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Health and Food Safety Directorate General

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Standing Committee on ZOOTECHNICS

30 NOVEMBER 2018

SUMMARY REPORT

A.01 Model forms of zootechnical certificates for breeding animals as laid down in Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2017/717.

At the Working Group meeting of 8 March 2018 an agreement was reached that the zootechnical certificates would follow the layout and format as provided for in Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2017/717 and there can be no deviation from the content which is the minimum information required.

However, some technical details related to issuing of zootechnical certificates still needed to be discussed. The main questions related to the following issues:

- a) necessity of printing footnotes;
- b) possibility of using digital signature;
- c) language of a zootechnical certificate;
- d) possibility of cross-references to other zootechnical certificates or to veterinary certificates,
- e) possibility of empty boxes in a zootechnical certificate.

The agreement was reached that, if no footnotes are included in the zootechnical certificate or the zootechnical certificate is not issued in a language of destination, the format of such zootechnical certificate should be in accordance with Regulation (EU) 2017/717 and include in its title a reference to Regulation (EU) 2017/717 where all language versions are accessible and footnotes explained.

Some Member States pointed out that the pedigree, contained in the model zootechnical certificates laid down in Regulation (EU) 2017/717 in accordance with point 1(l) of Chapter I of Part 2 of Annex V to the Animal Breeding Regulation, requires for parents and grandparents of the breeding animal only a breeding book number. Member States informed that there is also a need to know the individual identification number of those animals allocated in accordance with the Union animal health law.

Note:

The reason behind this request is the change of breeding book numbers when animals are entered in breeding books established by breed societies different from the breed society that entered the animal for the first time (risk of loss of continued identity, similar to the problem referred to in Article 6 of Council Directive 90/427/EEC).

The reference to the breeding book number was introduced because in accordance with the Animal Breeding Regulation animals are to be entered in the breeding book with their animal health identification number, except in case of pigs, where the animal health identification relates to the holding of birth and the breeding pigs must be identified in addition by an individual breeding book number).

The Commission requested Member States to provide, by the end of January 2019, their comments to the model zootechnical certificates laid down in Regulation (EU) 2017/717 indicating necessary amendments to the content of those certificates.

Member States have different experiences as regards use of digital signature. Some of them accept only manual signatures in zootechnical certificates, but others use qualified electronic signature or pre-printed signatures on zootechnical certificates issued on paper where security features are applied.

Having regard to the definition of zootechnical certificate in Article 2(20) of the Animal Breeding Regulation electronic format of zootechnical certificate cannot be excluded. However, if a zootechnical certificate is issued it must comply with the rules on electronic certification (Regulation (EU) No 910/2014 of the European Parliament and of the Council¹). At the same time there are discussions going on, in the framework of Regulation (EU) 2017/625 of the European Parliament and of the Council (the Official Control Regulation) and IMSOC, in relation to electronic certification and electronic signature.

Zootechnical certificates should not have empty boxes unless they are crossed out or kept empty in accordance with the footnotes and explanations, or they include a reference where required information can be found in separate documents or attached sheet of paper.

A.02 Non-use of the model forms for zootechnical certificates in accordance with Article 31(2) of the Animal Breeding Regulation.

Article 31(2) of the Animal Breeding Regulation provides for derogation from the obligation to use model forms of zootechnical certificates. The competent authority may authorise the non-use of the model forms for zootechnical certificates laid down in Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2017/717 for movement within its territory of breeding animals and their germinal products.

Not all Member States are going to implement this derogation. The Commission clarified that the use of the model zootechnical certificates cannot be refused by a receiving breed society or breeding operation.

¹ Regulation (EU) No 910/2014 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 23 July 2014 on electronic identification and trust services for electronic transactions in the internal market and repealing Directive 1999/93/EC (OJ L 257, 28.8.2014, p. 73).

A.03 Zootechnical certificates issued by semen centres and embryo teams in accordance with Article 31(1) of the Animal Breeding Regulation.

Article 31(1) of the Animal Breeding Regulation allows the competent authority to authorise that germinal products are accompanied by a zootechnical certificate issued, on the basis of the information received from the breed society or breeding operation, by a semen collection or storage centre, or by an embryo collection or production team, approved for intra-Union trade in those germinal products in accordance with Union animal health law.

In case the zootechnical certificate for semen of purebred breeding animal is completed only in its Part B (information on semen) by a semen collection or storage centre and Part A for the donor animal remains empty but a copy of the zootechnical certificate issued for this donor breeding animal is attached to the zootechnical certificate for semen, such zootechnical certificate should not be considered as zootechnical certificate issued in accordance with Article 30(6) of the Animal Breeding Regulation (referring essentially to Regulation (EU) 2017/717), but as a zootechnical certificate issued in accordance with Article 31(2) of Regulation (EU) 2016/1012.

A.04 Listing of breeding bodies in accordance with Article 34 of the Animal Breeding Regulation.

The Commission, on a daily basis, is updating the list of breeding bodies which is published at https://ec.europa.eu/food/animals/zootechnics/third_countries_en.

A breeding body may only be included in the list upon the request of an official service of the third country and if documentation received demonstrates that the breeding body meets the requirements provided for in Article 34(2) of the Animal Breeding Regulation. The Commission is not carrying out a systematic and in-depth analysis of a breeding programme of each breeding body for which an application for listing was submitted. Listing is based on the guarantees provided by the official service of the third country that the breeding body for which listing is requested fulfils the requirements of the Animal Breeding Regulation. Therefore, the Commission urged Member States to inform the Commission of any incompliances detected, in particular related to refusal of entry of breeding animals originating from the Union into the breeding book of listed breeding bodies. The Commission will then act in accordance with Articles 34(4) and 60 of the Animal Breeding Regulation.

In accordance with Article 36(1)(d) of the Animal Breeding Regulation any breeding animals that have entered the Union and the offspring produced from germinal products that have entered the Union have the legal right of entry into the main section of a breeding book or breeding register if, amongst others, the breeding body in the third country of dispatch is included in the list of breeding bodies provided for in Article 34 of that Regulation.

The Commission pointed out that so far there are not many breeding bodies for purebred breeding animals of the equine species listed. This may cause a problem with entry into the Union of registered horses from those third countries where-from entry into the Union only of registered horses is authorised in accordance with Regulation (EU) 2018/659. Registered horses are understood, amongst others, as purebred breeding animals of the equine species.

The Commission recommended that breed societies could raise awareness amongst breeding bodies of the requirements laid down in the Animal Breeding Regulation relating to listing of breeding bodies.

A.05 Exchange of experience of Member States as regards the procedure for the notification and approval of breeding programmes carried out in Member States other than the Member State in which the breed society or breeding operation is recognised.

The conclusion of the meeting was that procedures for notification of the intended extension of a geographical territory of a breeding programme should not be complicated and should not create barriers in trade.

The breeding programme which is planned to be extended to a territory of another Member State should be provided in the language version of that another Member State in order to be understandable not only for the competent authorities but first and foremost for the breeders at that territory.

Some Member States have already approved, based on Article 64(6) of the Animal Breeding Regulation on transitional measures, those breeding programmes which were, following notification to the competent authorities, carried out by breeding organisations from different Member States on their territories before 1 November 2018. Breeding programmes previously not notified to the competent authorities are subject to the procedures in accordance with Article 12.

A.06 Information from the Commission on the procedure for notification by Member States of their national legislation based on the Animal Breeding Regulation.

The Commission reminded the Committee about Member States' obligation for notification to the Commission of their national legislation implemented in accordance with Articles 52 and 68 of the Animal Breeding Regulation.

The Commission also reminded about the procedure for such notification. Member States may decide that notification is done in accordance with the procedure based on Directive (EU) 2015/1535. More information about this procedure is available at the Commission webpage: <http://ec.europa.eu/growth/tools-databases/tris/en/>.

A.07 Information concerning the implementation of the Animal Breeding Regulation which Member States shall make publicly available or notify to the Commission.

The Commission requested Member States to verify links to their national webpages displaying information in the area of zootechnics published at the Commission webpage https://ec.europa.eu/food/animals/zootechnics/member_states_en. The Commission highlighted the importance that those links lead directly to information required by the Animal Breeding Regulation and Directive 90/428/EEC, and that all necessary information are accessible. In case the update of the Commission webpage is necessary, a Member State should provide the Commission with the appropriate link to its national webpage.

Furthermore, the Commission requested Member States to provide the up-to-date information required by Directive 90/428/EEC in relation to the criteria laid down for the distribution of funds for the safeguard, development and, improvement of breeding and the number of competitions falling under the derogation referred to in

Article 4(2) of that Directive. That information should be provided by e-mail by 31 December 2018.

M.01 Animal Breeding Regulation.

The Commission requested Member States to inquire with breed societies and breeding operation that their rules of procedures and breeding programmes refer to the Animal Breeding Regulation and not to the zootechnical legislation no longer in force that has been repealed by the Animal Breeding Regulation.

M.02 Date of next Working Group Meeting on Zootechnics.

It was suggested that there will be a Working Group on Zootechnics organised in the first half of 2019.