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COMMISSION OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES

Grange 09.10.2006
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COMMISSION DECISION

of [...]

on guidelines to assist Member States in preparing the single integrated multi-annual national control plan provided for in Regulation (EC) No 882/2004 of the European Parliament and of the Council

Draft

COMMISSION DECISION

of [...]

on guidelines to assist Member States in preparing the single integrated multi-annual national control plan provided for in Regulation (EC) No 882/2004 of the European Parliament and of the Council

THE COMMISSION OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES,

Having regard to the Treaty establishing the European Community,

Having regard to Regulation (EC) No 882/2004 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 29 April 2004 on official controls performed to ensure the verification of compliance with feed and food law, animal health and animal welfare rules¹, and in particular Article 43(1) thereof,

Whereas:

- (1) Regulation (EC) No 178/2002 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 28 January 2002 laying down general principles and requirements of food law, establishing the European Food Safety Authority and laying down procedures in matters of food safety² provides the basis for the assurance of a high level of protection of health and consumers' interests in relation to food.
- (2) Regulation (EC) No 882/2004 lays down general rules for the performance of official controls by the Community or the competent authority of the Member States to verify compliance with rules concerning feed and food law, animal health and animal welfare rules.
- (3) Article 41 of that Regulation (EC) No 882/2004 provides that each Member State is to prepare a single integrated multi-annual national control plan to ensure the effective implementation of Article 17(2) of Regulation (EC) No 178/2002, of animal health and animal welfare rules and of Article 45 of Regulation (EC) No 882/2002 ('the national control plan').
- (4) The purpose of the national control plans is also to establish a solid basis for Commission inspection services to carry out controls in the Member States.
- (5) Article 27a of Council Directive 2000/29/EC of 8 May 2000 on protective measures against the introduction into the Community of organisms harmful to plants or plant products and against their spread within the Community³ provides that Articles 41 to 46 of Regulation (EC) No 882/2004 concerning national control plans, annual

¹ OJ L 165, 30.4.2004, p. 1; corrected version OJ L 191, 28.5.2004, p. 1.

² OJ L 31, 1.2.2002, p.1. Regulation as last amended by Commission Regulation (EC) No 575/2006 (OJ L 100, 8.4.2006, p. 3).

³ OJ L 169, 10.7.2000, p. 1. Directive as last amended by Commission Directive 2006/35/EC (OJ L 88, 25.3.2006, p. 9).

reports, and Community controls in Member States and third countries are to apply, as appropriate, in order to ensure the effective implementation of Directive 2002/29/EC.

- (6) Article 42 of Regulation (EC) No 882/2004 lays down principles for the preparation of the national control plans and in particular the general information to be contained in them.
- (7) Article 43 of Regulation (EC) No 882/2004 provides that the Commission is to draw up guidelines on national control plans to, *inter alia*, promote a consistent, comprehensive and integrated approach to official controls of food and feed, animal health and animal welfare legislation and which cover all sectors and all stages of the feed and food chain, including imports and introduction into the Community of feed and food ('the guidelines').
- (8) Article 43 of Regulation (EC) No 882/2004 also provides that national control plans are to take account of the guidelines. The guidelines are not binding but serve to provide useful guidance to the Member States in the implementation of that Regulation. In addition, Article 43 also sets out specially the purpose and contents of the guidelines with regard to the national control plans.
- (9) Article 45 of Regulation (EC) No 882/2004 provides that Community audits are to be carried out in the Member States on a regular basis mainly in order to verify that official controls are carried out in accordance with the national control plans and in compliance with Community law
- (10) Certain matters can only be developed in the light of experience gained from the implementation of national control plans, from audits carried out by the competent authorities in the Member States in accordance with Article 4(6) of Regulation (EC) No 882/2004, and by Commission experts under Article 45 of that Regulation as well as from the information included in the annual reports submitted by the Member States under Article 44 of that Regulation. It is therefore appropriate to take a 'phased' approach in developing the guidelines.
- (11) Accordingly, the guidelines set out in this Decision should concentrate on the elements of the national control plans which are to be in place in the Member States in order to meet the minimum requirements of Regulation (EC) No 882/2004, and in particular the requirements of Article 42 which sets out the principles for the preparation of national control plans. The guidelines should also provide a basis for the Community controls in the Member States.
- (12) Further guidelines addressing specific issues, where appropriate, may later be developed progressively in the light of experience.
- (13) The guidelines laying down criteria for the conduct of the audits provided for in Article 4(6) and Article 43(1)(i) of the Regulation (EC) No 882/2004 are set out in the Annex to Commission Decision 2006/XXX/EC⁴.
- (14) The guidelines laying down the structure of and information to be contained in the annual report by the Member States to the Commission as provided for in Article 44 of Regulation (EC) No 882/2004 are to be adopted later.

⁴ OJ L [...] dd/mm/yyyy, p. [...].

(15) The Commission is to keep the guidelines set out in this Decision under review and update them, as necessary, following the receipt and examination of the national control plans and in the light of the experience of the Member States in implementing Regulation (EC) No 882/2004.

(16) The measures set out in this Recommendation are in accordance with the opinion of the Standing Committee on the Food Chain and Animal Health,

HAS ADOPTED THIS DECISION:

Article 1

1. The guidelines provided for in Article 43(1) of Regulation (EC) No 882/2004 to be taken into account in the multi-annual national control plan provided for in Article 41 of that Regulation ('the national control plan') are set out in the Annex to this Decision
2. This Decision is addressed to the Member States.

Done at Brussels, [...]

For the Commission

[...]

Member of the Commission

ANNEX

Guidelines for single integrated multi-annual national control plans as provided for in Article 41 of Regulation (EC) No 882/2004

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5. Guidance on the scope of single integrated multi-annual national control plans

1. PURPOSE OF THE GUIDELINES

These guidelines are to assist Member States in preparing the single integrated multi-annual national control plan provided for in Article 41 of Regulation (EC) No 882/2004 ('the national control plan'). They provide guidance on the requirements for the national control plans as set out in Article 42(2) of that Regulation.

2. DEFINITIONS

2.1 For the purposes of these guidelines, the definitions laid down in Articles 2 and 3 of Regulation (EC) No 178/2002, Article 2 of Regulation (EC) No 882/2004 and other relevant Community legislation shall apply.

In particular, the following definitions set out in those Regulation are to be noted:

- (a) **“food law”** means the laws, regulations and administrative provisions governing food in general, and food safety in particular, whether at Community or national level; it covers any stage of production, processing and distribution of food and also of feed produced for, or fed to, food producing animals.”(Point 1 of Article 3 of Regulation (EC) No 178/2002);
- (b) **“feed Law”** means the laws, regulations and administrative provisions governing feed in general and feed safety in particular, whether at Community or national level; it covers all stages of production, processing and distribution of feed and the use of feed. (Point 3 of the second paragraph of Article 2 of Regulation (EC) No 882/2004);
- (c) **“official control”** means any form of control that the competent authority or the Community performs for the verification of compliance with feed and food law, animal health and animal welfare rules. (Point 1 of the second paragraph of Article 2 of Regulation (EC) No 882/2004);
- (d) **“competent authority”** means the central authority of a Member State competent for the organisation of official controls or any other authority to which that competence has been conferred; it shall also include, where appropriate, the corresponding authority of a third country. (Point 4 of the second paragraph of Article 2 of Regulation (EC) No 882/2004);

With regard to plant health, “competent authority” includes the “single authority” referred to in Article 1(4) of Council Directive 2000/29/EC⁵ and “responsible official bodies” referred to in Article 2(1)(g) of that Directive;

With regard to organic production of agricultural products covered by Council Regulation (EEC) No 2092/91⁶, “competent authority” includes the ‘authority’

⁵ Council Directive 2000/29/EC of 8 May 2000 on protective measures against the introduction into the Community of organisms harmful to plants or plant products and against their spread in the Community. (OJ L 169, 10.7.2000, p.1).

designated for the reception of notifications provided for in Article 8(2) of Regulation (EEC) No 2092/91 and the authority designated for the approval and supervision of private bodies as provided for in Article 9(4) of that Regulation;

- (e) “**control body**” means an independent third party to which the competent authority has delegated certain control tasks (Point 5 of the second paragraph of Article 2 of Regulation (EC) No 882/2004);

With regard to plant health, “control body” includes “legal persons” with delegated tasks as referred to in Article 2(1)(g) of Directive 2000/29/EC;

With regard to organic production of agricultural products covered by Council Regulation (EEC) No 2092/91, “control body” includes ‘approved private bodies’ referred to in Article 9 of Regulation (EEC) No 2092/91;

- (f) “**control plan**” means a description established by the competent authority containing general information on the structure and organisation of its official control system (Point 20 of the second paragraph of Article 2 of Regulation (EC) No 882/2004);

- (g) “**risk**” means a function of the probability of an adverse health effect and the severity of that effect, consequential to a hazard” (Point 9 of Article 3 of Regulation (EC) No 178/2002);

With regard to plant health, “risk” must be interpreted in accordance with Directive 2000/29/EC.

2.2 In addition to the definitions referred to in 2.1, the following definitions apply for the purpose of these guidelines:

- (a) “**coordination**” means any action(s) taken to ensure that the competent authorities are planning and implementing their controls in a coherent and consistent manner in order to effectively contribute to the common objective(s) of achieving effective implementation of the national control plan and of Community law.
- (b) “**production chain**” means the full chain of production incorporating all ‘stages of production, processing and distribution’, as defined in point 16 of Article 3 of Regulation (EC) No 178/2002, including, where appropriate, all stages of non-food chain related animal and plant production.
- (c) “**production stage**” means any stage in the production chain for a commodity, including import, from and including the primary production up to and including processing, manufacture, storage, transport, distribution sale or supply to the final consumer.
- (d) “**sector**” means the full production chain for a particular commodity or group of commodities and which may involve the activities of one or more competent authorities.

⁶ Council Regulation (EEC) No 2092/91 of 24 June 1991 on organic production of agricultural products and indications referring thereto on agricultural products and foodstuffs. (OJ L 198, 22.7.1991, p. 1)

3. GUIDANCE ON LEGAL REQUIREMENTS FOR MULTI-ANNUAL NATIONAL CONTROL PLANS

Note regarding references to Community legislation

In these guidelines a reference to a Community act means, unless a contrary intention is indicated, a reference to that act as last amended.

3.1. National control plans

3.1.1. Relevant Community legislation

Article 41 of Regulation (EC) No 882/2004 provides:

“In order to ensure the effective implementation of Article 17(2) of Regulation (EC) No 178/2002, of animal health and animal welfare rules and of Article 45 of this Regulation, each Member State shall prepare a single integrated multi-annual national control plan”.

Article 27a of Directive 2000/29/EC provides:

“For the purpose of this Directive and without prejudice to Article 21 thereof, Articles 41 to 46 of Regulation (EC) No 882/2004 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 29 April 2004 on official controls performed to ensure the verification of compliance with feed and food law, animal health and animal welfare rules shall apply, as appropriate”.

3.1.2. Guidance/definition of requirements

3.1.2.1. Scope of the national control plans

National control plans should cover the full legislative scope of Regulation (EC) No 882/2004, including plant health, insofar as provided for in Article 27a of Directive 2000/29/EC. It should be noted that with regard to feed and food law and animal health and animal welfare legislation, national control plans are required to cover all official controls relating to all relevant Community legislation and not just those relating to feed and food hygiene and safety.

Therefore with regard to official controls on feed and food, the national control plans should cover all feed and food law including, for example, feed and food hygiene, materials in

contact with food, genetically modified organisms (GMOs), irradiation⁷, quality and compositional requirements of feed and food law, labelling, nutritional aspects, organic farming⁸, agricultural products and foodstuffs as traditional specialities guaranteed⁹ and protection of geographical indications and designations of origin for agricultural products and foodstuffs¹⁰. In relation to animal health, all diseases and issues regulated by Community law should also be included.

The national control plans should cover all relevant commodities: food, feed, and non-food commodities of both animal and non-animal origin, including animal by-products, and all production stages, (including, as applicable, importation, primary production, processing, manufacture up to and including storage, transport, distribution and sale or supply to the final consumer). With regard to plant health, all controls required under Directive 2000/29/EC should be included in the national control plans.

See Section 5 for further clarification on the scope of the national control plans.

3.1.2.2. Application to Plant Health

Article 27a of Directive 2000/29/EC provides that Articles 41 to 46 of Regulation (EC) No 882/2004 are to apply to plant health. However, the information required under Articles 42(2)(f) to (k) of that Regulation refer to provisions of the Regulation that are not applicable to plant health.

It should also be noted that as provided for by Articles 42(2)(f), 42(2)(h), 42(2)(i), and 42(2)(k) of Regulation (EC) 882/2004, Directive 2000/29/EC has corresponding or equivalent provisions in respect of plant health. Please refer to:

- Article 42(2)(f)- delegation of tasks to control bodies for which guidance is set out at Section 3.8 of these Guidelines;
- Article 42(2)(h)- training of staff performing official controls for which guidance is set out at Section 3.10 of these Guidelines;
- Article 42(2)(i)- documented procedures for which guidance is set out in Section 3.11 of these Guidelines;

⁷ Directive 1999/2 EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 22 February 1999 on the approximation of the laws of the member States concerning foods and food ingredients treated with ionising radiation (OJ L 66,13.3.1999, p.16)

⁹ Council Regulation (EC) No 509/2006 of 20 March 2006 on agricultural products and foodstuffs as traditional specialities guaranteed (OJ L 93, 31.3.2006, p. 1).

¹⁰ Council Regulation (EC) No 510 of 20 March 2006 on the protection of geographical indications and designations of origin for agricultural products and foodstuffs (OJ L 93, 31.3.2006, p. 12).

- Article 42(2)(k)- organisation of cooperation and mutual assistance for which guidance is set out in Section 3.13 of these Guidelines;

Information concerning the arrangements to comply with these matters in respect of Directive 2000/29 should be included in the national control plans.

These guidelines on the requirements of Article 42(2) (c), (d) and (e) contain some additional references to provisions of Regulation (EC) No 882/2004 which are not applicable to plant health. When addressing these requirements it is not necessary to apply those aspects of these guidelines to plant health. For example, the guidelines at Section 3.6 refer to audits of competent authorities as required by Article 4(6) of Regulation (EC) No 882/2004 which are not applicable to plant health. However, if Member States carry out such audits, or apply other provisions of the guidelines in relation to official controls in respect of plant health they may provide this information on a voluntary basis in their description of their control system for plant health.

3. 1.2.3 Single integrated multi-annual national control plans

Article 41 of Regulation (EC) No 882/2004 provides that each Member State is to prepare a single integrated multi-annual national control plan. Those national control plans should apply to official controls by all competent authorities at all levels (central, regional and local), as applicable according to national arrangements for official controls.

For Member States with decentralised administrations, the national control plan should outline how coordination between the various administrations is ensured in order to arrive at a single integrated national control plan.

A simple compilation of individual competent authority or sectoral plans which does not address the integration and coordination of official controls within and across competent authorities and sectors, with regard to related official controls, does not satisfy the requirement for a single integrated multi-annual national control plan.

Competent authorities should devise appropriate systems for the integrated planning, development and coordination of activities regarding national control plans. This process should include putting in place arrangements for the transmission of a single national control plan to the Commission and the identification of a single contact point in the Member State for communications regarding the national control plan.

When preparing a single national control plan, Member States should provide that during its implementation, evidence of compliance is gathered, retained and made available to any body

involved in carrying out audits, and to the Commission upon request, to allow verification of its effective implementation. Such evidence should include written procedures, documentation and records of official controls.

3.1.2.4 Periodicity (length of planning cycle)

The period of validity/duration of the national control plan is a matter for the Member State to decide and may be set to correspond with other national planning activities, such as, the budgetary cycle. The reasons for selecting the chosen duration should be briefly stated in the national control plan.

It is suggested that in order to be multi-annual, the national control plan should cover a minimum period of three years. In view of the difficulty for planning ahead in an evolving environment, it is suggested that the period of a single planning cycle should not exceed five years.

Uncertainties and constraints dictate the level of detail on official controls that can be provided for in each year of the plan. In particular, operational goals/objectives for official controls may have to be set provisionally for the later years of the national control plan and updated on an ongoing basis in conjunction with the preparation of the annual report required under Article 44(1) of Regulation (EC) No 882/2004. In that respect, please refer to the provisions regarding the adjustment or amendment of the national control plan as provided for in Article 42(3) of that Regulation.

3.2. General requirements for national control plans

3.2.1. Relevant Community legislation

Article 42(2) of Regulation (EC) No 882/2004 provides:

“Each multi-annual national control plan shall contain general information on the structure and organisation of the systems of feed and food control, and of animal health and animal welfare control in the Member State concerned, in particular on:
[...]

Article 27a of Directive 2000/29/EC provides that that provision of Regulation (EC) No 882/2004 also applies to plant health.

3.2.2. Guidance/definition of requirement

National control plans are required to contain general information on the structure and organisation of the Member States systems of official controls covering all sectors and all stages of the feed and food production chain, animal health, animal welfare and, as is provided for by Article 27a of Directive 2000/29/EC, plant health. Although general in nature, the national control plans are required to include information on the specific issues provided for in Article 42(2)(a) to (k) of Regulation (EC) No 882/2004. Guidance on those specific issues is set out in Sections 3.3 to 3.13 of these Guidelines. In addition, Section 3.14 of these Guidelines contains guidance on adjustments of the national control plans.

Specific control plans, provided for under other relevant Community legislation are not replaced by the national control plans. However, the national control plans should integrate the planning and implementation of such specific control plans into the overall national control plans. A general description of the official controls for each of the specific areas covered by specific control plans should be included in the overall description in the national control plans, of the structure and organisation of the system of official controls applied to the relevant sectors, and that description may make cross-references the specific control plans.

3.3. Strategic objectives of the national control plan

3.3.1. Relevant Community legislation

Article 42(2)(a) of Regulation (EC) No 882/2004 provides:

“The strategic objectives of the plan and on how the prioritisation of controls and allocation of resources reflect these objectives”

Article 27a of Directive 2000/29/EC provides that that provision of Regulation (EC) No 882/2004 also applies to plant health.

3.3.2. Guidance/definition of requirement

Taking into account that the main objective of Regulation (EC) 882/2004 is to ensure effective enforcement of feed and food law and rules applicable to animal health, animal welfare, and plant health as provided for by Article 27a of Directive 2000/29/EC, and the general obligation on Member States to enforce Community law, Member States should develop appropriate objectives and strategies to achieve that purpose. Those objectives and strategies should form the basis of, and be briefly set out in a single integrated multi-annual national control plan.

The strategy adopted by the Member State may involve the concentration or prioritisation of official controls or the allocation of resources on certain activities or at certain stages of the production chain. Where this is the case, such concentration or priorities and the reasons therefore, should be indicated in the national control plan.

3.4. Risk categorisation

3.4.1. Relevant Community legislation

Article 42(2)(b) of Regulation (EC) No 882/2004 provides:

“The risk categorisation of the activities concerned.”

Article 27a of Directive 2000/29/EC provides that that provision of Regulation (EC) No 882/2004 also applies to plant health.

3.4.2. Guidance/definition of requirement

Taking into account that with regard to feed and food law and animal health and animal welfare, Article 3(1) of Regulation (EC) No 882/2004 requires official controls to be carried out on a risk basis with appropriate frequency, national control plans should indicate the risk categorisation, if any, assigned to the various activities subject to official controls.

It should be noted that Article 3(1) of Regulation (EC) No 882/2004 does not apply to plant health, however where Member States assign a risk categorisation for the performance of official controls under Directive 2000/29/EC a description of the risk categorisation, if any, applied for those purposes should be provided in the national control plans.

A brief description of the process of risk categorisation used by the Member State may be included if desired. That information may, at a future date, contribute to the development of guidelines concerning the identification of risk-based priorities and the most effective official control procedures, as provided for by Article 43(1)(b) of Regulation (EC) No 882/2004.

3.5. Designation of competent authorities

3.5.1. Relevant Community legislation

Article 42(2)(c) of Regulation (EC) No 882/2004 provides:

“The designation of competent authorities and their tasks at central, regional and local level, and on the resources available to these authorities”

Article 27a of Directive 2000/29/EC provides that that provision of Regulation (EC) No 882/2004 also applies to plant health.

3.5.2. Guidance/definition of requirement

National control plans should provide a comprehensive overview of the structure and tasks of the competent authorities.

The national control plans should:

- (a) identify the organisations, or, where appropriate, the categories of organisations, that are designated as competent authorities responsible for official controls; all competent authorities, or where appropriate the category of competent authority, at all levels, (central, regional and local level) should be identified, as should all control bodies to which certain control tasks have been delegated in relation to plant health;
- (b) describe the allocation of official control tasks and responsibilities for the entire feed and food production chain, and for animal health, animal welfare and plant health;
- (c) indicate the resources (see guidance at the fourth paragraph of this Section), available to the competent authorities;
- (d) list the national reference laboratories designated in accordance with Article 33(1) of Regulation (EC) No 882/2004, the areas for which they are designated as responsible and the competent authority responsible for the laboratory.

The information referred to in points (a) to (d) may be illustrated in the form of an integrated national-level organigramme of the competent authorities and their respective tasks and responsibilities.

The description of resources available to the competent authorities should include the human resources and supporting facilities and services, such as specialist IT systems and laboratory, diagnostic, research and training facilities and services, as applicable. Human resources should be described in terms of authorised full-time or 'full-time equivalent' posts. The facilities and services available may be quantified in terms of level of service, laboratory capacity and range of analytical activities and, if appropriate, may be provided on a national or regional level indicating the number of competent authorities sharing the facilities.

A full list of official laboratories designated to carry out analysis on samples taken during official controls is not required to be included in the plan, but should be maintained by the competent authority and made available for Community audits and inspections.

When addressing this requirement, Member States should include the organisations equivalent to competent authorities under Article 1(4) and Article 2(1)(g) of Directive 2000/29/EC, Article 8(2) of Regulation (EEC) No 2092/91.

3.6. General organisation and management

3.6.1. Relevant Community Legislation

Article 42(2)(d) of Regulation (EC) No 882/2004 provides:

“The general organisation and management of official controls at national, regional and local level, including official controls in individual establishments”

Article 27a of Directive 2000/29/EC provides that that provision of Regulation (EC) No 882/2004 also applies to plant health.

3.6.2. Guidance/definition of requirement

That provision of Regulation 882/2004 provides for the national control plan to contain a general description of the organisation and structure of each organisation, designated as a competent authority, at all levels taking account of the specific requirements of Regulation (EC) No 882/2004, where applicable. A generic description may be provided for the same category of competent authority at regional and/or local level when the organisation and structure of the competent authorities is essentially the same.. The national control plan should describe how official controls, including import controls, are organised and managed at national, regional and local level.

For the purpose of completing the national control plan, the descriptions of the organisation and management of official controls may be provided under the headings of feed and food law, animal health, animal welfare and plant health law.

3.6.2.1. The national control plans should include a general description of:

- (a) the organisation of the competent authorities;
- (b) the hierarchical relationships and reporting arrangements within and between competent authorities, and with control bodies;
- (c) arrangements for verification to ensure the quality, impartiality, consistency and effectiveness of official controls at all levels within and across competent authorities including across all regional and /or local authorities as provided for by Article 4(4) of Regulation (EC) No 882/2004;
- (d) for plant health, the legal and administrative powers that the competent authorities and control bodies have to enforce the applicable legislation, (for other areas, this matter is covered under Section 3.9);

- (e) the procedure for the designation of laboratories for the analysis of samples taken during official controls and the arrangements to ensure that such laboratories conform to and operate in accordance with the European standards referred to in Article 12 (2) of Regulation (EC) No 882/2004;
- (f) the arrangements to ensure that national reference laboratories designated in accordance with Article 33(1) of Regulation (EC) No 882/2004, conform to and operate in accordance with the requirements of Article 33 of that Regulation.

The national control plan should describe how the audits of competent authorities, to ensure effectiveness and suitability of official controls, as provided for by Article 4(6) of Regulation (EC) No 882/2004, are organised and managed at national, regional and local level.

3.6.2.2. The national control plans should include a description of the arrangements in place:

- (a) for internal or external audits of competent authorities;
- (b) to ensure that competent authorities take appropriate measures in the light of the results of the audits referred to in point (a);
- (c) to ensure that the audits referred to in point (a) are subject to independent scrutiny and are carried out in a transparent manner.

Those arrangements should take account of the guidelines laying down the criteria for the conduct of audits [Insert reference to the decision on audit guidelines]

3.7. Control systems and coordination of activities

3.7.1. Relevant Community legislation

Article 42(2)(e) of Regulation (EC) No 882/2004 provides:

“Control systems applied to different sectors and coordination between the different services of competent authorities responsible for official controls in these sectors”

Article 27a of Directive 2000/29/EC provides that that provision of Regulation (EC) No 882/2004 also applies to plant health

3.7.2. Guidance/definition of requirement

3.7.2.1. Organisation of official controls.

3.7.2.1.1. The organisation of official control systems should take account of:

- (a) the need to determine the nature, frequency, time and point of the official control, in order to maximise compliance with feed and food law, animal health, animal welfare and plant health law;
- (b) the role of prioritisation in determining the balance between tasks and resources;

- (c) the specific national control plans or programmes provided for by Community legislation;
- (d) any specific national disease control or eradication plans;
- (e) any relevant risk categorisations.

3.7.2.1.2 The national control plan should describe:

- (a) the control systems applied to different sectors, in particular:
 - (i) the control methods and techniques used, such as, monitoring, surveillance, verification, audit, inspection, sampling and analysis taking account of the requirements of Articles 10 and 11 of Regulation (EC) No 882/2004, and where and when such control methods and techniques are used;
 - (ii) the frequency, or as appropriate, the criteria for determining the frequency and nature of the official controls;
 - (iii) the extent and operation of official controls on imports of all feed and food, animals and products of animal origin.
- (b) how the risk categories referred to in Section 3.4.1 are applied to target official controls effectively;
- (c) how the official control arrangements for horizontally applicable Community legislation and the specific control plans referred to in Section 3.2.2 are integrated into the official controls applicable to each relevant sector or sub-sector; where more than one sector or sub-sector is involved appropriate 'linkages' should be established between the different sectors or sub-sectors.

3.7.2.2. Coordination and cooperation

Arrangements should be in place to ensure effective coordination of activities and cooperation within and between competent authorities, especially in relation to issues which involve joint action or cooperation between different services within a competent authority or between different competent authorities. Those arrangements should also contribute to ensuring the quality, impartiality, consistency and effectiveness of official controls. In particular, information should be provided on the general measures to manage the relationship between the different competent authorities responsible for different sub-sectors or different stages of the production chain and on the arrangements to ensure efficient and effective cooperation where competence is conferred on, or shared with regional and/or, local competent authorities.

National control plans should describe:

- (a) the arrangements to ensure effective and efficient cooperation and co-ordination of activities within a competent authority, between two or more competent authorities involved in the same sector, and in particular where a Member State confers competence to carry out official controls on an authority

other than a central competent authority between the relevant central, regional and local authorities, as laid down in Article 4(3) and Article 5 of Regulation (EC) No 882/2004 and Article 2(1)(g) of Directive 2000/29/EC; for example, formal arrangements for coordination of activities and ensuring consistency of controls such as meetings, joint committees and liaison groups and requirements for joint agreements or actions;

- (b) shared training initiatives for staff involved in official controls, such as technical skills, supervision of control services, quality management and auditing, if applicable;
- (c) sharing access to laboratory and diagnostic facilities if applicable;
- (d) management and use of shared national databases if applicable;
- (e) the areas where coordination and communication between competent authorities is an important issue, including:
 - (i) the measures in place to ensure the effective operation of such activity so there is no breakdown in official controls;
 - (ii) how the necessary information is exchanged between competent authorities to ensure the continuity and consistency of official controls and to enable traceability systems to operate effectively.

3.8. Delegation to control bodies

3.8.1. Relevant Community Legislation

Article 42(2)(f) of Regulation (EC) No 882/2004 provides:

“Where appropriate the delegation of tasks to control bodies”

Article 27a of Directive 2000/29/EC provides that that provision of Regulation (EC) No 882/2004 also applies to plant health, as regards responsible official bodies designated under Article 2(1)(g) of that Directive.

3.8.2. Guidance/definition of requirement

National control plans should where appropriate:

- (a) identify the competent authorities that delegate official control tasks to control bodies;
- (b) list the specific tasks delegated to each category of control body;
- (c) describe the arrangements in place to ensure that delegating competent authorities and control bodies meet, as applicable, the requirements of:
 - (i) Article 5(2)(b), (c), (d) and (f) and Article 5(3) of Regulation (EC) No 882/2004;
 - (ii) Annex II, Chapter II, point 2 of Regulation (EC) No 882/2004;
 - (iii) Article 2(1)(g) of Directive 2000/29/EC with regard to plant health;

- (iv) Article 9 of Regulation (EEC) No 2092/91 with regard to organic farming;
- (v) Article 15 of Regulation (EC) No 509/2006 with regard to agricultural products and foodstuffs as traditional specialities guaranteed;
- (vi) Article 11 of Regulation (EC) No 510/2006 with regard to protection of geographical indications and designations of origin for agricultural products and foodstuffs.

Where the same official control tasks are delegated to a number of control bodies, the delegation of such tasks may, for the purposes of the national control plan be described in terms of category of control body.

Where that option is taken, the relevant competent authorities should maintain a comprehensive and up-to-date list of control bodies to whom official control tasks are delegated and make this list available for audits and inspections.

3.9. Compliance with operational criteria

3.9.1. Relevant Community legislation

Article 42(2)(g) of Regulation (EC) No 882/2004 provides:

“Methods to ensure compliance with the operational criteria of Article 4(2)”

3.9.2. Guidance/definition of requirement

This requirement does not apply to official controls regarding plant health. National control plans should describe the methods employed to ensure that organisations designated as competent authorities are effectively implementing the requirements of Article 4(2) of Regulation (EC) No 882/2004.

In particular, the national control plans should describe the arrangements in place to ensure the following, in respect of all competent authorities:

- (a) that effective and appropriate official controls are applied at all stages of production, processing and distribution of animals, food, feed and plants and the use of feed, as required by Article 4(2)(a) of Regulation (EC) No 882/2004;
- (b) that measures are in place to ensure that staff carrying out official controls are free from any conflict of interest which could impair their objectivity and independence or compromise their professional judgement and to deal with any potential conflict of interest which may arise, as required by Article 4(2)(b) of Regulation (EC) No 882/2004
- (c) that measures are in place to ensure that, where external or contract staff are performing official controls, they have the same degree of independence and accountability as permanent staff in the performance of their official control duties;

- (d) that all competent authorities have, or have access to, adequate laboratory capacity for testing and a sufficient number of suitably qualified and experienced staff so that official controls and control duties can be carried out efficiently and effectively, as required by Article 4(2)(c) of Regulation (EC) No 882/2004;
- (e) that all competent authorities have appropriate and properly maintained facilities and equipment to ensure that staff can perform official controls efficiently and effectively, as required by Article 4(2)(d) of Regulation (EC) No 882/2004;
- (f) that there are adequate legal powers to carry out official controls, as required by Article 4(2)(e) and taking account of the requirements of Article 8(2) and Articles 54 and 55 of Regulation (EC) No 882/2004, including the power to enter onto premises, to inspect animals, plants, products, records or other documents including computing systems, to take samples, and to take appropriate actions in the case of suspicion or detection of non-compliances including the imposition of effective, proportionate and dissuasive sanctions;
- (g) that there are contingency plans in place, and competent authorities are prepared to operate such plans in the event of an emergency, as required by Article 4(2)(f) of Regulation (EC) No 882/2004;
- (h) that feed and food business operators are obliged to undergo any inspection carried out in accordance with Regulation (EC) No 882/2004 and to assist staff of the competent authority in the accomplishment of their tasks, as required by Article 4(2)(g) of Regulation (EC) No 882/2004.

3.10. Training of staff performing official controls

3.10.1. Relevant Community Legislation

Article 42(2)(h) of Regulation (EC) No 882/2004 provides

“The training of staff performing official controls referred to in Article 6”.

Article 27a of Directive 2000/29/EC provides that that provision of Regulation (EC) No 882/2004 also applies to plant health, as regards the requirements of Article 2(1)(i) of Directive 2000/29(EC) and points 1 and 2 of the Annex to Commission Directive 98/22/EC¹¹.

3.10.2. Guidance/definition of requirement

With regard to feed and food law, animal health and animal welfare, national control plans should describe the systems or arrangements in place to ensure that staff performing official controls receive, or have received the training, provided for in Article 6 of Regulation (EC) No 882/2004.

¹¹ Commission Directive 98/22/EC of 15 April 1998 laying down the minimum conditions for carrying out plant health checks in the Community, at inspection posts other than those at the place of destination, of plants, plant products or other objects coming from third countries (OJ L 126, 28.4.1998 p. 26).

For all sectors, including plant health, national control plans should also describe the arrangements to ensure that all staff performing official controls have the necessary qualifications, training and competencies to perform such controls in an effective manner.

With regard to plant health, national control plans should, in particular, describe how the requirements of Article 2(1)(i) of Directive 2000/29/EC and points 1 and 2 of the Annex to Directive 98/22/EC are met .

National control plans should, for all sectors, set out the systems or arrangements in place to:

- (a) identify the training needs for staff performing official controls;
- (b) provide and evaluate such training;
- (c) document such training for audit purposes.

The documentation of such training by the competent authorities should include recording the subject and level of training, number of days training, and the number of participants. Those records should be maintained up-to-date and be available for audits and inspections.

Arrangements for the delegation of official control tasks to control bodies, should ensure that the staff of such control bodies have the necessary training, qualification and competencies to perform those tasks in an effective manner (see also guidance at Section 3.8.2).

3.11. Documented procedures

3.11.1. Relevant Community legislation

42(2)(i) of Regulation (EC) No 882/2004 provides:

“The documented procedures referred to in Articles 8 and 9”

Article 27a of Directive 2000/29/EC provides that that provision of Regulation (EC) No 882/2004 also applies to plant health, as regards the requirements of points (a) and (b) of paragraph 1 of the Annex to Directive 98/22/EC.

3.11.2. Guidance/definition of requirement

With regard to feed and food law and animal health and animal welfare, the national control plan should describe the systems or arrangements in place to ensure the effective implementation of the requirements of Article 8(1) and (3) of Regulation (EC) No 882/2004, regarding documented procedures and Article 9 of that Regulation regarding reports on official controls.

For plant health, national control plans should, in particular, describe the systems or arrangements in place to ensure the effective implementation of point 1(a) and (b) of the Annex to Directive 98/22/EC.

3.11.2.1 For all sectors, national control plan should describe the systems or arrangements in place to ensure that:

- (a) the relevant documented procedures are readily accessible to:
 - (i) all staff performing official controls;
 - (ii) the competent authorities concerned;
 - (iii) the central competent authority;
 - (iv) any body involved in carrying out audits
 - (v) the Commission upon request.
- (b) documented procedures are reviewed and updated at appropriate intervals.

A comprehensive list or index of documented procedures should be maintained by the competent authority and be available for audits and inspections.

3.11.2.2 For all sectors, national control plans, should describe the systems or arrangements in place to provide for the recording of the performance and outcome of official controls, as provided for by Article 9(1) and (2) of Regulation (EC) No 882/2004. The filing of such records, and for ensuring that such records are readily accessible to:

- (a) all staff performing those official controls;
- (b) the competent authority concerned;
- (c) the central competent authority;
- (d) any body involved in carrying out audits;
- (e) the Commission upon request.

3.12. Operational contingency plans

3.12.1. Relevant Community Legislation

Article 42(2)(j) of Regulation (EC) No 882/2004 provides:

“The organisation and operation of contingency plans for animal or food-borne disease emergencies, feed and food contamination incidents and other human health risks”

3.12.2. Guidance/definition of requirement

This requirement does not apply to official controls regarding plant health.

3.12.2.1. This Section applies, in particular, to the contingency plans referred to in Article 4(2)(f) and Article 13(1) of Regulation (EC) No 882/2004, but reference should also be made to other contingency plans required under relevant Community legislation, such as:

- (a) Council Directive 2001/89/EC of 23 October 2001 on Community measures for the control of classical swine fever¹²;
- (b) Council Directive 2003/85/EC of 29 September on Community measures for the control of foot-and-mouth disease repealing Directive 85/511/EEC and Decisions 89/531/EEC and 91/665/EC and amending Directive 92/46/EEC¹³;
- (c) Council Directive 92/119/EEC of 17 December 1992 introducing general Community measures for the control of certain animal diseases and specific measures relating to swine vesicular disease¹⁴.

3.12.2.2. National control plans should:

- (a) indicate each of the sectors for which specific contingency plans are in place;
- (b) indicate the scope of each such contingency plan;
- (c) in relation to each such contingency plan, identify the body or bodies responsible for their preparation and maintenance;
- (d) describe the system or arrangements in place for dissemination of the contingency plans and for appropriate training in relation to their implementation.

However, it is not necessary to attach a copy of the individual contingency plans.

If appropriate, those arrangements may be described using an organigramme or table or other easily presented format.

3.13. Organisation of cooperation and mutual assistance

3.13.1. Relevant Community legislation

Article 42(2)(k) of Regulation (EC) No 882/2004 provides:

“The organisation of cooperation and mutual assistance”

Article 27a of Directive 2000/29/EC provides that that provision of Regulation (EC) No 882/2004 also applies to plant health as regards the requirements of the second subparagraph of Article 12(4), Article 13c(2)(c), Article 16(1) and Article 16(2) of Directive 2000/29/EC.

¹² OJ L 316, 1.12.2001, p. 5.

¹³ OJ L 306, 22.11.2003, p. 1.

¹⁴ OJ L 62, 15.3.1993, p. 69.

3.13.2. Guidance/definition of requirement

3.13.2.1. With regard to feed and food law, the national control plans should:

- (a) describe the general arrangements in place to ensure that the requirements of Articles 34 to 39 of Regulation (EC) No 882/2004 are met;
- (b) identify the designated liaison body or bodies and their respective areas of responsibility or competence.

3.13.2.2. With regard to animal health (veterinary and zootechnical legislation), the national control plans should describe the general arrangements in place to ensure that the requirements of Council Directive 89/608/EEC¹⁵ are met.

3.13.2.3. With regard to plant health, the national control plans should describe the arrangements in place to comply with the second subparagraph of Article 12(4), Article 13c (2)(c) and Article 16(1) and Article 16(2) of Directive 2000/29/EC.

3.14. Adjustment of national control plans

3.14.1. Relevant Community legislation

Article 42(3) of Regulation (EC) No 882/2004 provides:

“Multi annual national control plans may be adjusted during their implementation.

Amendments may be made in the light of, or in order to take account of factors including:

- (a) new legislation;
- (b) the emergence of new diseases or other health risks;
- (c) significant changes to the structure, management or operation of the competent authorities;
- (d) the results of Member States’ official controls;
- (e) the results of Community controls carried out in accordance with Article 45;
- (f) any amendment of the guidelines referred to in Article 43;
- (g) scientific findings;
- (h) the outcome of audits performed by a third country in a Member State.”

Article 27a of Directive 2000/29/EC provides that that provision of Regulation (EC) No 882/2004 also applies to plant health.

3.14.2. Guidance/definition of requirement

Member States are reminded of their obligation to consider adjustments to the national control plan during its implementation in the light of the factors set out in Articles 42(3), 44(5) and

¹⁵ Council Directive 89/608/EEC of 21 November 1989 on mutual assistance between the administrative authorities of the Member States and cooperation between the latter and the Commission to ensure the correct application of legislation on veterinary and zootechnical matters (OJ L 351, 2.12.1989, p. 34).

45(5) of Regulation (EC) No 882/2004 and for the inclusion of any subsequent adjustments in the annual report provided for in Article 44(1) of that Regulation.

The national control plan should therefore describe

- (a) the process for the review of the operation of the national control plan that should take place annually as a contribution to the annual report {Insert reference to the Recommendation on the annual report guideline} on the implementation of the national control plan;
- (b) how the outcome of the audits of national competent authorities required under Article 4(6) of Regulation (EC) No 882/2004 shall feed into this process.

4. GUIDANCE ON FORMAT OF SINGLE INTEGRATED MULTI-ANNUAL NATIONAL CONTROL PLANS

In order to have a consistent and comprehensive approach to the organisation and implementation of official controls the single integrated multi-annual national control plan should be presented in accordance with the following format.

4.1. Title:

Single integrated multi-annual national control plan presented by [Member State] for the period from to [period of validity of the plan].

4.2. Contact point in Member State: [for communication regarding the plan]

Contact point: [may be a unit or office of a named administration and not necessarily a named individual official]	
Address:	
Email address:	
Telephone:	
Fax:	

4.3. Content of plan

- 4.3.1 Overall national strategic objectives
- 4.3.2 Designation, of the competent authorities, national reference laboratories and control bodies
- 4.3.3 Organisation and management of official controls by competent authorities
- 4.3.4 Contingency plans & mutual assistance
- 4.3.5 Arrangement for audit of competent authorities
- 4.3.6 Measures to ensure compliance with the operational criteria of Regulation (EC) No 882/2004
- 4.3.7 Review and adjustment of the national control plan

4.3.1. Overall national strategic objectives

Reference Guidance: Section 3.1 National control plans
Section 3.3 Strategic objectives of the national control plan

List Strategic objectives e.g.
Objective 1
Objective 2
Objective 3 etc.

4.3.2. Designation of the competent authorities, national reference laboratories and delegated control bodies

Reference Guidance: Section 3.5 Designation of competent authorities
Section 3.8 Delegation to control bodies

Designated competent authorities [designation, structure and organisation on a national basis] Provide an overview of the: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Areas of competence/ scope of responsibilities• Reporting and communication channels <p><i>Organisational charts or tables may be used to describe the structure, responsibilities, , reporting or communication channels, etc above as appropriate.</i></p>

Delegation of official control tasks to control bodies		
Competent authority responsible	Control bodies or category of control body as appropriate	Official control tasks delegated
Describe the arrangements to ensure that the legislative requirements regarding delegation of control tasks to control bodies are met		

National reference laboratories:¹⁶

This requirement does not apply to official controls regarding plant health.

National reference laboratories	Competent authority responsible	Designated analytical activities

Describe the arrangements to ensure how the responsibilities of national reference laboratories are addressed.

Describe the quality control or management systems applied in each national reference laboratory.

Describe arrangements for the planning and conduct of proficiency/ring tests and the programme for proficiency/ring tests during the duration of the national control plan as applicable.

Describe the arrangements to ensure that national reference laboratories designated in accordance with Article 33(1) of Regulation (EC) No 882/2004 conform to and operate in accordance with Article 33 of that Regulation.

4.3.3. Organisation and management of official controls by competent authorities

Reference Guidance: Section 3.2 General requirements for national control plans

Section 3.4 Risk categorisation

Section 3.6 General organisation and management

Section 3.7 Control systems and coordination of activities

Section 3.9 Compliance with operational criteria

Section 3.10 Training of staff performing official controls

Section 3.11 Documented procedures

Competent authority [*complete individually for each designated competent authority; however this information may be aggregated at national or regional level for the same category of regional or local competent authorities*]

Describe the:

- internal organisation and structure in general terms
- human resources available for the purpose of performing official controls [full-time equivalents]
- resources supporting official control actions
 - laboratory facilities
 - other resources/infrastructure

as applicable

¹⁶ National reference laboratories are not prescribed by Plant Health Law

The information on competent authorities may be presented on a sectoral basis (Food/Feed/Animal Health/Animal Welfare/ Plant Health) for example as in the following manner:

Sector (i.e. Food/Feed/Animal Health/Animal Welfare/Plant Health as appropriate)

Central Competent Authorities(CCA)

Competent Authority CCA 1

Competent Authority CCA 2

Etc.

Regional (e.g. Federal/Provincial) Competent Authorities(RCA)

Competent Authority RCA 1, 2, 3.....,and/or

Competent Authority "RCA Category 1, 2, 3...."

Etc.

Local (e.g. District/Municipal)Competent Authorities(LCA)

Competent Authority LCA 1 or Category 1

Competent Authority LCA 2 or Category 2

Etc.

Laboratories [other than national reference laboratories]:

Describe procedures for:

- designation of laboratories
- ensuring that requirements which apply to official laboratories are met

Control systems [*by sector, including horizontal arrangements where applicable*]

For each of the following sectors describe:

- the control methods and techniques used and where and when applied
- control priorities, resource allocation and how they relate to risk categorisation
- verification of planned arrangements including reporting arrangements
- arrangements for the application of horizontal legislation across different sectors/sub-sectors
- how specific control plans or programmes required by community legislation are integrated into the control systems for the relevant sectors or sub-sectors as appropriate

1.Control system for food law

2.Control system for feed law

3.Control system for animal health law

4.Control system for animal welfare law

5.Control system for plant health law

In relation to the control systems describe the measures to:

- manage coordination between competent authorities with related responsibilities
- ensure efficient and effective cooperation both within and between competent authorities
- ensure that all areas where coordination and cooperation are required both within and between competent authorities are addressed

Training arrangements [*these may be included under each competent authority or per category of competent authority where there are equivalent systems, as appropriate. If appropriate the training arrangements may be described on a sectoral basis*]

Describe the arrangements for:

- Identification of training needs
- Implementing training plan(s)
- Recording and evaluating training

4.3.4. Contingency plans and mutual assistance

Reference Guidance: Section 3.12 Operational contingency plans

Section 3.13 Organisation of cooperation and mutual assistance

This section should be completed on a national basis

Contingency plans: (*not applicable to plant health*)

Describe the:

- Sectors/subjects/areas where contingency plans are in place
- Scope of each contingency plan
- Competent authority or authorities responsible
- Arrangements for dissemination and training to ensure effective implementation including simulation exercises

Arrangements for mutual assistance:

Liaison body/bodies	Area of responsibility

4.3.5. Arrangements for audit of competent authorities (not applicable to plant health)

Reference Guidance: Section 3.6 General organisation and management

Describe the arrangements for:

- internal or external audits of competent authorities including the frequency and nature of the audits
- ensuring that competent authorities take appropriate measures in the light of results of these audits
- ensuring that these audits are subject to independent scrutiny and are carried out in a transparent manner

4.3.6. Measures to ensure compliance with the operational criteria of Regulation (EC) No 882/2004 (not applicable to plant health)

Reference Guidance: Section 3.9 Compliance with operational criteria

Section 3.11 Documented procedures

Describe the arrangements to ensure the following:

- impartiality, quality and consistency of official controls
- staff are free from conflict of interest
- adequate laboratory capacity
- sufficient number of suitably qualified & experienced staff

- adequate facilities & equipment
- adequate legal powers
- food & feed business operators co-operate with staff performing official controls
- documented procedures are available
- records are maintained

4.3.7. Review and adjustment of national control plans

Reference Guidance: Section 3.14 Adjustment of national control plans

Describe the process for the review of the operation of the single integrated multi-annual national control plan.

5. GUIDANCE ON THE SCOPE OF SINGLE INTEGRATED MULTI-ANNUAL NATIONAL CONTROL PLANS

The arrangements for all official controls coming within the scope of Regulation (EC) No 882/2004 should be addressed in the national control plan. The following tables give an indication of the range of legislation/topics to be addressed in the plan. It is not, and does not purport to be, an exhaustive list of all the relevant legislative topics. Requirements of both primary legislation and implementing measures should be taken into account in preparing the national control plan.

ANIMAL HEALTH LAW INCLUDES

	Includes
<i>Live Animals</i>	Aquaculture
	Bovine
	Equine
	Ovine and Caprine
	Porcine
	Poultry and Hatching Eggs
	Pets
	Others e.g. wild animals
<i>Semen, Ova and Embryos</i>	Bovine
	Equine
	Ovine and Caprine
	Porcine
<i>Animal Diseases</i>	Control measures
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>specific diseases</i> • <i>general</i>
	Eradication and monitoring
	Animal Disease Notification System
	Animo/Traces
	Animal movement and traceability
	Community Reference Laboratories
<i>Animal by-products</i>	
<i>Animal identification</i>	Bovine
	Equine
	Ovine and Caprine
	Porcine
	Pets
<i>Import controls</i>	all above categories as appropriate

ANIMAL WELFARE LAW INCLUDES

<i>Welfare on farm</i>	
<i>Welfare during transport</i>	
<i>Welfare at slaughter</i>	

PLANT HEALTH LAW INCLUDES

	Includes
<i>Harmful organisms (within the meaning of Council Directive 2000/29/EC</i>	Control measures required under <i>Council Directive 2000/29/EC</i>

FOOD AND FEED LAW INCLUDES

	Includes
<i>General Food and Feed Law</i>	Operators responsibilities and procedures
	Official Controls
	Traceability
	Rapid Alert System
	Import Controls
<i>Food Labelling and Nutrition</i>	Food Labelling
	Health and Nutrition Claims
	Nutrition Labelling
	Mineral Waters
	Food Supplements
	Addition of Vitamins and Minerals
	Dietetic Food
	Food for Infants and Young Children
	Food for Weight Reduction
	Food for Sports People
	Foods for Diabetics
	Specific Food Products
Biological Safety	Food Hygiene (general all sectors and commodities)
	- primary production
	- <i>processing</i>
	- <i>manufacture</i>
	- <i>storage</i>
	- <i>distribution</i>
	- <i>transport</i>
	- <i>retail</i>
	Sampling and analysis
	Approval of establishments
	Salmonella and food-borne diseases
	Food Hygiene (food of animal origin)
	- <i>meat/meat products/preparations etc. (including poultry meat)</i>
	- <i>game meat/products/preparations etc.</i>
	- <i>milk and milk products</i>

	- <i>eggs and egg products</i>
	- <i>fish /fishery products</i>
	- <i>aquaculture</i>
	- <i>bivalve molluscs</i>
	- <i>other products</i>
	TSE's
	Animal by-products (also animal health issue)
<i>Chemical safety</i>	Food Additives
	Food Flavourings
	Novel Foods
	Contaminants
	Residues
	- <i>medicinal products</i>
	- <i>pesticides</i>
	Hormones/prohibited substances in products of animal origin
	Sampling and Analysis
	Food Contact Materials
<i>Community Reference Laboratories</i>	Laboratories for both chemical and biological analysis
<i>Irradiation</i>	Directive 1999/2/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council
<i>Biotechnology</i>	GM Food and Feed
	GM Plants and Seeds
<i>Other Food Law</i>	Organic farming
	Agricultural Products and Foodstuffs as traditional specialities guaranteed
	Geographical Indications and Designations of Origin of agricultural products and foodstuffs
<i>Fraudulent practices</i>	e.g. false or misleading labelling, quality or compositional claims
	e.g. food or feed adulteration
<i>Animal Nutrition</i>	Feed Materials
	Feed Labelling

	Certain products used in animal nutrition– “Bioproteins”(Council Directive 82/471/EEC ¹⁷)
	Feed Additives
	Compound feedingstuffs (including pet food)
	Animal feedingstuffs for particular nutritional purposes
	Medicated feed
	Undesirable substances
	Methods of sampling and analysis
	Prohibited Substances
	Feed Hygiene

¹⁷ Council Directive 82/471/EEC of 30 June 1982 concerning certain products used in animal nutrition (OJ L 213, 21.7.1982, p. 8).