the format of passport which had to be issued for every registered equidae, or equidae for breeding and production.

Article 11(2) of Council Directive 64/432/EEC requires the operator of assembly centres and Article 13(1)(b) of the same Directive require dealer to record information about the animals which they are responsible including the addresses or holding numbers of the holding of origin and of the holding of destination, the data of entry and exit to the centre (assembly centres), the data purchase (dealer), the registration number of the transporter and the licence number of the lorry delivering or collecting the animals.

Article 44 (1) of Commission Regulation (EC) No 796/2004 requires that the CA shall, with regard to the requirements or standards for which its responsible, carry out checks on at least 1% of all farmers submitting aid applications under support schemes established in Titles II and IV of Commission Regulation (EC) No 1782/2003 and for which the CA is responsible.

### *5.2.1.2 Findings*

#### ***Systems for the identification and registration of animals***

- Systems for the identification and registration of cattle, sheep, goats and pigs are well-established. The results of official on-the-spot checks indicate that they are operational and are generally understood by keepers;
- A holding register was maintained on the farm holding visited. Although generally complete, information concerning calves born on the holding had not been entered within the required deadline;
- Records maintained by the livestock dealer visited provided full details of all animals that had moved through the approved premises;
- Since 2006, all breeding horses must have a passport. Other horses being traded within Lithuania must be accompanied by an owner declaration concerning their health and any veterinary treatments that they may have received. When the FVO audit was carried out the CAs were establishing arrangements for the implementation of the requirement to identify and register all horses born after 1 July 2009. Personnel authorised to perform official identification activities were trained but no horses had been identified in accordance with the new requirements at the time of the audit. No arrangements had been made for the identification of horses born before 1 July 2009 and not yet identified in accordance with Commission Decisions 93/623/EEC or 2000/68/EC;

#### ***Central Database***

- The central database (CDB) records information on the places in which animals of all farmed species are kept, the people and enterprises that keep them and on the number of animals kept. This information is updated by twice yearly keeper declarations (four times per year in the case of pigs);
- Keepers of cattle, sheep, goats and pig holdings are required to notify the CDB of all movements on or off their holdings and of the slaughter of animals on the holding for personal consumption within seven days. In the case of pigs, details of each batch of pigs that are moved must be notified since 2004. Keepers have the option of making their notifications online via the Internet. The information provided for the holdings and

- establishments visited by the FVO audit team was accurate and up to date;
- The central database provides for the entry of animal health status information for holdings and animals. This information can be used to highlight notifications of movements to or from prohibited locations. However, the system is not currently linked to the SFVS Veterinary Information Management System and the information in the CDB was not updated. For example, the status of the holding involved in the recent CSF outbreak had not been amended;
  - Cases in which keepers fail to confirm the arrival of cattle, sheep or goats notified to the CDB by the dispatching holding were referred to the SFVS and were generally dealt with promptly. However, no equivalent system was in place to deal with the unconfirmed arrival of pigs, which are identified in groups by holding number. In the case of the recent CSF outbreak, the arrival of pigs on the affected holding from another MS in February was not notified to the CDB until July, by which time the outbreak had been confirmed. The FVO audit team confirmed that the movement was recorded in TRACES and that the animals had been subject to an official inspection at the destination.

### ***On the spot controls***

- Dedicated staff within the SFVS carry out on-the-spot inspections on at least 10 % of cattle holdings and at least 3% of holdings accounting for at least 5% of the sheep and goat population each year;
- Holdings are selected for inspection on the basis of risk criteria, including data concerning late notifications of births, deaths and movements to the CDB

#### *5.2.1.3 Conclusions*

Systems for the identification, registration and tracing of cattle, sheep, goats and pigs are well-developed and are generally operational. Considerable work is required to ensure that all horses will be identified in accordance with the requirements of Commission Regulation (EC) No. 504/2008 by the end of 2009.

The potential use of these systems for control purposes in the event of a major animal disease emergency has not been fully exploited.

#### *5.2.2 Disease surveillance*

##### *5.2.2.1 Legal basis*

Annex I, Chapter II, B, to Regulation (EC) N° 854/2004 of the European Parliament and of the Council indicates that an official veterinarian is to perform an ante mortem inspection of all animals, within 24 hours of arrival, and less than 24 hours before slaughter, in order to detect any condition which might adversely affect human or animal health. Paragraph D of the same Chapter indicates that carcasses and accompanying offal are to be subjected without delay after slaughter to post-mortem inspection, for the same purpose.

According to article 3 of Council Directive 90/425/EEC, animals intended for intra-Community trade must also be subject to a clinical examination from an official veterinarian.

Article 4 of Council Directive 2005/94/EC requires the MS to carry out a surveillance programme

on AI, in accordance with the guidelines edited in Commission Decision 2007/268/EEC.

Article 4 of Commission Regulation (EC) N° 1266/2007 requires MS to carry out surveillance on BT, in accordance with the criteria detailed in Annex I to the same Regulation.

#### 5.2.2.2 Findings

##### ***Passive surveillance***

- The CAs provided regular training and were in regular contact with the network of authorised and private veterinarians working with farm and companion animals;
- The FVO audit team visited a slaughterhouse in which suitable facilities were provided for the detection of animal diseases. The officials in the establishment were adequately prepared to deal with the diagnosis and notification of a possible epizootic disease suspect case;
- No suspect clinical cases of epizootic disease were reported between 2006 and the most recent outbreak of CSF in 2009;

##### ***Active surveillance***

- The CA conducts a national programme of active surveillance for major epizootic diseases, including AI and BT, and for diseases for which there is no Community requirement for such surveillance, including FMD (domestic and wild animals), CSF (domestic pigs and wild boars), ND, and SVD. No positive results were obtained for any of these diseases between 2006 and 2009.

#### 5.2.2.3 Conclusions

The CAs implement effective surveillance mechanisms for the detection of epizootic disease in accordance with Community requirements, thereby providing a high level of confidence in the declared animal health status of the country.

#### 5.2.3 Contingency planning

##### 5.2.3.1 Legal basis

Council Directives 2005/94/EC (avian influenza, AI), 92/66/EEC (Newcastle disease, ND), 2003/85/EC (Foot-and Mouth diseases, FMD), 92/119/EEC (certain animal diseases, including swine vesicular disease, SVD) 2001/89/EC (Classical swine fever, CSF), 2002/60/EC (African swine fever, ASF), 2000/75/EC (Bluetongue, BT), 92/35/EEC (African horse sickness, AHS), require the MSs to draw up contingency plans specifying the national measures to be implemented in case of outbreaks, taking into account local factors. The plan should allow access to facilities, equipment, and personnel for a rapid and efficient eradication outbreaks.

The annexes of the Directives detail the criteria and requirements relating to contingency plans. They include legal powers, secured access to emergency funds, the establishment of a chain of command, measures to ensure that appropriate resources are available, an instruction manual giving full and detailed practical description of all procedures, instructions and measures to be employed. Training must be organised for the staff, both on veterinary and communication techniques.

Among the instructions and measures to be employed, all relevant Directives (except the ones for

BT and AHS) require the disinfectants to be used and their concentration, to be approved by the CA, in order to ensure the destruction of the relevant virus. They must also be officially authorised and registered according to Directive 98/8/EC, concerning the placing of biocidal products on the market.

A fully functional national disease control centre (NDCC) and local disease centres (LDCC) must be immediately set up in event of outbreak.

The technical requirements for NDCC and LDCC are in particular detailed in articles 76 and 77 of Directive 2003/85/EC (for FMD);

A permanently operational expert group shall be created in order to maintain the expertise needed by the CA in ensuring disease preparedness. Directive 2003/85/EC specifies that the group is to be constituted of epidemiologists, veterinary scientists and virologists in a balanced way. However, MSs may arrange formalised agreements with other MSs on mutual assistance in regard of the expert group.

A detailed plan for emergency vaccination, and vaccine requirements needed in the event of emergency vaccination for CSF, FMD, BT, AI, ND must be indicated.

Regions with high density of livestock (for FMD), of pigs (for CSF) and poultry (for AI) must be identified in the relevant CPs. The CP for AI must give an indication of the number and location of all commercial holdings.

CPs should indicate the capability required for conducting tests, and the updating of swift transportation of samples and rapid diagnostic techniques for BT, AI and ND; a national reference laboratory (NRL) must be designated, to carry out the functions and duties detailed in the respective Directives. These include the use of tests and standards set in the legislation, collaboration with the CRL (including participation to ring-tests). However, the CA may delegate these these functions and duties to the NRL of another MS through a formal mutual agreement between CAs. No list of NRLs is presently published, but, according to Directive 2008/73/EC they will have to be made available to other MS and to the public from 01/01/2010. Laboratories performing analyses in the context of official controls must comply with quality requirements listed in Article 12 of Regulation (EC) No 882/2004.

Diagnostic manuals have been formally adopted for some epizootic diseases (Commission Decision 2002/106/EC for CSF, 2003/422/EC for ASF, 2006/437/EC for AI, 2000/428/EC for SVD, and Annex XIII of Directive 2003/85/EC for FMD, Annex III of Directive 92/66/EEC for ND, Annex D to Directive 90/426/EEC for AHS).

The CP for FMD must indicate the arrangements to minimise damage to the environment in the event of an outbreak, in particular if it is necessary to burn or bury carcasses.

For ASF and CSF, alarm drills must be organised at least twice a year. Real-time exercises must also be conducted. For FMD, they should occur twice within a five years period (or in combination with an exercise in a neighbouring MS or another disease).

Contingency plans are approved by the Commission Decisions 2007/24/EC, for AI and ND; 2007/18/EC for FMD; 2007/19/EC for CSF. Significant modifications in the CP for FMD must be notified to the Commission. In any case, each MS must update its CP for FMD every five years and particularly in the light of experiences gained during real-time alert exercises.

### 5.2.3.2 Findings

#### **Contingency plans**

- National CPs have been established for AI, FMD, CSF, BT, ND and SVD. The FMD CP was last reviewed in January 2004 and the other CPs more recently. Plans for dealing with outbreaks of ASF will be included in the CSF CP, which is due to be reviewed this year. Currently there is no CP for AHS;
- The CAs require CPs to be reviewed and updated at least once every five years. During these reviews, account was taken of the outcome of real time exercises, training received during twinning projects and audits. The CSF plan was updated earlier this year and it will be updated again to take account of lessons learned during the recent outbreak of the disease. Updates of the FMD and Bluetongue CPs were planned to be carried out before the end of 2009. The FVO audit team noted a number of significant discrepancies in the current Bluetongue CP.
- Each territorial unit (at County and District level) is required to develop its own CP based on the national model. The preparation of these district CPs is monitored and coordinated by County CAs. Territorial CPs include local contact information and identify the territorial officials responsible for ensuring that key eradication measures are taken. They do not include risk assessments tailored to the animal health circumstances of the territory. For example, the Territorial CP for the County in which the rendering plant was located did not specify any additional measures or controls that should be instigated in the event that it was involved in the disposal of carcasses from an outbreak site;

### ***Legal powers in peace time and in emergencies***

- The unusual clinical signs presented by the animals in the recent CSF outbreak and the involvement of a veterinary consultant from another MS in the initial investigation led to a delay of several days in the notification of the CA of the disease situation on the outbreak. The consultant conducted his investigations without informing the CAs and submitted diagnostic samples for virological analysis to a laboratory in another MS without their knowledge. Article 5 of the Veterinary Law of the Lithuanian Republic (No. I-2110 of 17 December 1991) provides for veterinary practice by foreign health professionals, subject to their approval by the CCA and provided that they comply with national veterinary laws. Article 14 of the Law requires private veterinarians to inform the CAs if they suspect the presence of communicable animal disease. However, the CAs were not enforcing the approval requirements at the time of the outbreak and they were unaware of the veterinary consultant's activities or suspicions regarding the disease present on the outbreak farm;
- When notified by the veterinary authorities in the other MS that laboratory analysis indicated the presence of CSF on a farm in Lithuania, the CAs swiftly initiated protective measures. All of the animals on the affected farm were culled immediately and the CCA suspended exports of pigs and pig products pending the results of follow up investigations. A large pig holding located in the same county was placed under full-time official veterinary supervision. The CAs considered that they could not declare a suspect outbreak or activate the CSF CP until the presence of the disease was confirmed by the NFVRAI, which occurred ten days later. They did however apply most of the measures foreseen in the CSF CP. In fact, the CSF CP refers to, and is supplemented by, SFVS order B1-591 of 30 June 2003, which transcribes the Community diagnostic manual into national legislation. The order establishes criteria for declaring a suspect outbreak based on clinical signs or epidemiological and serological information. The clinical signs listed included many of the signs noted in the initial official epidemiological investigation and *post mortem* report. No reference to this order appears in either the CSF operational manual or in NFVRAI standard operating procedures. A consequence of not activating the CSF CP was that the following measures were not applied:
  - the vehicles, including one lorry on loan from Latvia, transporting carcasses from the

- outbreak farm were not sealed and disinfection at the rendering plant was not supervised;
- the arrival of the carcasses at the rendering plant and their subsequent destruction was not supervised;
- disinfection of the outbreak premises was not in accordance with CP provisions;

### ***Financial provisions for eradication and compensation***

- Rules have been established concerning the assessment of losses suffered by keepers as a result of contagious animal disease eradication measures and for the payment of compensation. A State Reserve Fund has been established to deal with such emergencies;

### ***Organisation, chain of command, resources***

- Disease Control Centres have been established at national level and locally in 10 counties, 34 districts and 5 municipalities. Located within CA offices, these centres were adequately supplied with the means of communication necessary to fulfil their functions. The centres were provided with expert software used to define protection and surveillance zones, taking account of geographical and administrative boundaries;
- The composition of the Expert Group on Epizootic Diseases was reviewed recently. The NFVRAI, the Veterinary Academy and the University were invited to nominate representatives. The current members include a serologist, virologist, experts on contagious diseases, wildlife and insect vectors;
- The CPs for different diseases specify various lists of equipment that should be available. However, the equipment available in one of the offices visited did not match any of these lists. Although territorial officials are required to review the inventory each year, several of the items checked by the FVO audit team had expired, including anticoagulant blood tubes and caked bags of disinfectant;
- The NFVRAI prepared a handbook for veterinarians responsible for the collection of diagnostic samples;
- Arrangements have been made to use captive bolt pistols to kill large livestock and gas chambers for poultry. Training was organised for the staff who operate the equipment but no instructions for the use or maintenance of the gas chamber or procedures to confirm the death of animals following use of the captive bolt had been established;

### ***Emergency vaccination***

- Detailed plans for emergency vaccination were included in copies of the CPs for AI, CSF and FMD provided to the Commission Services.

### ***Laboratories***

- The NFVRAI is the National Reference Laboratory for each of the animal diseases for which a Community Reference Laboratory has been established. However, many of the tests used in the diagnosis of these diseases, and particularly for the identification of disease agents, were not included in the scope of the laboratory's accreditation. Molecular biology techniques were available for CSF, AI but not for BT;
- The NFVRAI has participated successfully in proficiency test trials organized by the Community Reference Laboratories for epizootic animal diseases;
- The NFVRAI is equipped and staffed to perform approximately 100 virus isolations each week, between 500-800 ELISA tests per day (depending on the quality of the samples received) and 100 PCR analyses per day. It has cooperation agreements with the Latvian state veterinary laboratory and with neighbouring countries in the region, as well as informal agreements with CRLs, to assist in case of larger disease emergencies;
- Contracts with suppliers ensure that emergency supplies of essential test reagents can be

supplied within two days.

### ***Cleaning and disinfection, disposal***

- The CPs specify the use of disinfectants officially approved as effective against the viruses responsible for outbreaks. A registers of disinfectants has been established by the NFVRAI, which indicates in general terms the disinfectants that may be used to control animal disease agents. However, responsibility rests with official veterinarians to decide whether disinfectants are appropriate in particular circumstances, such as the routine cleaning of animal transport vehicles or the disinfection of outbreak premises. Relevant information was not included in the specifications accompanying any of the disinfectants used in the locations visited by the FVO audit team;
- The FVO audit team visited the only rendering plant in Lithuania capable of processing carcasses of large farm animals that may be killed in the event of an epizootic disease outbreak. The Category I plant was operating at close to its maximum capacity. No arrangements had been made with other rendering facilities or stores, in Lithuania or in neighbouring countries, to handle lower risk animal by-products that would have to be diverted from this plant in the event of an emergency;
- Although no means for the disposal of carcasses is specified in the AI CP, burial is considered to be the most appropriate method. Burial sites had been agreed with landowners and the authorities responsible for groundwater management in the counties visited. These sites were located on state-owned and private land. The CA considered that these sites could also be used for the disposal of larger animals. However, no formal agreements with other bodies for this possible use have been made.

### ***Training and simulation exercises, information***

- The CDCC organizes epizootic disease training exercises twice each year. Typically these include theoretical training and a real-time exercise. For example real-time exercises were organised for Bluetongue and FMD in 2008 and for CSF in 2007. Representatives from the Territorial Units, NFVRAI, Ministries of Health, Agriculture and Environment, Police and Fire and Rescue Services participated. The exercise in 2009 was limited to a single day of theoretical training due to financial cutbacks.
- The CAs were planning to develop procedures for the review of CPs based on experience gained during real-time exercises.

#### ***5.2.3.3 Conclusion***

The CAs have established command and communications systems and CPs addressing most of the criteria and requirements established by Community legislation for all major epizootic diseases except ASF and AHS. They are the subject of regular simulation exercises and reviews. However, the CAs did not make full use of the legal powers available to them in order to prevent and eradicate epizootic animal diseases prior to and during the recent CSF outbreak. The resultant delays jeopardised the rapid and efficient stamping out of the disease.

Although the CPs have been developed to make them more useful at County and District levels, they do not include sufficient preparations for, and guidance on, dealing with scenarios that are likely to occur in the event of a major disease outbreak, particularly with regard to the killing of suspect and in-contact animals, the disposal of carcasses and the selection of appropriate disinfectants for the cleaning and disinfection of premises, vehicles and equipment.

The NFVRAI has adequate analytical capacity to deal with a small to medium sized epizootic in poultry or farm animals and has made arrangements with laboratories in neighbouring MSs to

provide assistance in the event of a larger epizootic.

## 6 OVERALL CONCLUSIONS

Although the results of the rabies eradication programme are favourable, there are several indications that the eradication programme as currently applied does not ensure adequate levels of protection to susceptible wild animals in order to ensure that its objectives will be met.

Systems for the preparation, dissemination and review of animal disease contingency plans are generally well-developed. However, incomplete preparations for certain key steps in procedures for the prevention and eradication of epizootic disease jeopardise the rapid and efficient stamping out of possible outbreaks.

## 7 CLOSING MEETING

During the closing meeting held in Vilnius on 24 July 2009, the mission team presented the findings and preliminary conclusions of the mission to the CA. During this meeting, the CA acknowledged the findings and preliminary conclusions.

## 8 RECOMMENDATIONS

The CCA is requested to provide the Commission services with an action plan, including a timetable for its completion, within one month of receipt of the report in order to address the deficiencies identified in the report and in particular, the following:

N°.	Recommendation
1.	To ensure the prompt and thorough investigation of all cases of rabies, particularly in areas where migration of susceptible wild animals from unvaccinated territories is unlikely to occur, in accordance with Article 24 of Council Decision 90/424/EEC and in line with SCAHAW recommendations.
2.	To establish, in conjunction with other relevant authorities, procedures for estimating the density of the fox population and for reviewing vaccination strategies accordingly, in accordance with Article 24 of Council Decision 90/424/EEC and taking account of SCAHAW recommendations.
3.	To regularly analyse vaccine baits collected from the field as a means to evaluate the reliability of the distribution chain and in accordance with Article 24 of Council Decision 90/424/EEC and taking account of SCAHAW recommendations.
4.	To take measures to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of the approved programme by increasing the proportion of foxes and, more particularly, racoon dogs that have protective levels of immunity to rabies, in accordance with Article 24 of Council Decision 90/424/EEC, Article 19 of Commission Decision 2008/897/EC and

N°.	Recommendation
	taking account of SCAHAW recommendations.
5.	To consider the development of new control procedures concerning the use of alternative test methods more suited to the analysis of samples taken from shot wild animals under Lithuanian field conditions, in order to assess more accurately their level of immunity to rabies, in accordance with Article 24 of Council Decision 90/424/EEC and Article 19 of Commission Decision 2008/897/EC.
6.	To ensure that all horses in Lithuania are identified and registered in accordance with Commission Regulation (EC) No. 504/2008 and, in particular, that unidentified horses born on or before 30 June 2009 are identified and registered by 31 December 2009 at the latest, as required by Article 26 of that Regulation.
7.	To establish procedures for the use of the animal health information that Council Regulation (EC) No. 21/2004 and Commission Decision 2000/678/EC require for each holding registered in the central database as a means to control the movement of animals in the event of major animal disease outbreaks.
8.	To establish contingency plans for African Swine Fever and African Horse Sickness in accordance with the requirements of Article 21 of Council Directive 2002/60/EC and Article 17 of Council Directive 92/35/EEC.
9.	To develop more detailed guidance and plans for activating contingency plans, killing animals, disposing of carcasses and for the cleaning and disinfection of premises, vehicles and equipment in the event of a major disease outbreak so as to ensure the prevention and rapid and efficient stamping out of possible outbreaks, as foreseen in Community legislation, including Article 62 of Council Directive 2005/94/EC, Article 21 of Council Directive 92/66/EEC, Article 72 of Council Directive 2003/85/EC, Article 22 of Council Directive 2001/89/EC and Article 18 of Council Directive 2000/75/EC.

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

[http://ec.europa.eu/food/fvo/ap/ap\\_lt\\_2009-8265.pdf](http://ec.europa.eu/food/fvo/ap/ap_lt_2009-8265.pdf)

**ANNEX 1 - LEGAL REFERENCES**

<b>Legal Reference</b>	<b>Official Journal</b>	<b>Title</b>
Reg. 882/2004	OJ L 165, 30.4.2004, p. 1, Corrected and re-published in OJ L 191, 28.5.2004, p. 1	Regulation (EC) No 882/2004 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
Dec. 2007/782/EC	OJ L 314, 1.12.2007, p. 29-39	2007/782/EC: Commission Decision of 30 November 2007 approving annual and multi-annual national programmes and the financial contribution from the Community for the eradication, control and monitoring of certain animal diseases and zoonoses, presented by the Member States for 2008 and following years
Dec. 2008/897/EC	OJ L 322, 2.12.2008, p. 39-49	2008/897/EC: Commission Decision of 28 November 2008 approving annual and multi-annual programmes and the financial contribution from the Community for the eradication, control and monitoring of certain animal diseases and zoonoses presented by the Member States for 2009 and following years
Dec. 2009/582/EC	OJ L 198, 30.7.2009, p. 85-86	2009/582/EC: Commission Decision of 29 July 2009 on the financing of special emergency measures to protect the Community from rabies
Dec. 90/424/EEC	OJ L 224, 18.8.1990, p. 19-28	90/424/EEC: Council Decision of 26 June 1990 on expenditure in the veterinary field
Dec. 90/638/EEC	OJ L 347, 12.12.1990, p. 27-29	90/638/EEC: Council Decision of 27 November 1990 laying down Community criteria for the eradication and monitoring of certain animal diseases
<i>Dec. 97/579/EC</i>		
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

<b>Legal Reference</b>	<b>Official Journal</b>	<b>Title</b>
		Council Regulation (EC) No 820/97
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. 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. 21/2004	OJ L 5, 9.1.2004, p. 8-17	Council Regulation (EC) No 21/2004 of 17 December 2003 establishing a system for the identification and registration of ovine and caprine animals and amending Regulation (EC) No 1782/2003 and Directives 92/102/EEC and 64/432/EEC
Reg. 1505/2006	OJ L 280, 12.10.2006, p. 3-6	Commission Regulation (EC) No 1505/2006 of 11 October 2006 implementing Council Regulation (EC) No 21/2004 as regards the minimum level of checks to be carried out in relation to the identification and registration of ovine and caprine animals
Dir. 2008/71/EC	OJ L 213, 8.8.2008, p. 31-36	Council Directive 2008/71/EC of 15 July 2008 on the identification and registration of pigs (Codified version)
Dec. 2000/678/EC	OJ L 281, 7.11.2000, p. 16-17	2000/678/EC: Commission Decision 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
Reg. 504/2008	OJ L 149, 7.6.2008, p. 3-32	Commission Regulation (EC) No 504/2008 of 6 June 2008 implementing Council Directives 90/426/EEC and 90/427/EEC as regards methods for the identification of equidae

<b>Legal Reference</b>	<b>Official Journal</b>	<b>Title</b>
Dec. 93/623/EEC	OJ L 298, 3.12.1993, p. 45-55	93/623/EEC: Commission Decision of 20 October 1993 establishing the identification document (passport) accompanying registered equidae
Dec. 2000/68/EC	OJ L 23, 28.1.2000, p. 72-75	2000/68/EC: Commission Decision of 22 December 1999 amending Commission Decision 93/623/EEC and establishing the identification of equidae for breeding and production
Dir. 64/432/EEC	OJ 121, 29.7.1964, p. 1977-2012	Council Directive 64/432/EEC of 26 June 1964 on animal health problems affecting intra-Community trade in bovine animals and swine
Reg. 796/2004	OJ L 141, 30.4.2004, p. 18-58	Commission Regulation (EC) No 796/2004 of 21 April 2004 laying down detailed rules for the implementation of cross-compliance, modulation and the integrated administration and control system provided for in of Council Regulation (EC) No 1782/2003 establishing common rules for direct support schemes under the common agricultural policy and establishing certain support schemes for farmers
Reg. 1782/2003	OJ L 270, 21.10.2003, p. 1-69	Council Regulation (EC) No 1782/2003 of 29 September 2003 establishing common rules for direct support schemes under the common agricultural policy and establishing certain support schemes for farmers and amending Regulations (EEC) No 2019/93, (EC) No 1452/2001, (EC) No 1453/2001, (EC) No 1454/2001, (EC) 1868/94, (EC) No 1251/1999, (EC) No 1254/1999, (EC) No 1673/2000, (EEC) No 2358/71 and (EC) No 2529/2001
Reg. 854/2004	OJ L 139, 30.4.2004, p. 206, Corrected and re-published in OJ L 226, 25.6.2004, p. 83	Regulation (EC) No 854/2004 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 29 April 2004 laying down specific rules for the organisation of official controls on products of animal origin intended for human consumption
Dir. 90/425/EEC	OJ L 224, 18.8.1990, p. 29-41	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

<b>Legal Reference</b>	<b>Official Journal</b>	<b>Title</b>
		of the internal market