



European Commission
Health & Consumer Protection Directorate-General
Food and Veterinary Office

GENERAL ACTIVITIES:

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The Food and Veterinary Office (FVO)



The FVO offices,
Grange, Co. Meath

• Mission

The Food and Veterinary Office (FVO) is a directorate of the Health and Consumer Protection Directorate-General of the European Commission, and is responsible for monitoring compliance with EU legislation in the fields of food safety, animal health, animal welfare and plant health.

The FVO performs this function by verifying, mainly through inspections, the effectiveness of national control systems for enforcing Community

legislation in these fields.

The mission of the FVO is:

- To carry out on-the-spot inspections to evaluate the food safety control systems operated by national authorities in Member States and also in Third Countries exporting, or wishing to export, to the EU;
- To report its findings and conclusions, and to make recommendations;
- To follow up the action taken by national authorities in

response to its reports.

Since it was set up in 1997, the FVO has grown from 74 staff to 172, as the range of its tasks and responsibilities has expanded.

In the context of the Enlargement of the EU, the FVO has been active in monitoring the progress of the Candidate Countries as they advanced towards the implementation of Member State standards.

• Inspections

Inspections are the principal means by which the FVO performs its role. FVO inspectors carry out these inspections in Member States, Candidate Countries and other Third Countries.

The findings and conclusions of the inspections are presented in inspection reports that are, in general, made public on the Directorate-General's website. These reports include recommendations to the competent authorities in the countries inspected.

Where an inspection identifies an immediate threat to consumer, animal or plant health, the Commission may take emergency (safeguard) measures. These may include legal action to prevent trade in,

or imports of, animals, plants or their products. In other cases, where serious, but less urgent, problems are found, or where a competent authority fails to take satisfactory corrective action, the Commission may use the inspection report as one element in deciding to start infringement proceedings against a Member State or, in the case of a Third Country, to refuse, withdraw or modify authorisations for exports to the EU.

In addition, the results of the FVO's inspections can contribute to the development of Community legislation by identifying areas where existing legislation may need to be amended or where new legislation is required.

Inspection objectives and the countries to be visited are presented in an Annual Programme of Inspections prepared before the start of each year. Towards the end of the first half of the year, this programme is updated for the second half of the year. When finalised, normally by the end of November, the programme is published on the Directorate-General's website. It is also distributed to each Member State, to the Council and to the European Parliament.

New inspections may need to be included in the mission programme, e.g. in response to emerging risks such as disease outbreaks. These new inspections are reflected in modifications to the inspections programme.

• Follow-up

Follow-up of recommendations is fundamental, if continued improvement of control systems operated by competent authorities is to be achieved. The importance of this was underlined in 2003 with the creation of a new FVO unit that will continuously monitor follow-up.

The FVO asks competent authorities to respond with an "action plan" outlining how inspection recommendations will be addressed. This plan is evaluated by the FVO, which

also monitors the delivery of positive responses. Where responses are not satisfactory, various means may be used to achieve a more positive outcome, such as further inspection, high level meetings with the authorities or legal action.

Follow-up is particularly important as regards Candidate Countries: in the run-up to accession, the competent authorities provided continuous updates on progress with the action plans.

In general, the response of the authorities is mostly positive, and significant improvements are made each year as a result. However, it is normal to have a time lag between an inspection and the correction of problems identified. Since this report focuses on 2003 inspections, the subsequent corrective actions may only show results in 2004. The 2004 annual report will therefore include information on such actions taken in 2004 in response to inspections conducted in 2003.

FVO Inspections 2003

• Objectives

In 2003, the FVO carried out 224 inspections.

Inspections are categorised into one of four broad objectives: food safety, animal health, animal welfare and plant health. On this basis, nearly two-thirds of inspections were classified as food safety inspections, while animal health inspections accounted for a fifth of the total.

However, many inspections covered a number of objectives and some objectives could be

considered under more than one category. For example, animal nutrition could be regarded as having an influence on both the health and the welfare of an animal. Equally, it could be considered as having an influence on the final animal product and could therefore be classed as a food safety issue.

The table opposite gives the breakdown of inspections in 2003 by main objective.

Food Safety:

• Countries

The 224 FVO inspections in 2003 covered 62 countries. Apart from the 15 Member States and the 13 Candidate Countries, a further 34 countries worldwide were visited.

Concerning the distribution of the inspections, 102 took place in Member States, 81 were carried out in the Candidate Countries and 41 in Third Countries.

The proportion of inspections performed in the Candidate Countries increased by a third, from 27% in 2002 to 36% in 2003. This is a reflection of the

increased effort involved in the preparation process for the enlargement of the EU, through which ten of the Candidate Countries would become Member States on 1st May 2004.

As a result, the proportion of inspections in the Member States decreased during the same period.

The table opposite gives a breakdown of the number of inspections per Member State.

A full list of all the countries visited in 2003 is included in Annex 2 of this report.

Inspections by Member State:

Portugal	10
Greece	9
Belgium	8
France	8
Ireland	8
Italy	8
Spain	8
Germany	7
The Netherlands	7
United Kingdom	7
Austria	6
Finland	5
Denmark	4
Sweden	4
Luxembourg	3
Total	102



Food and Feed Safety

The majority of the work undertaken by the FVO concerning the evaluation of official control systems, both in Member States and Third Countries, falls under this heading.

It encompasses the total food chain from "farm to fork", including primary production, through processing of animal and non-animal foodstuffs, to retail and catering.

Evaluation of official control

systems is undertaken to verify that the feed and food safety requirements established in EU law are being applied by the competent authorities in the Member States and in the Third Countries that export feed and food to the EU.

• Activities

The main areas of activity included inspections to assess control systems in the following areas:

- production of meat (beef, pork, sheep meat, poultry and game meat), milk, eggs, fish and their respective products;
- production of food of plant origin (frozen, fresh, dried and canned products);
- animal feedstuffs (exclusion of contaminants, BSE controls)
- foodstuffs of animal origin (residues of veterinary medicines);
- wholesale and distribution of all foodstuffs, animal and non-animal;
- hygiene in retail sectors (supermarkets and other retail outlets);
- hygiene in the catering sector (mass catering for hospitals, schools and restaurants);
- assessment of the Rapid Alert System for Food and Feed (RASFF).

The majority of inspections of meat production took place in Third Countries, particularly in South America (five countries visited) and Southern Africa

(four countries visited). In addition to public health issues, these inspections covered animal health conditions, particularly the controls of Foot & Mouth Disease. Where possible during these inspections, other important issues were examined, for example BSE and animal feed controls in Southern Africa and the control of the use of veterinary drugs in all countries visited.

For the production of fresh meat, one inspection was carried out within the EU. This was a follow-up to a previous inspection where serious shortcomings had been detected.

Audits of milk and meat production were undertaken in North America.

Nine inspections were carried out concerning the evaluation of official control systems relating to general legislation not covered by specific veterinary legislation, in particular the production of non-animal foodstuffs, wholesale distribution, retail (including retail butcher shops) and catering sectors. These

inspections were carried out both in the Member States and in the Candidate Countries.

In the context of the enlargement of the EU, inspections were also conducted in nine of the Acceding Countries to monitor progress with the upgrading of food establishments. These inspections also assessed commodities, including poultry meat, meat products, eggs and fishery products.

Inspections concerning poultry commodities took place in South America and Asia, and a specific mission on ratite and crocodile meat production took place in Southern Africa.

The majority of fishery product inspections took place in Third Countries (18 visited). A short series of inspections in Third Countries was also conducted on live bivalve molluscs (four countries).

Two inspections (one dealing with live bivalve molluscs and the other on fishery products) were performed in North America, in the context of Veterinary Agreements with the EU.

• Findings

In the Third Countries visited, meat production standards were generally satisfactory. However, problems with the traceability of live animals were a concern in most of these countries and this undermined the reliability of the certification relating to animal and public health conditions. In the Southern African countries, difficulties were found in ensuring that animals were not treated with hormonal growth promoters and this led to an interruption in the import of beef

from these countries. In many Third Countries, poor standards were observed in fishery product establishments and fishing vessels, and significant corrective action was necessary. Furthermore, measures were required to improve product traceability and to guarantee the "cold chain".

An evaluation of the control systems in those sectors for which specific veterinary legislation is not applicable was generally positive. However, a

number of deficiencies in the implementation of Community legislation were noted in several Member States. In particular, some competent authorities did not enforce the requirement that all food businesses implement food safety systems based on HACCP principles. In addition, shortfalls in resources in some Member States resulted in inadequate official control in some areas, in particular, the inspection of high-risk sectors such as catering.

• Animal Nutrition / TSE

• Activities

In relation to the controls over animal feed, a series of inspections was carried out in all Member States. These controls focused on the implementation of certain EU requirements as regards the safe production of animal feedstuffs, in particular on the official controls of competent authorities on the production

and use of feed, and on the requirements for feed producers and traders.

Three inspections were carried out on TSE-related issues: two on TSE controls and one on the Date-Based Export Scheme (DBES).

As regards animal and public health inspections in Third

Countries, an evaluation of the protective measures against BSE was included for three Southern African countries. These were concerned with the implementation of BSE surveillance, specified risk material measures, rendering systems and the ban on feeding farm animals with certain animal products.

• Findings

In most Member States, the systems in place for official inspection in the field of animal nutrition, and the requirements for feed producers and traders, were largely satisfactory. However, considerable differences and some common weaknesses were observed in the practical application of the rules, in particular as regards risk-based control programmes, import controls, and verification of requirements, which hamper a uniform supervision over the feed sector.

In three Member States, the overall efficacy of official controls was affected by limited control programmes, lack of import controls on certain feed

materials and/or lack of documented verification in the approval and registration procedures of establishments.

With regard to TSE, although most control measures were applied as required, in one Member State some shortcomings remained. This diminished the effective implementation of the measures. In another, additional controls had been put in place but further progress would be required before changes to the BSE control measures could be considered.

Concerning the DBES, it was found that most measures were applied as required, but that

improvements could be made to enhance confidence in the system.

Regarding BSE, efforts were made in the three Third Countries visited to comply with EU requirements and the recommendations of the reports on the Geographical BSE Risk assessments (GBR). Although protective measures were implemented, it was not demonstrated that they were consistently applied to improve the stability of the system and to reduce the risk of propagating the BSE agent, should it be accidentally introduced into cattle populations.



Food and Feed
Safety





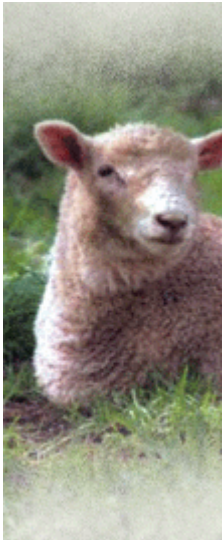
Animal Health

Animal health controls are important for two reasons:

- the protection of consumers

from zoonotic diseases (transmissible from animals to humans);

- the protection of animals from diseases with serious economic effects.



• Activities

In 2003, thirteen Member States were visited to evaluate the contingency plans in place for dealing with outbreaks of epizootic diseases (e.g. Foot & Mouth Disease, Classical Swine Fever, Bluetongue, Avian Influenza, Newcastle Disease).

During 2003, six inspections in Member States were undertaken to examine disease eradication programmes for zoonoses (Brucellosis and Tuberculosis). The assessment of controls over diseases such

as Salmonellosis and E. coli O157:H7 is usually performed during inspections of slaughterhouses, although specific inspections for this purpose have been undertaken in previous years.

A total of 12 inspections took place in Third Countries where animal health formed a major part of the scope. Most of these concerned Foot & Mouth Disease (South America and Southern Africa).

One inspection (part of a series

commenced in 2002) looked at the disease surveillance network in a Member State.

Concerning disease outbreaks, two inspections, one in a Member State, the other in North America, were undertaken in response to outbreaks of avian influenza and Newcastle disease in poultry.

One inspection was performed in a Member State to report on an outbreak of Classical Swine Fever in wild boar.

• Findings

In a number of Member States, the contingency planning for epizootic disease was found to be inadequate and recommendations for immediate improvements were made. However, in the majority of cases, much effort had gone into the planning and the systems in place were adequate.

The inspections of eradication programmes in Member States revealed deficiencies in the control systems in place. More rigorous enforcement is required if these programmes are to be successfully implemented.

In one of the Third Countries visited, the animal health

controls over Foot & Mouth Disease were found to be inadequate and imports of beef from this country were suspended. In two other Third Countries, the objective of the inspection was to assess whether the animal health control systems were adequate to provide the assurances needed for export of meat to the EU. In both cases, these systems needed improvement before exports could begin.

Deficiencies were detected in the Foot & Mouth Disease controls in some of the other Third Countries visited. However, immediate guarantees were sought and obtained, and trade has been allowed to continue on this

basis.

During the inspection concerning the outbreak of avian influenza in a Member State, it was found that the official services had taken the necessary control measures, although these had initially been hampered by some logistical difficulties.

Similarly, for the inspection in North America, a number of problems in the early stages had impeded the control and eradication of Newcastle disease. At the time of the inspection, however, the situation was under control and virus spread out of the restriction zones was considered highly unlikely.

Animal Welfare

Inspections in this area concern the EU animal welfare legislation that applies on farms, during transport and at slaughter.

In 2003, there were two series of inspections specially focused on animal welfare, one to verify the state of readiness of the Acceding Countries and the

other concerning the implementation of transport and slaughter requirements in the Member States.



• Activities

In the Member States, a series of 10 inspections was carried out on controls of animal welfare during transport and at slaughter.

Five inspections were carried

out in Acceding Countries, which covered the entire scope of animal welfare legislation relevant to food animals. In addition to these specific inspections, other FVO inspections also included

animal welfare aspects.

In particular, where slaughterhouses were visited in both Member States and Third Countries, animal welfare at the time of slaughter was covered.



• Findings

Transport requirements have been further developed in several Member States, where the authorisation of transporters has been made dependent on checking vehicles and all drivers must obtain a certificate of competence.

Overall, there was a higher level of compliance regarding the return of route plans.

However, the verification of journey times is still not fully effective and, where these are exceeded, penalties are rarely imposed.

A common problem is that,

while Member States of transit can and do take corrective action as regards individual non-compliant transports, it is often difficult for the Member State where the transporter is registered to take subsequent action, due to shortcomings in the communication of relevant evidence obtained in the country of transit.

Multiple leg journeys were not well monitored, in particular where animals spend time at a market.

Slaughterhouse checks generally focused on the fitness

of animals and, to a lesser extent, on transport conditions.

Some officials in slaughterhouses focused exclusively on public health requirements to the detriment of animal welfare.

The authorities in Acceding Countries made major efforts to develop their control systems. However, in several countries, delays in the adoption of measures to meet EU requirements had made it difficult for certain sectors to achieve compliance by the date of accession.



Plant Health

The main inspection effort in 2003 was on import controls at the external EU borders. This inspection series was initiated with one inspection in 2002 and a further eight Member States were inspected in 2003.

Import controls are an essential element in keeping foreign plant pests and diseases out of the EU. The inspection series on import controls was undertaken to verify that individual Member States carry out this task in line with EU legislation, and that efforts are

consistent across Member States.

Another important part of the work in 2003 was the monitoring of accession preparation in Acceding Countries. After the inspection series carried out in 2002 in the Acceding Countries, largely with reassuring results, only those countries that were expected to have problems in meeting the requirements upon accession were visited in 2003.

Finally, a number of inspections

in Member States were carried out to monitor the control of specific quarantine organisms.

In order to verify the implementation on the ground of new plant health legislation, or to provide input to the legislative process, inspections were organised on the control in certain Member States of *Bursaphelenchus xylophilus* (pine wood nematode), *Phytophthora ramorum* (sudden oak death) and *Diabrotica virgifera* (western corn rootworm).

• Activities

Import control inspections were carried out in eight key importing Member States. Inspections also took place in four Acceding Countries.

Two of the Member States where *Phytophthora ramorum* occurs most frequently, were visited on that subject.

Another Member State has been fighting the pine wood nematode since 1999, with regular monitoring of its

controls by the Commission, the latest in 2003.

Two Member States had outbreaks of *Diabrotica virgifera*. One outbreak also affected a neighbouring Member State and all three countries were visited.

The development and maintenance of the EUROPHYT notification system continued and two Member States were added to the

number of users. Preparations were made for the Acceding Countries to take part in the system.

Annual survey results for potato ring rot and potato brown rot from Member States were processed and presented. Interceptions of Egyptian potato exports were monitored and evaluated.

• Findings

The inspection series on import controls revealed substantial, or even fundamental, differences between Member States in the focus, level and method of controls. Many instances of non-compliances were recorded and, in some cases, the fundamental approach could also be regarded as being in conflict with the EU legislation, or at least the spirit of it.

In general, the accession inspections verified that the

Acceding Countries were progressing adequately. However, in one country, in spite of the progress made, problems were foreseen in the potato sector, especially with regard to reaching an adequate level of protection against ring rot.

The control of *Diabrotica virgifera* was found to be adequate in two of the Member States visited, while in the third Member State, which borders an endemically infested part of

Europe, the controls could be improved.

While the *Phytophthora ramorum* legislation was implemented in the two Member States visited, there was still room for improvement. For example, in one of them, the follow-up after non-compliant material from that country was found in other Member States was found to be inadequate.



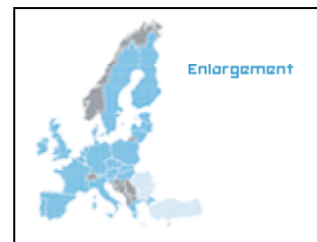
Enlargement of the European Union

Activities related to enlargement, and in particular the ten countries joining the EU on 1 May 2004 (the Acceding Countries), were one of the main priorities of the FVO during 2003.

In October 2002, the Commission published a

Strategy Paper on progress towards accession by each of the Candidate Countries (COM(2002)700). It identified food safety as one of the key areas requiring further efforts by the Acceding Countries in the final year before accession, if they were to reach the

standards required by EU membership. During 2003, the FVO devoted substantial resources to monitoring progress by the Acceding Countries in addressing the main areas of weakness identified in the Strategy Paper.



In the context of enlargement, the 2003 FVO inspection programme included 68 inspections to Acceding Countries. Many of these inspections followed up on key issues arising from the enlargement negotiations or from earlier FVO inspections. Some also monitored progress in priority areas that had not previously been the subject of FVO inspections in these countries.

The main topics covered by inspections during the year were:

- the upgrading of hygiene standards in meat, milk, fish and poultry production establishments to meet EU food safety requirements;
- controls on imports of products from non-EU countries;
- TSE controls, the systems of disposal of animal waste and controls in the field of animal

- nutrition;
- control of veterinary residues, and of pesticides;
 - application of general hygiene rules, especially HACCP principles, along the whole food chain;
 - animal health control systems and disease eradication programmes;
 - plant health controls.

Following each inspection, authorities in the Acceding Countries were required to submit detailed action plans in response to FVO recommendations. The delivery of commitments set out in these action plans was constantly monitored.

In parallel with FVO inspections, a series of peer reviews took place in each of the Candidate Countries in 2003 organised by TAIEX, a technical assistance office of the Commission's Enlargement Directorate-General. These

reviews were conducted mainly by experts from the Member States and were designed to identify additional areas where technical assistance was needed in the Acceding Countries. The FVO maintained close co-ordination with the peer review teams, through TAIEX, to ensure that their activities were mutually complementary.

FVO officials also participated in high-level missions to all Acceding Countries, led in some cases by the Commissioner for Health and Consumer Protection, Mr Byrne, or by senior officials of the Health and Consumer Protection Directorate-General. The aim was to convey at a senior level in the Acceding Countries the view that food safety required urgent, priority attention in the run-up to accession and to seek political commitment at the highest level for this.

Findings

In November 2003, the Commission published a Comprehensive Monitoring Report (CMR) (COM(2003)675) setting out its final assessment of the state of preparedness of the ten Acceding Countries for EU membership. This report acknowledged the very considerable progress made in the area of food safety but also called for enhanced efforts in

the final months before accession, especially on the upgrading of hygiene standards in agri-food establishments, the organisation of import controls, TSE, veterinary residues and pesticides controls.

The inspections had found that the responsible services in the Acceding Countries had, in general, identified the improvements required but that

in some cases the timetables agreed for meeting EU standards were optimistic.

Accordingly, at the end of 2003, the FVO announced plans for an intensive round of inspections in the first months of 2004 to monitor closely the progress in the Acceding Countries in these key areas of concern.

Enlargement Inspections:

Acceding Countries

Lithuania	9
Hungary	8
Latvia	8
Poland	8
Slovakia	8
Czech Republic	7
Estonia	6
Slovenia	5
Malta	5
Cyprus	4

Total 68

Other Candidate Countries

Romania	3
Bulgaria	2

Total 5

Chemical residues in food of animal origin

Inspections examined the control systems in place for residues of veterinary

medicines, pesticides and contaminants in animals and animal products, including

controls on the distribution and use of veterinary medicines.

• Activities

A total of 14 inspections were carried out in 2003: two in Member States, eight in Acceding Countries and four in Third Countries.

Third Country evaluations focused on the ability of those

countries to satisfy Community requirements with regard to food exported to the EU.

The inspections in the two Member States represented the start of a new series of follow-up inspections in the 15

Member States, all of which were visited previously.

Inspections in the Acceding Countries focussed on the implementation of relevant EU legislation in the run up to accession.

• Findings

In Member States, the overall implementation of residues control plans was generally satisfactory, although certain deficiencies in laboratory capability and analytical performance were observed.

Controls on the use and distribution of veterinary medicines were generally acceptable and enforcement

actions were effective.

In the Acceding Countries, deficiencies in laboratory performance and authorisation of EU-prohibited veterinary medicines were observed, although significant improvements in both respects were noted in the period since earlier FVO inspections.

In Third Countries, considerable variations in laboratory performance and controls on veterinary medicines were observed, in some cases requiring prompt action by both the Commission and the countries concerned to ensure the safety of food exported to the EU.

Inspections:

Chemical residues in food of animal origin

Member States

Ireland
Portugal

Acceding Countries

Czech Republic
Estonia
Hungary
Latvia
Lithuania
Poland
Slovakia
Slovenia

Third Countries

Brazil
China
India
Vietnam

Pesticide residues in food of plant origin

The inspections examined the control systems put in place for pesticide residues in foodstuffs

of plant origin. As residue monitoring is related to the placing on the market and use

of plant protection products, the control system for the latter functions was also evaluated.

• Activities

An inspection in a Member State in February 2003 completed a series of inspections to all 15 Member States with the same objective carried out from 1998 to 2003.

The series is the subject of a [General Overview Report](http://europa.eu.int/comm/food/fs/inspections/special_reports/sr_rep_9507-2003_en.pdf) (http://europa.eu.int/comm/food/fs/inspections/special_reports/sr_rep_9507-2003_en.pdf)

Inspections in three Member States, carried out from

September to December 2003, followed-up the findings of the previous inspections within the context of the above objectives. These inspections also focussed on the implementation of the Rapid Alert System for Food and Feed (RASFF) regarding pesticide residues.

Inspections were also carried out in six of the Acceding Countries as part of a series of inspections with a broader scope.

An overall report on pesticide residue monitoring in plant products in the EU and certain EFTA countries was collated by the FVO and published in a General Overview Report (http://europa.eu.int/comm/food/fs/inspections/fnaoi/reports/annual_eu/index_en.html).

As in previous years, the report covered the Member States' national programmes and the EU co-ordinated programme for the year 2001.

• Findings

The control system for pesticide residues was, in general, better developed than the control system for the placing on the market of, and the use of, plant protection products. In only one of the four Member States visited, were systematic controls of the users of plant protection products carried out.

Although good monitoring systems for pesticide residues were generally in place, the inspection teams found inadequate follow-up and enforcement of infringements in three of the four Member States visited. While different procedures for risk assessment in cases of samples exceeding

the maximum residue levels existed in two Member States, there was no evidence of systematic risk assessment in the other two Member States. There was an inconsistent approach to the application of criteria for notification of non-compliant samples in the Rapid Alert System for Food and Feed.

In the laboratories visited, the analytical methods and equipment were generally satisfactory. However, there was a great variation in the number of pesticides analysed for, and in two Member States, a long time-lapse between sampling and issuing of results

was noted.

It was noted that steps had been taken to address most of the recommendations made in the reports of previous inspections, but that in many cases the planned measures had not been finalised.

In the Acceding Countries, transposition of relevant EU legislation was, in general, not yet completed. Monitoring programmes for pesticide residues existed, but were in most cases still limited both in numbers of samples and analytical scope. Laboratory capabilities were being increased.

Inspections: Pesticide residues in food of plant origin

Member States

Austria
Belgium
Ireland
Portugal

Acceding Countries

Czech Republic
Latvia
Lithuania
Malta
Poland
Slovakia

Import Controls:**Products of Plant Origin**

Controls on products of plant origin at import are not harmonised, with the exception of certain products (such as nuts from certain Third Countries) where controls are imposed by Commission

Decisions. The inspection series specifically examined compliance with these Decisions, and import controls related to aflatoxins, the process contaminant 3-MCPD, irradiated foodstuffs, pesticide

residues and (in certain inspections) the additive Sudan Red, as well as general procedures for imports of products of plant origin.

• Activities

The FVO began a series of inspections to 11 Member States in 2002. The series was completed in 2003. The series is the subject of a General Overview Report.

The findings were based on a week-long inspection in each country, involving visits to two main points of entry to the Community (usually ports, but also land borders), central,

regional and local authorities, a large premises dealing with relevant imported products, and relevant laboratories.

• Findings

The inspection series found that there is no consistent procedure for import controls on products of plant origin. In some cases, it was considered that some large importing Member States were not carrying out controls at the most appropriate point, i.e. at import.

In relation to controls on mycotoxins, it was noted that the majority of Member States visited applied inadequately the controls at import required by Commission Decisions. In particular, they were not sampling according to the legislation, or were preparing samples incorrectly in the

laboratory. The inspection series also identified little control at import for irradiated foodstuffs, and variable controls for pesticides and 3-MCPD. Where checked, the controls on Sudan Red were found to be in compliance with the controls required in the Commission Decision.

Import Controls:**Live Animals and Products of Animal Origin**

Import controls on live animals and products of animal origin are almost fully harmonised in the EU. These controls take place at specific EU-approved Border Inspection Posts (BIPs) at the external borders (land borders, ports, and international airports) of the EU.

verify that they meet common requirements, together with an assessment of the systems put in place by the Member States to ensure that the controls are carried out as foreseen. Inspectors also check, where appropriate, if previously identified shortcomings have been corrected. In addition, newly proposed BIPs are

The state of readiness of the Acceding Countries to apply EU import controls, and the compliance of proposed new BIPs with EU legislation, was also verified.

Inspections of the BIPs take place at regular intervals, to

• Activities

The FVO carried out 6 inspections in Member States and one in the Faroe Islands, three of which were to verify compliance of newly proposed

BIPs with EU requirements. The other inspections were undertaken in the framework of regular inspections.

10 inspections were carried out in Acceding Countries, during which 26 proposed BIPs were visited.

• Findings

In Member States, the overall implementation of import controls was, in general, satisfactory. Minor non-compliances were found in the areas of staff training, identification and selection of consignments, working procedures, supervision of transit trade, hygiene, and documentation.

organisation of import control systems was largely satisfactory, a number of major non-compliances were also found, mainly related to facilities and equipment in BIPs.

Although the overall

Although the authorities in Acceding Countries made substantial efforts to implement the import control system according to EU legislation,

Glossary of terms used in the Report

3-MCPD	3-MCPD (3-monochloropropane-1,2-diol) is the most common of a group of chemical contaminants known as chloropropanols. It occurs at low levels in many foods and food ingredients as a result of processing. It is often found at high levels in soy sauces and the savoury food ingredient acid-hydrolysed vegetable protein (acid-HVP).
Acceding Countries	The ten countries joining the EU on 1 May 2004: Cyprus, Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Malta, Poland, Slovakia, and Slovenia (see also "Candidate Countries").
Aflatoxins	A group of toxins (poisonous chemical compounds) that are produced by two fungi called <i>Aspergillus flavus</i> and <i>Aspergillus parasiticus</i> . These toxins occur naturally and have been found in a wide range of commodities used for animal and human consumption. Depending on the levels, the toxins can severely affect the liver and they are a known human carcinogen (i.e. causes cancer).
Audit	A systematic and independent examination to determine whether activities and related results comply with planned arrangements and whether these arrangements are implemented effectively and are suitable to achieve objectives.
Avian influenza	An infectious viral disease in poultry and birds, causing mortality and disturbances which can quickly take epizootic proportions liable to present a serious threat to animal and public health and to reduce sharply the profitability of poultry farming.
Border inspection post (BIP)	Any inspection post designated and approved for the carrying out of veterinary checks on products arriving from third countries at the EU border.
Brucellosis	Zoonotic disease commonly transmitted through abrasions of the skin from handling infected mammals or by ingesting contaminated milk and dairy products. Symptoms are non-specific and "flu-like".
Candidate Countries	In March 1998, the EU formally launched the process to make enlargement of the EU possible. It embraced the following 13 applicant countries: Bulgaria, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Malta, Poland, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia and Turkey (see also "Acceding Countries").
"Cold chain"	An integrated system through which meat and meat products are kept in chilled or frozen form in an unbroken link throughout all stages of transport, storage, distribution and retailing, from producer through to consumer, to ensure food safety and hygiene.
Competent authority	A domestic government body made responsible under that country's national law for the control or regulation of a particular area of legislation.
Contaminant	Any substance not intentionally added to food, which is present in such food as a result of the production, manufacture, processing, preparation, treatment, packing, packaging, transport or holding of such food, or as a result of environmental contamination.
Date-Based Export Scheme (DBES)	The legal basis for the Date-Based Export Scheme is Council Decision 98/256/EC. This scheme permits, subject to certain conditions, the marketing of deboned fresh meat from which all adherent tissues have been removed, and products of animal origin deriving therefrom, obtained from bovine animals born after a certain date.
Epizootic diseases	Diseases affecting a large number of animals at the same time within a particular region or geographic area (e.g. Avian Influenza, Foot-and-Mouth Disease, Newcastle Disease). Analogous to epidemic diseases among humans.
E. coli O157:H7	<i>Escherichia coli</i> , and particularly strains of serotype O157:H7, have emerged as food poisoning pathogens which can cause a severe and potentially fatal illness. It is a major cause of gastro-enteritis that may be complicated by haemorrhagic colitis or cause acute renal failure in children.
EUROPHYT	An electronic rapid alert system between the Member States and the Commission (Health and Consumer Protection Directorate General) ¹ . It aims at transmitting information concerning plant quarantine (notifications of interceptions of plants, plant health legislation, documents of the Standing Committee on Plant Health).
Food irradiation	A controlled intervention process, exposing food to ionizing energy that destroys food borne pathogens.

¹ Council Directive 2000/29/EC lays down in Article 21(6) first indent that « the Commission shall establish a network for the notification of new occurrences of harmful organisms ».

Foot and Mouth Disease (FMD)	A highly contagious viral disease characterised by blister-like lesions of the mouth (inner tissue of mouth and lips, snout, and tongue) and feet (especially around the coronary band). The blisters rupture and leave an ulcerated depressed area that is susceptible to bacterial infection. Cloven-hoofed animals (cattle, sheep, swine, goats, and wild ruminants) are susceptible to the disease.
Genetically Modified Organisms (GMO)	Genetic modification is the technique of changing the genetic make-up of an individual organism by inserting, removing or altering individual genes to achieve a desired result. Currently, only food ingredients from varieties of genetically modified soya, maize and oilseed rape have been approved for food use in Europe.
Geographical BSE Risk (GBR)	The GBR is a qualitative indicator of the likelihood of the presence of one or more cattle being infected with BSE, pre-clinically as well as clinically, at a given point in time, in a country. Where presence is confirmed, the GBR also gives an indication of the level of infection.
HACCP	Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Point (HACCP) is a system for monitoring food processes to reduce the risk of food contamination. HACCP focuses on how food flows through the food processes – be it food production, distribution or retail – and identifies potential hazards at each step. By identifying "critical control points" (CCPs) where bacteria may grow or food may be contaminated, HACCP provides a framework for implementing control procedures for each hazard.
Infringement proceedings	Treaty infringement proceedings are a procedure before the European Court of Justice for establishing whether a Member State has failed to fulfil an obligation imposed on it by Community law.
MRL (Maximum Residue Limit)	The maximum concentration of a residue, resulting from the use of a veterinary medicine, that is legally permitted or acceptable in food, under the laws of the EU.
Mycotoxins	A group of naturally occurring toxic metabolites produced by some species of fungi – especially strains of <i>Aspergillus flavus</i> . These fungi grow on many plant-based foodstuffs, such as grains, cereals, nuts and fruit, and mycotoxins may be produced by these fungi under certain conditions.
Organic Farming	Farming methods which use only organic fertilisers and avoid use of inorganic agricultural chemicals and herbicides.
RASFF	The Rapid Alert System for Food and Feed (RASFF) is a network of national authorities, managed by the Commission, that exchanges information on the presence of potential health risks to consumers presented by a food product.
Ratites	Flightless birds, such as ostrich or emu.
Residue	That portion of the administered dose of a veterinary medicine or other substance present in the tissues, body fluids, products or excreta of an animal arising from treatment of the animal. The total residue includes the parent compound plus any metabolites.
Salmonellosis	Infection caused by ingestion of food containing salmonella (bacteria commonly found in raw meat, poultry, eggs, and raw or unpasteurised milk products). Symptoms include diarrhoea, abdominal pain, nausea and sometimes vomiting.
Specified Risk Material (SRM)	Tissues designated as specified risk material in connection with TSE are laid down in Regulation (EC) N° 999/2001 of the European Parliament and of the Council, as amended, and comprise mainly: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the skull including the brain and eyes, the vertebral column and the spinal cord of bovine animals aged over 12 months; • the tonsils, the intestines from the duodenum to the rectum and the mesentery of bovine animals of all ages; • the skull including the brain and eyes, the tonsils and the spinal cord of ovine and caprine animals aged over 12 months or which have a permanent incisor erupted through the gum; • the spleen and ileum of ovine and caprine animals of all ages.
Traceability	The ability to trace and follow a food, feed, food-producing animal or substance intended to be, or expected to be incorporated into a food or feed, through all stages of production, processing and distribution.
TSE	Transmissible Spongiform Encephalopathies (TSE), of which Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy (BSE) is one. BSE is a transmissible, neuro-degenerative, fatal brain disease of cattle.
Zoonoses / Zoonotic diseases	Infectious animal diseases which usually affect other animals, but which can also afflict humans. They can be carried over through food (food borne zoonoses) or through direct contact with animals.

List of FVO inspections completed in 2003

Member States:		Report No:
Austria	Animal Health (Disease contingency plans)	9079/2003
	Food and Feed Safety (Animal Nutrition – feedstuffs)	9164/2003
	Food and Feed Safety (GMO food – labelling)	9141/2003
	Food and Feed Safety (Import controls – food of non-animal origin)	9251/2003
	Food and Feed Safety (Pesticides – residues)	9260/2003
	Plant Health (Plant pest outbreak)	9173/2003
Belgium	Animal Health (Disease contingency plans)	9071/2003
	Animal Welfare (Slaughter/killing)	9281/2003
	Food and Feed Safety (Animal Nutrition – feedstuffs)	9060/2003
	Food and Feed Safety (Contaminants in feed)	9061/2003
	Food and Feed Safety (Import controls – food of non-animal origin)	9113/2003
	Food and Feed Safety (Import controls – plants/plant products)	9117/2003
	Food and Feed Safety (Pesticides – residues)	9119/2003
	Food and Feed Safety (Traceability)	9183/2003
Denmark	Animal Health (Disease contingency plans)	9101/2003
	Food and Feed Safety (Animal Nutrition – feedstuffs)	9057/2003
	Food and Feed Safety (Import controls – BIPs)	9017/2003
	Food and Feed Safety (Import controls – BIPs)	9172/2003
Finland	Animal Health (Disease contingency plans)	9100/2003
	Animal Welfare (Slaughter/killing)	9212/2003
	Food and Feed Safety (Animal Nutrition – feedstuffs)	9156/2003
	Food and Feed Safety (Food Hygiene)	9256/2003
	Food and Feed Safety (Import controls – plants/plant products)	9267/2003
France	Animal Health (Disease contingency plans)	9151/2003
	Animal Health (Disease surveillance network)	9291/2003
	Food and Feed Safety (Animal Nutrition – feedstuffs)	9059/2003
	Food and Feed Safety (Contaminants in feed)	9063/2003
	Food and Feed Safety (Food Hygiene)	9253/2003
	Food and Feed Safety (Import controls – plants/plant products)	9138/2003
	Food and Feed Safety (Import controls – animals/animal products)	9159/2003
	Plant Health (Plant pest outbreak)	9247/2003
Germany	Animal Health (Disease contingency plans)	9087/2003
	Animal Health (Disease outbreak – CSF)	9015/2003
	Animal Welfare (Slaughter/killing)	9038/2003
	Food and Feed Safety (Animal Nutrition – feedstuffs)	9171/2003
	Food and Feed Safety (Import controls – plants/plant products)	9263/2003
	Plant Health (Plant pest outbreak)	9118/2003
	Plant Health (Plant pest outbreak)	9272/2003
Greece	Animal Health (Disease contingency plans)	9185/2003
	Animal Health (Disease eradication/control programmes)	9191/2003
	Animal Welfare (Slaughter/killing)	9002/2003
	Animal Welfare (Slaughter/killing)	9211/2003
	Food and Feed Safety (Animal Nutrition – feedstuffs)	9295/2003
	Food and Feed Safety (Food Hygiene)	9257/2003
	Food and Feed Safety (Food production – red meat)	9176/2003
	Food and Feed Safety (Import controls – BIPs)	9270/2003
	Food and Feed Safety (Import controls – food of non-animal origin)	9244/2003
Ireland	Animal Health (Disease contingency plans)	9193/2003
	Animal Health (Disease eradication/control programmes)	9086/2003
	Food and Feed Safety (Animal Nutrition – feedstuffs)	9058/2003

	Food and Feed Safety (Contaminants in feed)	9065/2003
	Food and Feed Safety (Food Hygiene)	9286/2003
	Food and Feed Safety (Import controls – BIPs)	9160/2003
	Food and Feed Safety (Pesticides – residues)	9246/2003
	Food and Feed Safety (Residues)	9049/2003
Italy	Animal Health (Disease contingency plans)	9078/2003
	Animal Health (Disease eradication/control programmes)	9091/2003
	Animal Health (Disease eradication/control programmes)	9186/2003
	Food and Feed Safety (Import controls – BIPs)	9031/2003
	Food and Feed Safety (Import controls – food of non-animal origin)	9131/2003
	Food and Feed Safety (Import controls – plants/plant products)	9207/2003
	Food and Feed Safety (Traceability)	9189/2003
	Food and Feed Safety (TSE)	9225/2003
Luxembourg	Animal Health (Disease contingency plans)	9190/2003
	Food and Feed Safety (Animal Nutrition – feedstuffs)	9157/2003
	Food and Feed Safety (Import controls – food of non-animal origin)	9115/2003
Netherlands	Animal Health (Disease contingency plans)	9196/2003
	Animal Health (Disease outbreak – Avian influenza)	9174/2003
	Animal Welfare (Slaughter/killing)	9214/2003
	Food and Feed Safety (Animal Nutrition – feedstuffs)	9122/2003
	Food and Feed Safety (Contaminants in feed)	9066/2003
	Food and Feed Safety (Import controls – plants/plant products)	9264/2003
	Plant Health (Plant pest outbreak)	9024/2003
Portugal	Animal Health (Disease contingency plans)	9102/2003
	Animal Health (Disease eradication/control programmes)	9192/2003
	Animal Welfare (Slaughter/killing)	9039/2003
	Food and Feed Safety (Animal Nutrition – feedstuffs)	9162/2003
	Food and Feed Safety (Import controls – food of non-animal origin)	9132/2003
	Food and Feed Safety (Pesticides – residues)	9250/2003
	Food and Feed Safety (Residues)	9209/2003
	Food and Feed Safety (Traceability)	9271/2003
	Food and Feed Safety (TSE)	9120/2003
	Plant Health (Plant pest outbreak)	9142/2003
Spain	Animal Health (Disease contingency plans)	9084/2003
	Animal Health (Disease eradication/control programmes)	9094/2003
	Animal Welfare (Slaughter/killing)	9215/2003
	Food and Feed Safety (Animal Nutrition – feedstuffs)	9123/2003
	Food and Feed Safety (Food Hygiene)	9259/2003
	Food and Feed Safety (GMO food – labelling)	9103/2003
	Food and Feed Safety (Import controls – food of non-animal origin)	9110/2003
	Food and Feed Safety (Import controls – plants/plant products)	9252/2003
Sweden	Animal Health (Disease contingency plans)	9197/2003
	Animal Welfare (Slaughter/killing)	9210/2003
	Food and Feed Safety (Animal Nutrition – feedstuffs)	9056/2003
	Food and Feed Safety (Import controls – BIPs)	9268/2003
United Kingdom	Animal Health (Disease eradication/control programmes)	9194/2003
	Animal Welfare (Slaughter/killing)	9213/2003
	Food and Feed Safety (Animal Nutrition – feedstuffs)	9149/2003
	Food and Feed Safety (GMO food – labelling)	9249/2003
	Food and Feed Safety (Import controls – food of non-animal origin)	9112/2003
	Food and Feed Safety (Import controls – plants/plant products)	9224/2003

	Food and Feed Safety (TSE – Date-Based Export Scheme)	9055/2003
Candidate Countries:		Report No:
<i>Bulgaria</i>	Animal Health (Disease contingency plans)	9093/2003
	Food and Feed Safety (Food production – fish/fishery products)	9287/2003
	Food and Feed Safety (TSE, animal nutrition – enlargement)	9022/2003
<i>Cyprus</i>	Animal Health (Disease contingency plans)	9153/2003
	Food and Feed Safety (Food production – enlargement)	9236/2003
	Food and Feed Safety (Import controls – enlargement)	9037/2003
	Plant Health (Enlargement)	9152/2003
<i>Czech Republic</i>	Animal Health (Disease contingency plans)	9072/2003
	Animal Health (Disease contingency plans)	9098/2003
	Animal Welfare (Enlargement)	9051/2003
	Food and Feed Safety (Food production – poultry)	9074/2003
	Food and Feed Safety (Food Hygiene – enlargement)	9147/2003
	Food and Feed Safety (Residues – enlargement)	9041/2003
	Food and Feed Safety (TSE, animal nutrition – enlargement)	9007/2003
<i>Estonia</i>	Animal Health (Disease contingency plans)	9082/2003
	Food and Feed Safety (TSE, animal nutrition – feedstuffs)	9009/2003
	Food and Feed Safety (Food production – enlargement)	9235/2003
	Food and Feed Safety (Import controls – enlargement)	9032/2003
	Food and Feed Safety (Residues – enlargement)	9043/2003
	Food and Feed Safety (Residues – enlargement)	9266/2003
	Food and Feed Safety (Zoonoses)	9178/2003
<i>Hungary</i>	Animal Health (Disease contingency plans)	9076/2003
	Animal Health (Disease contingency plans)	9097/2003
	Animal Welfare (Enlargement)	9052/2003
	Food and Feed Safety (Food production – fish/fishery products)	9154/2003
	Food and Feed Safety (Food production – poultry)	9116/2003
	Food and Feed Safety (Import controls – enlargement)	9033/2003
	Food and Feed Safety (Import controls – enlargement)	9221/2003
	Food and Feed Safety (Residues – enlargement)	9042/2003
	Food and Feed Safety (TSE, animal nutrition – enlargement)	9006/2003
<i>Latvia</i>	Animal Health (Disease contingency plans)	9080/2003
	Animal Health (Disease contingency plans)	9179/2003
	Animal Welfare (Enlargement)	9053/2003
	Food and Feed Safety (Food production – enlargement)	9231/2003
	Food and Feed Safety (Food Hygiene – enlargement)	9258/2003
	Food and Feed Safety (Import controls – enlargement)	9217/2003
	Food and Feed Safety (Residues – enlargement)	9144/2003
	Food and Feed Safety (TSE, animal nutrition – enlargement)	9010/2003
<i>Lithuania</i>	Animal Health (Disease contingency plans)	9081/2003
	Animal Health (Disease contingency plans)	9175/2003
	Animal Welfare (Enlargement)	9020/2003
	Food and Feed Safety (Food production – enlargement)	9228/2003
	Food and Feed Safety (Food Hygiene – enlargement)	9248/2003
	Food and Feed Safety (Import controls – enlargement)	9016/2003
	Food and Feed Safety (Import controls – enlargement)	9218/2003
	Food and Feed Safety (Residues – enlargement)	9161/2003
	Food and Feed Safety (TSE, animal nutrition – enlargement)	9011/2003
<i>Malta</i>	Animal Health (Disease contingency plans)	9106/2003

	Animal Welfare (Enlargement)	9054/2003
	Food and Feed Safety (Food Hygiene – enlargement)	9026/2003
	Food and Feed Safety (Food production – enlargement)	9227/2003
	Plant Health (Enlargement)	9021/2003
<i>Poland</i>	Animal Health (Disease contingency plans)	9085/2003
	Animal Health (Disease contingency plans)	9096/2003
	Food and Feed Safety (Food Hygiene – enlargement)	9111/2003
	Food and Feed Safety (Food production – poultry)	9136/2003
	Food and Feed Safety (Import controls – enlargement)	9216/2003
	Food and Feed Safety (Residues – enlargement)	9040/2003
	Food and Feed Safety (TSE, animal nutrition – enlargement)	9005/2003
	Plant Health (Enlargement)	9148/2003
<i>Romania</i>	Animal Health (Disease contingency plans)	9095/2003
	Animal Health (Disease contingency plans)	9184/2003
	Animal Health (Identification/certification)	9226/2003
	Animal Health (Identification/certification)	9279/2003
	Food and Feed Safety (TSE, animal nutrition – enlargement)	9023/2003
<i>Slovakia</i>	Animal Health (Disease contingency plans)	9090/2003
	Animal Health (Disease contingency plans)	9182/2003
	Food and Feed Safety (Contaminants)	9109/2003
	Food and Feed Safety (Food production – poultry)	9070/2003
	Food and Feed Safety (Import controls – enlargement)	9219/2003
	Food and Feed Safety (Residues – enlargement)	9045/2003
	Food and Feed Safety (TSE, animal nutrition – enlargement)	9004/2003
	Plant Health (Enlargement)	9262/2003
<i>Slovenia</i>	Animal Health (Disease contingency plans)	9181/2003
	Food and Feed Safety (Food production – red meat)	9003/2003
	Food and Feed Safety (Import controls – enlargement)	9220/2003
	Food and Feed Safety (Residues – enlargement)	9150/2003
	Food and Feed Safety (TSE, animal nutrition – enlargement)	9008/2003
<i>Turkey</i>	Food and Feed Safety (Contaminants – aflatoxins)	9105/2003
	Food and Feed Safety (Food production – poultry)	9130/2003
	Food and Feed Safety (Irradiation)	9114/2003
Third Countries:		Report No:
Albania	Food and Feed Safety (Food production – bivalve molluscs)	9018/2003
Algeria	Food and Feed Safety (Food production – fishery products)	9073/2003
Angola	Food and Feed Safety (Food production – fish/fishery products)	9234/2003
Armenia	Food and Feed Safety (Food production – fishery products)	9014/2003
Belarus	Food and Feed Safety (Food production – fish/fishery products)	9206/2003
Botswana	Food and Feed Safety (Import controls – animals/animal products/BSE)	9202/2003
Brazil	Food and Feed Safety (Contaminants – aflatoxins)	9027/2003
	Food and Feed Safety (Food production – red meat)	9088/2003
	Food and Feed Safety (Residues)	9047/2003
Cameroon	Food and Feed Safety (Food production – fish/fishery products)	9241/2003
Canada	Food and Feed Safety (Equivalency agreement negotiations)	9146/2003
Chile	Food and Feed Safety (Food production – red meat)	9198/2003
China	Food and Feed Safety (Residues)	9046/2003
Congo	Food and Feed Safety (Food production – fishery products)	9029/2003
Croatia	Food and Feed Safety (Food production – bivalve molluscs)	9128/2003
Egypt	Food and Feed Safety (Food production – fish/fishery products)	9069/2003

Eritrea	Food and Feed Safety (Food production – fish/fishery products)	9145/2003
Fiji	Food and Feed Safety (Food production – fish/fishery products)	9232/2003
Guyana	Food and Feed Safety (Food production – fishery products)	9019/2003
India	Food and Feed Safety (Residues)	9208/2003
Mexico	Food and Feed Safety (Food production – poultry)	9028/2003
Namibia	Food and Feed Safety (Import controls – animals/animal products/BSE)	9203/2003
New Zealand	Food and Feed Safety (Food production – bivalve molluscs)	9237/2003
	Food and Feed Safety (Organic farming controls)	9261/2003
Nicaragua	Food and Feed Safety (Food production – red meat)	9025/2003
Paraguay	Animal Health (Disease outbreak – FMD)	9068/2003
Saudi Arabia	Food and Feed Safety (Food production – fish/fishery products)	9245/2003
South Africa	Food and Feed Safety (Import controls – animals/animal products)	9200/2003
St Helena Island	Food and Feed Safety (Food production – fishery products)	9104/2003
Swaziland	Food and Feed Safety (Import controls – animals/animal products/BSE)	9201/2003
Switzerland	Food and Feed Safety (Irradiation)	9255/2003
United Arab Emirates	Food and Feed Safety (Food production – fishery products)	9075/2003
United States	Animal Health (Disease outbreak – Newcastle disease)	9170/2003
	Food and Feed Safety (Equivalency agreement negotiations)	9135/2003
	Food and Feed Safety (Food production – milk/products)	9107/2003
	Food and Feed Safety (Food production – wild game meat)	9121/2003
Uruguay	Food and Feed Safety (Food production – red meat)	9092/2003
Vietnam	Food and Feed Safety (Residues)	9048/2003
Yugoslavia (Serb & Mon)	Food and Feed Safety (Food production – fish/fishery products)	9155/2003
Zimbabwe	Food and Feed Safety (Food production – fish/fishery products)	9134/2003
	Food and Feed Safety (Food production – ratite meat)	9265/2003



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Further Information

• Websites

Further information on the subject matter contained in this Annual Report can be found on the Internet, on the following websites:

EUROPA website

(http://europa.eu.int/index_en.htm)

The EUROPA website is the official website of the European Union. It provides a guide to what the EU does and how it works, with links to the activities and institutions of the EU, as well as many items of interest to EU citizens.

Food Safety website

(http://europa.eu.int/comm/food/index_en.htm)

The Food Safety website provides information on the EU's approach to food safety and on the European Food Safety Authority (EFSA), as well as all the latest news within the food safety sector. The website of the FVO can also be found within the Food Safety website.

Health and Consumer Protection DG website

(http://europa.eu.int/comm/dgs/health_consumer/index_en.htm)

The website of the Health and Consumer Protection Directorate-General of the European Commission provides information on the three main areas of activity within the DG – public health, consumer affairs and food safety, the area with which the FVO deals.

FVO website

(http://europa.eu.int/comm/food/fvo/index_en.htm)

Gives a brief description of the work and role of the FVO, and contains separate sections on food and feed safety, animal health and welfare, and plant health. These sections provide a detailed overview of the range of topics within each area. There is also a section containing all of the inspection reports published by the FVO.

• Inspection Reports

The new website of the Health and Consumer Protection Directorate-General contains a search tool that enables visitors to the site to look up specific FVO inspection reports more easily.

Once you know the relevant inspection report number (which can be found in the list of inspections starting on page 15), you can simply type this number into the search engine to access the report directly.

Alternatively, if you are interested in finding out about inspections in a particular country, you may click on the name of the country to access all the inspections that were carried out in that particular country.

• Other Reports

There are also a number of special reports on the FVO website. Reports published under this heading give an overview of a specific theme of

a series of inspections, carried out in Member States or third countries. Some of these overview reports have already been specifically referred to in

the preceding sections, but the website also contains reports dealing with additional themes.