

Ministry of Agriculture, Food and the Environment

DIRECTORATE-GENERAL FOR INDUSTRY AND FOOD MARKETS

SUBDIRECTORATE-GENERAL FOR LIVESTOCK PRODUCTS

Official letter

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Subject: Reporting on animal welfare checks in 2011

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Please find enclosed reports relating to the official checks performed in Spain in 2011 in accordance with the legislation on animal welfare:

Annex I: Information in accordance with Article 8 of Decision 2006/778/EC 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.

Annex II: Information in accordance with Article 27 of Regulation (EC) No 1/2005 of 22 December 2004 on the protection of animals during transport and related operations.

The figures used were taken from the same sources as were used for earlier reports, apart from the figures for the number of laying hen holdings, which have been updated in accordance with the roadmap for the adaptation of the laying hen sector to the legislation on animal welfare.

The Head of the Subdirectorates-General

Esperanza Orellana Moraleda



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Main irregularities detected and action plan

1. Welfare on holdings

Generally speaking, no major changes were observed in the type of irregularities detected during the inspections conducted of holdings compared to 2010. The main shortcomings detected related to documentation and to procedural infringements such as insufficient training for staff.

In some cases, facilities for isolating sick or injured animals were found to be insufficient or non-existent: this primarily concerned poultry holdings.

Inspections have continued to detect - albeit less frequently - other shortcomings such as insufficient freedom of movement for confined animals, structural elements made of unsuitable materials, insufficient access to water or lack of cleanliness of such water, and insufficient protection against adverse weather conditions for free-range animals.

In the case of pigs, the main shortcoming was the lack of manipulable materials or the unsuitability of the materials used.

Of particular note in 2011 was the special emphasis placed on checking the laying hen holdings that come within the scope of RD 3/2002 of 11 January 2002, which transposed Council Directive 1999/74/EC of 19 July 1999 laying down minimum standards for the protection of laying hens into Spanish law. The measures adopted included the preparation and adoption of a specific action plan, the enactment of Royal Decree 773/2011 of 3 June 2011, and the revision of the documented procedure for official checks to verify compliance with the legislation on the protection of laying hens. Throughout 2011 all holdings keeping more than 350 hens were inspected with a view to determining the extent to which they had adapted to the new legislation.

For 2012, the action plan provides for the current level of inspections of laying hen holdings to be maintained. In the case of pigs, and in view of the fact that the requirements laid down in Directive 2008/120/EC will become enforceable from 1 January 2013 onwards, the plan makes provision for checks on pig holdings to be stepped up throughout 2012. Several Autonomous Communities have set themselves the target of inspecting 100% of holdings with capacity for 10 or more sows, regardless of the number of animals actually held there.

Throughout 2011, special emphasis was placed on training in animal welfare, aimed at both livestock holders and the official veterinary services and focussing in particular on the welfare of laying hens and pigs: the plan for 2012 will continue along the same lines.

The production of road maps for the adaptation of the laying poultry and pig sectors to the legislation on animal welfare has further enhanced the existing coordination between

the competent central and regional authorities. Provision has been made for this enhanced coordination, associated with the creation of working groups, to continue throughout 2012.

2. WELFARE DURING TRANSPORT

In 2011 there were 3 345 physical inspections during transport operations, both in markets and in the places of origin or destination of the movements. This represents a 17.5% increase on the figure for 2010. Instances of non-compliance were detected in 518 cases (13% less than in 2010). The ratio of the number of inspections to the number of instances of non-compliance has thus fallen from 0.21 to 0.16, which is a very positive development.

A comparison of these figures with those from the two previous years reveals a rise in the number of inspections (from fewer than 2 300 in 2009 to 3 345 in 2011). As a result of this increased number of inspections, combined with the routine application of Law 32/2007 of 7 November 2007 and the considerable efforts made to train inspectors and operators in animal welfare over the past few years, in the space of just two years it has been possible to improve the ratio of checks to instances of non-compliance by reducing it from 0.24 to 0.16; this illustrates the progressive and clear improvement in the extent of implementation of the legislation on the protection of animals during transport.

It is important to stress that, proportionally, the vast majority of the instances of non-compliance do not concern activities that might have an adverse effect on the welfare of the animals inspected, but rather relate to documentary issues. Accordingly, the most frequent shortcomings relating to documentation have been the following:

- Irregularities in completion of journey logs, mainly as regards Section 3 thereof.
- Delays in returning the satellite navigation system records.
- Transporter's operations log incorrectly completed or missing.
- Absence of certification that vehicle has been cleaned and disinfected.

Of particular note in 2011 were the checks carried out on animals transported on livestock carriers. Such checks include an inspection of the vessels, a documentary check on the land and sea transport used, checks on the journey logs and a physical inspection of the animals at the point of departure to verify their fitness to undertake the journey.

In 2011 the emphasis was placed principally on two general lines of activity to improve the performance and guarantee the effectiveness of checks. Firstly, it was considered essential to increase coordination between the activities of the various inspecting authorities (animal welfare, animal health, cross-compliance, public health). Secondly, it was considered appropriate to step up training in animal welfare, both for the inspectors working in this area and for the various operators (livestock holders, transporters, keepers, etc.).

Coordination: The departments competent for animal welfare at State and Autonomous Community level have continued to coordinate their activities not only to design standardised forms for reporting on the various types of inspections but also to produce an implementation guide and clarifications for each of these standardised forms. In this connection the DG for food production and markets has set up a series of contacts, meetings and joint working groups with the Autonomous Communities.

Training: Given the proportion of irregularities detected that could be attributed to a lack of training or information on animal welfare, a number of training courses have been organised for private operators and for inspectors, at all levels (State and Autonomous Communities) and in the various areas (pigs, laying hens, handling of animals, transport, feed, etc).

The action plan for 2012 places special emphasis on the renewal of permits for transporters and vehicles, since most of the operators in activity obtained their permits in 2007 and most of them will lapse in 2012. Priority has been given to ensuring that the examination of the documentation provided to accompany the requests and that the physical inspections of the vehicles for which renewed permits are sought should guarantee compliance with the provisions of the legislation on animal welfare. Similarly, priority will be given to disseminating, at national level, the results of the meetings of competent authorities of the Member States being held in Grange (FVO) as regards both the implementation of the standardised interpretation criteria and the promotion of best practices.

Decision 778:

	LAYING HENS				CALVES	PIGS
	free range	barn	EC	UEC		
Production sites subject to inspection	62	24	61	539	23852	81566
Production sites inspected	22	21	30	293	3732	2913
Production sites without non-compliance	23	22	22	206	3477	2172
Staffing	2	0	0	11	7	414
Inspection	0	0	1	0	25	79
Record keeping	0	2	0	14	128	183
Freedom of movement	1	0	0	1	87	32
Space	0	0	4	15	41	28
Buildings and accommodation	2	4	3	30	80	99
Minimum lighting	0	1	0	9	47	15
Flooring surfaces (for pigs)	0	0	0	0	3	43
Manipulable materials	0	0	0	0	0	95

Automatic and mechanical equipment	0	3	1	3	4	47
Feed and water	1	1	0	0	50	51
Haemoglobin	0	0	0	0	24	0
Fibrous food	0	0	0	0	0	6
Mutilations	0	0	0	5	4	31
Breeding procedures	0	0	0	1	35	43
Non-compliance A	4	2	4	29	300	279
Non-compliance B	0	0	6	37	125	260
Non-compliance C	2	0	0	8	22	70

		Cattle (except calves)	Sheep	Goats	Hens (except laying hens)	Ratites	Ducks	Geese	Fur animals	Turkeys
1	Production sites subject to inspection	142746	105326	64891	6010	191	116	37	121	364
2	Production sites inspected	4787	3045	887	324	12	17	48	22	38
3	Production sites without non-compliance	4572	2791	653	246	8	17	48	20	37
4	Staffing	46	84	40	34	0	0	2	0	1
5	Inspection	58	42	21	0	0	0	0	0	0
6	Record keeping	213	214	95	32 ¹	2	0	0	1	0
7	Freedom of movement	39	9	2	1	1	0	1	0	0
8	Buildings and accommodation	168	112	54	12	1	0	0	0	0
9	Automatic and mechanical equipment	49	11	6	13	1	0	0	1	0
10	Feed and water	70	24	17	2	0	0	0	0	0
11	Mutilations	48	24	9	1	1	0	0	0	0
12	Breeding procedures	43	5	1	0	1	0	0	0	0
13	Non-compliance A	266	155	72	51	4	0	0	2	1

14	Non-compliance B	208	100	81	6	2	0	2	0	0
15	Non-compliance C	43	35	11	6	0	0	1	0	0