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Annual report from the Republic of Bulgaria on checks performed in 2012 concerning animal welfare on farms and during transport in accordance with Commission Decision 2006/778/EU

The Bulgarian Food Safety Agency (BABH) is the official competent body for monitoring compliance with animal welfare requirements.

Checks on compliance with animal welfare requirements are made on the basis of an annual plan approved by the Director-General of the Bulgarian Food Safety Agency. The official checks on animal welfare and protection are planned on the basis of a risk analysis and with appropriate frequency, taking account of risks identified in relation to animal welfare and protection noted during previous checks.

The risk analysis is based on non-compliances detected concerning the keeping of calves for fattening, pigs and birds (laying hens and broilers) and non-compliances during animal transport in accordance with legal requirements.

When performing checks on the compliance with the requirements on animal welfare if breaches are detected, the following action is taken:

- An order to address the non-compliance within a deadline of less than 3 months is issued, with no immediate action for administrative or criminal penalties;
- An order to address the non-compliance within a deadline of more than 3 months is issued, with no immediate action for administrative or criminal penalties;
- Administrative or criminal penalties;

In order to facilitate the implementation of official controls, the Animal Health and Welfare Directorate at the Central Office of the Bulgarian Food Safety Agency has prepared regulations on animal welfare. These documents are published on the BABH webpage:

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

I. Livestock farms:

4889 checks on holdings have been performed in order to check compliance with animal welfare rules.

Orders have been issued with regard to breaches detected and administrative infringement notices have been drawn up.

In 2012, the top priority with regard to checks on holdings is ensuring compliance with the ban on keeping laying hens in unenriched cages.

The efforts and professional work of the BABH experts and the coordination and methodical management of the divisions in the country has helped the country to avoid infringement proceedings for failure to comply with the commitments resulting from accession to the EU.

In the first half of 2012, checks on laying hen holdings were aimed at ensuring compliance with the ban on rearing laying hens in unenriched cages. From 1 June 2012, Bulgaria effectively implemented the ban on egg production in laying hen farms in which unenriched cages were used in accordance with Article 5 of Directive 1999/74/EC.

In 2012 Bulgaria has drawn up and implemented a detailed action plan on the country's readiness to comply with the requirements concerning group housing of sows and as a result of the actions taken as from 1 January 2013 all holdings with over 10 sows meet the minimum requirements for group housing according to Council Directive 2008/120/EC laying down minimum standards for the protection of pigs.

Detailed information on the checks performed and infringements detected is contained in the table below:

Table 1:

Animal category		Laying hens				Calves	Pigs
		Free range	Barn	Enriched cages	Unenriched cages		
1	Production sites subject to inspections	4	96	39	11	369	378
2	Production sites inspected	5	117	43	18	270	334
3	Production sites without non compliance	4	86	28	0	218	293
Number of non-compliances concerning							
4	Staffing	0	1	2	0	59	9
5	Inspection	0	1	0	0	5	4
6	Record keeping	0	4	3	0	11	6
7	Freedom of movement	0	0	2	1	13	0
8	Space allowances	0	1	2	4	1	2
9	Buildings and accommodation	1	15	5	11	38	17
10	Minimum lighting	0	0	0	1	0	6
11	Flooring surfaces (for pigs)	0	0	0	0	0	1
12	Manipulable materials	0	0	0	0	0	1
13	Automatic and mechanical equipment	0	5	3	0	7	1
14	Feed, water and other substances	0	1	0	1	6	6
15	Haemoglobin (calves)	0	0	0	0	0	0
16	Fibrous food (calves and sows)	0	0	0	0	0	1
17	Mutilations	0	0	0	0	0	2

18	Breeding procedures	0	0	0	9	0	7
19	Non compliance A	0	18	5	19	36	26
20	Non compliance B	1	3	2	0	3	7
21	Non compliance C	0	0	3	20	2	7

Table 2:

Animal category (number)	Cattle (except calves)	Sheep	Goats	Domestic fowls (*)	Ratites	Ducks	Geese	Fur animals	Turkeys	
1	Production sites subject to inspection	2698	2734	828	1976	6	96	25	0	31
2	Production sites inspected	2163	1225	266	230	4	209	3	0	2
3	Production sites without non compliance	1650	931	170	208	4	160	3	0	2
Number of non-compliances concerning										
4	Staffing	176	110	11	14	0	9	0	0	0
5	Inspection	29	6	5	2	0	6	0	0	0
6	Record keeping	112	82	25	5	0	7	0	0	0
7	Freedom of movement	7	15	3	0	0	0	0	0	0
8	Buildings and accommodation	191	101	17	5	0	7	0	0	0
9	Automatic and mechanical equipment	44	18	0	1	0	12	0	0	0
10	Feed, water and other substances	212	82	10	0	0	4	0	0	0
11	Mutilations	6	10	0	0	0	1	0	0	0
12	Breeding procedures	5	3	0	0	0	13	0	0	0
13	Non compliance A	139	61	19	6	0	11	0	0	0
14	Non compliance B	168	73	4	1	0	0	0	0	0
15	Non compliance C	47	39	5	2	0	0	0	0	0

(*) Poultry of the species *Gallus gallus* except laying hens

II. During transport, in accordance with the requirements in Article 27 of Council Regulation (EC) No 1/2005 of 22 December 2004:

In connection with Article 27(2) of Council Regulation (EC) No 1/2005 of 22 December 2004, the report presents the main breaches detected in the checks on compliance with animal welfare requirements during transport and the measures taken by the Bulgarian authorities to address them.

Stepping up inspections to ensure compliance during transport

.1. The following documents have been issued with a view to improving and properly implementing the regulatory framework concerning the humane treatment of animals during transport:

- Instructions regarding the transport of small ruminants (sheep), approved by Order No RD 11-33/21.03.2012 of the Executive Director of the BABH;
- Instructions regarding the transport of large ruminants, approved by Order No RD 11-921/18.07.2012 of the Executive Director of the BABH;
- Instructions regarding the transport of equidae (horses, ponies and other domestic animals), approved by Order No RD 11-921/18.07.2012 of the Executive Director of the BABH.

These instructions are binding for all those who transport animals as part of an economic activity and apply to all animal transports undertaken for profit by a person or company as part of a business or commercial activity, regardless of whether the person or company in question has a direct or indirect link to the profitable activity.

2. In order to ensure the welfare of animals transported to Turkey the BABH additionally requires the use of transport vehicles approved for animal transports with a travel time of more than 8 hours, even where the required travel time is shorter.

3. In 2012 inspectors found that transporters from various Member States were not in compliance. This was duly reported to the competent authorities pursuant to Article 26 of the Regulation. From 1 January to 31 December 2012 a total of 41 infringements were reported, 29 of which concerned Hungarian transporters.

To prevent this from occurring in the future the BABH Chief Veterinary and Sanitary Inspector (CVO) sent a letter (Ref. No 7386-3Ж) to his Hungarian counterpart on 12 December 2012 calling for immediate measures to enforce the Regulation.

4. Penalties

Non compliance with the Regulation carries penalties under the Veterinary Practice Act for both natural and legal persons. The Act was amended (25 January 2013) to increase the amounts of the penalties by 10 to 40 times.

5. Ex-post monitoring

Following the breaches reported in 2012 the BABH central office has increased the frequency of the inspections.

On 5 and 6 July 2012 a meeting was held with the heads of the animal health departments of the BABH provincial offices (ODBH). They were instructed to monitor the humane treatment of animals during transport effectively, thereby ensuring compliance with the Regulation.

On 27 September 2012 a training session entitled 'Using navigation systems referred to in Annex I, Chapter VI, paragraph 4.3 of Regulation (EC) No 1/2005' was held for all 28 officials responsible for the humane treatment of animals at the provincial level, staff from the BABH central office and officials from the Kalotina and Kapitan Andreevo border inspection points.

Following the controls carried out and breaches detected in 2012, five licences for the transport of live animals were revoked.

The details concerning the breaches and the action taken in response are published on the BABH website to ensure that the public is properly informed.

In line with the provisions of Council Regulation (EC) No 1/2005 of 22 December 2004 on the protection of animals during transport, the issuing of licences to drivers for transport of live animals continued in 2012, thereby ensuring compliance with animal welfare rules and protection during transport.

161 licences were issued in 2012 for short distance transportation and 29 for long-distance transportation.

The tables below contain data on the checks carried out during transport in 2012.

Table 3

Annual report on animal protection during transport

Year: 2012

Animals transported (number)		1. Cattle	2 Pigs	3. Small ruminants	4 Equidae	5 Poultry and rabbits	6 Other species
a Slaughtered		27 945	724 290	208 720	147	52 493 554	0
b Exported		58 365	670	89 075	246	680 825	196
c Imported for breeding		34	155	18	24	491 772	0
d Other transported animals		8 853	58 645	61 089	937	27 600 925	6 082
a+b+c+d		95 197	783 760	358 902	1 354	81 267 076	6 278
Number of checks	1 In a transport vehicle	Number of Animals					
		2 Cattle	3 Pigs	4. Small ruminants	5 Equidae	6 Poultry and rabbits	7 Other species
a During transport	1 552	2 581	64 738	5 110	106	1 615	5 876
b At the final destination	19 127	14 893	354 645	27 145	203	15 408 059	660
c1 At markets	149	3 384	217	392	0	57 204	0
c2 At the point of departure	1 575	15 972	14 320	87 006	493	4 439 996	189
c3 At the rest area	397	19 693	0	2 789	0	0	0
c4 At interim points	4 400	131 065	180	121 776	283	680 225	53
a+b+c1+c2+c3+c4	27 200	187 588	434 100	244 218	1 085	20 587 099	6 778
d Document checks	21 980	8 306	96 167	32 755	277	15 234 006	3 468

Number of infringements	1 In a transport vehicle	Number of Animals					
		2 Cattle	3 Pigs	4. Small ruminants	5 Equidae	6 Poultry and rabbits	7 Other species
a During transport	187	108	354	597	55	1 415	2 676
b At the final destination	72	279	80	1 361	11	0	0
c1 At markets	4	10	18	0	0	48	0
c2 At the point of departure	51	52	34	1 118	1	0	0
c3 At the rest area	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
c4 At interim points	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
a+b+c1+c2+c3+c4	314	449	486	3 076	67	1 463	2 676
d Document checks	87	348	149	1 589	55	180	2 676

Table 4:

Ratios:							
Percentage of checks on transported animals	All species	1 Cattle	2 Pigs	3. Small ruminants	4 Equidae	5 Poultry and rabbits	6 Other species
%		197,12%	55,39%	68,05%	80,13%	25,33%	107,96%
Percentage of checks	1 In a transport vehicle	Number of Animals					
		2 Cattle	3 Pigs	4. Small ruminants	5 Equidae	6 Poultry and rabbits	7 Other species
a During transport	5.70%	1.38%	14.91%	2.09%	9.77%	0.01%	86.69%
b At the final destination	70.31%	7.95%	81.70%	11.12%	18.71%	74.84%	9.74%
c1 At markets	0.55%	1.80%	0.05%	0.16%	0.00%	0.28%	0.00%

c2 At the point of departure	5.80%	8.53%	3.30%	35.63%	45.44%	21.57%	2.79%
c3 At the rest area	1.46%	10.49%	0.00%	1.14%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%
c4 At interim points	16.17%	69.85%	0.04%	49.86%	26.08%	3.30%	0.78%
Percentage of infringements per category	1 In a transport vehicle	Number of Animals					
		2 Cattle	3 Pigs	4. Small ruminants	5 Equidae	6 Poultry and rabbits	7 Other species
a During transport	59.55%	24.05%	72.84%	19.41%	82.09%	96.72%	100.00%
b At the final destination	22.93%	62.14%	16.46%	44.25%	16.42%	0.00%	0.00%
c1 At markets	1.27%	2.23%	3.70%	0.00%	0.00%	3.28%	0.00%
c2 At the point of departure	16.24%	11.58%	7.00%	36.35%	1.49%	0.00%	0.00%
c3 At the rest area	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%
c4 At interim points	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%
Percentage of infringements during the checks	1 In a transport vehicle	Number of Animals					
		2 Cattle	3 Pigs	4. Small ruminants	5 Equidae	6 Poultry and rabbits	7 Other species
a During transport	12.05%	4.18%	0.55%	11.68%	51.89%	87.62%	45.54%
b At the final destination	0.38%	1.87%	0.02%	5.01%	5.42%	0.00%	0.00%
c1 At markets	2.68%	0.30%	8.29%	0.00%	0.00%	0.08%	0.00%

c2 At the point of departure	3.23%	0.32%	0.24%	1.28%	0.20%	0.00%	0.00%
c3 At the rest area	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%
c4 At interim points	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%
% ratio of physical checks	1.15%	0.24%	0.11%	1.26%	6.18%	0.01%	39.48%
d Documentary checks	0.40%	4.19%	0.15%	4.85%	19.86%	0.00%	77.16%