



MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FOOD

BULGARIAN FOOD SAFETY AGENCY

1606 Sofia, 15A Pencho Slaveikov Blvd,
tel.: +359 (0) 2 915 98 20, fax:+359 (0) 2 954 95 93, www.babh.government.bg

REPUBLIC OF BULGARIA

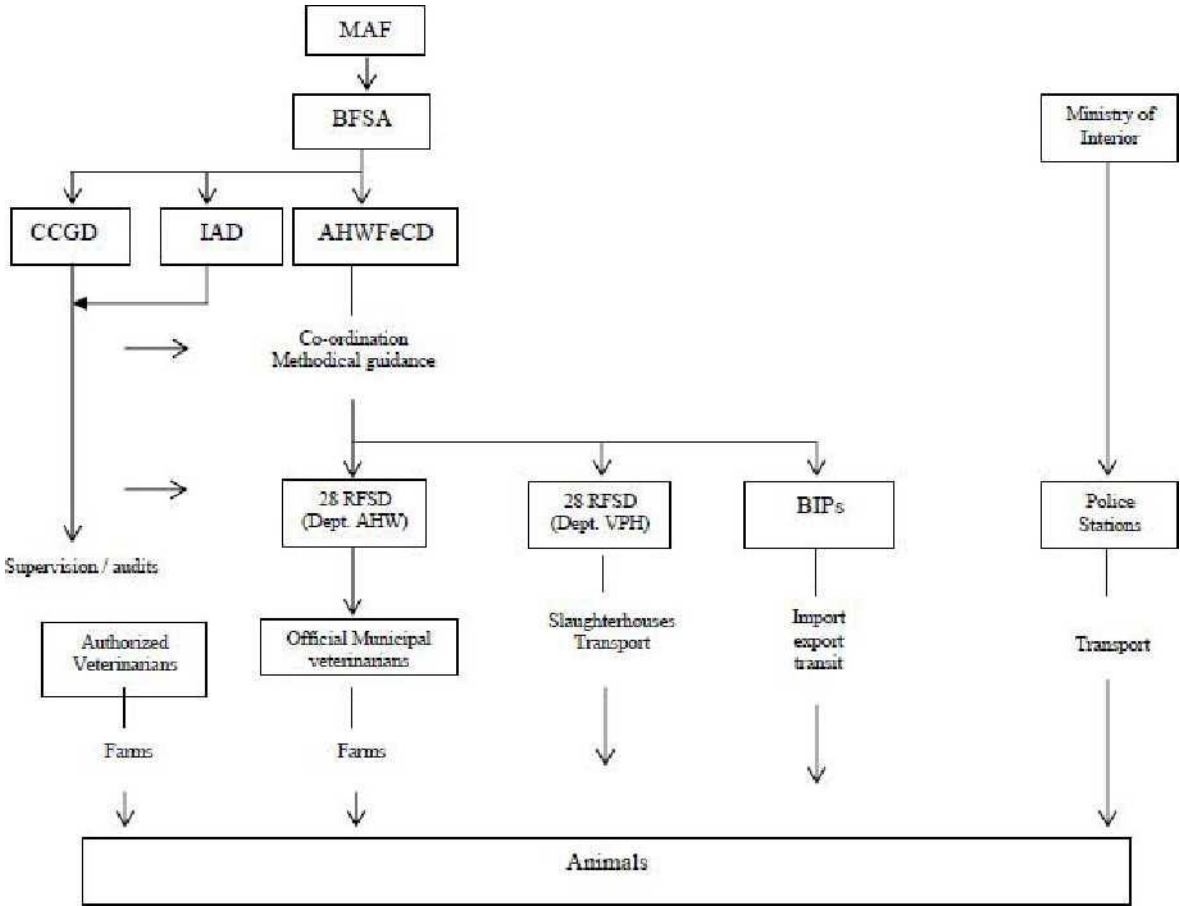
ANNUAL REPORT

FOR 2014

***ON CHECKS CARRIED OUT ON ANIMAL WELFARE
AT FARMS AND DURING TRANSPORT
PURSUANT TO COMMISSION DECISIONS 2006/778/EC AND 2013/188/EU***

The Bulgarian Food Safety Agency (BFSA) is the competent authority for monitoring compliance with animal welfare requirements. The Animal Health and Welfare and Feed Control Directorate (AHWFeCD) at the BFSA central office is responsible for monitoring animal health and welfare and implementing the relevant legislation. The AHWFeCD manages, coordinates and provides methodological guidance to the Regional Food Safety Directorates (RFSDs) with regard to animal welfare.

The organisational chart below shows the competent bodies responsible for the monitoring of compliance with animal welfare requirements and how they interconnect.



- BFSA** Bulgarian Food Safety Agency
- RFSD** Regional Food Safety Directorate
- AHWFeCD** Animal Health and Welfare and Feed Control Directorate
- CCGD** Control and Co-ordination General Directorate
- IAD** Internal Audit Directorate **BIP** Border Inspection Post

Compliance with animal welfare requirements is checked according to an annual plan approved by the BFSA Executive Director. Checks for the official monitoring of animal welfare and protection are scheduled on the basis of risk analysis. The checks are performed at appropriate intervals, and taking into account risks associated with animal welfare and protection already identified in previous inspections. The risk analysis is based on the non-compliances established in the keeping of calves for fattening, pigs and poultry (laying hens and broilers), and those detected during the transport of animals, in accordance with the legal requirements. In implementing the annual plan, the principles of proportionality, accountability, consistency and planned outcome are applied.

In implementation of Commission Decision 2006/778/EU of 14 November 2006 concerning minimum requirements for the collection of information during the inspections of production sites on which certain animals are kept for farming purposes, and Commission Decision 2013/188/EU, the Regional Food Safety Directorates submit to the AHWFeCD at BFSA Central Office an annual report by a clearly specified deadline. The report sets out:

1. The number of checks carried out on compliance with the requirements relating to the welfare of animals kept for farming purposes and non-conformities in 2014;
2. The number of checks carried out on compliance with the requirements relating to the welfare of animals during transport in 2014;
3. In the event of non-implementation of inspection plans, the relevant reasons must be indicated, as well as any corrective action taken by the RFSD;
4. Information on any observed trends towards an improvement in the effectiveness of animal welfare control in 2014.

In the event of establishing non-compliance with animal welfare requirements during inspections, the competent bodies take the following actions:

1. an order is issued to remedy the non-compliance within a deadline of less than three months; no immediate action for imposing administrative or criminal penalties is taken (non-compliance type A);
2. an order is issued to remedy the non-compliance within a deadline of more than three months; no immediate action for imposing administrative or criminal penalties is taken (non-compliance type B);
3. administrative and criminal penalties are imposed (non-compliance type C).

With a view to facilitating implementation of official controls, the AHWFeCD at BFSA Central Office has drawn up regulations on animal welfare;

these are published on the BFSA website:

http://babh.government.bg/bg/actualno-department-health&article_id=107.html

By order No RD 11- 44 of 16.01.2015 issued pursuant to Article 8 of Regulation (EC) No 882/2004, the Executive Director of the BFSA approved the standard operational "Procedure for completing annual reports under Commission Decision 2013/188/EU concerning minimum requirements for the collection of information during the inspections of production sites on which animals are kept for farming purposes and during transport, in accordance with Council Regulation (EC) No 1/2005" (SOP-ZHOZH-03, version 01). The procedure applies from 1 February 2015.

The procedure determines the method for completing the annual tables set out in Commission Decision 2006/778/EU concerning minimum requirements for the collection of information during the inspections of production sites on which certain animals are kept for farming purposes and the checks carried out during transport pursuant to Council Regulation (EC) No 1/2005 of 22 December 2004 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, and Commission Implementing Decision 2013/188/EU of 18 April 2013 on annual reports on non-discriminatory inspections carried out pursuant to Council Regulation (EC) No 1/2005/EU.

The procedure was drawn up in accordance with the applicable EU legislation:

1. 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,
2. Regulation (EC) No 882/2004 on official controls performed to ensure the verification of compliance with feed and food law, animal health and animal welfare rules,
3. Commission Implementing Decision 2013/188/EU on annual reports on non-discriminatory inspections carried out pursuant to Council Regulation (EC) No 1/2005 on the protection of animals during transport and related operations,
4. Commission Decision 2006/778/EC concerning minimum requirements for the collection of information during the inspections of production sites on which certain animals are kept for farming purposes.

Inspectors from the RFSA Food Control Department monitor compliance with animal welfare requirements during slaughter.

I. Farms and production sites where animals are kept for farming purposes

The objective of the official annual monitoring plan approved by the BFSA is to provide an effective system for monitoring and control of compliance with animal health and welfare rules. Annual checks are planned in such a way so as to cover all industrial production sites and farms rearing a considerable number of farm animals.

Out of the total number of inspections (5 196) scheduled in 2014 to monitor compliance with animal welfare rules, 83.26 % (or 4 326) were actually carried out. In 2013, the implementation rate was similar, 83 %. Analysis of the 2013 data showed that quite a large number of sites included in the plan belonged to the category 'back-yard'. In 2014, therefore, fewer checks were carried out on this type of production sites.

Overall, in 2014 about 87.17 % (3 771) of inspected sites complied with the animal welfare requirements laid down in national and European legislation. Non-compliances were identified during inspections at 555 production sites. Orders to remedy the non-conformities and administrative infringement notices were issued accordingly.

16.74 % of scheduled inspections could not be implemented, most of them relating to farms rearing large or small ruminants. In 2013 the main reason for incomplete implementation of scheduled inspections at farms was closure caused by economic and social factors. In 2014 another contributing factor was the epizootic situation of bluetongue in ruminants. Due to the high ruminant mortality as a result of the disease, some deficiencies in the official checks planned for the second half of 2014 were detected.

The level of non-compliances established in 2014 showed a trend toward improved effectiveness of controls implemented by the competent authorities in comparison with 2013. Also, no serious infringements were identified.

The most common infringements include:

- staff not trained to observe animal welfare rules in livestock production on farms;

- inconsistent record keeping (“backyard” farms did not keep records of animal treatments and breeding procedures);
- restricted freedom of movement for calves.

The table below shows the percentage of compliance by sector in 2014 (duck breeding holdings achieved 100 % compliance):

Category	Laying hens	Pigs	Calves	Large ruminants	Sheep	Goats	Ducks
Production sites inspected:	140	264	227	1915	1177	286	155
Production sites without non-compliances	137	243	193	1649	1030	226	155
% compliance	97.86	92.05	85.02	86.11	87.51	79.02	100

Table 1 Rate of compliance (%) by sector

At the time of carrying out control measurements of zoo-hygienic indicators (gases, temperature, humidity, noise, light), the sites inspected met the corresponding requirements.

A comparison between 2013 and 2014 inspection results shows an improvement of the conditions in which animals are kept as regards cages and premises, automatic and mechanical equipment.

In 2014, the Razgrad RFSA carried out 53.33 % more checks as compared to 2013 on poultry rearing sites for the fattening of chickens (broilers). The increase is mainly due to the growing number of production sites rearing chickens (broilers) in the countryside. The non-compliances detected in these farms are mainly linked to exceeding capacity and non-observance of the rearing procedure laid down.

On the territory of the Sliven RFSA, the number of “backyard farms” is decreasing, leading to an improvement in animal welfare.

The analysis of checks carried out in comparison with the previous year points to a tendency on the part of farmers to fulfil their obligations under current animal welfare law, particularly given that some of them are beneficiaries under the Rural Development Programme. Official checks carried out on farms and during transport of live animals are also improving as a result of regular training provided for official veterinarians.

In the pig and poultry sectors there is a positive trend towards compliance with welfare requirements. This is due to the successful utilisation of State aid, namely “Aid for the implementation of voluntary animal welfare activities for poultry” and “Aid for the implementation of voluntary animal welfare activities for pigs”.

Detailed information on the inspections carried out and infringements detected is provided in the table below:

Table 1:

Animal category		Laying hens			Calves	Pigs
		Free range	Barn	Enriched cage		
1	Production sites subject to inspection	6	95	37	361	311
2	Production sites actually inspected	6	97	37	227	264
3	Production sites without non-compliances	6	94	37	193	243
Number of non-compliances concerning						
4	Staff	0	1	0	19	2
5	Inspection	0	1	0	5	1
6	Record keeping	0	3	0	24	8
7	Freedom of movement	0	0	0	12	1
8	Space allowances	0	0	0	2	1
9	Buildings and	0	0	0	10	7
10	Minimum lighting	0	1	0	4	1
11	Flooring surfaces (for pigs)	0	0	0	0	1
12	Manipulable materials	0	0	0	0	1
13	Automatic and mechanical equipment	0	0	0	4	2
14	Feed, water and other substances	0	0	0	5	1
15	Haemoglobin (calves)	0	0	0	4	0
16	Fibrous food (calves and sows)	0	0	0	0	1
17	Mutilations	0	0	0	0	0
18	Rearing procedures	0	0	0	2	0
19	Non-compliance A	0	4	0	31	22
20	Non-compliance B	0	0	0	4	0
21	Non-compliance C	0	0	0	2	1

Table 2:

Number	Animal category	Cattle (except calves)	Sheep	Goats	Domestic fowls (*):	Ratites	Ducks	Geese	Fur animals	Turkeys
1	Production sites subject to inspection	2270	1453	382	157	3	121	0	0	0
2	Production sites actually inspected	1915	1177	286	159	3	155	0	0	0
3	Production sites without non-compliances	1649	1030	226	135	3	155	0	0	0
Number of non-compliances concerning										
4	Staff	95	44	18	5	0	0	0	0	0
5	Inspection	33	13	2	3	0	0	0	0	0
6	Records	74	51	45	4	0	0	0	0	0
7	Freedom of movement	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
8	Buildings and accommodation	102	47	9	3	0	0	0	0	0
9	Automatic and mechanical equipment	59	12	5	0	0	0	0	0	0
10	Feed, water and other substances	86	25	6	0	0	0	0	0	0
11	Mutilations	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
12	Rearing procedures	6	2	1	3	0	0	0	0	0
13	Non-compliance A	164	74	44	11	0	0	0	0	0
14	Non-compliance B	142	51	4	0	0	0	0	0	0
15	Non-compliance C	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
(*) Poultry of the species <i>Gallus gallus</i> , except laying hens										

Measures taken to improve the implementation of animal health and welfare rules and the performance of official controls:

- Training of staff responsible for animal welfare at production sites and organising training sessions with official veterinarians with a view to exchanging experience and information;
- Appointing staff responsible for animal welfare at large production sites featuring intensive rearing technology; they are to pursue a well-defined and clear policy for the implementation of farm animal welfare practices and must have a good knowledge of the applicable regulations;
- Training slaughterhouse staff responsible for compliance with animal welfare requirements at time of slaughter.

II. During transport, in accordance with Article 27 of Regulation (EC) No 1/2005:

Pursuant to Article 27(2) of Regulation (EC) No 1/2005, this report sets out the major deficiencies detected at the time of checks for compliance with animal welfare requirements during transport and the actions taken by the Bulgarian authorities to address them.

Where non-compliance with Regulation (EC) No 1/2005 was established, corresponding sanctions were imposed on legal and natural persons under the Veterinary Practices Act (ZVD). The ZVD amendment of 25 January 2013 introduced a 10- to 40-fold increase in the size of penalties imposed for non-compliance with animal welfare requirements.

Animal welfare during transport is coming increasingly into the spotlight, and farmers are taking the rules more seriously.

In line with the provisions of Regulation (EC) No 1/2005 on the protection of animals during transport, 2014 saw the continuation of the issuing of special licences to drivers of motor vehicles transporting live animals, thus guaranteeing compliance with the rules governing animal welfare and protection during transport.

In 2014, 59 short-haul and 24 long-haul licences were issued. The AHWFCD keeps an up-to-date register of licences issued for the transport of live animals pursuant to Article 166 ZVD. Information on the approved vehicles is kept up to date in the BFSFA computer system:

Regarding the implementation of Article 24(2) of Regulation (EC) No 1/2005, i.e. the sending of reports to other contact points under Regulation (EC) No 1/2005 and the receipt of reports from them in connection with violations of animal welfare detected during transport:

In 2014, three reports were received from other contact points and thirty one reports were sent by the BFSFA contact point to other Member States' contact points. Most of the BFSFA reports were communicated by the official veterinarians at the Kapitan Andreevo border inspection post.

2014 brought a positive trend in the number of reports received concerning detected infringements of the rules on animal welfare during transport.

Figure 3 illustrates the number of reports submitted by the BFSFA on animal welfare violations committed by other Member States' transporters:

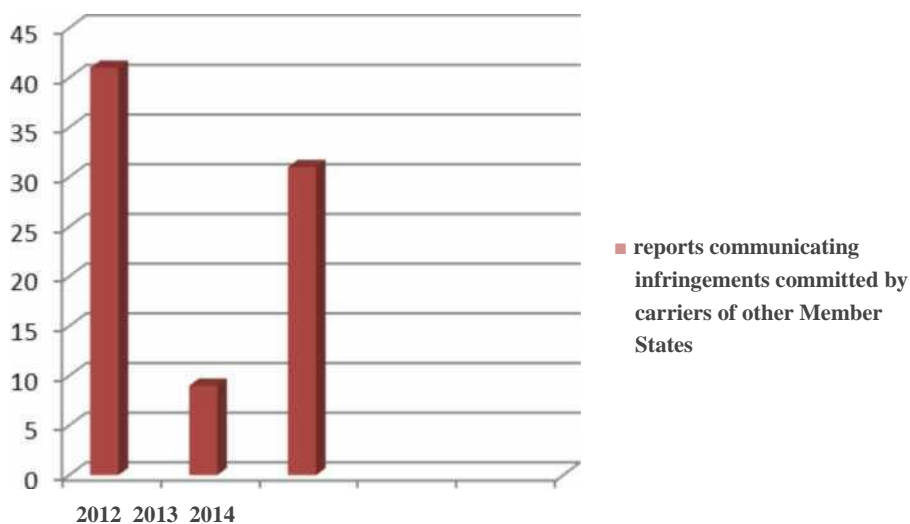


Figure 3: Reports on infringements committed by carriers from other MS

In 2014, a total of 4 282 771 checks were carried out. The percentage of non-compliances detected in 2014 was 4.2 (%). The following table illustrates the above information:

Inspections and cases of non-	2012	2013	2014
Motor vehicles inspected	27205	20660	11631
Non-compliance rate	1.15	0.57	4.2

Table 2 Number of checks and compliance rate (%):

Fewer checks were carried out overall as a result of lower exports of animals and the suspension of movement of live animals because of the bluetongue situation. The number of non-compliances established and administrative infringement notices issued was significantly lower.

Official checks carried out on farms and during transport of live animals are improving as a result of regular training provided for official veterinarians.

Several standard operating procedures relating to compliance with animal welfare requirements were issued in 2014 with a view to improving the effectiveness of controls carried out.

Stepping up inspections to ensure compliance during transport

1. In addition to written instructions and in order to ensure the welfare of animals transported to Turkey, the BFSA requires that the vehicles used are approved for animal transports with a travel time of more than 8 hours, even where the necessary travel time is shorter.
2. Upon detection during official controls, infringements committed by transporters from various Member States in 2014 were promptly notified to the competent authorities pursuant to Article 26 of Regulation (EC) No 1/2005.
3. Penalties: Non-compliance with Regulation (EC) No 1/2005 is punishable by imposition of the penalties provided for in the ZVD on natural and legal persons, as applicable.
4. Follow-up monitoring: Following the infringements observed, regular inspections are carried out by experts so as to ensure compliance with Regulation (EC) No 1/2005.

The tables below set out data from controls carried out during transport in 2014:

Table 1: Types of non-discriminatory inspections carried out pursuant to Article 27(1) of Regulation (EC) No 1/2005															
Species (1)	Large ruminants			Pigs			Small ruminants			Equidae			Other species		
Types of non-discriminatory inspections [2]	at place of departure	during transportation	at place of destination	at place of departure	during transportation	at place of destination	at place of departure	during transportation	at place of destination	at place of departure	during transportation	at place of destination	at place of departure	during transportation	at place of destination
Number of non-discriminatory inspections	669	194	1677	26036	18	108665	58125	61	4396	56	19	1	3885728	36	197091
Number of animals checked	16059	9723	7789	32392	597	318461	66063	4720	19538	315	31	2	5269607	591218	15364255
Number of vehicles inspected	669	194	1351	685	18	4630	446	61	441	56	19	1	306	36	2718
Number of supporting documents checked	669	194	1858	685	18	4841	446	60	484	68	19	1	306	36	3389

Table 2: Category and number of cases of non-compliance with Regulation (EC) No 1/2005 detected during the non-discriminatory inspections

Species (1)	Large ruminants			Pigs			Small ruminants			Equidae			Other species		
Categories of infringement	at place of departure	during transportation	at place of destination	at place of departure	during transportation	at place of destination	at place of departure	during transportation	at place of destination	at place of departure	during transportation	at place of destination	at place of departure	during transportation	at place of destination
Fitness of animals for transport	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Transport practices, space allowances, height	0	6	0	0	3	0	0	2	0	0	8	0	0	0	0
Means of transport and additional provisions for livestock ships, transport in containers	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

and long journeys															
Watering and feeding, journey times and rest periods	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Documentation	0	4	2	0	3	0	0	7	0	0	4	0	0	1	1
Other cases of non-compliance	0	4	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	1	0	0	1	0
Total number of non-compliances	0	14	2	0	6	0	0	11	0	0	13	0	0	2	1

Table 3. Category and number of actions taken by the competent authority following the detection of cases of non-compliances with Regulation (EC) No 1/2005

Species (1)	Large ruminants			Pigs			Small ruminants			Equidae			Other species		
Categories of infringement	at place of departure	during transportation	at place of destination	at place of departure	during transportation	at place of destination	at place of departure	during transportation	at place of destination	at place of departure	during transportation	at place of destination	at place of departure	during transportation	at place of destination
A. Penalties imposed	0	12	5	0	4	0	0	11	3	0	13	0	0	2	1
B. Enforcement and exchange of information	0	1	2	0	2	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0