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Report of Austria on Inspections according to Article 27 of Regulation (EC) 1/2005 carried out in Austria in 2012

Please find attached the Austrian report on inspections according to Article 27 of Regulation (EC) 1/2005 carried out in Austria in 2012.

In accordance with Article 27 (2) we would like to present an analysis of the major deficiencies detected and inform you about the planned actions to address them:

- The report form provided is not applicable to the Austrian system. In contrast to the table provided, statistics on animal transports in Austria are based on the number of transports checked, not on the number of animals transported. Therefore a different table is used. For the 2013 report the new template will be used, however we already raised our concerns about comparability of the data. We consider further coordination among Memberstates necessary to assure similar application of parameters.
- With regard to controls on the road intense co-operation of the police and the veterinary authorities has proven effective and necessary. Besides the controls on the road Austria still considers checks at the place of departure and at the place of destination a most valuable and a feasible measure to constantly increase transport conditions. However, our reports show that checks at the place of destination (i.e. at slaughterhouses) and documentation thereof are done in an unequal manner depending on work procedures of the local veterinarians. Thus resulting in significant differences between the number of checks reported to the central veterinary authority action will be taken.
Actions planned: In order to harmonize control procedures in slaughterhouses and reports thereof a national working group will be set up to define more harmonized work- and documentation procedures in slaughterhouses.

- As in the previous reports the statistics indicate that the percentage of infringements found during controls on the road is significantly higher than those at places of origin or destination. Road checks are mainly carried out on transit routes, therefore the majority of transports checked on the road cover longer distance or intra-community movements. According to reports from the local authorities the Austrian control personnel gained a lot of experience within the last years and therefore transports where infringements are likely to be expected are identified efficiently and checked on the road.
Actions planned: National provisions concerning the risk based controls on the road appear effective and will be maintained, as a relatively high percentage of non-compliant transports could be detected.
- Nonconformity of the planned transport duration with the actual duration is reported quite frequently. An advanced training course for official veterinarians covering this issue took place in November 2012. Within this course possibilities to carry out retrospective checks of transports using journey logs and satellite navigation system data was covered. Notwithstanding that retrospective checks are considered a powerful measure to identify poor planning these may only be carried out in a moderate extent as the work load for the authorities is immense. Due to not harmonized data of the SNS and time consuming acquisition of documents from transporters these checks cannot be done on a regular base.
Actions planned: Official veterinarians are reminded of the provision to verify plausibility when dispatching transports at the places of origin, during road controls as well as at the place of destination. In case of implausible calculation corrective actions have to be taken. Retrospective checks are recommended when “new” transport routes are used and when planning already seemed questionable at time of dispatch.

Kind regards
For the Minister:
Dr. med.vet. Ulrich Herzog

Enclosure: Animal Transport Controls and Measures 2012

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