



EUROPEAN COMMISSION  
HEALTH & CONSUMER PROTECTION DIRECTORATE-GENERAL  
Directorate F - Food and Veterinary Office

DG(SANCO)/610219/2002  
– REV. 1

## **Food & Veterinary Office**

### **Programme of Inspections 2003**

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## **1. INTRODUCTION**

This paper sets out the FVO's inspections plan for 2003. It presents a detailed inspections programme for January to June 2003 and an outline programme for the second half of next year. It is estimated that around 250 inspections will be completed during this 12 months period.

In carrying out its inspection plan for 2003, the FVO will give particular emphasis to inspections in applicant countries.

There is always a degree of uncertainty attached to any FVO inspection plan. Of necessity, it must remain flexible to enable it to respond to emergencies and unforeseen circumstances. As in previous years, adjustments to the plan will be required as the year progresses. Inspections in response to emergencies can only be made by cancelling or postponing planned missions.

The FVO is conscious that, in the course of the various missions to countries during previous programmes, certain aspects of a country's control systems, which are common to the different sectoral areas under inspection by the Office, may be evaluated more than once in the course of the year. The Office undertakes to eliminate such overlaps in the missions, unless there are special reasons for such a re-evaluation. Furthermore it will continue to establish and develop, during the course of the year, *country profiles* with a view to achieving that purpose on a lasting basis.

Finally, genuine progress towards full compliance with legislation in the food safety, animal health and welfare, and plant health areas can only be made where full cognisance is taken of the FVO reports and recommendations, with appropriate actions to address the issues involved. During 2003 the FVO will be reviewing its practice and procedure in relation to following up on its reports and recommendations with a view to ensuring such progress is achieved.

**2. BALANCE OF INSPECTIONS ON FOOD SAFETY, ANIMAL HEALTH, ANIMAL WELFARE AND PLANT HEALTH**

A total of 134 inspections is planned for the first half of 2003. Inspections in the food safety area make up around three quarters of the programme. Following the “farm to fork” approach outlined in the White Paper on Food Safety, a large number of food safety inspections also cover animal health and welfare elements.

**TABLE 1: BREAKDOWN OF INSPECTIONS BY MAIN AREAS OF RESPONSIBILITY – FIRST SEMESTER 2003**

<b>Area</b>	<b>Total inspections</b>	<b>%</b>
Food Safety and Animal Health	117	87
Animal Welfare	8	6
Plant Health	9	7
<b>Total</b>	<b>134</b>	<b>100</b>

**3. BALANCE BETWEEN MEMBER STATES AND THIRD COUNTRIES**

A breakdown of inspections between Member States and third countries during the first semester of 2003 is given in Table 2.

Roughly one third of inspections will be carried out in Member States. The highest priority in 2003 will be given to inspections in candidate countries, which amount to 40 % of all planned missions (two thirds of the inspections to non-EU countries). This is discussed in further detail in Section 5.

**TABLE 2: GEOGRAPHICAL BREAKDOWN OF INSPECTIONS BY REGION – FIRST SEMESTER 2003**

<b>Country</b>	<b>Inspections</b>	
	<b>No.</b>	<b>%</b>
EU	47	35
Candidate Countries	53	40
Other Third Countries	34	25
<b>Total</b>	<b>134</b>	<b>100</b>

**4. INSPECTIONS TO MEMBER STATES**

As referred to earlier, 35% of the inspections in the first semester of 2003 will be in Member States. A full list of these inspections categorised by product/sector is given in Table 3:

**TABLE 3: OVERVIEW OF INSPECTIONS TO MEMBER STATES – FIRST SEMESTER 2003**

Area	Mission subject	Member States to be inspected	No. of insp./rep.orts
<b>Food Safety</b>	TSEs (Transmissible spongiform encephalopathies)	UK	1
	Animal Feed/Nutrition*	B, DK, F, IRL, S	5
	Contaminants in feed** <sup>1)</sup>	B, DK, D, F, IRL, NL	6
	Residues (in animals/animal products)**	IRL, I	2
	Pesticide residues/marketing and use of plant protection products*	B	1
	Bovine tuberculosis eradication programmes**	E, IRL, I	3
	Live bivalve molluscs	EL	1
	Import controls/Border Inspection Posts (animals/animal products)	DK, IRL, I	3
	Import controls (food of plant origin)*	B, I, L, P, E, UK	6
	GMOs (genetically modified organisms) – labelling of GMO food	A, E	2
<b>Animal Health</b>	OIE List A Disease contingency plans**	A, B, DK, D, FIN, I, P, E	8
	Disease outbreak: Classical Swine Fever	D	1
<b>Animal Welfare</b>	Welfare during transport; Welfare during slaughter/killing*	D, EL, P	3
<b>Plant Health</b>	Plant pest outbreaks: ornamental plants forest plants/products	D, NL P	2 1
	Import controls (plant health)*	B, F	2

\* Inspections with an asterisk are part of a series and will be completed by the end of 2003

\*\* new series

1) Information gathering inspections

Inspections planned for January to June 2003, categorised by Member State and subject, are listed in Annex 1.

## **5. INSPECTIONS TO APPLICANT COUNTRIES**

Inspections to applicant countries are a top priority for the 2003 inspections programme and will account for roughly 40% of FVO activities over the year.

During 2002 a series of monitoring missions was carried out in the following five broad areas:

- 1: Live animals and food of animal origin (in particular upgrading of establishments in the red meat sector)
- 2: Import controls/Border Inspection Posts
- 3: TSEs and feedingstuffs (with particular emphasis on TSE)
- 4: General food hygiene controls (including pesticide residues and contaminants)
- 5: Plant health controls (including marketing and use of pesticides).

Table 4 gives an overview of the missions to applicant countries planned for the first semester 2003.

In the latter part of 2002 a series of high-level missions was carried out by the Health & Consumer Protection Directorate-General in candidate countries. These missions addressed issues arising either from the 2002 FVO monitoring missions or from the negotiations.

FVO missions in 2003 will, in general, follow-up on the 2002 series of FVO monitoring missions, and the high-level missions. In addition, while in 2002 the live animal & food of animal origin series of missions focussed on the establishment upgrading process, the 2003 series will follow-up on the issues raised by the review of the upgrading of establishments and give particular emphasis to fish, milk and poultry sectors. In view of the large number of establishments in candidate countries and the limited resources available, the FVO's approach is to look at a certain number of establishments on the ground as a basis for assessing the competent authority's ability, through its control system, to implement the necessary control of such establishments.

Missions in area 1 will also address animal welfare and animal health issues, particularly contingency plans for OIE list A diseases, and the OIE list B disease situation and controls. Follow-up missions on BSE will also address the implementation of key elements of feedingstuffs legislation. As a follow-up to the general assessment missions there will be a number of residue missions in candidate countries.

Additional follow-up inspections in areas 4 (general food hygiene) and 5 (plant health) are likely to take place. This depends on the outcome of the current monitoring missions and on further input from other sources, like the high level meetings held with candidate countries and the returns of action plans requested in the reports of the present missions.

In the second half of 2003, further follow-up inspections to candidate countries are planned in area 2 (Import Controls/Border Inspection Posts) and in the other sectors, depending on the needs identified during the series of missions in the first semester.

**Table 4: PROPOSED MISSIONS TO APPLICANT COUNTRIES PLANNED FOR THE FIRST SEMESTER 2003**

COUNTRY	MONITORING				
	Live animals food of animal origin *)	Import controls/ BIPS	TSE & feedingstuffs	Food hygiene controls	Plant health controls
<b>Poland</b>	04/2003 (Res) 03/2003 (AH/FS) 06/2003 (AH/FS)		01/2003	03/2003	
<b>Czech Republic</b>	01/2003 (AH/FS) 03/2003 (AW) 03/2003 (Res) 04/2003 (FS) 06/2003 (AH/FS)	05/2003	02/2003		
<b>Hungary</b>	02/2003 (Res) 03/2003 (AH/FS) 03/2003 (AW) 04/2003 (FS) 06/2003 (AH/FS)	04/2003	01/2003		
<b>Estonia</b>	01/2003 (AH/FS) 03/2003 (Res)	03/2003	02/2003		
<b>Slovenia</b>	05/2003 (AH/FS) 06/2003 (FS)		02/2003		
<b>Cyprus</b>		06/2003			
<b>Latvia</b>	04/2003 (AW) 04/2003 (AH/FS)		03/2003		
<b>Lithuania</b>	02/2003 (AH/FS) 01/2003 (AW) 04/2003 (Res)	01/2003	03/2003		
<b>Malta</b>	02/2003 (AW)	06/2003		01/2003	01/2003
<b>Slovak Republic</b>	02/2003 (Res) 04/2003 (AH/FS) 03/2003 (FS)	05/2003	01/2003	04/2003	
<b>Romania</b>	06/2003 (AH/FS)		03/2003		05/2003
<b>Bulgaria</b>			03/2003		05/2003
<b>Turkey**) </b>					

\*) AH/FS Animal Health / Food Safety  
 FS Food Safety  
 AW Animal Welfare  
 Res Residues

\*\*) In addition to the monitoring programme carried out in candidate countries, specific inspections will take place in Turkey. These will follow-up a high number of rapid alert notifications for the presence of aflatoxins in nuts, cover irradiation of food as well as an evaluation of control systems and production standards in the poultry meat sectors

Proposed inspections to applicant countries in January to June 2003 categorised by country and subject are also listed in Annex 2.

## 6. INSPECTIONS TO OTHER THIRD COUNTRIES

Table 5 gives an overview of the inspections in third countries in the period January to June 2003. Of the total of 34 planned inspections, around half of the inspections will focus on fishery products and live bivalve molluscs, the other half on fresh and poultry meat/meat products and the animal health situation, mainly with respect to third countries' requests for approvals of exports to the EU.

**TABLE 5: OVERVIEW OF INSPECTIONS TO OTHER THIRD COUNTRIES – FIRST SEMESTER 2003**

Reason	Proposed missions	No.
<b>Countries provisionally approved for exports of</b>		
- <b>Fishery products</b> (part II <sup>1)</sup> of Annex to Dec 97/296/EC)	Algeria, Armenia, Belarus, Congo (Rep. du), Eritrea, Solomon Islands, St. Helena, United Arab Emirates, Yugoslavia, USA, Zimbabwe	12
- <b>Milk/milk products</b> (Dec 97/252/EC)	USA <sup>2)</sup>	
<b>Countries requesting approval for exports to the EU:</b>		
- <b>Red meat</b>	Nicaragua, Bosnia & Herzegovina	
- <b>Pig meat</b>	Mexico*	
- <b>Poultry meat/Eggs/Products</b>	Mexico, India*	13
- <b>Farmed game meat</b>	Uruguay	
- <b>Fishery products</b>	Bosnia&Herzegovina*, Egypt*, Guyana, Saudi Arabia	
- <b>Live bivalve molluscs</b>	Albania, Croatia*, India*	
<b>High number of rapid alert notifications:</b>		
- <b>residues/microbiological contamination in fish/animal products</b>	Brazil, Vietnam, India	5
- <b>residues in animal products (possible re-opening of exports)</b>	China	
- <b>contaminants in nuts</b>	Brazil	
<b>Evaluation of operation of HACCP systems in the meat and meat product sectors</b>	USA <sup>2)</sup>	
<b>Evaluation of animal health situation with respect to:</b>		
- <b>Red meat exports</b>	Paraguay, Uruguay	3
- <b>Pig meat exports</b>	Brazil*	
<b>Animal disease outbreak: Newcastle Disease</b>	Australia	1

\* mission will be carried out only under certain conditions

<sup>1)</sup> expiring on 31st December 2003

<sup>2)</sup> one mission

Proposed inspections in January to June 2003 categorised by third country and subject are listed in Annex 3.

## 7. INSPECTIONS OUTLINE FOR JULY TO DECEMBER 2003

Tables 6 and 7 provide an outline for inspections planned to Member States and Third Countries in the second half of 2003.

**TABLE 6: OVERVIEW OF PLANNED INSPECTIONS TO MEMBER STATES IN THE SECOND HALF OF 2003**

Area	Remarks	No
<b>Animal Feed Sector</b>	completion of first series in Member States	*
<b>Animal Disease Controls :</b> - OIE list A contingency plans - Eradication/control programmes (scrapie) - Bluetongue controls	UK, IRL, P, EL, NL I	5 * 1
<b>Residues and contaminants :</b> - Residues (animals/animal products) - Contaminants in food - Pesticide residues/marketing and use of plant protection products		* * *
<b>Import Controls:</b> - Import of animals/animal products/Border Inspection Posts - Import of food of plant origin		* *
<b>Foodborne Pathogen Controls</b>		3-4
<b>Follow up to bovine traceability missions**</b>		*
<b>Follow-up to inspections on general food hygiene</b>	EL	1
<b>Animal Welfare</b> - during transport - during slaughter and killing		*
<b>Plant Health</b> - import controls - follow up to disease outbreaks in arable crops - protected zones/derogation	F, A	* 2 *
<b>Novel Food/GMOs</b>		*
<b>Food additives/Flavourings/Material in contact with foodstuffs</b>	Pending the results of a desk analysis on the present situation regarding the implementation of EU legislation on food additives, flavourings and material in contact with foodstuffs, some missions on these subjects might be necessary.	*

\* No of inspections to be determined

\*\* This will depend upon the outcome of Court of Auditors report on animal identification, as well as MS responses to the current mission series. It will not be possible for both these missions, and those planned for foodborne pathogen controls, to be undertaken.

**TABLE 7: OVERVIEW OF PLANNED INSPECTIONS TO THIRD COUNTRIES IN THE SECOND HALF OF 2003**

Area		No
- <b>TSEs</b>		*
- <b>Follow-up of Rapid Alert Notifications for presence of residues and contaminants in Food</b>		*
- <b>Provisional approval for exports of fishery products</b>		*
- <b>Controls prior to approval for exports of</b>  <b>milk/milk products</b> <b>beef/beef products</b> <b>live animals/fresh meat</b> <b>game meat</b> <b>horsemeat</b>	Serbia&Montenegro, Egypt, Turkey Vanuatu, Costa Rica Chile China Mongolia; Khazakstan	*
- <b>Animal health: Review of foot-and-mouth disease situation</b>	Southern African countries	*
- <b>General animal health controls</b>	Moldova	1

\* Number of inspections to be determined

**FVO Inspections Programme January - June 2003 – Member States****AUSTRIA**

Animal disease contingency plans  
GMO food labelling

**BELGIUM**

Animal disease contingency plans  
Contaminants in feed  
Pesticides marketing and use  
Import controls – food of plant origin  
Import controls – plant health  
Animal feed/nutrition

**DENMARK**

Import controls – border inspection posts  
Contaminants in feed  
Animal feed/nutrition  
Animal disease contingency plans

**FINLAND**

Animal disease contingency plans

**FRANCE**

Contaminants in feed  
Import controls – plant health  
Animal feed/nutrition

**GERMANY**

Animal disease outbreak – Classical Swine Fever  
Contaminants in feed  
Animal disease contingency plans  
Plant pest outbreak – ornamental plants, incl. Bonsaïs  
Animal welfare during slaughter/killing and transport

**GREECE**

Animal welfare during slaughter/killing and transport  
Evaluation of control systems and production standards – live bivalve molluscs

**IRELAND**

Contaminants in feed  
Import controls – border inspection posts  
Animal disease eradication/control programmes – tuberculosis  
Residue controls – food of animal origin  
Animal feed/nutrition

**ITALY**

Animal disease eradication/control programmes – tuberculosis  
Animal disease contingency plans  
Residue controls – food of animal origin  
Import controls – food of plant origin  
Import controls – border inspection posts

**LUXEMBOURG**

Import controls – food of plant origin

**NETHERLANDS**

Plant pest outbreak – ornamental plants, incl. Bonsaïs  
Contaminants in feed

**PORUGAL**

Plant pest outbreak – forest plants / products  
Animal disease contingency plans  
Import controls – food of plant origin  
Animal welfare during slaughter/killing and transport

**SPAIN**

GMO food labelling  
Animal disease contingency plans  
Import controls – food of plant origin  
Animal disease eradication/control programmes – tuberculosis

**SWEDEN**

Animal feed/nutrition

**UNITED KINGDOM**

Import controls – food of plant origin  
TSEs – data-based export scheme

**FVO Inspections Programme January – June 2003 – Applicant Countries****BULGARIA**

Plant health controls  
TSEs and feedingstuffs

**MALTA**

Live animals and food of animal origin  
Import controls/border inspection posts  
General food hygiene controls  
Plant health controls

**CYPRUS**

Import controls/border inspection posts

**CZECH REPUBLIC**

Live animals and food of animal origin (5 inspections)  
Import controls/border inspection posts  
TSEs and feedingstuffs

**ESTONIA**

Live animals and food of animal origin (2 inspections)  
Import controls/border inspection posts  
TSEs and feedingstuffs

**HUNGARY**

Live animals and food of animal origin (5 inspections)  
Import controls/border inspection posts  
TSEs and feedingstuffs

**LATVIA**

Live animals and food of animal origin (2 inspections)  
TSEs and feedingstuffs

**LITHUANIA**

Live animals and food of animal origin (3 inspections)  
Import controls/border inspection posts  
TSEs and feedingstuffs

**POLAND**

Live animals and food of animal origin (3 inspections)  
TSEs and feedingstuffs  
General food hygiene controls

**ROMANIA**

Live animals and food of animal origin  
Plant health controls  
TSEs and feedingstuffs

**SLOVAKIA**

Live animals and food of animal origin (3 inspections)  
TSEs and feedingstuffs  
General food hygiene controls  
Import controls/border inspection posts

**SLOVENIA**

Live animals and food of animal origin (2 inspections)  
TSEs and feedingstuffs

**TURKEY**

Contaminants in food – aflatoxins  
Food irradiation  
Evaluation of control systems and production standards -  
poultry meat/products/preparations

**FVO Inspections Programme January – June 2003 – Third Countries****EQUIVALENCY AGREEMENT COUNTRIES****UNITED STATES OF AMERICA**

Evaluation of control systems and production standards – fishery products

Evaluation of control systems and production standards – milk/milk products; meat/meat products

**OTHER THIRD COUNTRIES****ALBANIA**

Evaluation of control systems and production standards – live bivalve molluscs

**ALGERIA**

Evaluation of control systems and production standards – fishery products ; live bivalve molluscs

**ARMENIA**

Evaluation of control systems and production standards – fishery products

**AUSTRALIA**

Animal disease eradication/control programmes – Newcastle disease

**BELARUS**

Evaluation of control systems and production standards – fishery products

**BOSNIA AND HERZEGOWINA**

Evaluation of control systems and production standards – food of mammalian origin ; animal health controls-red meat

Evaluation of control systems and production standards – fishery products\*

**BRAZIL**

Contaminants in food – aflatoxins

Evaluation of control systems and production standards – red meat/products/preparations ; animal health controls-red meat\*

Residue controls – red meat

**CHINA**

Residue controls – live animals/animal products

**CONGO (REP. DU)**

Evaluation of control systems and production standards – fishery products

**CROATIA**

Evaluation of control systems and production standards – live bivalve molluscs\*

**EGYPT**

Evaluation of control systems and production standards – fishery products \*

**ERITREA**

Evaluation of control systems and production standards – fishery products

**GUYANA**

Evaluation of control systems and production standards – fishery products

**FVO Inspections Programme January – June 2003 – Third Countries****INDIA**

Evaluation of control systems and production standards – poultry meat/products/preparations ; eggs/egg products\*  
Evaluation of control systems and production standards – fishery products ; live bivalve molluscs

**MEXICO**

Evaluation of control systems and production standards – red meat/products/preparations ; animal health controls-red meat ;  
animal health controls – pig meat\*  
Evaluation of control systems and production standards – poultry meat/products/preparations ; table eggs/products

**NICARAGUA**

Animal health controls-red meat

**PARAGUAY**

Evaluation of control systems and production standards – red meat; animal health controls-red meat

**SAUDIA ARABIA**

Evaluation of control systems and production standards – fishery products

**SOLOMON ISLANDS**

Evaluation of control systems and production standards – fishery products

**ST. HELENA**

Evaluation of control systems and production standards – fishery products

**UNITED ARAB EMIRATES**

Evaluation of control systems and production standards – fishery products

**URUGUAY**

Animal health controls – red meat  
Evaluation of control systems and production standards – farmed game meat

**VIET NAM**

Residue controls – food of animal origin

**YUGOSLAVIA**

Evaluation of control systems and production standards – fishery products

**ZIMBABWE**

Evaluation of control systems and production standards – fishery products

\*Mission will be carried out only under certain conditions