

1. SCoFAH / Animal health and import conditions & controls sections / Tuesday 6th May 2014 - Outcomes

A favourable opinion was delivered within the import conditions & controls part of the Committee section on a number of draft Decisions / Regulations, such as the following three:

1.1. Draft Decision amending the Annexes to Commission Decisions 92/260/EEC, 93/197/EEC and 2004/211/EC with regard to the animal health and veterinary certification conditions for the importation of registered horses from certain parts of the territory of India.

1.2. Draft Regulation amending the list of third countries, territories, zones or compartments set out in Part 1 of Annex I as regards the entry for Malaysia with respect to highly pathogenic avian influenza and as regards the model veterinary certificates for the import of poultry, day-old chicks, hatching eggs, meat of poultry and farmed ratites and eggs set out in Part 2 of Annex I to Regulation (EC) No 798/2008.

EU Commission Regulation (EC) No 798/2008:

- provides that the commodities falling within its scope of application are only to be imported into and transit through the Union from the third countries, territories, zones or compartments listed in columns 1 and 3 of the table in Part 1 of Annex I thereto.
- lays down the veterinary certification requirements for the commodities concerned. Those requirements take into account whether or not specific conditions are required due to the disease status of those third countries, territories, zones or compartments. Those specific conditions, as well as the model veterinary certificates required to accompany imports of those commodities, are set out in Part 2 of Annex I to that Regulation.

The purposes of the amendments are:

- ✚ to lift the animal health restrictions in relation to imports of eggs for human consumption with respect to highly pathogenic avian influenza originating in Malaysia. Nevertheless, imports of eggs for human consumption will continue to be prohibited due to the remaining restrictions due to the absence of an approved Salmonella control programme.
- ✚ to update the model veterinary certificate to allow a more convenient recording of the information on vaccination against the Newcastle disease in a tabular format.
- ✚ to clarify the veterinary certification requirements for the imports of meat of farmed ratites for human consumption into the Union from "registered closed ratite holdings" in South Africa.
- ✚ to establish veterinary certification requirements for imports of day-old chicks and hatching eggs from all third countries authorised for such imports in order to align those requirements with those being applied within the Union in the case of a low pathogenic avian influenza outbreak.

- ✚ to indicate and attest the guarantees in model veterinary certificates for the import of poultry or hatching eggs with regard to a control programme for Salmonella with equivalent guarantees to those contained in the national control programmes for Salmonella in the Member States.
- ✚ to amend the model veterinary certificate for meat of poultry (POU) set out in Part 2 of Annex I in order to include the poultry gizzards, and the HS code 0504. A period will be allowed to elapse before the amended model veterinary certificates become mandatory, in order to allow Member States and the industry to adapt to the new requirements set out in the amended model veterinary certificates.

1.3. Draft Decision amending Decision 2011/163/EU on the approval of plans submitted by third countries in accordance with Article 29 of Council Directive 96/23/EC.

Decision 2011/163/EU approves the plans submitted by the third countries for the animals and animal products. In the light of the recent plans submitted by certain third countries and additional information obtained by the Commission, the draft Decision aims at updating the list of third countries from which Member States are authorised to import certain animals and animal products, for:

- The Pitcairn Islands & Rwanda for honey,
- **Ukraine for bovine and porcine.**

1.4. Draft Regulation on protection measures in relation to porcine diarrhoea caused by a deltacoronavirus as regards the animal health requirements for the introduction into the Union of spray dried blood and blood plasma of porcine origin intended for the production of feed for farmed porcine animals.

The Regulation has already been adopted by the EU Commission [Regulation (EU) No 483/2014 of 8 May 2014] and published in the Official Journal L 138 of 13/05/2014 ([LINK](#))

Next meeting: 6th June 2014.

2. SCoFAH / Biological safety section / Tuesday 13th May 2014 - Outcomes

A favourable opinion was delivered within the Committee on only one draft i.e.

Draft Regulation amending Annex III of Regulation (EC) No 853/2004 as regards the handling of certain offal from animals intended for human consumption.

It had been discussed at the SCoFAH meetings held on 13th February & 8th April 2014.

Regulation (EC) No 853/2004 lays down specific hygiene rules for food of animal origin. It provides that food business operators are to ensure compliance with specific requirements for the further handling of offal such as stomachs of calves and animal feet.

In accordance with Annex III, prior to being transported to another establishment, animal feet destined for further handling are to be skinned or scalded and depilated and stomachs of calves must be scalded or cleaned within the slaughterhouse.

The equipment necessary to perform the skinning or scalding and depilating requires a high investment. Therefore, small- and medium-sized slaughterhouses are not able to handle these feet destined for human consumption.

While technological developments allow the valorization of these animal feet into food thereby reducing food waste, small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) are facing practical consequences, hindering such valorization.

Furthermore, rennet is refined for the production of cheese and is obtained from stomachs of calves in dedicated establishments. Scalding or cleaning of stomachs substantially reduces the yield of rennet from these stomachs while it does not contribute to the safety of the rennet, being highly refined afterwards.

Stomachs of calves and animal feet are included in the definition of offal in Annex I to Regulation (EC) No 853/2004. The requirements for handling of offal in that Regulation, including the temperature requirements during storage and transport, ensure that these products can be safely handled and transported to an establishment outside the slaughterhouse, collected from different slaughterhouses and valorized.

The transport to another establishment of non-skinned or non-scalded and non-depilated animal feet, and stomachs of calves which are not scalded nor cleaned, should therefore be allowed by the competent authority.

The purpose of the draft is to amend Annex III to Regulation (EC) No 853/2004, point 18 of Chapter IV of Section I accordingly.

The draft was supported by UECBV (cf. call for action on Monday 12th May with email ref. UECBV-JLM-3985).

Next meeting: 16th June 2014.