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Section Zootechnics

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SUMMARY REPORT

A.01 Exchange of views as regards the reasons to refuse an approval of a breeding programme – follow up (Article 10 of Animal Breeding Regulation).

Article 10 of Regulation (EU) 2016/1012 (Animal Breeding Regulation) provides reasons for refusal of approval of breeding programmes submitted by breed societies.

Approval of breeding programmes submitted by breeding operations in accordance with Article 8(1) of Animal Breeding Regulation cannot be refused by the competent authority based on the reasons referred to in Article 10. However, those breeding programmes to be approved must comply with requirements referred to in Article 8(3).

Breeding operations carry out breeding programmes for hybrid breeding pigs, including pure lines, therefore they can only issue zootechnical certificates for hybrid breeding pigs and their germinal products which models are laid down in Annex II to Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2017/717.

Pure lines of hybrid breeding pigs have no legal right of entry into main section of breeding book maintained by breed societies.

A.02 Exchange of views as regards the procedures for the extension of a geographical territory of a breeding programme to a territory of another Member State – follow up (Article 12 of Animal Breeding Regulation).

A translation, into one of the official languages of a Member State, of a breeding programme which geographical territory has been extended to a territory of another Member State, can be requested by the notified authority in accordance with Article 12(2)(b) of Animal Breeding Regulation. That translation should be provided by the applying breed society or breeding operation.

There is no obligation in Animal Breeding Regulation to publish breeding programmes extended to the territory of another Member State on the website of competent authorities. However, some Member States publish information on such breeding programmes.

In first place a breed society or breeding operation recognised in accordance with Article 4(3), should apply for approval of a breeding programme in accordance with

Article 8(3). Information on the geographical territory where the breeding programme is carried out or where it is intended that it will be carried out should be specified as referred to in point 1(e) of Part 2 of Annex I.

A breed society or breeding operation to be recognised by the competent authority must have, in respect of each breeding programmes, a sufficiently large population of breeding animals within the geographical territories to be covered by those breeding programmes, in accordance with point A.4 of Part 1 of Annex I.

A breed society or breeding operation, after being recognised in accordance with Article 4(3) and having a breeding programme approved in accordance with Article 8(3), may request an extension into a territory of another MS of its breeding programme in accordance with Article 12.

A.03 Interpretation of Article 64 of Animal Breeding Regulation (transitional measures) received from the Commission legal services.

In accordance with its Article 69, the Animal Breeding Regulation has become applicable on 1 November 2018, including Articles 12 and 64.

In accordance with Article 64(4), breeders' associations and breeding organisations became breed societies and breeding operations and in accordance with Article 64(5), breeding programmes carried out by breeding organisations and breeders' associations became breeding programmes approved in accordance with Article 8 of Animal Breeding Regulation.

Cross-border extension of breeding activity of breeders' associations and breeding organisations was not regulated under 'old' Directives, but it is regulated in relation to breed societies and breeding operations in Article 12 of Animal Breeding Regulation with effect of 1 November 2018.

Recital 78 and Article 64(6) of Animal Breeding Regulation provide that operators approved under 'old' Directives should not be subjected to the notification procedure (Article 12) if they already carry out breeding programme in a Member State other than Member State of their approval but they should inform the competent authority which approved them about those activities. The competent authority which approved those operators should inform relevant competent authority of that other Member State about those activities.

Measures referred to in Article 64(6) of Animal Breeding Regulation had to be carried out by the breeders' associations and breeding organisations approved in accordance with 'old' Directives before they became breed societies or breeding operations by 1 November 2018. As from 1 November 2018, 'old' Directives have been repealed and there is thus no legal basis to consider the position of the operators approved under those Directives to be different from that of the breed societies or breeding operations recognised in accordance with Article 4 of Animal Breeding Regulation.

As of 1 November 2018 breeders' associations and breeding organisations became breed societies or breeding operations and therefore Article 12 of Animal Breeding Regulation applies to them.

A.04 Exchange of views as regards the rules on recording of animals in a supplementary section of a breeding book (Article 20 of Animal Breeding Regulation).

A purpose of a supplementary section of the breeding book is to upgrade to the main section of the progeny of the animals recorded in that section. An upgrade is not allowed through the male line in the case of bovine, ovine, caprine and porcine animals, except in the case of an endangered breed or a hardy sheep breed.

Animals of the species covered by the breeding programme that are not eligible for entry in the main section can be recorded in a supplementary section, provided that those animals meet the conditions set out in Chapter II of Part 1 of Annex II (such animals should be identified, conform to the characteristics of the breed and where applicable, fulfil at least the minimum performance requirements laid down in the breeding programme).

However, a right to record an animal in a supplementary section does not depend alone on its quality but rather on the prospect of its progeny to become eligible for entry into the main section.

One Member State informed the Commission that after finalising internal discussions the letter will be sent to the Commission on this subject.

A.05 Exchange of views as regards the rules on identity verification (Article 22 of and Annex V to Animal Breeding Regulation, Implementing Regulation (EU) 2017/717).

Article 22 of Animal Breeding Regulation provides that the identity verification is required for purebred breeding animals of the bovine, ovine, caprine and equine species used for the collection of semen for artificial insemination. Those purebred breeding animals should be identified by analysis of their blood group or by any other appropriate method providing at least the same degree of certainty such as DNA analysis.

While for breeding animals of the porcine species used for the collection of semen for artificial insemination and for breeding animals of the bovine, porcine, ovine, caprine and equine species used for the collection of oocytes and embryos the identity verification is not obligatory.

Model forms of zootechnical certificates laid down in Implementing Regulation (EU) 2017/717, in accordance with point 1(h) of Part 2 of Annex V to Animal Breeding Regulation, requires, where applicable, indication of a method and result of the identity verification. However, zootechnical legislation does not provide for details of that information.

The Commission undertook to prepare amendment of model forms of zootechnical certificates laid down in Implementing Regulation (EU) 2017/717 in order to clarify requirements related to the identity verification. It will be consulted in written procedure with Member States.

A.06 Exchange of views as regards the rules for the zootechnical certificate for purebred breeding animals of the equine species as an integral part of the single lifetime identification document.

This agenda point has been discussed together with point C.01.

In accordance with Article 110(1)(a) of Regulation (EU) 2016/429 (Animal Health Law) the competent authority is responsible for issuing of single lifetime identification documents. However, Article 108(5)(c) of Animal Health Law and Article 28 of Regulation (EU) 2017/625 (Official Control Regulation) allow delegation of this task by the competent authority to breed societies.

In addition, Article 5 and 6 of document SANTE/7004/2019 (point C.01 of the agenda) provide that:

- the task related to the identification of equine animals, including issuing of single lifetime identification documents, can be delegated by the competent authority to issuing bodies and natural persons;
- an expertise, equipment and infrastructure is required to carry out the delegated tasks.

The competent authority may delegate the task to the following issuing bodies:

- recognised breed societies which have established breeding books for purebred breeding animals of the equine species;
- national federations and branches of the Fédération Equestre Internationale (FEI) which register horses for competition;
- issuing bodies which manage identification information of equidae as regards breeding, competition and races.

Part 2 of Annex I to document SANTE/7004/2019 provides additional requirements for the single lifetime identification document, including that it should ‘have a distinct cover (front and back) that provides sufficient protection, which may be embossed with the logo of the issuing body, and may have a pocket at the inside back cover for the insertion of pages containing Sections IV to X, as appropriate’.

One Member State requested the standardisation of the size of the single lifetime identification document while another Member State clarification procedures for inserting Sections.

C.01 Exchange of views of the Committee on draft Commission Implementing Regulation laying down rules for the application of Regulation (EU) 2016/429 with regard to the identification of equine animals, incorporating the model forms for entering the information necessary to apply Articles 112(4) and 115(5) of Regulation (EU) 2019/6 and of the zootechnical certificate for purebred breeding animals of the equine species in accordance with Regulation (EU) 2016/1012, providing forms for competition and racing purposes, and repealing Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2015/262 (‘Equine Passport Regulation’).

The Commission presented the document SANTE/7004/2019 which is a draft Commission Implementing Regulation laying down rules on the identification of equine animals. This draft Commission Implementing Regulation will essentially replace Implementing Regulation (EU) 2015/262.

It will become applicable on 21 April 2021 together with Animal Health Law and Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) 2019/2035. This date of application is also important to provide legal certainty on the issuing of identification documents when Article 8(1) of Directive 90/427/EEC ceases to apply on 21 April 2021 in

accordance with Article 64(3) of Animal Breeding Regulation. As of 21 April 2021, issuing of identification documents will be a task of a competent authority in a form of simple documents consisting of Sections I and II. Such simple identification documents, for purebred breeding animals, could be later on supplemented by studbooks with additional Sections.

This draft Commission Implementing Regulation will set out the rules related to the system for identification and registration of equidae (horses). It will lay down the model identification document for equidae (the equine passport) which will provide identification of the animal, document its food producing status (exclusion from the food chain only based on medication records), will serve as zootechnical certificate for breeding purposes and will contain information necessary to compete or race.

It will also lay down procedures for electronic identification of animals, where relevant, the uniform access to data contained in, and the technical specifications and operational rules of, the computer databases for equidae and the modalities for the exchange of electronic data between computer databases of Member States.

However, following the adoption of Regulation (EU) 2019/6, which will be applicable on 28 January 2022, the part of the proposed Implementing Regulation which will contain the new model identification document should only be applicable as of that date.

M.01 Exchange of views related to the issuing of zootechnical certificates for semen of purebred breeding animals - experiences of Member States and problems encountered.

The Commission informed Member States about problems related to the issuing of zootechnical certificates notified by private sector. It was claimed that a competent authority of one Member State introduced the following limitations:

- Separation of Part B from Part A of zootechnical certificate was not allowed;
- Part A of zootechnical certificate or zootechnical certificate for the donor in colour copy and printing of Part B of zootechnical certificate on this colour copy required;
- Delivery slip required to be attached to zootechnical certificate (harmonised form of a delivery slip);
- A stamp on zootechnical certificate required;
- Copies of all zootechnical certificates which were issued for semen so far were required;
- Semen collection and storage centres were not allowed to issue Part B of zootechnical certificates.

The Commission urged Member States to look into this matter and respect provision of Animal Breeding Regulation and Implementing Regulation (EU) 2017/717.

M.02 Information point on EU-UK readiness and preparedness as from 1 January 2021.

One Member State requested some information concerning situation in animal breeding area between the Union and the United Kingdom as from 1 January 2021.

The United Kingdom has published their zootechnical rules at the following webpage: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/lists-of-recognised-animal-breeding-organisations/guide-to-zootechnical-rules-and-standards>

To enter animals or germinal products into an EU breeding book, they must have either:

- an approved extended breeding programme in the UK; or
- a zootechnical certificate issued by a UK breeding body listed by the Commission and physically present the Union.

The list of breeding bodies of the UK is published at the following Commission webpage: https://ec.europa.eu/food/animals/zootechnics/non-eu_countries_en

A UK breeding body, even if listed in accordance with Article 34 of Regulation (EU) 2016/1012, cannot extend the geographical area of application of its breeding programme into a Member State. Consequently, it cannot issue zootechnical certificates in accordance with the Regulation (EU) 2016/1012 for animals kept in the Union.

According to the draft Animal breeding law in the UK, breed societies will be allowed to extend their area of activity into the UK.

At the same time, breeders in the Union were early enough warned to ensure their animals are registered in breeding books in the Union. The same would apply for UK breeders having their animals in breeding books in the Union, also they were warned in time to have their breeding animals entered in breeding books in the UK.

M.03 Future European Strategy for Genetic Resource.

One Member State requested a discussion on the following points:

- Exchanges of views about future European Strategy for Genetic Resources;
- Connection to other policies (Green Deal, Farm to Fork and Biodiversity strategies, CAP, ABS, FAO Global Action Plans, Sustainable Development Goals (SDG), Climate Change, etc.) and support from the Union;
- Involvement and coordination of different departments, institutions and actors;
- Contributions from the Animal Breeding Regulation and Standing Committee on Zootechnics and possibilities of development of this strategy, in particular with the tools and framework provided by the Animal Breeding Regulation: breeding programs, engagement and regulation of some operators, data infrastructure, future Reference Centre, etc.

The Commission suggested a smaller group of experts to prepare the subject before discussing it with all Member States.