

Food Update Course 2007

The UK National Control Plan & Audit

Colin Houston
Deputy Head of Imported Food
Division
Food Standards Agency



UK National Control Plan - background

EU Regulation 882/2004 on official controls

- Sets down the principles and approach to be taken by the 'competent authorities' organising and undertaking 'official controls' in respect of feed law, food law, and animal health and animal welfare rules.
- Includes requirements for national control plans.



UK National Control Plan - requirements

- **Each Member State must prepare a single, integrated, multi-annual national control plan.**
- **Purpose of the plan is:**
 - **to ensure effective implementation of control systems for feed & food, animal health & welfare rules, and plant health rules;**
 - **to provide the basis for assessment of national control systems by the Commission's Food and Veterinary Office.**



UK National Control Plan - content

Regulatory landscape – who does what

Overview of official control arrangements in the UK, covering:

- **Competent authorities;**
- **National Reference laboratories;**
- **Official laboratories;**
- **Control bodies.**



UK National Control Plan - content

Working together to safeguard public, animal and plant health and to protect consumers

Overview of mechanisms in place for co-ordination and co-operation, covering:

- **Mechanisms at national level;**
- **Emergency and contingency planning;**
- **Working across the EU.**



UK National Control Plan - content

Raising standards and sharing good practice

Overview of mechanisms in place, covering:

- **Monitoring and auditing of performance;**
- **Identifying and disseminating good practice.**



UK National Control Plan - content

Planning for the future

Overview of official control activities planned for the various authorities during the period of the plan.

Monitoring and reporting progress

Outline of the process for reviewing and reporting on the plan.



UK National Control Plan - content

Roles and responsibilities of the competent authorities

Appendices describe:

- structure and organisation;
- management and resources;
- control systems and activities;
- compliance with operational criteria (e.g. training, documented procedures).



UK National Control Plan – annual reports

- **Report annually to the Commission on implementation of plan**
- **Report to include: amendments to plan, results of controls & audits; type and number of non-compliances identified; actions to ensure effective operation of the plan, including the results of enforcement action.**



Inspections in Member States food and feed hygiene

A number of audits and on-the-spot inspections in 2007 will, amongst other things, deal with the new legislative package on official controls in the feed and food area and the hygiene of foodstuffs.

The new series will cover

- red meat, meat products and preparations, milk and milk products,
- infant/baby milk and baby food,
- food of plant origin, composite food and mineral water (the labelling of potential allergens will also be included in the scope of these inspections) and
- official controls on feed law and feed hygiene.



Inspections in Member States

Residues, pesticides, food contact materials and food additives

- Pesticide residues in food of plant origin are a regular element of the inspection programmes.
- A new series will assess the controls on food additives, flavourings and food contact materials.
- A further new subject – the controls on residues in animal products at border inspection posts – will be prepared by a desk study in 2007.



Inspections in Member States

Import/transit controls

- Another regular element of FVO inspections are import controls for products of animal origin and live animals (including illegal imports, tracing during transshipment and transit) as well as for food and feed of plant origin.
- Transmissible spongiform encephalopathies (TSEs) – animal by-products. Inspections in this area will continue to assess controls on BSE, scrapie and animal byproducts including the sourcing and traceability of gelatine.



Inspections in Member States

Genetically modified (GM) food and feed

- The mission series on controls on genetically modified feed and food is continuing.

Novel foods

- The FVO will carry out a desk study to prepare inspections on novel foods and food ingredients in 2008.



Inspections in Member States

Animal health

- While inspections in the red meat and milk sectors usually also cover certain animal health and welfare aspects, specific animal health series will assess the eradication and control of certain animal diseases, including zoonoses and animal health conditions during intra-community trade of live animals including the trade of horses as well as of bovine semen and embryos.

Animal welfare

- Inspections in the animal welfare area will look at welfare conditions during transport of animals, in particular of slaughter horses, on farms (in particular conditions for pigs, calves and laying hens) and during slaughter.



Inspections in Member States

General reviews

- General review missions are a new horizontal type of inspections introduced in 2005.
- Their objective is to carry out an overall review of follow-up to FVO report recommendations and to assist in completing country profiles for all Member States by mid-2007.

General audit pilot projects

- The FVO is also preparing for the conduct of general audits in the framework of the Official Feed and Food Controls Regulations.
- Inspections in the Netherlands and Austria will form part of a pilot project to develop this new type of audit globally covering a Member State's overall control systems.



Inspections in UK

- Hygiene Package (Red Meat/Milk/Products/Preparations)
- Food Hygiene (Food of Plant Origin/Composite Food)
- incl. Mineral Water, Labelling of Potential Allergens
- Food Additives, Flavourings, Food Contact Materials
- Gelatines
- Tuberculosis
- Animal Welfare during Slaughter
- Import Controls (Plant Health)
- General Review (Update)
- plus a mission on infant/baby milk and baby food following a desk exercise

