1. **Note to the Members of the Standing Committee requesting information to update the list of National Reference Laboratories for residue control (Council Directive 96/23/EC) (AMBR)**

National reference laboratories (NRLs) for the detection of residues designated pursuant to article 14 of Directive 96/23/EC are listed in the Annex to Commission Decision 98/536/EC. This decision should have been updated by 31 December 2000. Since then, Member States (MS) have reorganised the laboratories in order to fulfil the requirements of Directive 96/23/EC. In the meantime, the list of NRLs was managed by the Commission and submitted to the Community Reference Laboratories (CRLs) for their information. There is a need to formalise the list of NRLs by its publication in a Commission Decision. This is in particular very important for the well functioning of the CRL-NRL network as, in principle, only NRLs are entitled to participate to activities organised by the CRLs like workshops or proficiency tests. Member States were invited to submit the Commission the official list of NRLs by **15 September 2005**. This information will be used to amend Commission Decision 98/536/EC.

2. **Control of boldenone in veal calves: update (AMBR)**

The wording of the advice given by the group of experts on boldenone control in veal calves has been clarified in order to provide unambiguous interpretations. On the basis of scientific information available, the experts of the Member States agreed that the presence of 17 beta-boldenone conjugates at any level in urine from veal calves is a proof of illegal treatment. If the analytical procedure detects the presence of free 17 beta-boldenone, the sample should have been taken without fecal contamination in order to conclude the presence of illegal treatment. A copy of the advice given by the expert group was distributed.
3. **Call for selection and designation of Community Reference Laboratories (JCC)**

The Commission informed the Member States of the call for selection and designation of new Community Reference Laboratories in the area of Food and Feed Safety and animal Health. 15 laboratories will be selected in the following areas:

- Foot-and-mouth disease
- Equine diseases (other than African Horse Sickness)
- Brucellosis
- *Listeria monocytogenes*
- *Coagulase positive Staphylococci*
- *Escherichia coli*, including Verotoxigenic *E. coli* (VTEC)
- *Campylobacter*
- Parasites (in particular Trichine, Echinococcus, Anisakis)
- Antimicrobial resistance
- Animal proteins in feedingstuffs
- Pesticides (x4)
- Mycotoxins in food and feed
- Heavy metals in feed and food
- Dioxins and PCBs in feed and food
- Polycyclic Aromatic Hydrocarbons (PAH)

Submission should be made by the National Competent Authorities before 31 October 2005 (except for Foot and Mouth disease where the deadline is 15 September). A copy of the call for selection and designation of CRLs (Working Document SANCO/2214/2005), the model framework partnership agreement and a note explaining practical issues were distributed for information. The Commission has formally informed the Permanent Representations in Brussels on 19 July 2005 of the launching of this call.

4. **Imports of tuna from Mauritius accompanied by false certificates. Information of the situation and request to increase the control checks in fishery products imported from Mauritius. (CL)**

The Commission informed the Member States (MS) of fraudulent imports of tuna from Mauritius involving false identification certificates. Colleagues in Taxation and Customs Unions DG and the European Anti-Fraud Office are already following the case. An inspection visit in Mauritius by the Food Veterinary Office is planned for next year. The Commission asked MS to be vigilant and to perform stricter controls of tuna imports. MS agreed to cooperate but requested to receive more information on the situation in order to target the controls, in particular from Mauritius, which is victim of the fraud.
5. **Control checks carried out in Dutch BIP of fish products imported from third countries. (CL)**

The Dutch delegation gave a presentation of the findings on histamine in tuna at the Dutch Border Inspection Posts as well as inside the country. Further to the discussion held during the committee in March 2005, the Netherlands agreed to perform extra controls: 1 out of 5 consignments have been analysed for histamine. Out of 69 import consignments no consignments was found positive. Further checks were carried out on the internal market, in restaurants, canteens, fish retail shops, stalls, … 225 samples were analysed, of which 12 were found positive, which led the Dutch authorities to take stricter measures towards traders. As the histamine contamination can occur either at import or after entry into the internal market, the Commission asked the Dutch delegation to further investigate on the positive cases and to trace back the origin of the contamination.


The Lithuanian competent authority has officially declared that certain establishments in the fish, meat and milk sectors have completed their upgrading process and are now in full compliance with Community legislation. Certain establishments have ceased their activities. This proposal intends to delete those establishments from the list of establishments in transition, and to grant further time to a limited number of establishments to complete their upgrading process.


The Hungarian competent authority has officially declared that certain establishments in the meat sector have completed their upgrading process and are now in full compliance with Community legislation. Certain establishments have ceased their activities. This proposal intends to delete those establishments from the list of establishments in transition, and to grant further time to a limited number of establishments to complete their upgrading process.

8. **Distribution for information: FVO mission reports**

- **FVO mission to Bulgaria from 6 to 10 June 2005 in order to follow-up on the commitments given by the Bulgarian authorities in relation to the up-grading of certain classes of food establishments and the operation of controls on animal health (Mission reference number: DG(SANCO)/7523/2005)**

- **FVO follow-up mission to Bulgaria from 30 May to 3 June 2005 in order to evaluate the implementation of certain measures aimed at the prevention,**
control and eradication of Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy (BSE) and the system of controls applied in the field of animal nutrition.
(Mission reference number: DG(SANCO)/7635/2005 – MR)

9. Exchange of views and possible opinion of the committee on a draft Commission Decision concerning a financial contribution from the Community towards a baseline survey on the prevalence of Salmonella in broiler flocks of Gallus gallus to be carried out in the Member States (Document SANCO/1689/2005 Rev. 1) (See point 11 of the 21-22 June 2005 SCFCAH) (JCC)

This proposal defines the framework of a baseline survey on the prevalence of Salmonella in flocks of broiler chickens and establishes the conditions for a Community financial contribution. The tasks and activities to be carried out shall be in conformity with the technical specifications outlined in the working document SANCO/1688/2005 Rev. 1 (see point 14 of the agenda). The survey will cover a one year period starting 1 October 2005. A Community target for reducing the prevalence of salmonella in populations of flocks of broilers of Gallus gallus will be established by the end of 2006 on the basis of the outcome of the survey.

Vote: 318 votes in favour


This proposal gathers and revises all the existing provisions as regards the special guarantees concerning salmonella for consignments to Finland and Sweden of certain meat and eggs. It lays down rules for the sampling of meat and eggs and includes two model documents: a model commercial certificate which shall accompany consignments of meat and a model certificate based on the TRACES model which shall accompany consignments of eggs.

Technical vote: 318 votes in favour


The Hungarian competent authority has officially declared that certain establishments in the milk sector have completed their upgrading process and are now in full compliance with Community legislation. Certain establishments have ceased their activities. This proposal intends to delete those establishments from the list of
establishments in transition, and to grant further time to a limited number of establishments to complete their upgrading process.

Vote: 318 votes in favour


This proposal updates the list of national reference laboratories for Transmissible Spongiform Encephalopathies (TSE) as provided for in Regulation (EC) No 999/2001, in accordance with amendments sent by some Member States. It provides for the prohibition of exports to third countries of heads, carcases, half carcases, half carcases cut into more than 3 wholesale cuts containing specified risk materials. A series of third countries (El Salvador, Nicaragua, Botswana, Namibia and Swaziland) can no longer be exempted from the TSE-related trade conditions for live bovine animals and products of bovine, ovine and caprine origin, following the opinion of the European Food Safety Authority (EFSA) that their geographical BSE risk though unlikely cannot be excluded.

Vote postponed to the October 2005 SCFCAH, so as to take into account the EFSA scientific opinion on Brazil and Chile.


The entry into force of Regulations (EC) Nos 852/2004, 853/2004, 854/2004 and 882/2004 on 1 January 2006 requires the establishment of a transitional period during which their requirements can be progressively implemented. This proposal lays down transitional arrangements as well as the implementing measures with regard to these Regulations, certain amendments and a derogation. The Commission explained to the Member States the request from the Legal Service to divide the proposal for the sake of clarity into 3 different parts consisting of:
The regulatory text including all permanent measures, i.e. the implementing measures, the derogation on traditional products and the amendments to the basic Regulations;
- one part devoted to trichinellosis, which is also a permanent measure;
- the transitional measures.

The Commission insisted that MS made and sent their comments on the latest draft (revision 6) by 5 August 2005 in order to be able to provide them with a final version before September 2005, and to present it for vote at the SCFCAH of 20-21 September 2005.

At the request of a majority of MS the decontamination issue has been removed from the proposal and put off until release of scientific opinions from the European Food Safety Authority.

The minced meat criterion, being a quality issue, has not been included in the hygiene package as requested by MS and stakeholders. Some MS expressed their wish to see that criterion back in the proposal. The Commission asked all MS to confirm their position in writing by the deadline of 5 August 2005.

After debate, MS were also asked to confirm their position on the banning, maintaining, or labelling of fish from the ‘Gempylidae family (Article 5(1)(f)).

The proposal is submitted along with a working document determining the ‘Technical specifications in relation to the master list of lists and the lists of approved food establishments’, pursuant to Regulation (EC) No 853/2004, which provides for the approval of establishments by the competent authority of each MS; and to Regulation (EC) No 882/2004, which provides for up-to-date lists to be made available to other MS and to the public.

With regard to Annex VI on ‘Analytical methods for detection of marine biotoxins as referred to in Article 11(4) of Regulation (EC) No 853/2004’ the Commission made the following declaration in writing:

‘The Commission services note that currently, because of the lack of reference materials for the detection of marine biotoxins in live bivalve molluscs, the use of non-bio-assay tests only does not ensure in respect of all toxins prescribed an equivalent level of public health protection to the level afforded by biological tests. However, the Commission services reiterate their commitment to replace the biological methods as soon as alternative validated methods, giving the same level of public health protection, are available.

The Commission services undertake, as soon as they have received from the Member States and/or the Community Reference Laboratory on marine biotoxins relevant data together with appropriate scientific elements on suggested alternative methods to replace the mouse bioassay test, to forward the data to the European Food Safety Authority. EFSA will receive a mandate to determine if the suggested alternative methods are validated following an internationally agreed protocol and if they are equivalent, with regard to protection of human health, to the mouse bioassay test.

When EFSA has recognised that an alternative method is equivalent, the Commission services will present to the college a proposal for a relevant modification.’
14. **Exchange of views on draft technical specifications for the baseline survey on the prevalence of *Salmonella* in broiler flocks of *Gallus gallus* in the EU** (Working document SANCO/1688/2005 Rev. 1) *(See point 12 of the 21-22 June 2005 SCFCAH)* (JCC)

This working document defines the technical specifications for the baseline survey on the prevalence of salmonella in broilers set out in the draft Commission Decision which is presented under point 9.


This proposal is a follow-up of the Chief Veterinary Officers meeting held on 6 July 2005 and reflects the intention to simplify the implementation of Regulation (EC) No 1774/2002 laying down health rules concerning animal by-products not intended for human consumption and prohibiting the application to pastureland of organic fertilisers and soil improvers, other than manure, to avoid possible contamination risks. The implementing measures including control measures are laid down in this proposal on the basis of the opinions of the Scientific Committee.


A copy of the TSE roadmap was distributed to the Member States (MS). It is at the moment available in English, French and German on the Food Safety website: [http://europa.eu.int/comm/food/food/biosafety/bse/roadmap_en.pdf](http://europa.eu.int/comm/food/food/biosafety/bse/roadmap_en.pdf). This roadmap highlights the favourable evolution of the BSE epidemic across the EU and the improved implementation of BSE requirements, which accounts a reflection on future amendments of certain measures in the short, medium and long-term.

The Commission presented to MS a proposal to modify the list of specified risk materials (SRM) to be excluded from human and animal consumption on the basis of relative tissue infectivity, species and age, as provided for by Regulation (EC) No 999/2001. Following an opinion of the European Food Safety Authority to assess the age limit for the removal of SRM in bovines, the proposal increases the age limit for removing the vertebral column from 12 to 24 months, which can be reviewed in the light of the evaluation of the BSE epidemic. A vote on the proposal is planned for the SCFCAH of 04-05 or 18-19 October 2005, after discussions with the European Parliament have taken place.
17. Miscellaneous

- **Exchange of views and possible opinion of the committee amending Decision 2004/233/EC as regards the list of laboratories authorised to check the effectiveness of vaccination against rabies in certain domestic carnivores (Document SANCO/10333/2005) (JF)**

  This proposal intends to add one laboratory in the Czech Republic to the list of laboratories authorised to check the effectiveness of vaccination against rabies in certain domestic carnivores. Indeed it has been approved by the Agence Française de Sécurité Sanitaire des Aliments (AFSSA), Nancy, which is responsible for establishing the criteria necessary for standardising the serological tests to monitor the effectiveness of rabies vaccines.

- **Imports of live sheep from Romania to Italy**

  The Italian delegation pointed out the fact that imports of live sheep from Romania to Italy would be preferable by transiting them through Serbia and Montenegro. However, in accordance with Council Decision 79/542/EEC, transport through a territory which is not allowed to export live animals cannot be authorised. The Commission is aware of the animal welfare issue but insists that no derogation to this situation can be granted at the moment. An inspection is due next year by the FVO and the veterinary services are now completely separate so that each part would have to be listed as an individual country.

- **Outbreak of Newcastle Disease in the United Kingdom**

  On 15 July 2005 Newcastle Disease was confirmed in pheasants at a large game estate in Surrey, south of England, on the basis of genotype. Killing of the pheasants on the infected premises started and control measures were implemented after declaration of a protection zone and a surveillance zone. Measures were put in place to ensure exports to Member States and Third Countries of birds and hatching eggs do not come from within the restricted area. The British authorities believe the infection originated from one consignment from France, which arrived in England on 23 June 2005. Investigations by the French authorities to identify the infected consignments pinpoint 5 holdings on the west coast of France. In only one holding (of the Loire Atlantique) clinical symptoms were detected, which led to serological and virological analysis. Before release of the results it has been decided to carry out a preventive killing of the 55,000 birds of the affected holding. All exports to Third Countries have been suspended, as well as intra-Community movements of birds from holdings in the Loire Atlantique.

- **Information on guidelines for multi-annual control plan and for audit.**

  The Commission informed the Member States (MS) that a finalised version of guidelines for multi-annual control plan and for audit pursuant to Regulation (EC) 882/2004 will be presented at the committee before October 2005. The correct legal format for these guidelines has to be a Commission Decision to say that it has adopted guidelines, which does not alter their non-binding nature. The Food
and Veterinary Office will invite MS at a working party meeting to be held early September 2005 in Grange.

N.B. The proposals on which the Committee expressed an opinion are subject to a defined procedure in relation to the formal adoption by the Commission.

Mission reports are available on the Internet at the following address: http://europa.eu.int/comm/food/fs/inspections/vi/reports/index_en.html

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