



**Single integrated national control
plan for the United Kingdom
January 2007 to March 2011:
Progress in 2007 towards
implementation - report for the
European Commission**

Note

Whilst care has been taken to ensure that the web links contained in this report are correct at the time of publication and submission to the European Commission, changes may occur.

Contents

	Page
Abbreviations	3
Contact point	5
Executive summary	6
Chapter 1 - Introduction	8
Background.....	8
Purpose of this report.....	8
Scope and content of this report	9
Chapter 2 - The UK NCP: what have we achieved so far?	11
Overall objectives.....	11
Specific objectives.....	12
Chapter 3 - The Regulatory landscape: what has changed?	16
Overview	16
Competent authorities	16
National Reference Laboratories.....	17
Chapter 4 - Working together to safeguard public, animal and plant health, to protect consumers, and to promote animal welfare: what improvements have we made?	21
Overview	21
Co-ordination and co-operation in the feed and food sectors.....	21
Co-ordination and co-operation in the animal health and welfare sectors.....	28
Emergency and contingency planning	29
Working across the EU	33
Chapter 5 - Raising standards and sharing good practice: what was achieved in 2007?	34
Background.....	34
Feed and food sectors	34
Animal health and welfare sectors	45
Plant health sector	49
Chapter 6 – Planning for the future: how far have we got in 2007?	50
Background.....	50
Overview	50
Official controls in the feed sector	50
Official controls in the food sector	57
Feed and food incidents in 2007	72
Official controls in the animal health sector	73
Official controls in the animal welfare sector	85
Official controls in the plant health sector.....	90

Abbreviations

AFBI	Agri-Food Biosciences Institute for Northern Ireland
AH(DH)	Animal Health (Dairy Hygiene)
AHDO	Animal Health Divisional Office
AMI	Animal Medicines Inspectorate
APHIS	Animal and Public Health Information System
BIP	Border Inspection Post
BSE	Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy
Cefas	Centre for Environment, Fisheries and Aquaculture Science
CSL	Central Science Laboratory
CVO	Chief Veterinary Officer
DARD	Department of Agriculture and Rural Development for Northern Ireland
Defra	Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs
DSP	Diarrhetic shellfish poisoning
EC	European Community
EEC	European Economic Community
EMI	Egg Marketing Inspectorate
EU	European Union
FHI	Fish Health Inspectorate
FSA	Food Standards Agency
FVO	Food and Veterinary Office
GM	Genetically modified
HACCP	Hazard Analysis Critical Control Point
HMRC	Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs
HPA	Health Protection Agency
ISO	International Standardisation Organisation
LACORS	Local Authorities Co-ordinators of Regulatory Services
MHS	Meat Hygiene Service
MoU	Memorandum of Understanding
MRL	Maximum Residue Level
NBU	National Bee Unit
NCP	National Control Plan
NRCP	National Residues Control Program
NRL	National Reference Laboratory
OTM	Over thirty months
OV	Official Veterinarian
PCBs	Polychlorinated biphenols
PETS	Pet Travel Scheme
PFA	Point for Action

PSD	Pesticides Safety Directorate
PSP	Paralytic shellfish poisoning
QAB	Quality Assurance Branch
RA	Welsh Assembly Government, Department for Rural Affairs
RASFF	Rapid Alert System for Feed and Food
RPA	Rural Payments Agency
SASA	Scottish Agricultural Science Agency
SFBB	Safer Food Better Business
SG RD	Scottish Government Rural Directorate
SGRPID	Scottish Government Rural Payments and Inspections Directorate
SI	Statutory Instrument
SLA	Service Level Agreement
SFAs	Specified Feed Additives
SR	Statutory Rule
SRM	Specified Risk Material
SSI	Scottish Statutory Instrument
TRACES	Trade Control and Expert System
TSEs	Transmissible Spongiform Encephalopathies
UKAS	United Kingdom Accreditation Service
VLA	Veterinary Laboratories Agency
VMD	Veterinary Medicines Directorate
VS	DARD Veterinary Service
VS-VPHU	DARD Veterinary Service – Veterinary Public Health Unit

Contact point

All enquiries in relation to this Report should, in the first instance, be directed to:

Contact: Catriona Stewart
 Food Standards Agency
 Official Controls and Enforcement Policy Branch
Address: Room 5C, Aviation House, 125 Kingsway, London WC2B 6NH
Email: catriona.stewart@foodstandards.gsi.gov.uk
Telephone: +44 (0)20 7276 8498
Fax: +44 (0)20 7276 8463

Enquires will then be forwarded either within the Food Standards Agency or to other Government Departments as appropriate.

Executive summary

Regulation 882/2004 on official controls requires Member States to produce annual reports for the European Commission on the implementation of their national control plans covering the delivery of official controls in the feed and food, animal health and animal welfare, and plant health sectors. This is the first such report on the UK's Plan and it covers the period 1 January to 31 December 2007.

During 2007, the UK competent authorities continued to deliver a comprehensive and integrated system of official controls from 'farm to fork' for monitoring and verifying compliance with feed and food law, animal health and animal welfare rules and plant health law. In delivering these controls, account has been taken of the UK Government's regulatory reform agenda and the Better Regulations Commission's *Principles of Good Regulation*.^{1,2} The aim was to ensure a proportionate risk-based approach that protects public, animal, and plant health, and consumer interests, without imposing unnecessary burdens on the authorities responsible for undertaking these controls or those that are subject to them.

Steady progress was made towards meeting the overall objectives of the Single Integrated National Control Plan for the United Kingdom for January 2007 to March 2011 (the NCP) - to ensure the effective implementation of Community law, and to ensure that effective control arrangements are in place.

It has been a challenging year in terms of animal health and welfare due to the combined impact of Avian Influenza (AI), Bluetongue and Foot and Mouth Disease (FMD). There are lessons to be learned, but there are many positives that can be drawn from the response to these outbreaks, not least the partnership evident between all stakeholders. In spite of these challenges, there has been progress with the Animal Health and Welfare Strategy for Great Britain, and in particular its work relating to the delivery of, and participation in, industry-Government partnerships which promote farm health planning. The aim is to provide a focus on prevention of animal disease over cure.

There have been no major food incidents and steady progress has been made in taking forward the specific objectives of the NCP in this sector. A new regime of official controls was established across the UK at the beginning of 2007 for those parts of the primary production sector where the food hygiene legislation that came into force in 2006 introduced legal requirements for the first time. This regime will be kept under review to ensure its effectiveness.

The mechanisms in place for co-ordination and co-operation of the competent authorities at central and local Government level were tested and their importance

¹ Further information at: http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/press_50_05.htm

² Further information at: <http://archive.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/brc/publications/principlesentry.html>

emphasised during 2007 in controlling successfully the unprecedented number of exotic disease outbreaks and investigations. Through the implementation of effective contingency planning procedures, the combined impact of AI, Bluetongue and FMD outbreaks was minimised and standards of animal health and welfare were maintained.

In the feed sector, an important new Memorandum of Understanding was agreed between the various competent authorities that have responsibility for official controls setting out how greater co-ordination can be achieved.

In the plant health sector, action continued against on-going disease threats, including a review of future management options for *Phytophthora ramorum*, a pathogen responsible for the widespread death of oak trees in California, and a related pathogen, *Phytophthora kernoviae*, which are now infecting trees and natural heathland in the UK.

As regards the performance of the component authorities undertaking official controls in the feed, food, animal health and animal welfare sectors, audit programmes have been on-going where arrangements are now established for this. Where these identified the need for additional measures or remedial action, this work is being taken forward. Where good practice was identified, this has been disseminated and published. In other areas progress has been made towards establishing audit arrangements.

The development of the National Control Plan for the UK was a major but extremely worthwhile exercise for the Food Standards Agency and the Agriculture/Rural Affairs Departments as it provided, for the first time, a comprehensive description of the regulatory landscape in the UK. The Plan and the preparation of this first report on its implementation have been instrumental in raising awareness of the roles and responsibilities of the competent authorities and of official control priorities in the various sectors. This, in turn, should assist in the effective targeting of resources and the development and sharing of good practice across UK Government Departments and with other bodies responsible for the organisation and delivery of official controls.

Chapter 1 – Introduction

Background

- 1.1 The UK Single Integrated National Control Plan (January 2007 to March 2011) - NCP - was prepared jointly by the Food Standards Agency (FSA), the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra), the Scottish Government Rural Directorate (SG RD), the Welsh Assembly Government Department for Rural Affairs (RA), and the Department of Agriculture and Rural Development for Northern Ireland (DARD). The Plan was prepared in order to meet the requirements of European Community Regulation 882/2004 on official controls.³ It:
- describes the roles and responsibilities of the competent authorities (regulatory authorities) and associated bodies responsible for official feed and food, animal health and animal welfare, and plant health controls in the UK;
 - outlines how these authorities meet the requirements of Regulation 882/2004;
 - provides an overview of how these authorities and other bodies work together to safeguard public and animal health, and to protect consumers; and
 - sets out the strategic objectives of the plan, and the planned control activities of the various authorities for the period of the plan.

The latest version of the NCP is published on the FSA website at:

<http://www.food.gov.uk/multimedia/pdfs/uknationalcontrolplan.pdf>

- 1.2 Regulation 882/2004 on official controls also requires Member States to produce annual reports for the European Commission (the Commission) on the implementation of their national control plans. This is the first such report on the UK NCP and it covers the period 1 January to 31 December 2007. As with the Plan itself, this has been prepared jointly by the FSA, Defra, SG RD, the Welsh Assembly Government RA, and DARD.

Purpose of this report

- 1.3. The purpose of the report is to update the Commission on progress towards implementing the NCP. This is achieved by assessing the effectiveness of the

³ Regulation (EC) No 882/2004 of the European Parliament and of the Council on official controls performed to ensure the verification of compliance with feed and food law, animal health and welfare rules. Official Journal L191, 28.5.2004, 1-52.

control arrangements and control systems set out in the NCP. This, in turn, is based on the results of official controls and associated activities and on the findings of audits of the competent authorities undertaken during 2007. It also reports on developments and improvements that are being made to control arrangements as a consequence of these results and findings.

- 1.4 The report is being submitted to the Commission and will be used by its Inspection Services, the Food and Veterinary Office (FVO), to inform future inspection missions/audits carried out in the UK. Additionally, the Report will be fed in, together with similar reports prepared by the other Member States, to a Commission report to the Council and European Parliament on the overall operation of official controls within the European Community.

Scope and content of this report

- 1.5 The scope of this report is consistent with that of the NCP and covers control systems in the UK in respect of feed and food law, animal health and animal welfare rules, and plant health rules under Directive 2000/29/EC.⁴
- 1.6 The Commission has developed guidance on the content of annual reports on implementation of national control plans and this has been taken into account in preparing this UK report.⁵
- 1.7 It should be noted that in the UK much of the data on official controls and associated activities is collected on a financial year (which runs from April to March) rather than a calendar year basis. Additionally, responsibility for many of the control activities covered is de-centralised and the collection, validation, collation, and analysis of data at the central level is a major and complex exercise given the number of authorities involved. In many cases, the established timetables for these exercises extend over several months following the end of the financial year. As a result, analysis of the data for the financial year 2007/08 has not yet been completed in time for inclusion in this first report. Where this is the case, the data for the 2006/07 period has been reported. As reporting is an on-going annual process throughout the period of the NCP, future reports will be able to assess more accurately the progress towards implementing the NCP and identify trends in the results of control activities and the performance of the component authorities.

⁴ Council Directive 2000/29/EC on protective measures against the introduction into the Community of organisms harmful to plants or plant products and against their spread within the Community. Official Journal L 169, 10.7.2000, 1-112.

⁵ Commission Decision on guidelines to assist Member States in preparing the annual report on the single integrated multi-annual national control plan provided for in Regulation (EC) No 882/2004 of the European Parliament and of the Council (notified under document number C(2008) 3756). Official Journal L 214, 9.8.2008, 56-65.

1.8 This first report:

- outlines the progress that has been made towards achieving the objectives of the UK NCP - Chapter 2;
- describes changes to the regulatory landscape in the UK - Chapter 3;
- outlines the improvements that have been made to the mechanisms in place for the competent authorities and other bodies involved in official controls to work together to safeguard public, animal and plant health, to protect consumers, and to promote animal welfare - Chapter 4;
- provides an analysis of the performance of the competent authorities and control bodies - Chapter 5; and
- summarises the official controls that have been undertaken and their outcome (including the level of compliance by business operator) and provides information on the actions taken to address non-compliance with the requirements of feed and food law, animal health and welfare rules and plant health law - Chapter 6.

Chapter 2 - The UK NCP: what have we achieved so far?

Overall objectives

2.1 The overall objectives of the UK NCP are to:

- ensure the effective implementation of relevant Community law;
- ensure that the UK enforces feed law and food law and monitors and verifies that relevant requirements are met, and, that systems of official controls and other appropriate surveillance and monitoring activities, covering all stages of production, processing and distribution of feed and food, are maintained;
- ensure that the UK has an effective system of official controls for monitoring and verifying compliance with animal health and welfare rules; and
- ensure that the UK has an effective system of official controls for monitoring and verifying compliance with plant health law under Council Directive 2000/29/EC.

2.2 The arrangements set out in the NCP 2007-2011 for delivering a comprehensive and integrated system of official controls to monitor and verify compliance with feed and food law, animal health and welfare rules and plant health law were maintained throughout 2007. This was achieved by working across central Government and in partnership with our enforcement stakeholders and their representative and professional bodies to take a flexible and proportionate, risk-based approach aimed at protecting public, animal and plant health, and consumer interests without imposing unnecessary burdens on the authorities that are responsible for undertaking official controls or on those that are subject to these controls.

2.3 This approach proved to be particularly important in monitoring and successfully controlling the unprecedented number of exotic disease outbreaks and investigations. The application of effective contingency planning procedures ensured that the combined impact of Avian Influenza (AI), Foot and Mouth Disease (FMD) and Bluetongue outbreaks was minimised and standards of animal health and animal welfare were maintained. As a consequence, Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs and the Agriculture/Rural Affairs Departments in the Devolved Administrations faced other challenges as restricted access to farm premises and the re-prioritisation of resources meant that it was not possible to complete all planned control programmes, particularly in the primary production sector.

2.4 The extent to which planned activities for 2007 in the various sectors, including the animal health and animal welfare sectors, were achieved is described elsewhere in this report.

Specific objectives

Feed and food sectors

2.5 In these sectors, the specific objectives for the UK NCP are:

- reducing foodborne illness;
- limiting and monitoring the risks to consumers from chemical and radiological contamination;
- making it easier for consumers to make informed choices; and,
- protecting consumers from food fraud and illegal practices.

These objectives link closely to key targets in the current Strategic or Business Plans for the Government Departments and Agencies that have responsibility at central level for official feed and food controls.

2.6 The Food Standards Agency (FSA) has reported progress on meeting these objectives in its Annual Report for 2007/08.⁶ Key achievements include:

- publication of revised guidelines on managing outbreaks of foodborne illness to provide a clear framework for environmental health professionals, and others to investigate and control infectious intestinal disease caused by eating microbiologically-contaminated food;⁷
- publication of guidelines to help enforcement authorities (and businesses) to respond better to food incidents;⁸
- development and publication of an incident prevention strategy;⁹
- working with our local authority partners to provide guidance and support to help small retail and catering businesses establish food safety management procedures;
- working in partnership with local authorities and industry to introduce a new regime for food hygiene controls in the primary production sector.

2.7 The other competent authorities responsible for official feed and food controls such as the Meat Hygiene Service (MHS), Defra (including its agencies, the Veterinary Medicines Directorate - VMD, and the Pesticide Safety Directorate - PSD), the Scottish Government Rural Directorate, the Welsh Assembly Government's Department for Rural Affairs, and the Department of Agriculture and Rural Development for Northern Ireland have also made progress on meeting their objectives (which are also referred to in the NCP). In the case of

⁶ FSA Annual Report is at: <http://www.food.gov.uk/news/newsarchive/2008/jul/annual0708>

⁷ Guidelines are available at: <http://www.food.gov.uk/news/newsarchive/2008/feb/outbreakmanagement>

⁸ Guidelines are available at: <http://www.food.gov.uk/foodindustry/guidancenotes/incidentguidance/principlesdoc>

⁹ Strategy is available at: <http://www.food.gov.uk/consultations/ukwideconsults/2008/incprevplan>

the MHS and Defra and its agencies, this progress is outlined in their annual reports which are available at:

<http://www.food.gov.uk/foodindustry/meat/mhservice/businesspublications/mhsreportaccounts/>

<http://www.defra.gov.uk/corporate/deprep/2008/index.htm>

<http://www.vmd.gov.uk/About/VMDARA0708/index.html>

<http://www.pesticides.gov.uk/corporate.asp?id=2475>

- 2.8 A further specific objective of the FSA set out in the UK NCP is to develop, agree and work towards implementing an ‘enforcement strategy for the 21st century’. As a first step in developing this, the FSA has embarked on a major policy review referred to as the *Changes to Local Authority Enforcement (CLAE) Project*. In carrying out this review, the aim is to improve the delivery of local authority regulatory services by building on past experience and on the principles of the Hampton Review.¹⁰ As part of the CLAE project, the FSA undertook a review of enforcement policy in 2007 with the objective of encouraging greater flexibility to allow authorities to target resources at high-risk areas and to use a wider range of interventions to support and improve levels of compliance with food law. Consultation with the FSA’s local authority partners on this policy, as reflected in a revised Food Law Code of Practice (which local authorities must have regard to in undertaking their official control responsibilities) was undertaken in late 2007. The outcome of this will be covered in the annual report for 2008. The other elements of the CLAE project - reviews of the FSA’s programmes for monitoring and auditing local authorities, and of the Framework Agreement that the FSA has with Local Authorities - are either referred to elsewhere in this report or will be covered in the 2008 report.¹¹

Animal health and animal welfare sectors

2.9 The specific objectives for the UK NCP in these sectors are to:

- protect public and animal health;
- promote the welfare of animals; and
- protect the interests of the wider economy, environment and society by preventing, controlling and eradicating diseases, and to encourage international trade.

These link closely to the Animal Health and Welfare Strategy for Great Britain and also that for Northern Ireland.^{12, 13}

¹⁰ Reducing administrative burdens: effective inspection and enforcement. March 2005. Philip Hampton. This is available at: <http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/d/bud05hamptonv1.pdf>

¹¹ Further information on CLAE is available at: <http://www.food.gov.uk/enforcement/clae/>

¹² Strategy for Great Britain is available at: <http://www.defra.gov.uk/animalh/ahws/default.htm>

¹³ Strategy for Northern Ireland is available at: <http://www.dardni.gov.uk/index/animal-health/animal-health-and-welfare-strategy.htm>

2.10 Against a difficult backdrop presented by AI, FMD and Bluetongue, Defra continued to make progress towards implementing the Strategy in England. An independent advisory committee, the England Implementation Group, was set up to drive delivery of the strategy. Notable progress was made in:

- encouraging the introduction of three new industry-led sector health and welfare bodies to help set strategic direction for their sectors - the England Cattle Health and Welfare Group, the Sheep Health and Welfare Council and the Companion Animal Sector Council;
- encouraging better co-ordination of health and welfare in England's regions; and
- guiding the introduction of an Animal Welfare Delivery Strategy for England, launched in October, which, through its action plan, will better co-ordinate activities under the guiding principles of the overarching health and welfare strategy.

More details, including the progress report for 2007, can be found at:

<http://www.defra.gov.uk/animalh/ahws/eig/index.htm>

2.11 In Scotland, animal health and welfare policy and delivery, led by the Scottish Animal Health and Welfare Strategy Advisory Group,¹⁴ continued to balance pushing forward the Strategy alongside instigating control measures to reduce the risk of incursions of exotic diseases from outbreaks elsewhere in Great Britain. Major developments in the work of the Strategy included the launch of a bench-marking system to support farm animal health and welfare recording and planning. Work continues to reduce the impact of the 12 identified priority diseases. Notable advances include: the completion of a Bovine Viral Diarrhoea survey, carried out to provide a baseline on prevalence of the disease: and the establishment of an Industry/Government Working Group on sheep scab to develop targeted initiatives to reduce the incidence of scab. The Johne's Disease Initiative continues its promotional activities. The results of the UK prevalence study are due to be reported later in 2008.

2.12 The Welsh Assembly Government was successful in ensuring its territory remained disease free from the spread of AI, FMD and Bluetongue. During 2007, the Animal Health and Welfare Steering Committee, which advises the Welsh Assembly Government on taking forward the Strategy Implementation Plan in Wales,¹⁵ assisted the Welsh Assembly Government in promoting developments under the Plan. It also supported efforts to encourage the take up of the initiatives developed under the Plan, advised on engagement with the farming community and delivery of appropriate training and development requirements, and advised on the identification and dissemination of best practice and relevant research.

¹⁴ More information on the work of the Scottish Animal Health and Animal Welfare Advisory Group is available at: <http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Topics/Agriculture/animal-welfare/AHWStrategy/AdvisoryGroup>

¹⁵ Animal Health and welfare strategy action plan for Wales is available at: <http://new.wales.gov.uk/topics/environmentcountryside/ahw/animalhealthandwelfarestrategy/ahwspubindex/ahwsactionplan0607/?lang=en>

- 2.13 During 2007, DARD continued to focus on developing the Island of Ireland Animal Health Strategy and on closer working with colleagues in the Department of Agriculture and Food in the Republic of Ireland on animal health and welfare issues. This has resulted in uniformity of implementation, especially on import controls. Further details can be found on the DARD website at:

<http://www.dardni.gov.uk/index/animal-health.htm>

Plant health sector

- 2.14 The strategic objectives as regards plant health controls are to contribute to:

- protecting the countryside and natural resources; and
- ensuring sustainable farming and food supply.

These link closely with the objectives of the strategic plans for Defra and the Agriculture/Rural Affairs Departments in the Devolved Administrations and to Defra's Plant Health Strategy for England.

- 2.15 During 2007/08 action continued against on-going disease threats, including a review (in conjunction with the Forestry Commission and the Scottish Government Rural Payments and Inspections Directorate) of future management options for *Phytophthora ramorum*, a pathogen responsible for the widespread death of oak trees in California, and a related pathogen, *Phytophthora kernoviae*, which are now infecting trees and natural heathland in the UK.

Chapter 3 - The Regulatory landscape: what has changed?

Overview

- 3.1 For the most part, the division of responsibility for official controls within the UK as described in the National Control Plan (NCP) remained unchanged during 2007. The only substantive change that occurred was the introduction at the beginning of the year of a new regime for official control and enforcement for those parts of the primary production sector where the food hygiene legislation that came into force in January 2006 introduced legal requirements for the first time. There were, however, a number of organisational changes at central Government level, and a number of new National Reference Laboratories (NRLs) were designated. These changes are described briefly below.

Competent authorities

Food hygiene controls in the primary production sector

- 3.2 Food hygiene legislation, applying horizontally from 'farm to fork' came into force across the UK (and the rest of the European Community) on 1 January 2006. For much of the primary production sector (which comprises some 195,000 holdings across the UK), the new legislation introduced food hygiene rules for the first time. Arrangements for official controls in respect of this sector were agreed and began operating on 1 January 2007. In England and Wales, responsibility lies with local authorities. In Scotland, controls are carried out by a combination of local authority officers and Scottish Government staff (Rural Payments and Inspections Directorate) authorised by the FSA. In Northern Ireland, Department of Agriculture and Rural Development's Quality Assurance Branch has responsibility for enforcement. These arrangements are being kept under review.

Organisational changes at central Government level

- 3.3 A number of organisational changes took place;
- at the beginning of April, Animal Health (AH) was created from a merger of the State Veterinary Service with the Dairy Hygiene and Egg Marketing Inspectorates, and also the Wildlife Licensing and Registration Service; and

- a number of changes took place within the Devolved Administrations in Scotland and Wales.

These changes are reflected in Figures 3.1 to 3.3.

- 3.4 As regards, plant health controls, a new executive agency of Defra is being created which will include the Plant Health Division and the Plant Health and Seeds Inspectorate and which will operate from 1 April 2009. In Scotland, policy responsibility now rests with the Scottish Government Rural Directorate (SG RD), while laboratory and advisory work is now provided by Scientific Advice for Scottish Agriculture, following the absorption of the Scottish Agricultural Science Agency into the Scottish Government Rural Payments and Inspections Directorate (SG RPID). In Wales, policy is handled by the Plant Health and Biotechnology Branch of the Food and Market Development Division of the Welsh Assembly Government.

National Reference Laboratories

- 3.5 Since the publication of the UK NCP, additional NRLs (all of which provide this function across the UK) have been designated by the relevant competent authorities for certain analytical activities in relation to food. Details are given in Table 3.1 below.

Table 3.1: NRLs appointed in relation to food since the publication of the UK NCP

Analytical activity	Competent authority responsible for appointing the NRL	NRL (all provide the function across the UK)
Dioxins and PCBs	Food Standards Agency	Central Science Laboratory Sand Hutton, York YO41 1LZ
Heavy metals	Food Standards Agency	Central Science Laboratory Sand Hutton, York YO41 1LZ
Mycotoxins	Food Standards Agency	Central Science Laboratory Sand Hutton, York YO41 1LZ
Polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons	Food Standards Agency	Central Science Laboratory Sand Hutton, York YO41 1LZ
Food Contact Materials	Food Standards Agency	Central Science Laboratory Sand Hutton, York YO41 1LZ
Live bivalve molluscs (microbiology)	Food Standards Agency	Centre for Environment, Fisheries and Aquaculture Science (Cefas) - Weymouth Laboratory The Nothe, Barrack Road, Weymouth, Dorset DT4 8UB
Live bivalve molluscs (marine biotoxins)	Food Standards Agency	Agri-Food and Biosciences Institute (AFBI) AFBI Headquarters, 18a Newforge Lane, Belfast BT9 5PX

Figure 3.1: Division of responsibility for official food controls in the UK - at a glance

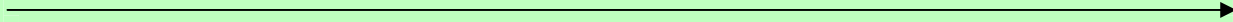
<p>Developing and Implementing food law</p>	<p>FSA</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • General - traceability, rapid alert system (RASFF), official controls • Import controls - public health aspects, fish/fishery products and products of non-animal origin • Labelling - general, nutritional, health claims • Composition and standards - e.g. bottled waters, fat spreads, chocolate, foods for particular nutritional use, irradiation • Biological safety - e.g. food hygiene, TSEs. • Chemical safety - e.g. additives, contaminants, food contact materials, • Biotechnology - GM food 		<p>Defra (and its agencies), the SG RD, RA and DARD</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Imports controls - animal health aspects for products of animal origin • Labelling - beef labelling and protected food names • Composition and standards - organic produce • Biological safety - certain rules relating to TSEs • Residues of pesticides (PSD) • Residues of veterinary products (VMD) 						
<p>Ensuring that food satisfies the requirements of food law</p>	<p>Farm</p>	<p>All stages of production, processing and distribution</p> <p style="text-align: center;">  </p> <p style="text-align: center;"> Food business operators (Approximately 600,000 establishments, plus approximately 195,000 holdings at primary production level.) </p>					<p>Fork</p>		
<p>Official controls in respect of food law</p>	<p>Central level</p>							<p>Local level</p>	
<p>FSA</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Inspection and approval of food irradiation facilities • Approval of fresh meat premises • Classification of shellfish harvesting areas • Recognition natural mineral waters from non-EEA countries <p>MHS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hygiene controls - fresh meat • SRM controls <p>AH(DH) (on behalf of the FSA)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hygiene controls - milk production holdings <p>EMI/SGRPID (on behalf of the FSA)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hygiene controls - egg production units 	<p>Defra (on UK-wide basis)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Organisation of protected food names scheme • Overseeing system for certification of organic produce • Organisation of beef labelling scheme <p>VMD</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Veterinary medicine drug residue surveillance <p>PSD</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pesticide residue monitoring and enforcement <p>RPA</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Beef labelling 	<p>DARD</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hygiene controls primary production • fresh meat, milk production holdings/liquid milk premises, egg production units/packing stations • SRM controls • Overseeing system for certification of organic produce • Beef labelling 	<p>SG RD</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Beef labelling 	<p>Local authorities in England and Wales</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Official controls and enforcement of the main body of food law, including imported food controls (all food law except that enforced by the central Departments and their Agencies) 	<p>Local authorities in Scotland</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Official controls and enforcement of the main body of food law, including imported food controls (all food law except that enforced by the central Departments and their Agencies) • AH(DH) role - hygiene controls at milk production holdings 	<p>District Councils in Northern Ireland</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Official controls and enforcement of the main body of food law (all food law except that enforced by DARD) 			

Figure 3.2: Division of responsibility for official feed controls in the UK - at a glance

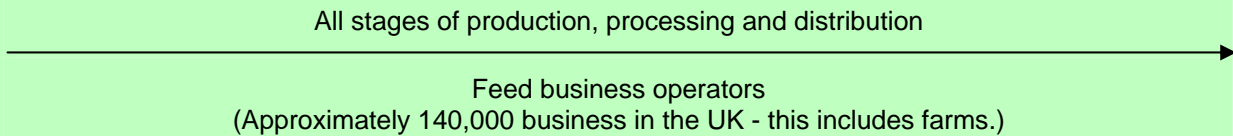
<p>Developing and Implementing feed law</p>	<p>FSA</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • General - traceability, rapid alert system (RASFF), official controls • Import controls • Labelling • Composition and standards • Biological safety - e.g. feed hygiene • Chemical safety - prohibited and undesirable substances • Biotechnology - GM feed <p>Defra (and its agencies), the SG RD, RA and DARD</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Animal by-products - feed ban, <i>Salmonellas</i> etc. • Medicated feed • Chemical safety - specified feed additives 																	
<p>Ensuring that feed satisfies the requirements of feed law</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Farm All stages of production, processing and distribution Fork</p> <p style="text-align: center;">  </p>																	
<p>Official controls in respect of feed law</p>	<table border="0" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td colspan="4" style="text-align: center;">Central level</td> <td colspan="2" style="text-align: center;">Local level</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="vertical-align: top; width: 16%;"> <p>VMD</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Medicated feed • Specified feed additives • Veterinary medicine drug residue surveillance </td> <td style="vertical-align: top; width: 16%;"> <p>PSD</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pesticide residue monitoring and enforcement </td> <td style="vertical-align: top; width: 16%;"> <p>Animal Health</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Animal protein in feed ban </td> <td style="vertical-align: top; width: 16%;"> <p>DARD</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All feed law controls in Northern Ireland </td> <td style="vertical-align: top; width: 16%;"> <p>Local authorities in England and Wales</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Official controls and enforcement of the main body of feed law, including imported feed (all feed law not enforced by Defra and its Agencies) </td> <td style="vertical-align: top; width: 16%;"> <p>Local authorities in Scotland</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Official controls and enforcement of the main body of feed law, including imported feed (all feed law not enforced by Defra and its Agencies) </td> </tr> </table>						Central level				Local level		<p>VMD</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Medicated feed • Specified feed additives • Veterinary medicine drug residue surveillance 	<p>PSD</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pesticide residue monitoring and enforcement 	<p>Animal Health</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Animal protein in feed ban 	<p>DARD</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All feed law controls in Northern Ireland 	<p>Local authorities in England and Wales</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Official controls and enforcement of the main body of feed law, including imported feed (all feed law not enforced by Defra and its Agencies) 	<p>Local authorities in Scotland</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Official controls and enforcement of the main body of feed law, including imported feed (all feed law not enforced by Defra and its Agencies)
Central level				Local level														
<p>VMD</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Medicated feed • Specified feed additives • Veterinary medicine drug residue surveillance 	<p>PSD</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pesticide residue monitoring and enforcement 	<p>Animal Health</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Animal protein in feed ban 	<p>DARD</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All feed law controls in Northern Ireland 	<p>Local authorities in England and Wales</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Official controls and enforcement of the main body of feed law, including imported feed (all feed law not enforced by Defra and its Agencies) 	<p>Local authorities in Scotland</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Official controls and enforcement of the main body of feed law, including imported feed (all feed law not enforced by Defra and its Agencies) 													

Figure 3.3: Division of responsibility for official animal health and welfare controls in the UK

<p>Policy and Development and implementation of animal health and animal welfare legislation</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra) • Scottish Government Rural Directorate (SG RD) • Welsh Assembly Government, Department for Rural Affairs (RA) • Department of Agriculture and Rural Development for Northern Ireland (DARD) 					
<p>Official controls (Delivery landscape)</p>	<p>Defra Executive Agencies</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Animal Health (including local veterinary inspectors) • Rural Payments Agency (including the British Cattle Movement Service) • Veterinary Laboratories Agency • Veterinary Medicines Directorate • Central Science Laboratory - Bee Health Unit • Cefas Fish Health Inspectorate 	<p>Devolved Administrations</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SG RD (Scottish Government Field Officers and Fisheries Research Services) • RA (Rural Payments Wales) • DARD (Veterinary Service and Grants and Subsidies Division) 	<p>Other Government Departments</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Food Standards Agency (Meat Hygiene Service) • Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs 	<p>Local Government</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Local authorities in Great Britain • Port health authorities • LACORS (Local Authority Co-ordinators of Regulatory Services) - co-ordination role 	<p>Non-departmental Public Bodies</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Environment Agency • Meat and Livestock Commission 	<p>Other bodies</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals

Chapter 4 - Working together to safeguard public, animal and plant health, to protect consumers, and to promote animal welfare: what improvements have we made?

Overview

- 4.1 The National Control Plan (NCP) outlines the main mechanisms that are in place in the UK for facilitating co-ordination and co-operation, on a day-to-day basis and for dealing with emergencies, between the various competent authorities and other bodies that are responsible for undertaking official controls. It also outlines the mechanisms in place for the competent authorities in the UK to assist and co-operate with the European Commission and with other Member States where issues are identified that may have a potential impact in more than one Member State or across the Community.
- 4.2 These mechanisms operated throughout 2007 and have played a significant part in ensuring that the overall objectives of the UK NCP were achieved during this period. A number of improvements to existing mechanisms and a number of new mechanisms were also put in place during 2007 and these are reported below.

Co-ordination and co-operation in the feed and food sectors

Local Authorities Co-ordinators of Regulatory Services (LACORS) Regional and National Focus Groups for feed and food

- 4.3 LACORS and the FSA worked together in 2007 to establish a system of Regional Liaison Groups at which representatives of Local Food Liaison Groups can raise issues with the FSA and have the opportunity to discuss these in detail. Between September 2007 and March 2008, meetings were held with Groups in four of the nine Government Regions in England. The FSA will offer further meetings during 2008/09 in all nine regions via the Regional Liaison Groups or via the smaller county Food Liaison Groups. There have also been separate meetings in 2007 with the Regional Liaison Groups for each of Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland.

Food Standards Agency support mechanisms

Stakeholder groups

- 4.4 The UK NCP highlights that the FSA has set up a number of stakeholder groups for facilitating co-ordination and co-operation as regards feed and food controls. These Groups continued to meet during 2007 and the discussions that took place helped to contribute to achieving greater co-ordination and co-operation. It is expected that these discussions will lead to better targeting of official controls in areas of greatest risk and ensure a reduction in burdens on businesses.
- 4.5 As regards feed controls, in particular, The Animal Feed Law Enforcement Liaison Group agreed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) between the various competent authorities that have responsibility for official feed controls setting out how greater co-ordination can be achieved. Key to this was an agreement to develop a series of bi-lateral MoUs to deal with the overlap in responsibilities between the various authorities and agencies involved. The first of these is a MoU between LACORS and the Veterinary Medicines Directorate's Animal Medicines Inspectorate (AMI). This covers official controls in respect of Regulation (EC) 183/2005 on feed hygiene¹⁶ at those premises requiring approval. The significant features of the MoU are the replacement of official controls by local authority officers by the AMI and also the exchange of information on the activities of relevant feed business operators. The MoUs are at: www.food.gov.uk/enforcement/enfcomm/aflelg/aflelgmembertor#h_4
- A second bilateral MoU between LACORS and Animal Health is expected to be agreed during 2008.

FSA training for local authority enforcement officers

- 4.6 The following training courses were held in 2007:
- Low cost training programme - A total of 67 courses for local authority food law enforcement officers were held with 1,443 participants. Subjects covered included HACCP assessment, lead auditing, investigation skills, on-farm pasteurisation, food allergens, food labelling and vacuum packing.
 - Other training for local authority enforcement officers - Training was provided across the UK in the following areas: health claims and labelling; food allergens; imported food; the UK food sampling and surveillance database; the local authority monitoring scheme; Safer Food Better Business (SFBB); HACCP assessment; fish and shellfish risks and controls; official control sampling and shoreline survey for sampling officers and fishing vessel inspection; vacuum packing; modified atmosphere packing and cooking; chilling of meat products; enforcement of the Food Hygiene Regulations; and feed hygiene.

¹⁶ Regulation (EC) No. 183/2005 of the European Parliament and of the Council laying down requirements for feed hygiene. Official Journal L35, 8.2.2005, 1-22.

- Training for on-farm hygiene enforcement - This was provided between December 2006 and March 2007 with 320 delegates from 98 local authorities. The material from the training events, plus additional background details, was distributed in the form of a CD ROM to all local authorities with agricultural holdings in their area of responsibility.
- Food controls at egg production sites - Half-day training sessions on draft guidance on food hygiene controls at egg production sites were held for egg marketing inspectors and other corresponding authorities across the UK.
- Meat Hygiene Service (MHS) training for Official Veterinarians (OVs) and Official Auditors (OAs) - All OVs and OAs attended a training day the main objectives of which was to embed cultural changes since the introduction of the new food hygiene legislation, and to consider successful enforcement action and preservation of essential evidence for court purposes.
- Animal Health (Dairy Hygiene) - All AH(DH) staff attended a training conference in February 2007. The theme of the conference was enforcement procedures and the issuing of Hygiene Improvement Notices (HINS) – including collecting evidence and the content of HINS. In addition in July 2007 there was a study tour to Northern Ireland to look at the implementation of the legislation there.

Grants and expertise

4.7 The following were provided in 2007:

- Safer Food Better Business (SFBB) - This has been developed to help micro and small catering and retail businesses comply with the legal requirements for food safety management procedures based on HACCP principles. The programme provides free SFBB packs and guidance for businesses. A toolkit of support for local authorities and grants to assist local business support projects has also been provided. FSA grant-funded activity provided face to face support to over 43,000 businesses during 2007. In addition, regional training has been provided to over 1,400 local authority officers to help them deliver the SFBB programme. A programme of regional meetings with local authorities was undertaken to share good practice, and two newsletters providing updates, case studies and good practice initiatives from local authorities were published. SFBB for Chinese cuisine (in English and Cantonese languages) and for Indian, Pakistani, Bangladeshi and Sri Lankan cuisines were launched in March 2007.¹⁷ A major evaluation of the programme in England was carried out and reported to the FSA's Board in December. This showed an upward trend in business compliance with food safety management requirements to 48%. More information is available at:

<http://www.food.gov.uk/multimedia/pdfs/board/fsa071204.pdf>

¹⁷ More information at: <http://www.food.gov.uk/foodindustry/regulation/hygleg/hyglegresources/sfbb/sfbbcuisines/>

- Safe Catering – Your Guide to Making Food Safely – This initiative in Northern Ireland has been developed to help catering businesses to produce a food safety management plan based on HACCP principles and keep records appropriate to their business. During 2007, a further 2000 ‘Safe Catering’ food safety information packs were provided to District Councils. More information on the Safe Catering initiative is available at:
<http://www.food.gov.uk/northernireland/safetyhygieneni/safecateringni/>
- CookSafe and RetailSafe – In Scotland, two packs have been produced to help businesses implement food hygiene legislation successfully. CookSafe is designed to help catering businesses understand and implement HACCP-based systems and RetailSafe is designed for retailers handling high-risk foods. In 2007 these packs were made available through a commercial publisher¹⁸ and the Royal Environmental Health Institute of Scotland¹⁹ established a programme which delivers CookSafe training. More information on CookSafe and RetailSafe is available at:
<http://www.food.gov.uk/foodindustry/regulation/hygleg/hyglegresources/cookretailsotland/>
- Feed hygiene controls - In 2007, the FSA agreed to pay £1.5 million per year to local authorities for undertaking official controls in respect of Regulation (EC) 183/2005 on feed hygiene in England in 2008/2009. This money is being made available through the Revenue Support Grant²⁰ and will be made available to local authorities from the start of the 2008/2009 financial year. Separate arrangements have been made in Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland to fund official controls in respect of this legislation.
- Food co-products entering the animal feed chain - In Northern Ireland, the FSA facilitated a meeting between Department of Agriculture and Rural Development for Northern Ireland, Quality Assurance Branch (DARD QAB) (Animal Feed) and District Council (DC) representatives to discuss this issue. A pilot programme whereby DC Environmental Health Officers inspect this area at their routine visits and report to DARD QAB was agreed and implemented. This pilot was evaluated and deemed successful and the programme will be rolled out across Northern Ireland by the end of 2008.

Food sampling and surveillance database

- 4.8 The UK food sampling and surveillance system (FSSNet) is a central database that allows storage and transfer of sampling data (both chemical and microbiological) between local authorities, official (public analyst) laboratories and others. Data is stored in a standardised form. Roll-out of the system across the UK began in England in 2006 and continued during 2007 and its scope was

¹⁸ TSO (The Stationery Office) <http://www.tso.co.uk/>

¹⁹ Information on the Royal Environmental Health Institute of Scotland is available at <http://www.royal-environmental-health.org.uk/>

²⁰ Local authority regulatory services are funded partly through council tax, which is set and collected locally. In England and Wales, funding is also partly through funding from central Government referred to as the 'Revenue Support Grant'.

further extended to include feed as well as food samples. Support for local authorities continued with training provided on the new and updated systems (see above). During this period two additional laboratories upgraded their information management systems to be compatible with FSSNet.

FSA presence in Regional Government Offices in England

4.9 During the year, the FSA continued to strengthen its links and develop further partnerships with organisations working at a regional and local level to help improve the local delivery of key FSA food safety and healthy eating priorities. As part of this work, the FSA supported the working presence established in 2006 in four of the nine English Government Offices of the Regions (East Midlands, South East, South West and North West). A number of local partnership events took place which have helped embed key FSA messages and supported the local delivery of key FSA targets on food safety, healthy eating and choice. Examples of FSA regional team work and some of the issues they focused on are published on the Agency's website at:

<http://www.food.gov.uk/aboutus/regions/workinregions>

Guidance material

4.10 The following guidance material was issued in 2007:

- Charges for expenses arising from 'additional official controls' - Guidance Notes were developed with a view to explaining the application of Article 28 of Regulation (EC) 882/2004 and ensuring that charges are applied in a fair and consistent manner. These will be kept under review and updated as necessary to reflect, in particular, experience in the application of the provision across the UK, the establishment of relevant case law, and developments at EU level. The Notes are available on the FSA website at:
<http://www.food.gov.uk/foodindustry/guidancenotes/foodguid/offcexpenses>
- Official controls and enforcement of hygiene regulations on UK egg production sites - draft Guidance was developed with expert input and involved piloting through on-farm 'practice' inspections with enforcement officials. The guidance is intended to support effective and consistent controls of on-farm egg hygiene requirements. It will also assist the competent authorities and UK industry to understand the requirements of the legislation, to identify what areas inspections will assess and what standards are required. The guidance will be finalised in 2008.
- The Fishery Products (Official Controls Charges) Regulations 2006 - Guidance was issued to explain the requirements of the new charging regime under Article 27 of Regulation (EC) 882/2004 as implemented by domestic legislation that came into force on 1 January 2007. This is available at:
<http://www.food.gov.uk/foodindustry/guidancenotes/hygguid/fisherychargesregs>

- The Contaminants in Food (England) Regulations 2007 - Guidance was issued on these Regulations which were revised in 2007. This is available at:
<http://www.food.gov.uk/multimedia/pdfs/cifguidancenotemarch2007.pdf>
- Mycotoxins in foodstuffs - Guidance was published on sampling advice for the competent authorities and food business operators. This is available at:
www.food.gov.uk/multimedia/pdfs/mycotoxinsguidance.pdf.
- Fusarium and ochratoxin A in cereals - Codes of Practice on reduction of Fusarium and ochratoxin A in cereals were published and are available at:
<http://www.food.gov.uk/multimedia/pdfs/fusariumcop.pdf>;
<http://www.food.gov.uk/multimedia/pdfs/ochratoxinacop.pdf>;
- Feed law guidance - A review of FSA guidance material for the competent authorities (and for feed business operators) was undertaken and updated/amended guidance has now been published at:
www.food.gov.uk/foodindustry/farmingfood/animalfeed/animalfeedlegislation
- Classification and monitoring of shellfish harvesting areas - Central guidance for local authorities was updated. This included guidance on sampling, transport and temperature recording for microbiological biotoxin and phytoplankton testing.
<http://www.food.gov.uk/enforcement/appllicense/fishapprove/>
- Managing foodborne illness - Guidance providing a framework for England and Wales for environmental health professionals and others for managing outbreaks of infectious intestinal disease caused by eating microbiologically contaminated food was revised. The Guidance covers the arrangements that should be in place, ways in which outbreaks may be detected, ways in which outbreaks are investigated and controlled and advice on communications. This is available at:
www.food.gov.uk/foodindustry/guidancenotes/hygguid/outbreakmanagement
- Principles for preventing and responding to food incidents - this Guidance was developed by the FSA's Food Incidents Task Force and provides step-by-step advice for the prevention and identification of potential hazards and practical recommendations on responding to incidents as they happen - from notification to post-incident actions. This is available at:
<http://www.food.gov.uk/foodindustry/guidancenotes/incidentsguidance/principlesdoc>
- Cheese Recovery Guidance - this was issued in May 2007 and was developed to provide practical advice to local authority officers to identify cheese recovery practices in their area. This is available at:
<http://www.food.gov.uk/foodindustry/guidancenotes/hygguid/cheeserecovery>

Co-operation and co-ordination for official controls of imported feed and food

4.11 Measures to ensure close co-operation between the principal central authorities and the local and port health authorities involved in carrying out import controls have continued. The principal central authorities for imported food, the FSA, Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra), Her Majesty's revenue and Customs (HMRC) and Animal Health, met on a quarterly basis. These authorities and representatives of local and port health authorities also met twice yearly via the Imported Food Project Group. The minutes of the meetings are published at:

http://www.food.gov.uk/foodindustry/imports/agency_work/ifpg/

4.12 Developments in this area that took place during 2007 include:

- Imported Food Control Resource Pack - This provides guidance to local authorities and was reviewed. The revised pack is available at:

http://www.food.gov.uk/foodindustry/imports/enforce_authorities/resourcepack

- Training - A further programme of training courses on imported food controls (including enforcement, sampling and post-import control of imported foods) was provided.

- GRAIL - Work continued to develop an internet-based database on imported food legislation and guidance for all enforcement practitioners in local and port health authorities. The database went online in March 2008 (see: <https://grail.foodapps.co.uk/grail/general/home.aspx>).

- Sampling and analysis of imported foods - FSA funding was provided to local and port health authorities to support additional sampling of Asian noodle-type meals and food supplement products as requested by the Commission.²¹

- Illegal food imports - A joint Agency/Defra/HMRC publicity campaign to raise awareness on illegal food imports took place. This included publication of a leaflet on *Working Together on Imported Food* (see link below) aimed mainly at local authorities. This is available at:

<http://www.food.gov.uk/multimedia/pdfs/publication/importedfood1007.pdf>

- Feed imports - the FSA agreed to provide enforcement authorities with £140,000 for the analysis of feed imported into the UK from third countries. This money will be made available via the Agency's existing system of grants to support additional sampling and surveillance of imported food from the beginning of 2008/2009.

Pesticide residue monitoring

4.13 PSD produced a training DVD on sampling for use by the control bodies that undertake this work on the Directorate's behalf.

²¹ Report from the Commission on food irradiation for the year 2005. Official Journal C 122, 2.6.2007, 3-12.

Co-ordination and co-operation in the animal health and welfare sectors

Liaison groups

4.14 As in the feed and food sectors, there are a number of liaison groups in the animal health and welfare sectors which held meetings during 2007 and the discussions that took place helped to contribute to achieving greater co-ordination and co-operation.

LACORS

4.15 Defra, the Welsh Assembly Government, Animal Health and LACORS, worked together on a review of the Framework Agreement for the delivery of animal health and welfare services by local authorities.²² This followed the Eves Review²³ and was undertaken with the aim of improving co-ordination between Animal Health and local authorities as well as between local authorities themselves with a view to identifying and reducing animal disease risks. A framework of indicators to track the overall progress of work to improve animal health and welfare in Great Britain are being developed. The indicators will track a number of measures that try to capture the different dimensions of animal health and welfare in England, Scotland and Wales. The framework will include 'headline' indicators, which will focus on the longer term objectives of the Strategy, and 'core' indicators, which will look at detailed progress in the shorter term. This resulted in the inclusion of a national indicator (NI 190)²⁴ for animal health and welfare being included for local authorities providing a greater emphasis on official controls in this sector and ensuring a more universal approach to the work and performance assessment.

Training initiatives

4.16 A training programme for local authorities and Animal Health staff was run by Defra in partnership with LACORS during the months leading up to implementation of the Welfare in Transport Regulations, Animal Welfare Act and animal welfare elements of Cross Compliance. This was to ensure that there was widespread awareness of the changes to the welfare laws and inspection process in 2007 among front-line enforcement staff. In addition, over 200 members of technical staff (veterinary and animal health officers) across Great Britain were given 2 day awareness training about welfare on farm issues in early 2007.

²² Framework Agreement is available at: <http://www.defra.gov.uk/animalh/ahws/pdf/frameworkagreement5-1.pdf>

²³ The Eves 'Review of the Animal Health and Welfare Delivery Landscape' was published in June 2006, and is available at: http://www.defra.gov.uk/animalh/ahws/deliver/ahw_review_report280606.pdf

²⁴ More information is available at: <http://www.defra.gov.uk/environment/localgovindicators/ni190.htm>

Other mechanisms

- 4.17 During 2007 Defra, and the Agriculture/Rural Affairs Departments in the Devolved Administrations and Animal Health continued with the regular monthly meetings of the Animal Health Delivery Review Board to improve collaboration and performance against objectives. The strengthening of Animal Health's senior management has laid the foundation for even wider engagement across Defra and its delivery partners. In addition, regular meetings between the Animal Health Divisional Veterinary Managers and the local authorities proved particularly critical during the disease outbreaks experienced in 2007.

Emergency and contingency planning

Feed and food sectors

Food Standards Agency

- 4.18 In 2007, the FSA Incident Branch investigated 1,323 incidents and on each occasion the Incident Protocol was invoked (see Chapter 5). The Protocol (which outlines the procedures that should be followed during feed and food incidents and emergencies) was also reviewed during this time and has been updated to reflect lessons learnt from reviews of recent incidents, including Avian Influenza and GM rice. The revised protocol has now been published (see link below). The protocol is a UK-wide one as each part of the Agency follows the principles laid out but a new Appendix has been added which reflects variations in procedures in Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland. It is published on the FSA website at:

<http://www.food.gov.uk/news/newsarchive/2008/apr/protocol>

Meat Hygiene Service

- 4.19 The MHS now has contingency plans in place for emergencies including plans for outbreaks of notifiable diseases. In 2007, these were successfully implemented during the outbreaks of Avian Influenza (AI), Bluetongue and Foot and Mouth disease (FMD).

Veterinary residues

- 4.20 There were three food safety incidents in 2007 involving the use of veterinary medicines where animals had to be restricted from entering the food chain. Following these incidents, a protocol was circulated by the Veterinary Medicines Directorate to the FSA and Veterinary Laboratories Agency (VLA). This focuses on the use of powers under national legislation which allow officers to stop animal movements off-farm.

Pesticide residues

- 4.21 There were few instances where formal co-operative actions were required. An exception related to a case where residues of isofenphos-methyl were detected. In late December 2006, EU Member States were informed through the Commission's Rapid Alert System for Food and Feed (RASFF) that isofenphos-methyl had been found in peppers grown in the Almeria region of Spain and tested in Germany. Isofenphos-methyl has never been approved in any EU Member State. Investigations by the Spanish authorities indicate the chemical was illegally imported. After receiving the first alert other Member States, including the UK, were able to re-examine the raw results for samples that had been taken and tested in 2006. Although these samples had not originally been tested for isofenphos-methyl, some laboratories that use the latest analytical techniques were able to identify residues of isofenphos-methyl once they had been provided with technical information about this chemical. PSD arranged for a small number of Spanish samples received towards the end of 2006 to be screened for isofenphos-methyl in order to ascertain if the laboratory could use the new technology to detect the presence of the pesticide and whether UK imports contained this pesticide.
- 4.22 One sample did contain isofenphos-methyl at 0.03 mg/kg (there is no maximum residue level - MRL) which was confirmed by re-analysis. PSD notified this finding to the supplier and the Food Standards Agency informed the EU through the RASFF system. As a result of confirming this residue, further surveys of peppers were undertaken in 2007 replacing a planned melon survey, which re-scheduled for 2008 or 2009. Results will be published monthly by the PSD Secretariat. Further details are on the website at: <http://www.pesticides.gov.uk/prc.asp?id=2059>

Animal health and welfare sectors

England

- 4.23 Defra's exotic animal disease contingency plan was deployed on a number of occasions during 2007. The Department working with Animal Health, operational partners and stakeholders, including the Health Protection Agency (HPA), local authorities and the livestock and poultry industries managed 82 positive exotic notifiable disease cases (up from 7 in 2006) including cases of FMD, AI and the first recorded cases of Bluetongue disease in GB. In addition, 609 ultimately negative disease investigations were undertaken, a rise of 258 per cent from the 236 during 2006. Further information on the Department's response to the disease outbreaks can be found in the *Animal Health 2007 - Report of the Chief Veterinary Officer* available at <http://www.defra.gov.uk/animalh/cvo/pdf/2007report.pdf>.
- 4.24 Defra also focused on ensuring pre-emptive action is taken to reduce new risks and threats by implementing lessons learned from the outbreaks. Early positive

lessons from the February/June AI and August/September FMD outbreaks, were successfully applied in later Bluetongue and AI outbreaks. As a result, Defra developed a Bluetongue vaccination delivery plan in conjunction with representatives from farming and veterinary organisations and scientific experts.

4.25 Animal Health is conducting a programme of co-ordinated exotic animal disease exercises for Animal Health Divisional Offices (AHDOs) for the period up to 2011. The exercise programme is designed to develop and demonstrate the Agency's emergency preparedness to deal effectively with outbreaks of exotic animal disease. In summary the programme requires:

- full-scale exercises that are:
 - jointly run with two or more AHDOs
 - operational Partners and industry involved
 - majority of staff in AHDO involved;
- each AHDO to take part in at least one full scale exercise each year;
- AHDOs to work together with operational partners in their region to plan and execute the exercises.

4.26 The programme of exercises provided excellent opportunities to engage with operational partners and stakeholders and so develop working relationships. The setting of objectives at the beginning of preparations for the exercises enabled the planning staff to have a clear measurement tool with which to measure the success of the exercises.

4.27 The first phase of the FMD outbreak in 2007 and subsequent AI outbreaks tested contingency arrangements for responding to exotic animal diseases. After consideration the UK Chief Veterinary Officer (CVO) decided to postpone Exercise Cedar (The National Classical Swine Fever Exercise due to be held in February 2008) and hold a policy related classical swine fever tabletop exercise in its place in June 2008. Although the planned exercises had been halted, it is generally accepted that the practical experience gained in responding to real outbreaks of exotic animal disease has been of great benefit in improving overall preparedness.

Scotland

4.28 The Scottish Government's contingency plans are constantly kept under review. Whilst there were no exotic disease outbreaks in Scotland in 2007, the Scottish FMD plan was activated in August to respond to the implications of the disease outbreak in England. In light of those experiences an independent review was commissioned and the report is available the Scottish Government's website at:

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Publications/2008/06/23130049/0>

Wales

- 4.29 The Welsh Assembly Government contingency arrangements for Exotic Animal Diseases were invoked to deal with various disease outbreaks in 2007. These have now been replaced by the Welsh Assembly Government Framework Response Plan for Exotic Animal Diseases and the Welsh Assembly Government Overview of Emergency Preparedness for Exotic Animal Diseases. These documents compliment the GB plans produced by Defra.²⁵

Northern Ireland

- 4.30 The Department carried out two desktop contingency exercises on AI during 2007, involving outside agencies such as the Police Service for Northern Ireland, the Fire Service and Local Councils. Feedback from these exercises was utilised in enhancing Contingency Plans.

Aquatic animal health

- 4.31 Following the first outbreak of the notifiable disease of fish, viral haemorrhagic septicaemia (VHS), in mainland UK in 2006 a review of the effectiveness of the contingency plan for the disease was undertaken in 2007, involving Defra, Centre for Environment, Fisheries and Aquaculture Science and stakeholder groups. The results of this exercise will be incorporated into new contingency plans for all exotic and emerging aquatic animal diseases as required under EC Directive 2006/88/EC.²⁶ There was no requirement to enact any contingency plan in Northern Ireland during 2007. The plans were, however, kept under review and will be updated as required under EC Directive 2006/88/EC.

Bee health

- 4.32 The England and Wales contingency plan for exotic pests and diseases of honey bees was not invoked in 2007. However, simulation exercises were conducted in all of the bee health regions in England and Wales. A surveillance programme for exotic pests was completed in identified 'at risk' apiaries.

Plant health

- 4.33 Following initial detections in late 2006 and a further survey in spring 2007, a campaign was launched to try to eradicate Oak Processionary Moth (OPM) (*Thaumetopoea processionea*) in south-west London, given the threats presented by this pest which is native to central and southern Europe. As well as causing serious defoliation to oak trees, OPM also presents a threat to human

²⁵ This is available at <http://new.wales.gov.uk/topics/environmentcountryside/ahw/exoticdisease/?lang=en>

²⁶ Council Directive 2006/88/EC on animal health requirements for aquaculture animals and products thereof, and on the prevention and control of certain diseases in aquatic animals. Official Journal L 328, 24.11.2006, 14 - 56.

and animal health through a toxin, Thaumetopin, found in hairs during the larval stages which causes serious skin irritation or, in worse cases, respiratory problems. The campaign is co-ordinated by the Forestry Commission under its Contingency Planning procedures and involves Defra, affected Borough Councils, Kew Gardens and the HPA. The Contingency Plan has been kept under review but no amendments have been considered necessary.

Working across the EU

Feed and food

4.34 The FSA is the Single Liaison Body for the UK as designated under Article 35 of Regulation (EC) No 882/2004. In 2007, the major categories of cases dealt with in relation to food were: labelling irregularities 57 (52.7%); physical contamination 45 (41.6%) and microbiological contamination 6 (5.5%). In each case, details of the case were forwarded to the relevant authority, investigation/inspection was undertaken where appropriate and reports provided back to the originating authority. No feed cases were referred under the Single Liaison Body arrangements in 2007.

Chapter 5 - Raising standards and sharing good practice: what was achieved in 2007?

Background

5.1 The UK National Control Plan (NCP) sets out how the performance of the competent authorities responsible for official controls is assessed through audit and other mechanisms in order to verify that they are providing an effective and consistent service. It highlights where audit systems have been established and where systems are still being developed. Where systems are in place, details of the audits that took place during 2007 are reported in this Chapter. Progress on establishing arrangements for the audit of other authorities is also reported. In addition, information is provided in respect of missions undertaken to the UK in 2007 by the Commission's inspection services, the FVO.

Feed and food sectors

Official controls for which the Food Standards Agency (FSA) is responsible at central Government level

Annual reporting

5.2 The FSA is currently putting in place arrangements to produce an annual UK high-level audit report summarising central audit activity and the performance of all the authorities that undertake official controls in respect of the feed and food law for which the FSA is responsible. This will facilitate the analysis of the effectiveness of the control arrangements and the identification of good practice. This report will then feed into future annual reports on implementation of the UK NCP. It is anticipated that the first of these annual audit reports will be presented to the FSA Board in February 2009 and will cover the 2007/08 period.

Local and port health authorities

5.3 Arrangements for the assessment of local authority feed and food law regulatory services by the FSA have been in place since April 2001. Authorities are audited against the 'the Standard' in the *Framework Agreement on Local Authority Food Law Enforcement*,²⁷ which sets out the minimum standards of performance expected across the range of feed and food law regulatory activities.

²⁷ The Framework Agreement is available at <http://www.food.gov.uk/enforcement/foodlaw/frameagree/>

- 5.4 The audit scheme is implemented on a UK basis, with the FSA in England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland each co-ordinating their own audit programmes. Details of the 2007 programmes are given in Table 5.1 - these were all completed.
- 5.5 Individual audit reports and related local authority action plans are published on the FSA website. Audit programme summary reports are compiled, where appropriate, and also published. These analyse and identify wider policy issues and trends for consideration by relevant central competent authorities, local authorities and their representative groups. All reports can be found at:
<http://www.food.gov.uk/enforcement/auditscheme/auditreports/>
- 5.6 Although the various audit programmes identified a number and range of issues for further action, all recommendations were accepted by the relevant authorities and appropriate corrective actions agreed. Follow-up audit verification checks ensured that agreed actions were prioritised appropriately and remedial actions implemented within acceptable timescales.
- 5.7 One of the key stated aims of the FSA audit process is to identify and disseminate good practice. Good practice identified during audit programmes is published on the FSA's website at:
http://www.food.gov.uk/enforcement/goodpractice/frmwrk_agrmnt/
- 5.8 The Audit Scheme is currently being reviewed (as part of the Changes in Local Authority Enforcement Project - see Chapter 2) to ensure that arrangements continue to meet the FSA's strategic aims and that they accord with the Commission's Guidelines on conduct of audits.²⁸ Pending the outcome of this, the FSA has included on-site verification ('reality checks') in audits. Further local authority audit development work will continue through 2008, taking into account the outcomes from the review of audit and related public consultation. This includes development of an analysis tool, which has been piloted from spring 2008, to assist with and enhance risk-based decisions for the selection of local authorities and the determination of audit programme scopes.

Meat Hygiene Service

- 5.9 The MHS is responsible in Great Britain for official meat hygiene and TSE controls in approved meat plants subject to veterinary audit and the FSA operates a system of audit of these activities. The MHS itself also has an internal audit system in place which audits MHS operational teams in approved meat plants.

²⁸ Commission Decision 2006/677/EC setting out the guidelines laying down criteria for the conduct of audits under Regulation (EC) No 882/2004 of the European Parliament and of the Council on official controls to verify compliance with feed and food law, animal health and animal welfare rules (notified under document number C(2006) 4026) (Text with EEA relevance) Official Journal L 278, 10.10.2006, 15-23.

Table 5.1: FSA audit of local authority - 2007

Programme	Dates	No. of authorities	No. of establishment 'reality checks'	Final report(s) issued/published/due	No. new recommendations
England					
Specified risk material (SRM) controls and authorisation of retail butchers for removal of vertebral column (VC) from carcasses of 24–30 month bovines.	March to April	16	26	GB summary report published October 2007 at: http://www.food.gov.uk/multimedia/pdfs/enforcement/srmaudit.pdf	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 12 for local authorities • 4 for FSA
Local authority official controls in approved dairy establishments carrying out cheese recovery.	August to September	10	16	All individual local authority reports issued and action plans fully implemented. Summary report scheduled for publication Autumn 2008	(Currently being finalised)
Food standards enforcement and maintenance of the local authority's food establishments database.	September	1	N/A	Report published January 2008: http://www.food.gov.uk/enforcement/auditsc/home/auditreports/audengreport/audits2007/auditbathnesomerset/ (First review of action plan implementation scheduled for July 2008)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 10 for local authorities
Follow-up audits (5) and audit action plan reviews (52)	When due	57	N/A	Where appropriate, updated audit action plans have been published at: http://www.food.gov.uk/enforcement/auditsc/home/auditreports/	N/A
Northern Ireland					
Specified risk material (SRM) controls and authorisation of retail butchers for removal of vertebral column (VC) from carcasses of 24–30 month bovines.	August to October	8	16	Summary report scheduled for publication in August 2008 (all individual LA action plans implemented).	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 6 for local authorities
Follow-up audits	When due	5	N/A	(Where appropriate) updated audit action plans published: http://www.food.gov.uk/enforcement/auditsc/home/auditreports/auditniireland/	N/A

Programme	Dates	No. of authorities	No. of establishment 'reality checks'	Final report(s) issued/published/due	No. new recommendations
Scotland					
Core audits	January to December	14	N/A	Individual audit reports and action plans published: http://www.food.gov.uk/enforcement/auditshome/auditreports/auditsscotland/auditscot/#anchor_268313	• 121 for local authorities
Follow-up audits (3) and audit action plan reviews (4)	When due	7	N/A	(Where appropriate) updated audit action plans published: http://www.food.gov.uk/enforcement/auditshome/auditreports/auditsscotland/auditscot/#anchor_268313	N/A
Wales					
Focused audit programme on the control and investigation of outbreaks of food related infectious disease	February to December	22	N/A	Individual local authority reports issued January 2008; summary report published April 2008: http://www.food.gov.uk/enforcement/auditshome/auditfocus/walesauditdisease (follow-up scheduled for August 2008)	N/A
Review of audit action plans for earlier full LA audit programme	November to December	22	N/A	Revised and updated action plans agreed with individual local authorities.	N/A

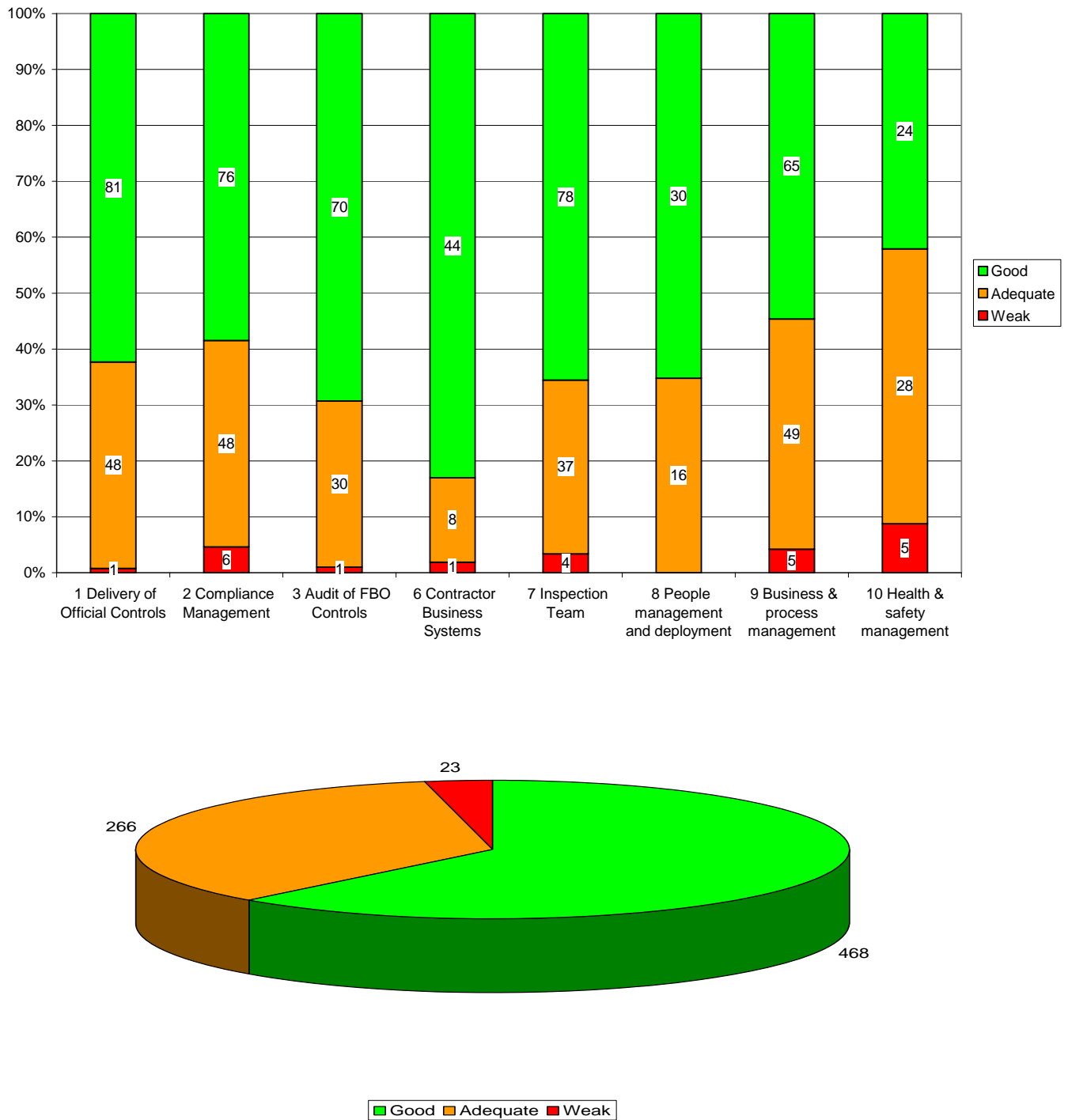
Table 5.2: FSA audit of the MHS - 2007

Programme	Dates	No. of establishment 'reality checks'	Final report issued
Controls for the processing of over 30 month cattle for human consumption	January	14	Summary report issued May 2007. Follow-up audit programme carried out October-December 2007 (see final row below).
Assessment of MHS audit of food business operator controls	January to March	18	Summary report issued July 2007
MHS structures and processes that ensure the competency of MHS Official Veterinarians delivering official controls	May to August	17	Issued to MHS as an advisory report without recommendations in November 2007 (MHS carrying out in depth review of these procedures as part of the Transforming MHS Project).
Delivery of official controls in meat products establishments/MHS structures and systems that assure the competency of Official Veterinarians delivering official controls	May to August	17	Summary report issued December 2007
<i>Enforcement upon identification of non-compliance</i>	<i>July to August</i>	-	<i>Postponed as MHS systems of control in this area are under fundamental review as part of the Transforming MHS Project</i>
<i>MHS Corrective and preventive actions</i>	<i>July to August</i>	-	<i>Postponed as MHS systems of control in this area are under fundamental review as part of the Transforming MHS Project</i>
<i>Risk based approach to delivery of official controls</i>	<i>July to August</i>	-	<i>Postponed as MHS systems of control in this area are under fundamental review as part of the Transforming MHS Project</i>
<i>MHS internal audit procedures for official controls</i>	<i>October to December</i>	-	<i>Postponed as MHS systems of control in this area are under fundamental review as part of the Transforming MHS Project</i>
Follow-up audits on controls for the processing of over 30 month cattle for human consumption	October – December	17	Summary report issued February 2008

- 5.10 As regards FSA audit, the strategy aims to gain assurance by assessing themed areas of official control starting with MHS policy formation, the MHS structures and systems that support the delivery of official controls, through to operational delivery in approved meat establishments.
- 5.11 Table 5.2 summarises the outcome of the planned audit programme for 2007. Of the proposed audit programmes, four were postponed pending the fundamental review of the MHS under the ‘Transforming the MHS’ project which is aimed at making the MHS more efficient and effective in delivering official controls.²⁹ For those that were undertaken, the findings and recommendations were accepted and have/are being actioned.
- 5.12 As regards MHS internal audit, 144 separate approved establishments were audited between January and December 2007. The activities covered in this programme included controls for the processing of over thirty month (OTM) cattle for human consumption, the assessment of MHS audit of food business operator controls and the delivery of official controls in cutting establishments. In addition, two audits looking at specific policy areas or themes were undertaken covering animal by-products controls and official controls in relation to the application of HACCP principles as part of a pilot aimed at exploring the use of themes rather than individual establishments as the basis for MHS internal audits of official controls to improve efficiency and effectiveness of these audits.
- 5.13 The effectiveness of the controls audited was assessed as “good”, “adequate” or “weak” and Points for Action (PFA) are identified and given a high, medium or low priority rating. The MHS management team responsible for the establishment is then required to complete and submit a Corrective Action Report, indicating the action taken to address the PFAs. The results of the controls audited in 2007 are given at Figure 5.1. Overall, these indicated that the arrangements established by the MHS in connection with the delivery of official controls have been effective in achieving their objectives. There were, however underlying issues regarding performance management for the largely contracted Official Veterinarian staff, monitoring and reporting of performance and in establishing priorities for the improvement of performance. These issues are being addressed through a fundamental restructuring of the business and automation (e-enablement) of key business processes.
- 5.14 The themed audits of official controls in relation to animal by-products concluded that overall, MHS controls were adequate. The themed audit on HACCP-related official controls concluded that the controls were, overall, weak. Recommendations to address the areas of weakness identified were accepted and have been or are in the process of being implemented. Progress on the implementation of these recommendations is being monitored and reported to the MHS Executive and the Audit Committee on a quarterly basis and no public health risks have been identified.

²⁹ Further details are available at: <http://www.food.gov.uk/news/newsarchive/2008/jul/mhsara0708>

Figure 5.1: MHS internal audit - Summary of audit findings in 2007



Department of Agriculture and Rural Development for Northern Ireland, Veterinary Service - Veterinary Public Health Unit (VS-VPHU)

- 5.15 In Northern Ireland, the MHS role is provided on behalf of the FSA by DARD's VS-VPHU. As with the MHS, the FSA undertake audit of the service and the VS-VPHU has an internal audit system in place.
- 5.16 As regards FSA audit, the planned programme for 2007 was achieved. This included audit of:
- two plant audits of OTM controls; and
 - six plant audits and three Regional Office audits of DARD VS-VPHU in respect of audit of food business operator controls.

DARD Quality Assurance Branch (QAB)

- 5.17 DARD QAB undertakes hygiene controls on behalf of the FSA at milk production holdings and liquid milk premises, and at egg production units/packing stations. During 2007, an audit was undertaken in relation to these controls at liquid milk establishments. A total of seven recommendations were made. A report was compiled and issued to DARD confirming that the control arrangements were considered to be effective overall and follow-up checks conducted in April 2008 indicated that all recommendations had been fully addressed by DARD.

Progress towards establishing arrangements for other authorities

- 5.18 As regards other areas for which the FSA has direct responsibility for official control functions, and other authorities that undertake controls on the FSA's behalf, audit arrangements are still being developed. Progress made in 2007 is indicated in [Table 5.3](#).

Official laboratories designated by the Food Standards Agency

- 5.19 All official control laboratories designated by the FSA are required to be accredited and audited by United Kingdom Accreditation Service (UKAS - the designated National Accreditation Agency for the UK). In the event that UKAS audit identifies any serious non-compliances with agreed performance and accreditation standards, this is reported to the FSA. In 2007 no such non-compliances were reported.
- 5.20 As regards laboratories that analyse samples in relation to the classification and monitoring of UK shellfish harvesting areas, all of the designated laboratories were audited by UKAS in 2007 and found to be satisfactory. As a result, all of these laboratories were re-accredited for the analysis of samples under the statutory monitoring programme.

Table 5.3: Progress towards establishing audit arrangements for authorities undertaking controls on behalf of the FSA

Competent authority	Control activity	Progress
FSA	Approval & inspection of food irradiation facilities	The one authorised UK facility is scheduled to be inspected late in 2008 and the inspection will be audited by a qualified auditor from the FSA.
FSA	Approval of fresh meat premises subject to veterinary audit	An audit system is in development. In the interim, internal monitoring of approval decisions is carried out by a lead Veterinary Meat Hygiene Adviser to ensure that they are consistent between team members.
FSA	Designation & classification of shellfish harvesting areas	Arrangements are not in place yet.
FSA	Recognition of non-EEA natural mineral waters	It is anticipated that an audit system will be in place by 2009.
AH(DH)	Hygiene controls at milk production holdings	A pilot audit was carried out in July 2007 by the FSA. This identified that some improvements were required to the risk-based scoring system used to determine inspection intervals. A revision of the Operating Procedures used by AH(DH) inspectors is in hand to address this and other action points raised. A follow-up audit is currently being scheduled for early 2009.
EMI/SGRPID	Hygiene controls at egg production units	It is anticipated that audit arrangements will be in place by 2009.

Control bodies

5.21 In England and Wales, a statutory programme of sampling and testing of raw cows' drinking milk is carried out on behalf of the FSA by Eclipse Scientific Ltd. The particular sites which carry out services on dairy hygiene matters are audited yearly by UKAS and the most recent audit was carried out in September 2007. The outcome of this audit was satisfactory.

Official controls for which the Agriculture/Rural Affairs Departments are responsible at central Government level

5.22 In those areas where Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra) and the Agriculture/Rural Affairs Departments in the Devolved Administrations are responsible for legislation, there is an established system in place for the inspection of Border Inspection Posts (BIPs) by AH and DARD Veterinary Service. Details of inspections undertaken in 2007 are provided below. For Defra's other official control functions, its Internal Audit Unit is developing an audit strategy and progress on this is also outlined.

Border inspection posts

5.23 AH is responsible for the evaluation of BIP facilities, documentation and procedures in Great Britain. In Northern Ireland, the DARD Veterinary Service undertakes these functions. Arrangements and guidance for carrying out inspections has been provided to Senior Animal Health Officers (SAHOs), lead BIP Veterinary Officers and where appropriate Official Fish Inspectors. During 2007, a total of 73 audit visits were carried out in the UK. These visits identified some deficiencies in the controls, structure and facilities in some BIPs. Action to correct these deficiencies has been taken or is underway. No serious problems were identified in 2007 and no BIPs were subject to restriction, suspension or partial suspension.

Development of audit strategy

5.24 This strategy will ensure that all major aspects of the official control functions of the Department and its Agencies, and the control functions designated to local authorities, are fully reviewed through a programme of risk-based audits at least once during a five-year period. It will cover the control activities listed in [Table 5.4](#).

Table 5.4: Official feed and food control activities covered by Defra's audit strategy

Competent authority	Control activity
Defra	Organisation of protected food names scheme. Organisation of beef labelling scheme. Overseeing system for certification of organic produce.
VMD (including AMI)	Veterinary residues surveillance of feed and food. Medicated feed and specified feed additives controls (the first planned audit of AMI is scheduled for the first half of 2008 and will be reported in the next NCP report).
PSD	UK monitoring programme for pesticide residues in food and drink (the first planned audit will take place in 2008 and will be reported in the next NCP report).
RPA	Beef labelling controls in England and Wales.

Control bodies

5.25 Defra and its agencies employ control bodies: for the collection of samples for residue monitoring and surveillance programmes; to certify organic produce, to verify protected food name; and to verify claims under Defra's 'Beef Labelling Scheme'. Arrangements are in place through contracts or Service Level Agreements to ensure conditions and standards of performance are met. Details of audits/inspections during 2007 are given in [Table 5.5](#).

Table 5.5: Summary of audits/inspections of control bodies designated by Defra to carry out feed and food control activities covered out in 2007

Control body	Control tasks	Progress
Mintel International Group Ltd	Sample collection for pesticide residues surveillance on behalf of PSD	Review meetings were held between PSD and Mintel, and protocols used by Mintel were updated as a result.
LGC Ltd AFBI Eurofins SASA	Official laboratories used in the pesticide residue monitoring process on behalf of PSD	Inspection visits were carried out to LGC, Eurofins and SASA. PSD identified the need to formulate an inspection plan and criteria. No visit to AFBI took place and PSD is reviewing its auditing arrangements in this area.
LGC Ltd	Analysis of statutory veterinary residue surveillance samples on behalf of VMD	A new system of joint audits has been agreed with UKAS. The first audit, to be undertaken in July 2008, will include auditors from UKAS, VMD and a European expert with knowledge of the requirements of Commission Decision 2002/657 concerning the performance of analytical methods and the interpretation of results. ³⁰
Government recognised independent verifiers ³¹	Verifying claims under the Beef Labelling Scheme (as required by EC Regulation 1760/2000) ³²	UKAS assessed the beef labelling activities of all five independent Certification Bodies in 2007. All assessments were concluded as satisfactory and no improvement issues were raised.
Approved private organic inspection bodies ³³	Control and certification of organic production (as required by Council Regulation 2092/91) ³⁴	UKAS visited all Certification Bodies operating in the UK in 2007 to verify compliance with EN45011. No serious issues were found in the operation of the control bodies audit/inspection arrangements.
Private and public inspection bodies (public bodies are Trading Standards Officers) ³⁵	Ensuring that producers of registered protected food names are complying with the registered specification for those products (as required by Council Regulations 509/2006 and 510/2006) ^{36 37}	The private inspection bodies are accredited to the relevant EN and ISO standards by UKAS. Defra will be considering with UKAS, the development of a programme for the inspection/audit of the specific control activities undertaken.

³⁰ Corrigendum to Commission Decision 2002/657/EC implementing Council Directive 96/23/EC concerning the performance of analytical methods and the interpretation of results (OJ L 221 of 17.8.2002). Official Journal L239, 6.9.2002, 66–66.

³¹ A list of these bodies is available at: <http://www.defra.gov.uk/foodrin/beeflab/verifiers.htm>

³² Regulation (EC) No 1760/2000 of the European Parliament and of the Council establishing a system for the identification and registration of bovine animals and regarding the labelling of beef and beef products and repealing Council Regulation (EC) No 820/97. Official Journal L 204, 11.8.2000, 1-10.

³³ A list of these bodies is available at: <http://www.defra.gov.uk/farm/organic/index.htm>

³⁴ Council Regulation (EEC) No 2092/91 on organic production of agricultural products and indications referring thereto on agricultural products and foodstuffs. Official Journal L198, 22.7.1991, 1-15.

³⁵ Defra website is being revamped with the aim of including more information about the inspection process, role of control bodies and its own role. This will include a list of the UK control bodies and their contact details. Currently information can be found at http://ec.europa.eu/agriculture/foodqual/quali1_en.htm

³⁶ Council Regulation (EC) No 509/2006 on agricultural products and foodstuffs as traditional specialties guaranteed. Official Journal L 93, 31.3.2006, 1-11.

³⁷ Council Regulation (EC) No 510/2006 on the protection of geographical indications and designations of origin for agricultural products and foodstuffs. Official Journal L93, 31.3.2006, 12-25.

FVO missions undertaken in 2007

5.26 Three FVO missions took place in 2007 to assess the effectiveness of official controls relevant to the feed and food sectors - see [Table 5.6](#). The reports of these missions are published on the Commission website, together with the UK response to the recommendations made (web-links are given in the [Table 5.6](#)).

Table 5.6: Summary of FVO missions in 2007 to assess the effectiveness of official feed and food controls in the UK

Control activities	Report/UK response
Gelatine controls (MR 2007/7257)	Report: http://ec.europa.eu/food/fvo/act_getPDF.cfm?PDF_ID=5916 UK response: http://ec.europa.eu/food/fvo/ap/ap_united_kingdom_7257_2007.pdf
Safety of food of animal origin, in particular meat, milk and their products (MR 2007/7450)	Report: http://ec.europa.eu/food/fvo/act_getPDF.cfm?PDF_ID=6724 UK response: http://ec.europa.eu/food/fvo/ap/ap_united_kingdom_7450_2007.pdf
Food hygiene (within the meaning of Regulation (EC) No 852/2004): traceability and labeling of food of non-animal origin (MR 2007/7192)	Report: http://ec.europa.eu/food/fvo/act_getPDF.cfm?PDF_ID=6593 UK response: http://ec.europa.eu/food/fvo/ap/ap_united_kingdom_7192_2007.pdf

5.27 The recommendations made during these missions have been undertaken or are being addressed as discussed with the FVO missions during a follow-up general review mission (MR 2008/7713) in March 2008. The progress on actions taken on recommendations is identified in the FVO's Country Profile for the UK which was updated following this general review mission and which will be published by the FVO in due course.

Animal health and welfare sectors

Audit Working Group

5.28 An Audit Working Group to co-ordinate animal health and welfare audits across the UK was set up in 2007. Membership comprises representatives from Defra, the Agriculture/Rural Affairs Departments in the Devolved Administrations, local authorities, as well as the FSA. It was agreed that:

- the Devolved Administrations will send audit strategies to Defra Internal Audit Division (IAD) to review and to produce a UK audit assurance map: and
- further meetings will be held to ensure animal health and welfare audits are co-ordinated.

5.29 The progress made in developing effective audit arrangements for animal health and welfare controls in each of the UK countries is outlined in the following paragraphs.

England

5.30 An audit strategy was finalised. A project has been proposed to ensure all the audit requirements needed to fully implement the strategy in Defra, its agencies and local authorities are put in place. The project will include the development of assurance and reporting arrangements for local authorities in association with the FSA.

5.31 Defra's IAD carried out an audit covering the governance arrangements for official control responsibilities. It was recognised that some improvements were required particularly in regard to local authorities. This will be addressed in the above project.

5.32 IAD completed an audit of official controls in Animal Health which showed that the Agency complies with the requirements of Regulation 882/2004 in most areas. In certain key areas such as guidance and risk based visits work is ongoing to develop relevant policies and procedures. A follow up audit will take place in due course to ensure action has been taken in these areas.

Wales

5.33 The Internal Audit Service for the Welsh Assembly Government has carried out one audit assignment within the 2007/8 audit plan: "Regulation 882/2004 Animal Health and Welfare". The audit sits within a longer-term audit strategy for the period up to 2011 and was designed to identify:

- the Welsh Assembly Government's responsibilities to meet the criteria attached to the Regulation;
- the associated monitoring procedures in place to confirm compliance; and
- the management information arrangements to support the contribution to Defra for the National Control Plan.

5.34 The overall conclusion was that the Welsh Assembly Government was only able to provide limited assurance that the animal health and welfare controls were operating effectively and that further measures were needed to allocate functional responsibilities within the Welsh Assembly Government Divisions responsible for the control mechanisms and to develop robust systems to collect and collate data. These findings were accepted and an action plan to strengthen controls will be implemented.

Scotland

5.35 In Scotland, no specific audits or reviews of official controls have taken place to date. The Scottish Government Internal Audit Division is, however, in the process of developing an Audit Strategy to cover its audit arrangements and has held a

series of meetings with Rural Affairs and Environment and Scottish Food Standards Agency staff as part of this process. Arrangements for audit of official controls have also been included in the five year Audit Needs Assessment and features in the Periodic Audit Plan covering the period 1 April 2007 to 30 September 2009 although the exact details of actual audit reviews have still to be finalised.

Northern Ireland

5.36 DARD Internal Audit Branch are finalising an Audit Strategy to cover the audit arrangements for official controls which will cover all areas that DARD are responsible for. This strategy is being discussed and agreed with all bodies involved in delivering official controls. To date no specific audits have been completed.

Control bodies

5.37 In the area of animal health most control bodies employed by Defra and its agencies are:

- the private laboratories undertaking diagnostic analysis in relation to animal health controls; and
- various commercial carrier companies undertaking the basic checks required to ensure that animals entering the UK under Pet Travel Scheme³⁸ comply with the law.

Arrangements are in place through contracts or Service Level Agreements between the competent authority and the controls bodies to ensure conditions and standards of performance are met. Details of audits/inspections of control bodies during 2007 are given in Table 5.7.

³⁸ Details of the UK Pet Travel Scheme, approved commercial transport carrier companies, routes and countries are available at: <http://www.defra.gov.uk/animalh/quarantine/index.htm>

Table 5.7: Audits/inspections of control bodies in relation to animal health controls during 2007

Control Body	Control tasks	Progress
Orchid Cellmark Ltd ³⁹	Scrapie genotyping service under contract to Defra in support of GB National Scrapie Plan (NSP), ⁴⁰ and separately to DARD for the Northern Ireland Scrapie Plan ⁴¹	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> October 2007 - ISO 9001:2000 audit by SGS UK Ltd⁴² December 2007 - ISO 17025:2005 audit by UKAS. Several improvement actions were raised by UKAS of which only one related to the scrapie genotyping service. Improvements were delivered within a specified timeframe with evidence of satisfactory completion. Overall UKAS adjudged the systems in place at Cellmark to manage conformity with the required standards for testing to be effective, efficient and robust. Defra officials and AH met with Cellmark in January, April, and August 2007 to review delivery of the scrapie genotyping service. No issues were identified that impacted on the overall delivery of the service to a very high standard.
Private laboratories authorised to undertake work in respect of the Animal By-Products Regulations 2005 and/or the Poultry Breeding Flocks and Hatcheries Order 1993	Laboratory examination of samples for the detection of <i>Salmonella</i> , Enterobacteriaceae and <i>Clostridium perfringens</i>	During 2007 most laboratories complied with the test samples Quality Assurance requirements. One laboratory inspection was carried out in 2007 due to poor Quality Assurance results. As a result of the VLA inspection report the laboratory withdrew from the scheme. No further action was required as a result of the findings.
Pet Travel Scheme (PETS) - Commercial Transport carrier companies ⁴³ approved by Defra to bring dogs, cats or ferrets to the UK	Basic checks of pet passports (including microchips)	During 2007, 99,307 animals entered the UK under PETS. AH carried out spot checks/inspections on approximately 10% of those animals. This surveillance has been carried out randomly at entry points throughout a 24 hour period. Where any non-compliance is found the carrier was informed and the animal was either re-exported or placed in quarantine depending on the circumstances. No carriers were suspended or had their agreements terminated during the year.

³⁹ The most recent issue of the schedule of accreditation to the ISO 17025:2005 certificate is available on the UKAS website at www.ukas.org (testing laboratory no.2045).

⁴⁰ Information on the NSP is available at: <http://www.defra.gov.uk/animalh/bse/othertses/scrapie/nsp/index.html>

⁴¹ Information on the Northern Ireland Scrapie plan is available at: <http://www.dardni.gov.uk/index/animal-health/animal-diseases/bse/scrapie-introduction/northern-ireland-scrapie-plan.htm>

⁴² Information about SGS is available at: <http://www.quality-register.co.uk/bodies/body38.htm>

⁴³ Details of the UK Pet Travel Scheme, approved commercial transport carrier companies, routes and countries are available at: <http://www.defra.gov.uk/animalh/quarantine/index.htm>

FVO missions

5.38 Three FVO missions took place in 2007 to assess the effectiveness of official controls relevant to animal health and welfare sectors - see [Table 5.8](#). The reports of these missions are published on the Commission website, together with the UK response to the recommendations made (web-links are given below).

Table 5.8: Summary of FVO missions in relation to animal health and welfare controls during 2007

Control activities	Report/UK response
Animal welfare at slaughter and during killing in the UK Commission reference: (MR 2007/7337)	Report: http://ec.europa.eu/food/fvo/act_getPDF.cfm?PDF_ID=6462 UK response: http://ec.europa.eu/food/fvo/act_getPDFannx.cfm?ANX_ID=5348
Foot and Mouth Disease outbreaks Commission reference: (MR 2007/7416)	Report: http://ec.europa.eu/food/fvo/act_getPDF.cfm?PDF_ID=6466 UK Response: http://ec.europa.eu/food/fvo/act_getPDFannx.cfm?ANX_ID=5348 and http://ec.europa.eu/food/fvo/act_getPDFannx.cfm?ANX_ID=5442
Operation of the ovine and caprine identification systems Commission reference: (MR 2007/7577)	Report: http://ec.europa.eu/food/fvo/act_getPDF.cfm?PDF_ID=6648 UK response: http://ec.europa.eu/food/fvo/ap/ap_united_kingdom_7577_2007.pdf

Plant health sector

FVO missions

5.39 There was one FVO mission during 2007 which looked at the UK's Import controls for plant health. The FVO was satisfied that the situation in terms of meeting the EC obligations arising from the Plant Health Directive was improving. Various action points were agreed and progress towards achievement of these is to be considered in subsequent missions.

The report is available at

http://ec.europa.eu/food/fvo/act_getPDF.cfm?PDF_ID=6518

The UK response is at

http://ec.europa.eu/food/fvo/ap/ap_united_kingdom_7429_2007.pdf

Chapter 6 – Planning for the future: how far have we got in 2007?

Background

6.1 The Food Standards Agency (FSA), Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra), and its agencies, and the Agriculture/Rural Affairs Departments in the Devolved Administrations have worked together during 2007 in order to help ensure that the system of official controls in the UK operates effectively. The UK National Control Plan (NCP) sets out the planned control activities of the various competent authorities involved for the period of the Plan and this Chapter provides information on the implementation of these control activities in 2007 and reports on the results.

Overview

6.2 The results of official controls for 2007 in the UK demonstrate that the overall level of compliance of business operators in all sectors was satisfactory. There were no major incidents in the feed and food sectors. In the animal health and welfare sector contingency plans were enacted as a result of outbreaks of Avian Influenza (AI), Foot and Mouth Disease (FMD) and Bluetongue. A review of performance of the authorities in controlling the FMD outbreak (report published in March 2008) concluded that the overall response was good.⁴⁴

Official controls in the feed sector

Competent authorities

6.3 Responsibility for monitoring and verifying compliance with and enforcement of feed law is divided in the UK. In Great Britain, responsibility rests mainly with local authorities (205 are involved) but the Veterinary Medicines Directorate's Animal Medicines Inspectorate undertakes official controls in relation to medicated feed and specified feed additives (SFAs) and Animal Health (AH) is responsible for ensuring compliance with the prohibition on the use of animal protein in animal feed. In Northern Ireland, Department of Agriculture and Rural Development for Northern Ireland (DARD) has responsibility for all feed controls.

⁴⁴ This is available at: <http://www.defra.gov.uk/corporate/ministers/statements/hb080311.htm>

- 6.4 In carrying out controls, local authorities are required to have regard to the Feed Law Enforcement Code of Practice issued by the FSA.⁴⁵ This includes a risk-rating scheme for determining the frequency of controls (three categories are defined, A, B and C where A represents the highest risk to animal and human health). DARD follow Practice Guidance which is based on this Code and the AMI's Standard Operating Procedures also take account of the direction given in the Code.
- 6.5 As regards planned controls for 2007, each local authority's activities are set out in a Service Delivery Plan. The priority for each authority was to pro-actively provide support to animal feed businesses and take targeted, proportionate risk-based enforcement action to protect feed safety. To assist local authorities in targeting their feed control activities, guidance on particular priorities was provided by the FSA.⁴⁶ This was based on RASFF and feed incident alerts, results of feed sample analyses received by the FSA, and changes to animal feed legislation. The main priorities identified were:
- checks for the presence of contaminants and unauthorised substances in feed materials from third countries as notified by RASSF during 2006;
 - systems and practices in place on-farm to prevent contamination of animal feed through inappropriate storage, mixing or preparation of animal rations; and
 - random monitoring of feed materials and feedingstuffs for the presence of mycotoxins, dioxins and dioxins-like PCBs where resources permit in line with Commission Recommendations 2006/576/EC and 2006/88/EC.^{47, 48}
- 6.6 As regards the frequency of controls on SFAs, priorities were given to large commercial feedingstuffs manufacturers adding veterinary medicinal products and SFAs directly to feed for sale. On-farm mixers using SFAs via premixtures were considered as lower priority.

Feed businesses

- 6.7 There are approximately 140,000 feed businesses in the UK connected with the supply of feeding stuffs for food producing animals. This includes producers of feed materials, primary producers, manufacturers of additives and premixtures, importers and distributors - see Table 6.1. The FSA and the VMD have published lists of the feed businesses approved in accordance with Article 19 of

⁴⁵ This is available at <http://www.food.gov.uk/enforcement/foodlaw/feedlawcop/>

⁴⁶ Guidance for enforcement authorities in England for 2007/2008 (parallel guidance was issued for feed authorities in Scotland and Wales) is available at: <http://www.food.gov.uk/multimedia/pdfs/enfe07010.pdf>

⁴⁷ Commission Recommendation on the presence of deoxynivalenol, zearalenone, ochratoxin A, T-2 and HT-2 and fumonisins in products intended for animal feeding (Text with EEA relevance). Official Journal L 229, 23.8.2006, 7-9.

⁴⁸ Commission Recommendation on the reduction of the presence of dioxins, furans and PCBs in feedingstuffs and foodstuffs (notified under document number C(2006) 235) (Text with EEA relevance). Official Journal L 42, 14.2.2006, 26-28.

Regulation (EC) 183/2005 on feed hygiene. These lists have been sent to the Commission and can be accessed at the link below. The lists for 2007 contain 1,195 feed businesses approved for the production of feedingstuffs which contain medicines and other specified products and 331 premises approved for the production feedingstuffs which contain other additives. For more information see:

<http://www.food.gov.uk/enforcement/applicense/feedapprove/feedpremisesregister>

Table 6.1: Registered and approved feed business in the UK - 2007

Type of feed business	Number of businesses
Primary producers	126,396
Manufacturers and packers	1,550
Importers	70
Distributors/transporters	2,400

Local authority and DARD controls

6.8 Local authorities and DARD report statistical information on their annual control activities to the FSA. The information collected includes details of number of inspections, re-visits, sampling visits, advisory visits and other types of intervention activity. Details of the numbers of non-compliances and of the types and numbers of formal enforcement actions taken are also provided.

6.9 Summary data on the controls undertaken in 2007 is given in Table 6.2.

Table 6.2: Controls undertaken by local authorities and DARD in 2007

Control type	Number
Scheduled inspections	9,619
Revisits	224
Advice visits	5,187
Other active interventions (e.g. use of targeted drives to obtain information on the activities of feed businesses operators, and subsequent follow-up visits)	11,283
Sampling visits	1,552
Total analysis's of feeding stuffs	17,644

6.10 In 2007, local authorities and DARD continued to give priority to the official controls at those businesses risk-rated as category A and B in accordance with the Feed Law Enforcement Code of Practice. These premises require to be inspected once a year and every two years respectively. The bulk of feed

business operators 'new' to the requirements of Regulation (EC) 183/2005 on feed hygiene are risk-rated category C, requiring inspection once every 5 years. Given that these 'new' feed business operators did not have to be compliant until 1 January 2008, the number of inspections to category C premises during 2007 was limited. It is also the case that several animal disease outbreaks during 2007, including FMD and Bluetongue, together with severe flooding in much of the country, limited the ability of local authorities to enforce animal feed law at premises at the level of primary production.

- 6.11 In general terms, it is considered that there was a good level of compliance by feed business operators with feed law relating to non-medicated feed. No prosecutions were taken of feed businesses during 2007 and the need to use other formal enforcement powers, including improvement notices and emergency prohibitions, was very limited. However, 100 warning letters were issued to manufacturers of animal feed. In the main, these were for minor labelling infringements. In addition, 332 warning notices were issued to livestock farms in the UK regarding non-compliances with feed hygiene requirements. These non-compliances were not considered sufficiently serious to result in the use of formal enforcement action. The apparently high level of warning letters to livestock farms is not unexpected as the requirements of Regulation (EC) 183/2005 are new and the competent authorities are providing advice to feed businesses to improve levels of compliance as part of a graduated approach to enforcement unless contraventions are serious.

Additional sampling activities

- 6.12 The FSA provided funding to local authorities during 2007 in relation to:
- Commission Recommendation 2006/576/EC on the presence of deoxynivalenol, zearalenone, ochratoxin A, T-2 toxins, HT-2 toxins and fumonisins in cereal products intended for animal feed; and
 - Commission Recommendation 2006/88/EC on the reduction of the presence of dioxins, furans and PCBs in feedingstuffs and foodstuffs.

The results of these analyses will be submitted to the European Commission during 2008. No significant non-compliance with the recommendations was identified. In addition to the above sampling surveys, the competent authorities in the UK sampled a wide range of feedingstuffs produced in the EU and from third countries. The results of analysis indicated few problems generally and where feed materials were found to contain undesirable substances or unapproved additives these tended to relate to products originating from outside of the EU. A summary of the results of analysis is given in [Table 6.3](#).

Table 6.3: Summary of analysis of feeding stuffs in the UK for 2007

	Total No of analysis's	% pass
Constituents	7,242	94.3%
Undesirable Substances	8,323	98%
Feed Additives	2,079	99.2%
Total	17644	

Animal Medicines Inspectorate (AMI) controls

6.13 Summary data on the controls undertaken by AMI in 2007 is given in Table 6.4. This includes inspections and sampling and analysis. As regards inspections, AMI classifies its visits as 'scheduled', 'special/follow-up' and 'other'. 'Scheduled' visits are those which are planned, based on the number of feed business operators and current inspection frequencies. 'Special/follow-up' visits are those to approved feed business operators' premises for enforcement purposes or to check that non-compliances noted at a scheduled inspection have been rectified. 'Other' visits are those to non-approved feed business operators' premises for enforcement purposes e.g. the unlawful incorporation of veterinary medicinal products into feedingstuffs.

Table 6.4: Summary of official controls undertaken by AMI in 2007

Control type	Number
Scheduled inspections	619 (of a total of 855 planned)
Special/follow-up visits	35
Other inspections	9
Feed safety incident investigations	17
Visits necessitated by feed safety incidents	43
Samples	164

6.14 The planned official control programme was not achieved for two main reasons:

- the FMD outbreak in August curtailed all visits to premises with livestock for three months which had an adverse effect on the number of inspections feed manufacturers; and
- resources were diverted from planned inspections to investigations, including feed safety incidents and breaches of relevant legislation, in particular the illegal importation, supply and administration of unauthorised veterinary medicines.

Whilst the planned official control programme was not achieved, those feed business operators that were deemed to be of highest risk, were prioritised for inspection.

- 6.15 As regards samples, these were taken from all categories of manufacturers and a wide range of products, both feedingstuffs and premixtures, were tested for the presence of a range of residues and undesirable substances.
- 6.16 The number and types of non-compliances found is summarised in [Table 6.5](#). No serious non-compliances were found. As regards the Type 2 non-compliances, each case resulted in an improvement notice being issued to the feed business operator concerned. As regards Type 1 non-compliances, these were dealt with by the inspector by issuing advice. Whilst this advice is recorded on a Confirmation of Inspection Report, this data is not captured to enable full details of the number of non-compliances to be given. Minor non-compliances varied and included, for example, labelling and prescription issues and hygiene issues. As regards the non-compliant samples of feedingstuffs and premixture, in all 11 cases the levels found were only marginally outside permitted tolerances and further documentary checks indicated that the correct level of product had been incorporated.

Table 6.5: Summary of recorded non-compliances by manufacturers of medicated feedingstuffs and premixtures in 2007

Non-compliance type	Number
Type 1 Minor non-compliances that the inspector believes will be rectified through advice.	This information is not available
Type 2 Non-compliances that have been raised at previous inspections or are more significant (in number/extent) than type 1 non-compliances	4
Type 3 Non-compliances that could lead to serious adverse effects on human or animal health or which demonstrate clear intent to evade legal requirements	None
Exceedances of tolerance limits for residues of veterinary medicines or undesirable substances	11

- 6.17 In general terms, it is considered that there was a good level of compliance with legal requirements by manufacturers and distributors of specified feed additives, premixtures and medicated feedingstuffs in 2007. The minor labelling and prescription issues noted were, in part, due to the introduction in late 2006 of new rules in this area. The hygiene non-compliances observed were minor and did not warrant more formal action being taken. Commercial feed business operators are generally also assured and independently audited under the Universal Feed Assurance Scheme (UFAS).⁴⁹ This scheme reinforces the official controls carried out by the AMI.
- 6.18 With regard to manufacturers using a veterinary medicinal product in feed for feeding to their own livestock, the non-compliances observed were generally

⁴⁹ More information at:
<http://www.agindustries.org.uk/content.output/93/93/Trade%20Assurance/Trade%20Assurance%20Schemes/UFAS.aspx>

identified as documentary and quality control issues. The awareness of these feed business operators for the need to store controlled products securely, record their usage, and take appropriate measures to ensure contamination was minimised, appeared good.

AH Controls - protein in animal feed ban

6.19 Compliance with BSE-related livestock feed controls in Great Britain is monitored by AH through the National Feed Audit (NFA).⁵⁰ In Northern Ireland, these controls are carried out by DARD. The inspection programme is designed using the risk assessment model provided in Commission Recommendation 2005/925/EC.⁵¹ This assessment establishes the level of visits needed to audit feed production and handling standards throughout the feed supply chain, including end users on-farm. Around 10,000 feed samples are taken annually and tested for prohibited animal proteins using a range of analytical methods.⁵² The programme also covers investigation of any potential breaches of the ban, and the taking of appropriate protection and enforcement action. The results of the feed survey in 2007 indicated widespread compliance with the controls, and revealed a very low proportion of positive and inconclusive results from the number of samples tested. The results of the 2007 inspection programme are provided in the Tables 6.6 and 6.7:

Table 6.6: Summary of 2007 inspection programme for controls of protein in animal feed in Great Britain

Stage	Number of inspections for checks on the presence of processed animal proteins	Number of breaches not based on laboratory testing but, e.g. on documentary checks
Import of feed materials	15	0
Storage of feed materials	28	1
Feed mills	549	1
Home mixers/mobile mixers	252	0
Intermediaries of feedingstuffs	26	0
Means of transport	26	0
Farms keeping non-ruminants	68	0
Farms keeping ruminants	280	0
Farms keeping both ruminants and non-ruminants	582	4
Total	1,826	6

⁵⁰ Further information on the NFA is available at: <http://www.defra.gov.uk/animalh/bse/statistics/nfa.html>

⁵¹ Commission Recommendation on the coordinated inspection programme in the field of animal nutrition for the year 2006 in accordance with Council Directive 95/53/EC. Official Journal L 337, 22.12.2005, 51-59.

⁵² The testing of official feed samples from the NFA is carried out at the Veterinary Laboratories Agency.

Table 6.7: Protein in animal feed testing in Northern Ireland - 2007

Stage	Number of samples tested for the presence of processed animal proteins	Positive
Import of feed materials	86	0
Feed mills	142	0
Home mixers/mobile mixers	30	4
Total	258	4

Official controls in the food sector

Competent authorities

6.20 Responsibility for monitoring and verifying compliance with and enforcement of food law is divided in the UK. For the most part, responsibility lies with local and port health authorities of which there are 469. For the remaining controls, responsibility is divided between central Government Departments and their agencies (see Figure 3.1). Details of the control activities of these authorities during 2007 are outlined in the following paragraphs.

Local and port health authority controls

- 6.21 In carrying out controls, local authorities are required to have regard to the Food Law Enforcement Codes of Practice - there are separate but parallel Codes in each of the four UK countries.⁵³ These Codes include risk-rating schemes, one for food hygiene and one for food standards, for determining the frequency of inspections. For food hygiene, five categories are defined - A to E - and for food standards there are three categories - A to C. For each scheme, A represents the highest-risk premises.
- 6.22 The control and enforcement activities of local authorities are monitored by the FSA. This includes controls in relation to general food law (food safety, traceability, withdrawals and recalls), imported food, labelling (general, nutritional etc.), composition and standards (e.g. bottled waters, fat spreads, chocolate, foods for particular nutritional use, irradiation) biological safety (e.g. food hygiene), chemical safety (e.g. additives, contaminants, food contact materials) and biotechnology (GM food). The relevant data is collected annually on a financial year basis and is published on the FSA's website, as both national totals and individual authority figures. The data currently collected focuses mainly, but not solely, on actions by the local authorities - on service inputs rather than outcome measures. The main indicators for assessing service delivery by

⁵³ The Codes are available by following the links at: <http://www.food.gov.uk/enforcement/foodlaw/foodlawcop/>

individual authorities are the numbers of planned inspections achieved (to show whether the authority is delivering its planned work and sampling levels).

6.23 The most recent data published for the UK covers the period 1 April 2006 to 31 March 2007 (data for 1 April to 31 December 2007 will be collected and collated in the second half of 2008). Table 6.8 summarises the data collected. Full details are available at:

<http://www.food.gov.uk/enforcement/ocddata/mondatabyyear/ocd200607/>

6.24 The key findings in comparing the data for 2006/07 with that from 2005/06 are as follows.

- Food establishments - the number has risen by 1.5% to 582,167, driven by a 2.6% rise in the number of restaurants and other caterers. This figure does not yet include those primary production establishments subject to legislation on food hygiene for the first time since 1 January 2006.
- Food hygiene inspections and other visits:
 - the total number of full inspections has fallen by 3% but the total number of other visits (partial inspections, re-visits and advisory and sampling visits) has increased by 8%;
 - the percentage of planned inspections to higher-risk premises (risk categories A and B) achieved has increased from 92% to 95%; and
 - the number of local authorities achieving 90% or more of their planned inspections to higher risk premises has increased from 77% to 80% (of those authorities responsible for food hygiene).
- Food standards inspections and other visits:
 - the total of all visits (full and partial inspections, re-visits and advisory or sampling visits) has fallen, by 14%;
 - the percentage of planned inspections to higher risk premises (risk category A) has risen slightly, from 94% to 96%; and
 - the number of LAs achieving 90% or more of their planned inspections to higher risk premises has increased from 56% to 70% (of those authorities responsible for food standards).
- Food sampling - the total number of food samples tested has fallen by 8.5%. Within this total, the number of formal food samples tested (i.e. those sent to an accredited laboratory) fell by 1.8%;
- Formal enforcement actions⁵⁴ - the total number of premises subject to enforcement action increased by 4.5% to 166,513. Of the total reported enforcement actions 96% were written warnings which is consistent with previous years.
- Prosecutions - the number has fallen from 538 to 443.

⁵⁴ Formal enforcement actions include written warnings, improvement notices, prosecutions, formal cautions, prohibition orders, emergency prohibition notices or orders, suspension or revocation of approval or licence, seizure or surrender of food, and voluntary closures.

Table 6.8: Summary of UK local authority monitoring data on food law enforcement – April 2006 to March 2007

	Number	% change from 2005/06
Number of establishments	582,167	+1.5%
Number of establishments inspected	360,857	-1.0%
Number of inspections carried out*	532,987	-3.5%
Number of establishments committing an infringement**	166,513	+4.5%
Number of prosecutions	443	-17.7%
Number of samples tested***	153,204	-8.5%

* Total of full and partial inspection, and re-visits, for food hygiene and for food standards.

** The number of establishments with an infringement is not precisely the same as the number of enforcement actions. In line with EU guidance⁵⁵ a single establishment may receive more than one of a specific type of enforcement action – e.g. a written warning – but is only recorded once. By contrast, an establishment which is subject to two types of enforcement actions – e.g. a written warning and a prosecution – will be recorded twice. Nevertheless, this total figure is used as the number of enforcement actions taken.

*** The number of samples tested is not precisely the same as the number of samples taken, as a sample may be subject to more than one test.

6.25 It is concluded that local authorities are continuing to follow a risk-based approach to controls, shown by the higher levels of achievement for inspections of the higher-risk premises. As regards food hygiene, authorities are adopting a more varied pattern of working with businesses, as shown by the rise in 'other' visits. As regards sampling, while total levels have fallen, there is a stronger focus on targeted, intelligence-based sampling. These patterns are in line with the Government's 'better regulation agenda' (including the recommendations of the Hampton Review on regulatory inspections), and with enhanced targeting of resources.

6.26 More detailed analysis is included in a paper to the FSA Board in March 2008 (INFO 08/03/02).⁵⁶ Further, key data for individual local authorities, along with national summaries for England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland are available on the FSA website at:

<http://www.food.gov.uk/enforcement/ocddata/>

6.27 This is the last full-year set of data under the current FSA monitoring system which has run since 2001. The monitoring arrangements have been reviewed as part of the Changes in Local Authority Enforcement Project (see Chapter 2) and a new system is now in operation. The aim is to strengthen the focus on outcomes rather than inputs, notably on the proportion of food premises deemed to be broadly compliant with the law. The data for 2008/09 will be the first reported under these new arrangements.

⁵⁵ EU Guidelines on harmonisation of the conditions for submitting statistics on the annual inspections EN/03/95/5120000.POO. This was issued in conjunction with Article 14 of Directive 89/397/EEC.

⁵⁶ INFO 08/03/02: Local Authority Monitoring Data on Food Law Enforcement: April 2006 to March 2007 (see: <http://www.food.gov.uk/multimedia/pdfs/board/info080302.pdf>).

Food premises surveys

6.28 In addition to the monitoring programme reported above, the FSA undertakes periodic surveys of hygiene standards in food businesses in order to collect information on which types of businesses are complying with the legislation and to identify the main areas in which they are failing. An initial survey carried out in 2005 and reported in 2006 provided baseline data against which to measure improvements.⁵⁷ A second survey was undertaken in late 2007. The results are currently being analysed and will be reported in late 2008.

Import controls

6.29 In 2007, products of animal origin imported from third countries were subject to veterinary checks at the point of entry into the UK at Border Inspection Posts. All consignments received a documentary and identity check with physical checks being carried out in accordance with the percentages laid down in Decision 1994/360.⁵⁸ Data on these checks was recorded on the TRACES system and information on any samples taken as part of these controls was recorded on a monthly basis and submitted to the Commission as required by Regulation 136/2004.⁵⁹ During the year, additional samples were taken under the requirements of Commission safeguard measures on imports of fish and fishery products (see para 6.31 below) but this additional work did not affect the level of controls undertaken in other areas. Where the results of the checks revealed a public health risk, the Commission and other Member States were alerted via the RASFF system.

6.30 Additional controls and prohibitions on imported food were implemented and guidance issued on the application of the controls to enforcement practitioners at points of entry to the UK on:

- certain fishery products from Brazil due to histamine contamination;
- voluntary action by Brazil on export of histamine susceptible fishery products;
- suspension of fishery products from Ghana;
- delisting of fishery products establishments in Pakistan and Surinam;
- certain fishery products from Albania due to histamine contamination;
- suspension of Red 2G (E128) as a food colour;
- controls on Guar Gum for pentachlorophenol and dioxin contamination;

⁵⁷ More information is available at <http://www.food.gov.uk/enforcement/laresource/research/foodhygienesurvey>

⁵⁸ Commission Decision 1994/360/EC on the reduced frequency of physical checks of consignments of certain products to be implemented from third countries, under Council Directive 90/675/EEC. Official Journal L 158, 25.06.1994, 41-45.

⁵⁹ Commission Regulation (EC) No 136/2004 of 22 January 2004 laying down procedures for veterinary checks at Community border inspection posts on products imported from third countries. Official Journal L 21, 28.1.2004, 11-23.

- amendments to Decision 2006/504/EC on aflatoxins⁶⁰ in certain products from certain countries, such as almonds from the USA, peanuts from Brazil and changes to authorised signatories; and
- increased surveillance for melamine contamination in certain products.

Mycotoxins in Food

6.31 In 2007, official controls in relation to mycotoxins in imported foods were carried out in accordance with Decision 2006/504/EC at designated points of entry and reported to the Commission on a quarterly basis. A total of 1,911 consignments were presented for import; 190 subject to physical sampling and analysis, of which 38 were found to be non-compliant (including failure to present required documentation). A summary of the results of these controls is provided in [Table 6.9](#).

Table 6.9: Results of official controls in the UK regarding mycotoxins in imported foods carried out in accordance with Decision 2006/504/EC FSA in 2007

Product	No of consignments			
	Imported	Tested	Non-compliant for mycotoxins	Non-compliant for insufficient documentation
Products originating from Brazil - Brazil nuts in-shell	2	0	0	0
Products originating from Brazil - Peanuts	14	7	0	0
Peanuts and compound products from China	761	86	5	0
Peanuts from Egypt	1	1	0	0
Pistachios and pistachio products from Iran	8	1	0	7
Products originating from Turkey - Hazelnuts and hazelnut products including hazelnut paste	582	30	7	0
Products originating from Turkey - Pistachios and derived products containing pistachios	155	9	0	0
Products originating from Turkey - Products containing mix of pistachios and hazelnuts	31	2	0	8
Products originating from Turkey - fig and fig products	172	30	6	3
Products originating from Turkey - miscellaneous products	70	7	2	0
Almonds and products thereof imported from USA	115	17	0	0

⁶⁰ Commission Decision 2006/504/EC on special conditions governing certain foodstuffs imported from certain third countries due to contamination risks of these products by aflatoxins (notified under document number C(2006) 3113) Official Journal L 199, 21.7.2006, 21-32.

Personal illegal imports

6.32 Work continued in 2007 on raising public awareness as regards enforcement and understanding the risks of illegal personal imports of products of animal origin from third countries. Measures were implemented by Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs (HMRC) in co-operation with Defra, the Agriculture/Rural Affairs Departments and the FSA and reported to the Commission in accordance with Regulation (EC) No 745/2004.⁶¹ These included:

- providing leaflets summarising the rules for personal imports of animal products for travellers at ports and airports and placing posters and running advertising at high visibility sites at ports and airports alerting travellers to the products of animal origin rules;
- Defra and DARD continuing to work to raise the profile of the threat of introduction of disease from products of animal origin; and
- enhanced enforcement mechanisms used by HMRC (within England, Scotland and Wales) and DARD (within Northern Ireland) to identify illegal meat and milk consignments (e.g. risk indicators used to target personal imports, anti-smuggling staff responsibilities at ports and airports, the use of detector dogs and other equipment such as x-ray equipment).

Additional sampling activities

6.33 The results of tests in 2007 on fishery products being imported from Indonesia for heavy metals and (in certain species) histamine were reported to the Commission under Decision 2006/236/EC.⁶² These are summarised in [Table 6.10](#). The small number of non-compliances in proportion to the number of samples tested suggests that consignments being imported are generally compliant.

Table 6.10: Summary of controls on fishery products imported from Indonesia in 2007

Consignments	Heavy metals	Histamine
Compliant	873	163
Non-compliant	1	1

6.34 As regards Commission Recommendation 2005/108/EC on the further investigation into levels of polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs) in certain foods,⁶³ the FSA provided the data to European Food Safety Authority (EFSA) and the Commission in 2007. The data, which includes published data from FSA surveys conducted in previous years as well as data generated in direct response to the Recommendation, related to dietary supplements, smoked, un-

⁶¹ Commission Regulation (EC) No 745/2004 laying down measures with regard to imports of products of animal origin for personal consumption. Official Journal L 122, 26.04.2004, 1-9.

⁶² Commission Decision 2006/108/EC on special conditions governing fishery products imported from Indonesia and intended for human consumption. Official Journal L 83, 22.3.2006, 16-17.

⁶³ Commission Recommendation 2005/108/EC on the further investigation into the levels of polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons in certain foods. Official Journal L 34, 08.02.2005, 43-45.

smoked and raw meat and fish, other home-cooked foods, dried fruit, dietary supplements, baby food and infant formulae, and fats and oils. A total of 1,182 samples were analysed of which three (two smoked meat and one smoked fish) were found to exceed the prescribed levels. The data is being used by EFSA in combination with data supplied by other Member States to develop an opinion on PAHs in food.

Meat hygiene and TSE controls

- 6.35 The Meat Hygiene Service (MHS) is responsible in Great Britain for these controls in approved meat plants subject to veterinary audit. This service is provided on behalf of the FSA in Northern Ireland (FSANI) by DARD's VS-VPHU. Local authorities are responsible for enforcing these controls other than at approved meat plants. Inspection data is collected on the results of ante- and post-mortem checks and audit data in relation to animal by-products (including Specified Risk Material (SRM), application and implementation of HACCP etc.
- 6.36 During 2007, the MHS was involved in providing additional unplanned controls due to the outbreaks of AI, Bluetongue and FMD. The MHS has practiced Contingency Plans to cover the provision of controls during such outbreaks that ensure there is no impact on the provision of the normal planned controls. These were successfully implemented on each of the outbreaks, thus ensuring there was no disruption to planned control programmes.
- 6.37 A total of 4,378 Written Advice Notices (271 establishments), 671 Hygiene Improvement Notices (120 establishments), 213 Remedial Action Notices (55 establishments) and 217 Recommendations for Prosecution (61 establishments) were served by the MHS in slaughterhouses/ game handling establishments and cutting plants that were awarded a poor or unacceptable score in one or more of the sections of part 2 of the food business operator audit. In total 280 separate establishments were involved in the above enforcement actions.
- 6.38 The MHS is undergoing a transformation programme to improve effectiveness, efficiencies and economies of the service delivered. More information is provided at:
<http://www.food.gov.uk/foodindustry/meat/mhservice/businesspublications/mhsreportaccounts/>

VS-VPHU controls

- 6.39 A Service Level Agreement (SLA) exists between FSANI and VS-VPHU, which records the services, requirements and targets to be met. Official control information is divided into inspection and audit data. Inspection data covers results of ante- and post-mortem checks. Ante- and post-mortem examination inspection results are held electronically on the Animal and Public Health Information System (APHIS) managed by DARD and results are available to food business operators. Audit data covers the verification of food business operator activities (e.g. food business operator controls on animal by-products (including

SRM), application and implementation of pre-requisites and HACCP, etc.). The SLA reporting period runs from 1 April to 31 March the following year with a requirement for monthly, quarterly and annual performance reports. During 2007, these reporting mechanisms were being developed. No unplanned official controls were undertaken during 2007. An annual report, under SLA requirements, is now available. In the period covered the 2007/2008 SLA, 196 Corrective Action Request letters, 12 Remedial Action Notices and 32 Hygiene Improvements Notices were served by VPHU staff in approved premises during inspection and audit activities.

Approvals of meat establishments

- 6.40 The FSA is responsible for the approval of those fresh meat premises in the UK that are subject to veterinary audit and has been undertaking a programme to approve under Regulation 853/2004⁶⁴ all meat establishments that were licensed under the previous legislation and certain catering butchers and game handling establishments that were exempt. This programme is contributing to reducing foodborne illness by raising standards in meat plants. Refusal of approval is, in the majority of cases, prompting operators to carry out the necessary improvements to gain approval. Also, those that are given conditional approval have been improving standards with the aim of being granted full approval.
- 6.41 The target completion date of spring 2008 for the approval programme for meat plants is expected to be exceeded by six months in England. This delay has resulted from the proportion of establishments granted conditional approval and, therefore, requiring additional visits within the three and six month deadlines set in Regulation (EC) 882/2004. The approval programme is on-going but at 31 December 2007, 70% of previously licensed meat establishments had received conditional approval or approval under Regulation 853/2004 in accordance with Regulation 882/2004, and 4% were refused approval.
- 6.42 Ten establishments were refused approval in 2007. Of these, eight were previously licensed (three poultry slaughterhouses, one red meat slaughterhouse and four cutting plants) and two were new poultry meat cutting plants. All of these, with the exception of one new poultry meat cutting plant, subsequently upgraded their establishments and obtained conditional or full approval.

Hygiene controls at milk production holdings (in UK) and liquid milk processing establishments (in Northern Ireland)

- 6.43 Animal Health Dairy Hygiene (AHDH), on behalf of the FSA, is responsible for hygiene controls at milk production holdings in England and Wales. DARD Quality Assurance Branch (QAB) is responsible for milk hygiene controls on behalf of the FSA in Northern Ireland and local authority food law enforcement services are responsible for controls in Scotland. During 2007 there were

⁶⁴ Corrigendum to Regulation (EC) No 853/2004 of the European Parliament and of the Council laying down specific hygiene rules for food of animal origin (OJ L 139, 30.4.2004. Corrected version in OJ L 226, 25.6.2004). Official Journal L 204, 4.8.2007, 26-26.

approximately 12,500 milk production holdings in England and Wales, 3,939 in Northern Ireland and 1,332 in Scotland. In Northern Ireland, DARD QAB, on behalf of FSANI, is also responsible for hygiene controls at liquid milk processing establishments, of which there were ten in 2007.

- 6.44 Risk-based programmes of inspections were in place and in 2007 AHDH carried out a full programme of inspections in England and Wales. DARD QAB carried out 4,855 of the target number of inspections (5,500-5,600), which was not reached due to a reduction in the number of registered holdings and a less than anticipated number of follow-up inspections. The numbers of primary inspections and secondary inspections (to check on correction of non-compliances) carried out in 2007 are given in [Table 6.11](#). Most non-compliances found during the primary inspection were resolved. However ten Hygiene Improvement Notices were issued by AHDH (none by DARD). One food business operator was successfully prosecuted by AHDH for hampering and obstructing an inspector in the course of an inspection.
- 6.45 AHDH supervises a statutory programme of sampling and testing of raw cows' drinking milk which is carried out in accordance with national food hygiene legislation on behalf of FSA by Eclipse Scientific Group in England and Wales. Samples are taken every three months at registered holdings which sell raw cows' drinking milk. This sampling and analysis is managed and monitored by AHDH. [Table 6.12](#) provides a summary of the sampling results for 2007. There are no known sales of raw drinking milk in Northern Ireland and sales of raw drinking milk have been banned in Scotland.

Table 6.11: Summary of hygiene controls on milk production holdings in England and Wales* and liquid milk processing establishments in Northern Ireland in 2007

	Primary inspections	Secondary inspections	Formal enforcement actions
Milk production holdings			
AHDH	9450	3026	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1,951 Guidance Letters • 10 Hygiene Improvement Notices • 1 successful prosecution
DARD QAB	3767	1088	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 188 warning letters • 551 confirmatory (guidance) letters
Liquid milk processing establishments			
DARD QAB	14	48	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 43 confirmatory (guidance) letters

* Scottish data on controls on dairy farms in 2007, which are carried out by local authorities, is not yet available.

Table 6.12: Summary of raw cows' drinking milk sampling results in England and Wales for 2007

Month	Total No of samples tested*	% samples pass
January	30	90%
February	43	81%
March	34	94%
April	40	97%
May	51	96%
June	53	81%
July	53	85%
August	40	95%
September	26	88%
October	48	83%
November	57	84%
December	27	96%
Total	502	

* Includes routine and follow up samples

Hygiene controls at egg production units

- 6.46 These controls are carried out, on behalf of the FSA, by the Egg Marketing Inspectorate (EMI) in England and Wales, the Scottish Government's Rural Payments and Inspections Directorate in Scotland, and DARD QAB in Northern Ireland. As regards England and Wales, no official controls were carried out during 2007 pending training of EMI inspectors to the appropriate level of expertise in on-farm hygiene and the development of draft guidance on enforcement of hygiene regulations on UK egg production sites. These have now been completed and inspections commenced in early 2008. The situation in Northern Ireland is similar and a programme of inspections has now commenced.
- 6.47 In 2007, there were a total of 273 registered egg production sites in Scotland housing approximately 2.9 million laying hens. Of these 273 sites 224 (82%) received advisory inspections, no enforcement inspection or official control samples were taken.

Hygiene controls at other primary producers

- 6.48 In recognition that the new regime here (see Chapter 3) will need some time to settle in, the FSA is working with Local Authorities Co-ordinators of Regulatory Services to learn from early practical experiences. Informal feedback indicates that office-based work has been completed to update business registration and to establish risk-based inspection frequencies. Due to a number of difficulties experienced by UK farmers (FMD, flooding etc) since the regime became fully operational, the number of on-farm inspections in relation to food hygiene was limited during 2007. In view of this, the new regime is still being kept under review while further evidence is gathered from its operation.

Classification and monitoring of UK shellfish harvesting areas

6.49 The position in 2007 is as follows:

- In England and Wales, five shellfish harvesting areas exceeded the statutory limit for Diarrhetic shellfish poisoning (DSP) and one exceeded the statutory level for Paralytic shellfish poisoning (PSP) in 2007. In total, six beds were closed due to toxin exceedances in flesh samples. In all cases, temporary closure notices (TCN) were used to put the bed closures into effect.
- In Scotland, there were five closures for exceeding the statutory PSP level, four for exceeding the Amnesic shellfish poisoning level, 35 closures for exceeding DSP level, and nine production areas were closed for returning a microbiological result above that permitted by its classification for that area.
- In Northern Ireland, four beds exceeded the statutory level for DSP toxin (one bed on one occasion, one bed on two occasions, and two beds on three occasions – nine DSP episodes in total). In all cases closures were effected by TCNs. As there are a total of 41 classified beds the cases that required action represented 9.75%.

6.50 Enforcement action was taken by one local authority in England relating to the illegal gathering and placing on the market of live bivalve molluscs from unclassified/prohibited waters. The food business operator(s) in question are facing charges for non-compliance with relevant food hygiene legislation.

Food irradiation

6.51 The FSA is responsible for the licensing and inspection of food irradiation facilities in the UK of which there is currently only one. This was not inspected during 2007.

6.52 The FSA is required under Directive 1999/2/EC⁶⁵ to provide a report each year to the Commission on compliance of food irradiation on foods and food ingredients treated with ionising irradiation, facilities subject to official controls, the quantities of food irradiated and the radiation dose administered, and on the results of checks for irradiated food at the product marketing stage. The data for 2007 was provided to the Commission in May. In summary:

- no food was irradiated in the one approved UK food irradiation facility;
- at the product marketing stage, 429 individual food samples were analysed and 48 (11%) were found to be irradiated and either not labelled as irradiated or had not been irradiated at an approved facility;
- non-compliant products included dried products, dried herbs, spices, vegetable seasonings, teas, food supplements, honey and bee products, fruit and dried seasonings in Asian type noodle meals and

⁶⁵ Directive 1999/2/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council on the approximation of the laws of the Member States concerning foods and food ingredients treated with ionising radiation. Official Journal L 66, 13.3.1999, 16-23.

- there is no evidence that the products were irradiated at facilities in the European Community and it is likely that most non-compliant products originated from third countries.

6.53 New advice on imports of irradiated food was issued and brought to the attention of local authorities and Port Health Authorities in May.⁶⁶

Protected food names

6.54 Defra is responsible for the operation within the UK of the schemes for the protection of food names on a geographical or traditional recipe basis. Producers of registered food names are inspected by Defra approved inspection bodies to ensure that the appropriate specification is being met for the 37 protected food name products registered. In 2007, inspections were carried out to ensure compliance against the registered specification on each producer using a protected food name. As a result of these checks no formal action was taken to de-register any UK producer.

6.55 UK local authorities also have an enforcement role with respect to ensuring that protected food product names are not used fraudulently and that general rules are complied with. Information on local authority control activities is included in paras 6.21 to 6.27 above.

Organic products

6.56 In the UK, Defra has responsibility for the organic inspection and certification system and is required to submit an annual report to the European Commission on its operation. This includes information on inspections and sampling undertaken, as well as sanctions imposed. Defra-approved Inspection Bodies are required to visit the organic operators for which they have responsibility at least once a year but may also undertake announced visits. In 2007, there were 5,121 registered organic operators which received routine inspections. A further 316 unannounced inspections also took place. As a result, 1,003 infringements or irregularities of the organic standards were reported. This resulted in 115 penalties being applied by the organic certification bodies. There were, however, no major incidents of mis-selling of non-organic or contaminated produce as certified organic produce.

Beef labelling controls

6.57 The beef labelling system is designed to provide consumers with more reliable information about the beef they buy. The rules apply to all fresh and frozen beef and veal for sale at all stages of the supply chain from slaughterhouse to final point of sale. Claims about the origin, production methods and characteristics of beef which are not compulsory may be approved under the *Beef Labelling Scheme* on a voluntary basis. Under the scheme, prior approval of an application and verification of voluntary claims is carried out by recognised

⁶⁶ This is available at http://www.food.gov.uk/foodindustry/imports/imports_advice/irradiated

independent third parties or ‘verifiers’. Defra has overall responsibility for beef labelling policy in the UK with responsibility for official controls shared as follows:

At abattoirs and cutting plants:

- in England and Wales (at abattoirs and cutting plants with an MHS presence) by the Rural Payments Agency’s (RPA) Technical Inspectors on behalf of Defra;
- in Scotland by the Scottish Government’s Meat and Livestock Inspectors; and
- in Northern Ireland by the DARD Senior Technical Inspectors.

At retail level:

- UK-wide by local authorities to ensure that all beef (cuts and carcasses) sold/supplied by operators was correctly labelled with the required compulsory indications and that traceability of the beef was maintained at all times, in accordance with EC Regulation 1760/2000.⁶⁷ Also, that any approved voluntary labelling in use was checked to ensure that operators had received permission to use those specific claims by way of independent verification and a valid approval certificate issued through the competent authority.

6.58 In England and Wales, the RPA achieved its planned official controls for 2007 and a total of 860 inspections were carried out. Of these, 56 were plants in Wales. Where non-compliance was found, plants were re-visited until compliance was achieved (which is what RPA term as a ‘follow-up’). Of the 860 inspections, 265 resulted in re-visits being made to follow-up on recommendations and check corrective action. The type and number of non-compliances identified were:

- lack of full traceability - 126
- carcasses not labelled - 8
- boxes/cuts received not labelled - 38
- boxes/cuts ready for dispatch and not labelled - 60
- approved labelling not satisfactory - 33

For 2007, the overall level of compliance by operators was approximately 70%.

6.59 The Scottish Government achieved its planned official controls for 2007. Overall, 40 inspections took place at licensed abattoirs and cutting plants of which only one non-compliance letter was necessary. The overall level of compliance with the beef labelling requirements in Scotland was found to be good with only a small number of operators identified in the medium- to high-risk category. These operators were visited on a more frequent basis. Where minor problems were found on any part of the beef labelling system, remedial action was taken without a non-compliance letter being issued.

⁶⁷ Regulation (EC) No 1760/2000 of the European Parliament and of the Council establishing a system for the identification and registration of bovine animals and regarding the labelling of beef and beef products and repealing Council Regulation (EC) No 820/97). Official Journal L 204, 11.8.2000, 1-10.

- 6.60 DARD achieved its planned official controls for 2007. Unplanned (follow-up) inspections were undertaken where non-compliance was found. These inspections had little or no impact on planned inspections. In abattoirs and cutting plants 19 instances of non-compliance were detected in 12 out of 70 premises inspected, resulting in four verbal warnings, eight follow-up inspections; two warning letters, one meeting with plant management, one enforcement notice, and one case (involving three non-compliances) referred to the Public Prosecution Service. Non-compliances recorded related to labels with information omitted or inaccurate information and inaccurate company records. For 2007, the overall level of compliance by operators was 83%.
- 6.61 The planned control programme carried out by verifiers was generally achieved to agreed targets. Non-compliances are categorised at two levels, Major and Minor. For example, of the 359 inspections conducted 14 (3.9%) resulted in major non-compliances and 251 (69.9%) resulted in minor non-compliances. Although the level of minor non-compliance at the time of inspection appears to be significant, the sectors were proactive in correcting non-compliance and instances where certification had to be suspended were rare.

Recognition of non-EEA natural mineral water sources

- 6.62 The FSA is directly responsible for controls for the recognition of non-EEA natural mineral water sources. No new applications were received during 2007 and no new recognitions were granted. One existing recognition was, however, revoked. There was no health risk associated with this but the water was no longer meeting the necessary legal requirements for recognition. At present there are two non-EEA waters recognised by the UK. Details are available on the FSA website at:

<http://www.food.gov.uk/enforcement/applicense/mineralwaters>

Pesticide residues

- 6.63 The Pesticide Safety Directorate (PSD) is responsible for the national monitoring and surveillance programmes for pesticide residues in food and drink. The PSD is required to report monitoring and surveillance data under EC Regulation 396/2005⁶⁸ which requires Member States to check regularly the compliance of foodstuffs with MRL's. PSD reports to the Commission the results of the monitoring programme for pesticide residues carried out both under their national programme and under the EU co-ordinated programme. More detailed information on the particular activities of the PSD is provided at Appendix K of the NCP.
- 6.64 In the 2007 monitoring programme, 70 (1.8%) out of 3,909 samples taken contained residues above the MRL. The majority of the non-compliant samples

⁶⁸ Regulation (EC) No 396/2005 of the European Parliament and of the Council on maximum residue levels of pesticides in or on food and feed of plant and animal origin and amending Council Directive 91/414/EEC. Official Journal L 70, 16.3.2005, 1-16.

were in the fruit and vegetable category, with grapes, speciality fruit, herbs and celery accounting for 45 of the exceedances. Of these non-compliant samples, 15 were from the UK, 19 from the EU, and 36 from third countries.

- 6.65 The monitoring programme has the potential to lead to appropriate and proportionate enforcement action. In the majority of cases, action in the event of non-compliance is limited to writing to brand owners, publishing the brand name details, and informing the authorities of the country of origin. Where residues of unapproved products are found and further investigation provides a sufficient evidential basis, however, an appropriate sanction from the range available may be applied including, seizure and disposal and prosecution where this is in the public interest. PSD consulted interested parties in 2007 on the draft 2008 programme and ensured that its website was updated as MRLs changed, or approvals for use of pesticides were revoked.

Veterinary drug residues

- 6.66 The VMD is responsible for the national veterinary drug residue surveillance programmes. Following the outbreaks of FMD and Bluetongue in Great Britain in the second half of 2007, officers who would normally collect on-farm samples for the UK National Residues Control Plan (NRCP) were seconded to work in the disease surveillance zones resulting in the UK not meeting the plan for on-farm sampling for cattle, pigs and poultry. In 2007, around 34,300 samples were tested under the UK NRCP. The results showed no evidence of the use of synthetic growth promoters. On-farm investigations into confirmed residues of natural hormones found no evidence of abuse for growth promotion purposes. None of the non-compliant residues of authorised veterinary medicines were considered to be a risk to human health. A year on year comparison shows a small decrease in the number of non-compliant samples for 2007 compared with 2006. Investigations into non-compliant samples found no evidence of the misuse/abuse of unauthorised substances.
- 6.67 Non-complaint residues were confirmed for antibiotics, anthelmintics and non steroidal anti inflammatory drugs (NSAIDs). Antibiotic residues in excess of the MRL were confirmed in samples from cattle (including calves), pigs and poultry. The incidence in pigs and poultry was extremely low. Residues in calves (7/268 non-compliant) were due to treated animals being placed on the market for growing-on but being purchased for slaughter. Non-compliant antibiotic residues in cattle were 2/1250 samples tested. Non-compliant residues of anthelmintics in sheep liver were 1/1467 samples tested. With respect to NSAIDs; residues of phenylbutazone were found in one sample of cattle plasma and one sample of horse plasma. Phenylbutazone is not authorised for use in food producing animals. Investigations show that neither animal had been treated but both had accidental access to medicated feed for animals being treated on the premises.

Environmental contaminants and insecticides

6.68 Non-compliant residues were confirmed for heavy metals in cattle and sheep kidney. Incidence for cattle was 10/158 out of samples tested. Incidence for sheep was 8/102 of the samples tested. Non-compliant residues of leucomalachite green a metabolite of malachite green were also confirmed in two samples of farmed fish.

Feed and food incidents in 2007

6.69 During 2007, the Agency investigated 1,312 feed and food related incidents in the UK. The major categories were reported as a result of environmental contamination (17%); natural chemical contamination (16%); microbiological incidents (12%) and; on-farm incidents (12%). The number and types of incidents reported is summarised in Table 6.13.

6.70 Where appropriate, action was taken by the FSA to ensure that consumers' interests were protected in relation to food safety. This included the issue of 115 Food Alerts,⁶⁹ four of which required action by local authorities. More detailed information is available in the FSA's annual report of incidents at:

<http://www.food.gov.uk/multimedia/pdfs/incidents07.pdf>

6.71 The FSA is developing an enhanced on-line incident report form to enable feed and food businesses to more easily notify the Agency of product recalls and withdrawals. In order to reduce the impact of food incidents, the Agency is developing a food incidents prevention strategy which it began to implement in 2008.

⁶⁹ Food Alerts inform local authorities and consumers about problems associated with feed and food and, in some cases, provide details of specific action to be taken. These are issued under two categories, 'Food Alerts: for Action' and 'Food Alerts: for Information'. More information on the Food Alert system is available at: <http://www.food.gov.uk/enforcement/alerts/>

Table 6.13: Summary of incidents reported in the UK in 2007

Incident type	Number
Allergens	86
Animal feed (on market)	10
Counterfeit products	3
Environmental contamination	226
Food contact materials	26
Illegal import/export	17
Irradiated ingredient	23
Labelling/documentation	82
Microbiological contamination	163
Natural chemical contamination	215
On-farm	160
Pesticides	35
Physical contamination	123
Process contaminants	21
Radiological	14
TSE	8
Use of an unauthorised ingredient	46
Veterinary medicines	45
Water quality	9
Total	1,312

Official controls in the animal health sector

Competent authorities

6.72 In Great Britain, AH is responsible for veterinary controls in the area of animal health. In Northern Ireland, this role is undertaken by DARD. Enforcement of legislation is mainly the responsibility of local authorities. In England and Wales, this is organised through a Framework Agreement between Defra, the Welsh Assembly Government and LACORS.⁷⁰ Table 6.14 provides details of the Animal Health inspections carried out during 2007.

⁷⁰ The Framework Agreement is available at: <http://www.defra.gov.uk/animalh/ahws/pdf/frameworkagreement5-1.pdf>

Table 6.14: Details of the Animal Health inspections in Great Britain carried out during 2007

Disease	Status	No of inspections	No of control measures
Bovine TB (bTB)	<p>One of the goals of the Government strategic framework for the sustainable control of bovine tuberculosis for GB is to improve availability of information on bTB and raise awareness and understanding of bTB issues amongst all stakeholders.</p> <p>Public information focuses on improved compliance, emphasising on the benefits of timely testing of cattle as an important element of control.</p> <p>The annual review of Parish Testing Intervals for TB in England and Wales was completed and intervals calculated in line with Annex A of Council Directive 64/432/EEC⁷¹ (as amended). The testing interval for Scotland was also reviewed (The whole country is defined as the relevant area). Statements of the revised Parish Testing Intervals were issued to all cattle keepers in August 2007.</p>	<p>51,221 surveillance herd tests were completed. bTB was confirmed in 2,215 herds with 93 incidents remaining unclassified pending culture results (as at 18/3/08).</p> <p>A total of 28,200 animals were slaughtered. TB was confirmed in 488 of the suspect cases (as at 18/3/08).</p> <p>160,099 animals were traced from breakdowns, where bTB had been confirmed between October 06 and September 07, and where applicable, were tested to the agreed ministerial standard of within 9 weeks. This represents 81.1% of a demand of 197,152 animals that required tracing.</p> <p>Over 1,000 animals were subject to a post movement test following non-compliant movements.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 4,172 new incidents recorded, movement restrictions were served within the 2 working day target for 1,596 out of 1,622 (98.4%) of herds that were not already under restrictions. • 844 slaughterhouse suspect cases were reported by the MHS during 2007. Movement restrictions were served within the 2 working day target for 600 out of 655 (91.6%) herds of origin that were not already under restrictions. • On average 3,932 herds were under restriction at the end of each month during 2007 due to the zero tolerance policy.⁷² • All high risk cattle movements are centrally monitored to ensure that cattle are subject to a pre-movement TB test. 90% of all consignments of cattle eligible for a pre-movement test in 2007 were compliant. Animal Health undertook a random check on 5% of suspect non-compliant herd owners as well as target movements where there has been a history of non-compliance. Herd owners were issued with official warnings and advisory leaflets. In 2007, 977 of the non-compliant movements were investigated and in 14 cases were referred to the local authority for further action.

⁷¹ Corrigendum to Council Directive No 64/432/EEC on health problems affecting intra-Community trade in bovine animals and swine (OJ No 121, 29.7.1964). Official Journal L 120, 13.5.1975, 13-13.

⁷² Animal Health operates a zero tolerance policy on overdue tests, where herds not tested by the due date are automatically restricted until the tests are completed. The VETNET IT management and support system, automatically identifies herds with overdue tests and generates reports that are used to issue herd restriction notices and notify Local Authorities.

Disease	Status	No of inspections	No of control measures
Scrapie	Statutory EU controls on flocks and herds with confirmed cases of Scrapie are implemented through the Compulsory Scrapie Flocks Scheme (CSFS).	94 suspect cases of Scrapie in sheep or goats were investigated within the 2 days target.	16 holdings were brought into CSFS, with 26,018 animals blood sampled and 10,816 animals culled.
Animal By-Products controls	<p>Animal Health are responsible for the application of Regulation (EC) No 1774/2002⁷³ laying down health rules concerning animal by-products not intended for human consumption as amended and of the Animal By-Products Regulations 2003.</p> <p>Animal Health approve animal by-product premises and deliver a programme of inspections to monitor compliance. The frequency of the inspections is determined in accordance with risk assessments agreed with the policy partners.</p>	<p>There are currently 2,262 approved premises in GB and during 2007 Animal Health completed 5,278 inspections out of the 5,691 scheduled. The re-deployment of staff to deal with the disease outbreaks in 2007 contributed to the shortfall in numbers completed.</p> <p>Animal Health agreed procedures in conjunction with the FSA and MHS in 2007 to monitor the appropriate disposal of animal by-products in butchers waste. Records show that inspections of consignment records are being completed and reported as required.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 20 out of a total of 1,175 inspections to pig keepers were found to be non-compliant. A sample of the non-compliances show that the situations had been resolved at a subsequent inspection or that the non-compliance was minor such as the feeding of vegetable kitchen waste when written advice was given. • A total of 446 inspections were carried out at premises that receive international catering waste. 8 operators who land international catering waste were found to be non-compliant: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ 4 have since been re-inspected and were compliant ○ 3 were low risk, advice given with no further action ○ 1 has been prosecuted and fined. Subsequent inspections show that there has been a total change in operations and are now compliant. • Unsatisfactory results were recorded at 277 inspections, where the handling and disposal of Specific Risk Material (SRM), structure, operation or record keeping were not to the required standards. In 252 cases the problems have been resolved at a subsequent follow-up inspection or the plants are no longer operating. The level of non-compliance at the remaining unsatisfactory inspections was not deemed to be serious and follow-up visits are scheduled.

⁷³ Corrigendum to Regulation (EC) No 1774/2002 of the European Parliament and of the Council laying down health rules concerning animal by-products not intended for human consumption (OJ L 273, 10.10.2002) Official Journal L 30, 3.2.2007, 3.

Disease	Status	No of inspections	No of control measures
BSE	<p>The incidence of BSE in the UK continued to decline.</p> <p>AH received 129 notifications of suspect BSE in cattle during 2007.</p>	<p>128 (99.2%) inspections of reported cases were carried out no later than the following day.</p>	<p>Of the 129 report cases:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 56 were restricted and compulsory slaughtered as clinical suspects; • 10 were restricted but released as disease was not suspected. The remainder were examined, but not diagnosed as affected by BSE. <p>Movement restrictions were served and passports seized within 5 working days for 122 offspring and 1,275 cohort animals from passive surveillance suspect cases and active surveillance confirmed cases.</p>
National Control Plan for salmonella in chicken breeding flocks	<p>Under the Poultry Breeding Flocks and Hatcheries (England) Order 2007 (and equivalent legislation in Scotland and Wales) and the Importation of Birds, Poultry and Hatching Eggs Order 1979, Divisional Veterinary Managers are responsible for the collection of specified official samples to be tested for Salmonella.</p>	<p>Across all adult breeding flocks (Broiler Breeders and Layer Breeders) a total of 1,397 flocks were tested.</p>	<p>12 incidents (which Animal Health assume to be separate flocks) represent an 0.86% incidence rate across all serotypes.</p> <p>However as only a single S. Thyphimurium case was disclosed the incidence rate is $1/1397 = 0.072\%$. This latter ratio is below the target limit of 1%.</p>
Artificial Insemination (Bulls and boars)		<p>During 2007 Animal Health carried out 195 inspections of semen collection, processing and storage centres and quarantine premises. Also a total of 1,115 bulls and boars were assessed for use in semen collection centres.</p>	

6.73 Defra has a legal responsibility under Section 80 of the Animal Health Act 1981 (as amended)⁷⁴ to produce an annual report for Parliament. The report covers England and Wales, and includes the enforcement activity of the local authorities (e.g. details on legal proceedings which have resulted in criminal convictions under animal health and welfare related legislation) and the compensation paid out for animals slaughtered to prevent the spread of animal disease. The 2007 report 'Return of expenditure incurred and prosecutions taken under the Animal Health Act 1981 and incidences of diseases in imported animals' is available at:

http://www.defra.gov.uk/animalh/ahws/deliver/health_act-1981_year2007.pdf.

Notifiable diseases

6.74 Table 6.15 provides number of Exotic Notifiable Disease investigations carried out by AH during 2007. Further information on the actions undertaken to control confirmed incidents of exotic notifiable disease is included in *Animal Health 2007 - Report of the Chief Veterinary Officer* which is available at:

<http://www.defra.gov.uk/animalh/cvo/pdf/2007report.pdf>.

6.75 In the main, AH completed the planned programme of control activities despite having to redeploy staff resources to deal with the outbreaks of notifiable disease, not only in the areas of the country where disease was confirmed, but also nationally due to an increase in enquires and licensing work from the farming industry. The Operations, Policy, Planning and Performance (OPPP) Division monitored the effect the additional FMD-related work had on the programme of control activity through regular contact with AHDOs and 'business as usual' situation reports. AH Directors appraised policy partners in Defra of the effect throughout the outbreak. The OPPP also monitored progress on the completion of surveys on a weekly basis towards the end of the year to encourage their successful completion.

⁷⁴ Animal Health Act 1981, c 22.

Table 6.15: Exotic Notifiable Disease Investigations in Great Britain during 2007

Disease	Negative investigations	Confirmed investigations
African Horse Sickness	1	0
Anthrax	4	0
Aujeszky's Disease	1	0
Notifiable Avian Disease	106	5
Bluetongue	233	66
Classical swine fever	5	0
Equine Infectious Anaemia	1	0
Contagious Equine Metritis	1	1
Foot and Mouth Disease	223	8
Glanders	3	0
Rabies/Bat Rabies	26	1
Swine Vesicular Disease	4	0
Vesicular Stomatitis	1	0

Cattle identification and registration

Great Britain

6.76 In accordance with Regulation 1082/2003,⁷⁵ there is an annual programme of Cattle Identification Inspections in Great Britain for which Defra and the Agriculture/Rural Affairs Departments in the devolved administrations are responsible. Defra shares responsibility for cattle identification and registration with the RPA and local authorities (in England), the Welsh Assembly Government Rural Inspectorate Team and Scottish Government officials. The programme runs from 1 May to 30 June. All inspections were completed on time in 2007 and the report was submitted to the Commission by the 31 August deadline. A copy of the report for 2006/2007 is available at:

<http://www.defra.gov.uk/animalh/id-move/cattle/ciipgb2006.htm>

6.77 During the inspection year 2006/2007, 160 holdings were placed under temporary whole herd restrictions and 798 animals across 21 holdings were destroyed as part of sanctions imposed under EC Regulation 494/98.⁷⁶ The annual report to the Commission for 2007 shows that, of the 10% of inspected holdings:

⁷⁵ Commission Regulation (EC) No 1082/2003 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 (Text with EEA relevance). Official Journal L 156, 25.6.2003, 9-12.

⁷⁶ Commission Regulation (EC) No 494/98 laying down detailed rules for the implementation of Council Regulation (EC) No 820/97 as regards the application of minimum administrative sanctions in the framework of the system for the identification and registration of bovine animals. Official Journal L 60, 28.2.1998, 78-79.

- nearly half (47%) were fully compliant;
- a further 23% had only one breach, and
- less than a third (30%) had more than one breach.

Only 160 holdings (0.2% of registered cattle holdings) were subject to official sanctions for non-compliance.

Northern Ireland

6.78 In Northern Ireland DARD has responsibility for cattle identification and registration. The annual report to the Commission for 2007 shows that, of the 24,000 holdings in Northern Ireland, 40 were placed under temporary whole herd restrictions and 91 animals across 53 holdings were destroyed. Of 1,557 holdings inspected:

- 73% were fully compliant;
- 22% had only one breach; and
- 5% had more than one breach.

Sheep and goat identification and movement reporting

6.79 In Great Britain, Defra and the Agriculture/Rural Affairs Departments in the Devolved Administrations are the competent authorities for sheep and goat identification and movement reporting. In Northern Ireland, this role is carried out by DARD. In accordance with Regulation 1505/2006,⁷⁷ there is an annual programme of sheep and goat identification inspections (SGIIs) in GB and Northern Ireland.

6.80 2007 was the first year of this inspection programme and all inspections were completed on time and the report was submitted to the Commission by the deadline of 31 August. A total of 3.4% of holdings and 10.7% of animals were inspected in the UK, exceeding the targets set of 3% and 5% respectively. Details of the results are in Tables 6.16 and 6.17 below.

⁷⁷ Commission Regulation (EC) No 1505/2006 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 (Text with EEA relevance). Official Journal L 280, 12.10.2006, 3-6.

Table 6.16: UK Sheep and Goat Identification Inspections in 2007

General information on holdings, animals and checks at the beginning of the reporting period	Number	
	GB	NI
Total number of holdings in the UK as registered at the beginning of the reporting period	95,377	10,431
Total number of holdings checked	3,263	353
Total number of checks carried out	3,084 ⁷⁸	353
Total number of ovine and caprine animals in the UK as registered at the beginning of the reporting period	20,281,930	1,228,194
Total number of ovine and caprine animals in holdings checked during the reporting period	2,256,414	47,539

Table 6.17: UK summary of non-compliances with Regulation (EC) No 21/2004⁷⁹

Category of non-compliance	Number of animals concerned		Number of holdings concerned	
	GB	NI	GB	NI
1a. Finding of non compliance concerning identification of ovine animals	2,562	96	76	1
1b. Finding of non compliance concerning identification of caprine animals	111	NA	7	NA
2. Holding Register discrepancy	98,385	219	328	2
3. Failure to notify movement ⁸⁰	77,023	484	289	6
4. Movement document anomaly	97,892	3,083	291	18
5. Animals/holdings with only one finding of non compliance as listed in points 1-4	NA	NA	522	16
6. Animals/holdings with more than one finding of non-compliance as listed in points 1-4	NA	NA	202	11
7. Total number of findings of non compliance concerning animals/holding (points 5 and 6)	NA ⁸¹	NA ⁸²	724	27

⁷⁸ Scotland carried out 716 business checks which covered 895 holdings.

⁷⁹ Council Regulation (EC) No 21/2004 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. Official Journal L 5, 9.1.2004, 8-17.

⁸⁰ Where applicable, in accordance with Article 8(2) of Regulation (EC) No 21/2004.

⁸¹ Not possible to relate batch discrepancies to individual animal discrepancies.

⁸² Not possible to relate batch discrepancies to individual animal discrepancies.

Bee health controls

6.81 During 2007, the National Bee Unit (NBU) carried out a statutory inspection programme on behalf of Defra and the Welsh Assembly Government. Details of the inspection programmes are available at:

<https://secure.csl.gov.uk/beebase/index.cfm>.

The site also includes interactive maps of where infected apiaries are confirmed. A summary of the NBU inspections carried out in 2007 is provided in Table 6.18.

6.82 Honey samples are also collected under statutory residue monitoring programmes on behalf of Defra's VMD. The stipulated number of honey samples under the National Surveillance Scheme, as directed under the Sampling plan for 2007 were collected to the required deadlines. Approx 110 samples were collected under Council Directive 96/23/EC.⁸³ Key performance indicators were met in 2007.

Table 6.18: Summary of the NBU inspections carried out in England and Wales in 2007

Disease	Status	England	Wales
Total Foul Brood Disease	Despite the very poor weather conditions the number of inspections was higher than previous years.	22,275 colonies in 3,552 apiaries were inspected (20,127 colonies in 3,192 apiaries during 2006)	5,117 colonies in 1,005 apiaries were inspected (4,754 colonies in 952 apiaries during 2006)
American Foul Brood disease (AFB)	The inspections figures are slightly lower than last year. Control of AFB is very effective and disease incidence continues to decline and is at its lowest levels since controls began.	46 cases were confirmed in 25 apiaries (being 0.21% of colonies inspected)	14 cases were confirmed in 11 apiaries (being 0.27% of colonies inspected)
European Foul Brood Disease (EFB)	European foul brood disease is widespread in England and Wales, and there are ongoing research projects, which aim to better understand the disease and develop effective control methods for beekeepers. Where for example husbandry and Integrated Pest Management (IPM) methods are adopted then the incidence in apiaries belonging to these beekeepers declines. The incidence of EFB has declined overall since 2000.	611 cases were confirmed in 219 apiaries (being 2.74% of colonies inspected)	15 cases were confirmed in 8 apiaries, (being 0.29% of colonies inspected)

⁸³ Council Directive 96/23/EC on measures to monitor certain substances and residues thereof in live animals and animal products and repealing Directives 85/358/EEC and 86/469/EEC and Decisions 89/187/EEC and 91/664/EEC. Official Journal L 125, 23.5.1996, 10-32.

Disease	Status	England	Wales
Pyrethroid resistant varroa mites	These mites are to be found in most regions of England and Wales. The NBU is continuing with training events to advise beekeepers on appropriate control methods.	149 tests were carried out with 59 being positive	7 tests were carried out, with 4 being positive
Exotic pests	The NBU has continued searching to identify the exotic pests <i>Aethina tumida</i> (Small Hive Beetle) and <i>Tropilaelaps</i> mites. Twenty beekeeper voluntary suspect samples were also been submitted. Neither of these pests has been confirmed to be present in the U.K. Surveillance programmes and use of at risk apiaries and sentinel hives will continue.	2,033 colonies in 481 apiaries were specifically examined – none were positive	588 colonies in 128 apiaries – none were positive

Scotland

6.83 Science and Advice for Scottish Agriculture,⁸⁴ previously known as the Scottish Agricultural Science Agency, provides a diagnostic service to beekeepers to confirm the presence of Varroa or notifiable bee pests or disease. A summary of the inspections carried out in 2007 is provided in [Table 6.19](#).

Table 6.19: Summary of inspections carried out in 2007 in Scotland

Disease	Outcome of Inspection
European Foul Brood	1 case was confirmed
Varroa mite	332 hives from 137 apiaries were tested Mite was present in 193 (58%) of the hives from 137 (61%) of the apiaries

Northern Ireland

6.84 DARD's Quality Assurance Branch provides an inspection service for notifiable bee pests and diseases to Northern Ireland beekeepers, while the Agri-Food and Biosciences Institute (AFBI) provides a diagnostic service to confirm the presence of bee pests or diseases. A summary of the inspections carried out in 2007 is provided in table 6.20 below.

⁸⁴ Further details are available at <http://www.sasa.gov.uk/>

Table 6.20: Summary of inspections carried out in 2007 in Northern Ireland

Disease	Outcome of Inspection
American Foul Brood disease	12 Apiaries with 28 colonies were confirmed to have the disease. These were subsequently destroyed and burnt.
European Foul Brood disease	No confirmed incidents of the disease.
Exotic Pests	Surveys continued for the exotic pests <i>Aethina tumida</i> (Small Hive Beetle) and <i>Tropilaelaps</i> mites using corriboard traps and hive debris samples. At risk apiaries in close proximity to ports and those importing were targeted.
Pyrethroid resistant varroa mites	Sampling continues for Pyrethroid resistant varroa mites but no positive cases were recorded.

6.85 Two honey samples both with satisfactory analysis were collected under statutory residue monitoring programmes on behalf of Defra's Veterinary Medicines Directorate.

Aquatic animal health controls

England and Wales

6.86 The Cefas Fish Health Inspectorate (FHI)⁸⁵ is the official service for the control of diseases of fish and shellfish in England and Wales. Official controls on fish and shellfish health arise from EC Directive 91/67/EEC⁸⁶ on health conditions governing the placing on the market of aquaculture animals and products, and subsequent associated legislation. The FHI is required to undertake compliance inspections on all registered fish and shellfish farms in England and Wales, inspect stock for notifiable diseases and take appropriate measures to control and eradicate disease. Official control data in terms of recording inspections, and the results of inspections is recorded in a bespoke database. The Fish Health database is operated and maintained by Cefas. Quarterly and annual reports documenting performance against operational targets are provided to Defra. Performance indicators include achievement of inspection targets.

6.87 In 2007, the planned official control programme was successfully completed and fully met objectives stipulated in the quarterly and annual reports and in an MoU between Cefas and Defra. The completion of the official control programme supports the maintenance of approved zone status for GB in respect of serious exotic diseases of fish and shellfish, and so makes a significant contribution to the protection of the nation's fish and shellfish resources.

6.88 Outbreaks of non-exotic diseases were dealt with by the official service in a prompt and effective manner, reducing the potential for spread of disease, and therefore the impact on farmed and wild fish and shellfish stocks. The control programme for non-exotic diseases contributes to the maintenance of additional

⁸⁵ Further details are available at <http://www.cefas.co.uk/fish-health-inspectorate.aspx>

⁸⁶ Council Directive 91/67/EEC concerning the animal health conditions governing the placing on the market of aquaculture animals and products. Official Journal L 046, 19.2.1991, 1-18

guarantees in Great Britain, and so again contributes to the protection of our high fish health status. There were no unplanned official controls undertaken.

- 6.89 There is evidence of a systematic non-compliance in relation to the illegal import of fish into the UK from the EU without appropriate health certification. This type of non-compliance is associated with the high demand and economic value of particular species of fish in the UK, combined with the costs of compliance in sourcing fish of an appropriate health status in the EU. This presents a serious threat to the high health status of UK fish stocks, through the introduction of disease and considerable resources have been applied to the prevention of this activity. Other non-compliances were sporadic, most of which were related to documentation anomalies, which if unresolved, could potentially inhibit the effective control of serious disease outbreaks. All of these non-compliances were resolved through advice with follow up by inspection. These non-compliances were often associated with a lack of awareness among operators, that can be resolved through advice and guidance. Details of non-compliances found during 2007 are provided in [Table 6.21](#).

Table 6.21: Details of non-compliances found in aquatic animal health in England and Wales during 2007

Category of non-compliances	Number	Enforcement actions
Trade irregularities (import/export)	11	4 prosecutions 4 warnings 3 resolved through advice
Record keeping anomalies (documentation)	7	All resolved through the provision of advice
Failure to Register	1	Resolved through advice
Obstruction	1	Yet to be resolved either through a warning or through prosecution

- 6.90 Overall the level of compliance by fish and shellfish farms, and importers of live fish and shellfish is very high. There was only one instance of failure to cooperate with official surveillance programmes from over 500 registered farms, and this was quickly resolved. On the whole industry supports the official control measures for the control of serious diseases of fish and shellfish in Great Britain.

Scotland

- 6.91 Similar control arrangements are in place in Scotland and are administered by the Fish Health Inspectorate of the Fisheries Research Services. Details of non-compliances found during 2007 are provided in [Table 6.22](#).

Table 6.22: Details of non-compliances found in aquatic animal health in Scotland during 2007

Category of non-compliances	Number	Enforcement actions
Trade irregularities (import/export)	24	3 Regulation 14(3) issued, imposing restrictions over imported stock until the irregularity was resolved 21 incidents of minor issues in health certificates – advice issued to resolve the issues
Record keeping anomalies (documentation)	10	10 letters of non-conformity issued: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2 cases where farmers updated record and provided a copy within the agreed time period • 8 cases where no record was received and Scottish Government Policy group were informed
Failure to Register	16	Resolved through advice

Northern Ireland

6.92 DARD Fisheries Division, together with the Agri Food and Bio-Sciences Institute (AFBI), have an effective disease monitoring and testing system in place. DARD Fisheries Inspectorate have a surveillance programme in place and inspect imports and exports of fish to ensure the necessary health requirements are met. DARD operates a Fish Movement database which records movement data for disease control purposes. The system is in the process of being updated to ensure compliance with the requirements of Directive 2006/88/EC.⁸⁷ During 2007, an alleged unauthorised movement of Koi Carp was investigated and the matter dealt with by warning letter. Otherwise the level of compliance was high.

Official controls in the animal welfare sector

Competent authorities

6.93 Responsibility for animal welfare controls on-farm, at slaughter and during transport lies with Defra in England and with Scottish Government, Welsh Assembly Government and DARD in the Devolved Administrations. Details of the control activities of these authorities during 2007 are outlined below.

⁸⁷ Council Directive 2006/88/EC on animal health requirements for aquaculture animals and products thereof, and on the prevention and control of certain diseases in aquatic animals. Official Journal L 328, 24.11.2006, 14-56.

Control activities in 2007

6.94 On-farm animal welfare controls are primarily the responsibility of AH in Great Britain and DARD in Northern Ireland. Welfare controls during transport are carried out by AH and local authorities in Great Britain and DARD in Northern Ireland. Defra has delegated the responsibility for animal welfare implementation in slaughterhouses to the MHS. During 2007, the majority of infringements related to inadequate animal care, and inspection of livestock and staffing. In total during 2007 AH has provided 235 witness statements to the enforcement bodies in support of legal action. Specific animal welfare issues on-farm, during transport and slaughter were addressed locally and regionally at welfare liaison meetings between these various enforcement bodies and stakeholders.

On-farm animal welfare⁸⁸

- 6.95 AH carries out on-farm welfare inspections to check that legislation and the welfare codes are being followed. In addition to spot checks and planned visits, AH follows up all complaints and allegations of poor welfare on specific farms as a matter of urgency. Where welfare problems are found, advice or warnings are usually sufficient to bring about satisfactory improvements. Follow-up visits are made to check on this. Where necessary and where the evidence is available, however, Defra initiates prosecution action against farmers for welfare offences. The Department also co-operates closely with other organisations such as local authorities and the Royal Society for Prevention of Cruelty to Animals.
- 6.96 AH completed a total of 7,969 on-farm inspections at 3,987 visits during 2007. All complaints and allegations of poor welfare on specific farms were treated as a matter of urgency. Of the 1,535 complaint inspections, 1,501 (97.8%) were carried out within 24 hours of receipt of the complaint. Inspection visits are classified into four score categories - A to D. The A and B scored inspections do not require any action. Details of C and D scored inspections during 2007 are provided in Table 6.23 below.

⁸⁸ General information is available at: <http://www.defra.gov.uk/animalh/welfare/farmed/on-farm.htm>

Table 6.23: Details of C & D scores from animal welfare inspections during 2007

Type of inspections	Number
A score of C is recorded when there is a non-compliance with the welfare legislation, welfare potentially or actually compromised but no unnecessary pain, suffering or distress identified”	Non-compliance with the legislation and potential compromise of animal welfare was found in 1,823 assessments at 1,191 inspections. 953 advisory letters instructing the farmer on action to take to resolve the problems were issued. Between April and December 2007, 594 follow-up inspections following the disclosure of a C score were deemed necessary, of which 570 were completed.
A score of D is recorded when unnecessary pain or unnecessary distress was disclosed at any AH welfare inspection.	Unnecessary pain or unnecessary distress was disclosed in 308 out of a total of 31,662 assessments.

6.97 In 2007, the level of non-compliance on farms was similar to that recorded in previous years. The AH on-farm inspection programme was restructured in 2007 because of the introduction of welfare into cross-compliance.⁸⁹ The 2007 inspection programme was successfully delivered overall with a small reduction in the number of random welfare inspections of farms where Single Farm Payment is not claimed.

Animal welfare during transport⁹⁰

6.98 Welfare controls during transport are carried out jointly by AH and local authorities in Great Britain and DARD in Northern Ireland. AH approved over 23,000 applications for transporter authorisations under the Welfare in Transport Regulations in 2007⁹¹. Of these:

- 20 were approved conditionally, due to a history of non-compliance with welfare regulations, which will be reviewed after 12 months; and
- eight were refused because of previous Home Office cautions⁹² or convictions.

6.99 Journey logs for 2,104 new journeys were approved for the transportation of livestock and unregistered equines. Of these, 249 were rejected due to either unrealistic journey times or inadequate rest periods.

⁸⁹ See: <http://www.rpa.gov.uk/rpa/index.nsf/UIMenu/814240C66F10CAC8802570C7004248D4?Opendocument>

⁹⁰ General information available at: <http://www.defra.gov.uk/animalh/welfare/farmed/transport.htm>

⁹¹ SI 2006/3260; SI 2007/1047 (W.105) SSI 2006/606 & SR 2007/32.

⁹² Further information at <http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/police/powers/cautioning/>

6.100 The bulk of routine welfare in transport inspections are carried out by local authority inspectors. During 2007 a total of 2,862 infringements were found at 108,530 inspections. Enforcement action taken included:

- 1,112 oral and 886 written warnings;
- 521 statutory notices;
- 18 Home Office cautions;
- 36 prosecutions.

6.101 AH at the port of Dover checked 209 out of a total of 626 vehicles (33.4%) transporting fattening and production cattle and sheep. The results were as follows:

- 39 vehicles were found not to comply with the Welfare in Transport Regulations either due to operation or structure;
- 15 notices were served under the Welfare in Transport Regulations
 - in five instances the problems were resolved at the port and the vehicle allowed to continue;
 - three were ordered to return to the premises of origin;
 - four were ordered to a control post to resolve the problems and
 - three were allowed to continue as the problems were not sufficient to halt the journey.

6.102 Regulatory changes introduced during 2007 include EU Regulation 1/2005 on the protection of animals during transport,⁹³ which came into force in January 2007. In taking forward the principle requirements of the Regulation, Defra and the Devolved Administrations appointed independent industry bodies to carry out vehicle approvals and to assess transporters for competence. Competence certificates have been required since January 2008, however, FMD and Bluetongue outbreaks effectively prevented livestock transporters from devoting time to obtaining the certificate of competence. As part of a package of aid measures announced by the Secretary of State in October 2007, it was agreed with UK enforcement authorities that no action will be taken against UK-based transporters without competence certificates until the end of April 2008. This arrangement extends only to domestic journeys. Defra has begun work to implement the EU Regulation's requirement for road vehicles undertaking long journeys to have satellite navigation systems fitted by January 2009. Further information is available at:

<http://www.defra.gov.uk/animalh/welfare/farmed/transport/eu-transportreg.htm>

⁹³ Council Regulation (EC) No 1/2005 on the protection of animals during transport and related operations and amending Directives 64/432/EEC and 93/119/EC and Regulation (EC) No 1255/97. Official Journal L 3, 5.1.2005, 1-44.

Animal welfare at slaughter⁹⁴

- 6.103 Defra has delegated the responsibility for animal welfare implementation in slaughterhouses to the MHS. When animals are killed on farms or at knackers' yards, AH monitors welfare. It is neither practical nor possible to exercise a supervision regime similar to that in approved premises. Where possible, Veterinary Officers monitor slaughter during visits to farms and, in particular, they make regular visits to knackers' yards and to as many seasonal poultry slaughterers as possible in the period immediately before Christmas. AH also follows up reports and allegations of poor practice and, when necessary, instigates investigation with a view to prosecution.
- 6.104 All but 3 of the 170 Animal Health inspections in 2007 were to unlicensed poultry slaughterhouses, mainly undertaken during the pre-Christmas peak period. No serious non-compliance was found. There were 131 applications for a slaughterman's licence, for which 129 certificates of competence were issued following an assessment of competence. During 2007 there were very few reported problems and welfare standards during slaughter or killing outside licensed slaughterhouses were similar to those reported in previous years.
- 6.105 The FVO visited the UK in the summer 2007 to assess the system of controls on animal welfare at slaughter and during killing. The FVO report made a number of detailed recommendations whilst concluding that the UK has a well organised and well documented system of procedures with a good level of supervision throughout.

Northern Ireland

- 6.106 DARD has an effective monitoring and control system in place for animal identification, animal health and welfare and is responsible for all livestock identification, registration and movement recording on the APHIS. In addition, DARD together with the AFBI, has an effective disease monitoring and testing system in place for the control of Tuberculosis and Brucellosis via programmes involving blood/skin testing, culling of reactors and dangerous contacts, additional surveillance measures and tracing and investigating contacts between infected and other herds. Further details can be found on

<http://www.dardni.gov.uk/index/animal-health.htm>

Welfare on farm

- 6.107 In Northern Ireland, the responsibility for routine and targeted checks falls to the Department of Agriculture and Rural Development's Veterinary Service (DARD VS). In 2007, DARD VS carried out 621 on-farm welfare inspections. Inspections took place as a result of complaints or as part of the statutory surveillance requirement to assess whether on-farm welfare met the standards laid down in

⁹⁴ General information available at: <http://www.defra.gov.uk/animalh/welfare/farmed/slaughter.htm>

legislation and welfare codes. Of the inspections carried out in 2007 as a result of complaints (and targeted visits), 68 per cent were fully compliant with legislation (compared with 58 per cent in 2004), while for programmed visits 95 per cent were fully compliant with legislation (compared with 91 per cent in 2004). All complaints and allegations of poor welfare on specific farms were treated as a matter of urgency.

Welfare during transport

6.108 The responsibility for routine and targeted checks against welfare in transport legislation falls to the DARD VS. Inspections can take place at the ports, at abattoirs and markets. In 2007 the DARD VS carried out 3543 inspections involving various species and this included 5748 document checks. Investigations by DARD VS identified 23 infringements and resulted in the issue of 3 notices, 5 written warnings and 19 oral warnings.

Animal identification checks

6.109 Strict enforcement action is taken when unidentified animals are detected. During 2007, 61 operators and producers were given administrative fines or had other administrative sanctions imposed whilst 30 operators or producers were prosecuted and convicted in court.

Livestock import checks

6.110 DARD Portal Inspectorate has a surveillance programme in place and inspects livestock imports to ensure the necessary health requirements are met. This surveillance led to the recognition that Bluetongue virus may be transmitted vertically to offspring and subsequent amendment to EU legislation on veterinary controls for the disease.

Official controls in the plant health sector

Great Britain

6.111 In England and Wales, the Plant Health and Seeds Inspectorate maintained an inspection regime of plant/plant product imports into the country from third countries in accordance with Community-wide legislation and supplemented these border controls with a programme of quarantine surveillance. This included general surveillance and surveys against specific high-risk plant pests and diseases. In 2007/8, 105,414 inspections were carried out:

- imports (including potatoes from 3rd countries): 21,252 inspections (20.2 %)
- general quarantine surveillance: 39,155 inspections (37.1 %);
- specific surveys

- *Diabrotica virgifera*: 793 inspections (<1%)
- *P. ramorum/kernoviae* 18,988 inspections (18.0%)
- Potatoes - brown rot/ring rot: 3,313 inspections (3.1 %).

6.112 In Scotland, there were 131 import inspections during 2007. General quarantine surveillance totalled 6,516 inspections of which 3,530 were inspections for *P. ramorum/kernoviae*. During the growing season for home market, 4,407 (hectares) of seed potato crops were inspected. In addition, 57,739 tonnes of seed potato tubers and 7,480 tonnes of ware potatoes were inspected. For *Diabrotica virgifera*, 240 inspections were carried out.

6.113 The Forestry Commission maintained an inspection regime of wood and wood products imported into Great Britain from third countries in accordance with Community legislative requirements and also carried out a range of surveys in accordance with Community provisions. These were supplemented by specific surveys in relation to *Phytophthora kernoviae*, Oak Processionary Moth (see para 4.33) and a newly reported bleeding canker disease of horse chestnut, *Pseudomonas syringae*.

6.114 In 2007, 1,600 cases of non-compliance of imported plants and plant products into Great Britain were reported to the FVO. These included documentary problems, particularly in respect of the failure to include additional declarations in phytosanitary certificates. This total included 250 cases of non-compliance with phytosanitary requirements recorded by the Forestry Commission in respect of wood and wood products, including imports of goods with associated wood packaging material. One of these was considered serious enough to warrant formal investigation and a formal warning was issued following seizure and destruction of certain wood packaging material marking equipment. Overall, the level of compliance was considered to be high.

Northern Ireland

6.115 Between April 2007 and March 2008, 673 general plant health inspections and 570 import inspections were carried out in Northern Ireland. In addition specific surveys were carried out. A summary of the results is provided in Table 6.24 below.

Table 6.24: Results of specific plant health surveys carried out in Northern Ireland between April 2007 and March 2008

Plant pest /disease	Number of inspections	Number of positives
Rhizomania	14	No positives
Ring Rot / Brown Rot survey	664	No positive finding for any samples taken
Diabrotica survey	64	No positive finding for any samples taken
Fireblight	512	22 positive sites
<i>P.ramorum/ kernoviae</i>	182	4 positive garden centres/nurseries * 5 positive gardens/parks* No <i>P.kernoviae</i> was found

* Note - one site was counted twice as it contains nursery and garden/park. *P.ramorum* was found in both.