



**EUROPEAN COMMISSION**  
HEALTH AND CONSUMERS DIRECTORATE-GENERAL  
Directorate F - Food and Veterinary Office

DG(SANCO) 2010-8493 - MR FINAL

FINAL REPORT OF A MISSION

CARRIED OUT IN

BRAZIL

FROM 02 TO 15 MARCH 2010

IN ORDER TO EVALUATE THE OPERATION OF CONTROLS OVER THE PRODUCTION OF  
BOVINE MEAT INTENDED FOR EXPORT TO THE EUROPEAN UNION AS WELL AS  
CERTIFICATION PROCEDURES

## ***Executive Summary***

*The objective of the mission was to evaluate the measures taken by the Brazilian authorities to address the recommendations of previous Food and Veterinary Office (FVO) mission reports, in particular report DG(SANCO)/2009-8280, in relation to food safety and public health control systems as well as certification procedures. Particular attention was paid to the traceability system in place for cattle eligible to be slaughtered for export to the European Union (EU) and to the effectiveness of the approval and inspection procedures for holdings listed in accordance with Council Decision 79/542/EEC.*

*The Brazilian competent authorities carry out their activities in accordance with detailed requirements and guidelines that altogether provide compliant or equivalent measures to those in the EU legislation.*

*The FVO team visited nine bovine holdings in six States, chosen from the list of EU approved holdings by the FVO team prior to the mission. The approval procedure and the performance of the auditors and the certificadoras was evaluated in each of the nine holdings by observing the competent authorities carrying out a partial re-audit and by reviewing the documentation used for the approval audit.*

*In seven of the holdings the performance of the auditors was satisfactory and in the remaining two holdings only minor shortcomings of a non-systemic nature were identified. However, in one case the performance of the certificadoras during their inspections in one approved holding was not fully satisfactory.*

*The FVO team visited six slaughterhouses and one cold store approved and listed for export to the EU, and the situation in relation to general and specific hygiene, traceability and official controls was found to be satisfactory in all the establishments visited. Only minor shortcomings in relation to maintenance were identified.*

*No shortcomings were identified in relation to official controls carried out at establishment level.*

*The situation concerning certification of fresh meat intended for export to the EU and for products introduced into the territory of the EU for transit to third countries is satisfactory.*

*The Brazilian authorities have recently, after exposing weaknesses in their internal certification procedures for EU eligible products during audits in establishments, introduced an improved internal certification system requiring the internal certificates to be issued within the SIGSIF database and to including authenticity codes in the same way as export certificates. The new guidelines include strict control procedures to be followed by the certifying officer and by the official veterinarian responsible for the reception of the products.*

*A number of recommendations have been made to the Competent Authority with a view to addressing the deficiencies identified during this mission.*

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**ABBREVIATIONS AND DEFINITIONS USED IN THIS REPORT**

<b>Abbreviation</b>	<b>Explanation</b>
CA	Competent authority
CCA	Central Competent Authority
<i>Certificadora</i>	Accredited Certifying Body for animal identification and data registration in SISBOV ( <i>Entidad Certificadora</i> )
CSN	National Health Certificates ( <i>Certificado Sanitário Nacional</i> )
DIPOA	Department of Inspection of Products of Animal Origin ( <i>Departamento de Inspeção de Produtos de Origem Animal</i> )
DG(SANCO)	Health and Consumer Directorate-General (EC)
ERAS	Livestock holdings approved in SISBOV ( <i>Estabelecimento Rural Aprovado SISBOV</i> )
EC	European Commission
EU	European Union
FBO(s)	Food Business Operator(s)
FVO	Food and Veterinary Office
GTA	Animal Movement Permit ( <i>Guia de Transito Animal</i> )
HACCP	Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Points
MAPA	Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Food Supply ( <i>Ministerio da Agricultura, Pecuaria e Abastecimento</i> )
SIGSIF	Brazilian certification database ( <i>Sistema de Informações Gerenciais do Derviço de Inspeção Federal</i> )
SISBOV	Brazilian system for identification and registration of bovine animals, including domestic buffaloes ( <i>Sistema Brasileiro de Identificação de Origem Bivina e Bubalina</i> )
TRACES	European Commission's integrated computerised veterinary system

## 1 INTRODUCTION

The mission took place in Brazil from 2 to 15 March 2010 as part of the planned mission programme of the FVO. The mission team comprised four inspectors from the FVO and two National Experts, divided into two sub-teams.

The mission was undertaken as part of the FVO's planned mission programme. The mission team was accompanied during the mission by representatives from the Central Competent Authority (CCA), the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Food Supply (*Ministerio da Agricultura, Pecuaria e Abastecimento*, MAPA).

An opening meeting was held on 2 March 2010 with the CCA in Brasilia. At this meeting, the mission team confirmed the objectives of, and itinerary for the mission, and additional information required for the satisfactory completion of the mission was requested.

## 2 OBJECTIVES OF THE MISSION

The objective of the mission was to evaluate the measures taken by the Brazilian authorities to address the deficiencies, the conclusions and recommendations of previous mission reports, in particular report DG(SANCO)/2009-8280. This report is available on the Health and Consumer Protection Directorate General web-site at:

[http://ec.europa.eu/food/fvo/index\\_en.cfm](http://ec.europa.eu/food/fvo/index_en.cfm)

The mission team did in particular:

1. review the implementation of Council Decision 79/542/EEC as regards the imports of bovine fresh meat from Brazil and in particular the requirements introduced by Commission Decision 2008/61/EC;
2. review the system for certification of animals and meat in relation to the requirements of Council Directive 96/93/EEC;
3. review the system for the control and recording of animal movements, including those controls necessary for certification in accordance with the requirements of Decision 79/542/EEC;
4. assess the controls in place over the production of fresh beef meat.

In pursuit of these objectives, the following sites were visited:

VISITS		COMMENTS	
COMPETENT AUTHORITIES	Central	√	Opening and closing meeting
	States	√	Goiãs, Mato Grosso, Mato Grosso do Sul, Minas Gerais, Rio Grande do Sul and São Paulo
	Regional	√	In all the stated visited
	Local	√	In all the establishments and holdings visited
<b>LIVE ANIMAL SITES</b>			
Bovine holdings listed for EU		9	1 in Goiãs, 2 in Mato Grosso, 2 in Mato Grosso do Sul, 2 in Minas Gerais, 1 in Rio Grande do Sul and 1 in São Paulo

<b>FOOD PRODUCTION / PROCESSING / DISTRIBUTION - ACTIVITIES</b>		
Slaughterhouses	6	One slaughterhouse with integrated cutting plant and cold store in each of the States visited
Cold stores	1	São Paulo

### **3 LEGAL BASIS FOR THE MISSION**

The mission was carried out under the general provisions of Community legislation and, in particular Article 46 of Regulation (EC) No 882/2004 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 29 April 2004 on official controls performed to ensure the verification of compliance with feed and food law, animal health and animal welfare rules.

Other relevant legislation for this mission is mentioned in the Annex to this report and refer, where relevant to the last amended version.

### **4 BACKGROUND**

The mission carried out during January-February 2009 (report DG(SANCO)/2009-8280) concluded that the situation was largely satisfactory in relation to meat establishments. The certification for fresh bovine meat to be imported to the EU was satisfactory. However, the report stated that certification for fresh bovine meat consignments introduced into the territory of the EU for transit to third countries needed careful attention but that the Brazilian CCA had already undertaken corrective measures.

The official supervision and audit of EU eligible holdings had significantly improved and the system in place was in general able to provide the guarantees introduced by Decision 2008/61/EC.

Nevertheless, the performance of the certificadoras and the Brazilian system for identification and registration of bovine animals, including domestic buffaloes (SISBOV) central database needed action in order to further improve the overall credibility and effectiveness of controls.

At present Brazilian bovine meat can be exported into the EU from approved holdings in the whole territory of the States of Minas Gerais, Espírito Santo, Goiás, Mato Grosso, Rio Grande do Sul, Santa Catarina, Paraná, São Paulo and part of the territory of the State of Mato Grosso do Sul.

### **5 FINDINGS AND CONCLUSIONS**

#### **5.1 COMPETENT AUTHORITY PERFORMANCE**

##### **Legal requirements**

Article 46 of Regulation (EC) No 882/2004 stipulates that Community Controls in third countries shall verify compliance or equivalence of third country legislation and systems with Community feed and food law and Community animal health legislation.

##### **Findings**

Brazil is divided into 26 states and the Federal District of Brasilia. In each state there is a competent authority (CA) for the animal and public health veterinary services subdivided into regional and

local services. The structure and responsibilities of the CAs are described in detail in previous mission reports.

The Brazilian CCA has issued numerous instructions and circulars with detailed requirements and guidelines concerning bovine meat production and official controls that altogether provide compliant or equivalent measures to those in the EU legislation. The following Brazilian legislation is relevant to the present mission:

- Normative Instruction No 27 of 27 August 2008 establishes the procedures for the Department of Inspection of Products of Animal Origin (DIPOA) to approve establishments for export as well as for performing audits and supervisions to ensure their compliance with the export requirements of the countries of destination. The instruction includes the conditions for suspension and/or revoking of export approval and also details the minimum frequency of some DIPOA supervisory activities (e.g. annual audit of each exporting state, annual evaluation of at least 40% of all establishments listed for export).
- Circular No 175/2005/CGPE/DIPOA and circular No 176/2005/CGPE/DIPOA detail the main requirements concerning layout, structure, facilities, use of potable water, Good Manufacturing Practices, Good Hygiene Practices, HACCP and official supervision of establishments listed for export. Their requirements, combined with those of some other circulars and/or normative instructions, are broadly in line with those of the hygiene pack.
- Circular No 835/2006/CGPE/DIPOA and circular No 665/2006/CGPE/DIPOA detail the main requirements concerning microbiological carcass sampling and testing. These requirements, however, are not in line with the requirements of Regulation (EC) No 2073/2005 with regards to the sample collection point (for *Salmonella* and *E. coli*), and the periodicity and number of samples to be collected (*Salmonella*, *E. coli* and aerobic colony count). In addition, Circular No 835/2006/CGPE/DIPOA states that no specific limit is established for *E. coli* and that an establishment specific historical baseline should be used as a reference instead. Nevertheless, in the establishments visited the limit established was stricter than the limit according to the EU requirements.

In order to clarify the situation, the Brazilian CCA decided that they will contact the Commission Services as a matter of urgency in order to have their guidelines for microbiological carcass sampling and testing recognised as being equivalent to the EU requirements.

In January 2010 the Brazilian CCA informed the European Commission of their plans to develop a new electronic system on one common platform integrating animal health controls (Local Veterinary Unit level), holding registration, animal identification and movement controls (SISBOV and electronic Animal Movement Permits, e-GTA) and certification (SIGSIF).

During this mission the CCA informed the FVO team that they have now decided to carry out “pilot studies” on a limited number of holdings before fully implementing the new electronic system throughout Brazil.

The CCA stated that an improved system of plausibility checks would be integrated into the new database that is expected to be ready for initial testing by the end of July 2010. It has been decided that it would make more sense to spend the money on the new system instead of upgrading the old SISBOV system.

### **Conclusions on Competent Authorities**

The Brazilian CAs are well defined and able to ensure an official control system that altogether provide compliant or equivalent measures to those in the EU legislation as required by Article 46 of Regulation (EC) No 882/2004.

## 5.2 HOLDING REGISTRATION, ANIMAL IDENTIFICATION AND MOVEMENT CONTROLS

### Legal requirements

Requirements for certification conditions for the introduction into the Community of beef intended for human consumption as laid down in point II (2) of the model certificate "BOV" in part 2 of Annex II to Decision 79/542/EEC sets out conditions regarding the animal health situation for the animals and the situation on their holding of origin. This implies that bovine animal registration and identification is needed in order to guarantee that animals have been in the approved territory since birth, or for at least the last three months before slaughter, and are coming from holdings in which they have remained for at least 40 days before direct dispatch to the slaughterhouse.

Decision 2008/61/EC introduced into Decision 79/542/EEC as a requirement for Brazilian fresh meat to be exported to the EU, that it must have been obtained from animals coming from holdings listed as approved holdings, following a favourable CA's inspection and official report, in TRACES and inspections are regularly carried out by the CAs to ensure that the relevant requirements provided for in this decision are respected.

### Findings

At the opening meeting the CA provided further information regarding the action taken in response to the previous report. According to this information the CA had carried out re-audits in 4.7% of the holdings and not only in 2%, which was the target according to their action plan. The holdings to be re-audited had been chosen either at random (72 holdings out of 86 holdings audited ~ 3.9%) or had been targeted (14 out of 86 ~ 0.8%).

As a result of the approval audits and re-audits carried out by the CA, fifteen *certificadoras* have been through suspension procedures in 2009. Eight of these *certificadoras* had been re-instated while seven were still suspended. During 2009, ten *certificadoras* had stopped their activities and the total number of *certificadoras* approved by the CA are at present forty. Suspensions by the CA cover the whole territory of Brazil. The CA does not at present issue any new approvals to *certificadoras*.

The detailed procedures for the approval of holdings for the EU in accordance with the requirements of Decision 79/542/EEC as amended by Decision 2008/61/EC are described in FVO mission report DG(SANCO)/2009-8280. All the holdings visited during this mission had been approved and listed in accordance with these procedures.

The two mission sub-teams visited nine bovine holdings in six States, of which two holdings did not have any bovine animals present at the time of the visit. All the holdings were chosen by the FVO team and although the CCA in advance informed the FVO team about the holdings without any bovine animals, it was decided to proceed with documentary checks.

The nine holdings comprised two breeding holdings, two feed-lots and five mixed holdings (breeding and feedlot) with the number of animals in the seven holdings ranging from 1 500 to 74 000 animals at the time of the FVO visit.

The mission team used different tools to evaluate the approval procedure and the performance of the auditors and the *certificadoras*:

1. The CA was asked to carry out a re-audit of all the holdings where animals were present.
2. A review of the evolution from the time of the initial approval audit until the time of the FVO visit was carried out in all the holdings.



3. In addition in six of the holdings visited with a high number of animal movements a full review of the documentation used for the approval audits was carried out by the FVO team.

The Brazilian audit system includes a pre-audit (preparation) phase, the actual on-site audit and if needed a follow-up phase. The mission team found that the audits were carried out in accordance with the procedures described in the Normative Instruction No 17 in seven of the nine holdings visited.

In these seven holdings the performance of the auditors was satisfactory and in the remaining two holdings only minor shortcomings of a non-systemic nature were identified:

1. In one holding, two out of the six lots (groups of animals) to be checked had been selected by the owner and not by the auditors. Furthermore, the pre-audit phase did not include the possibility of the six-digits management numbers on the ear tags being repeated on the holding.
2. In one feed-lot without any animals present at the time of the FVO visit, the *certificadora* and the auditors had not followed the agreed procedures for verifying ear tags. The *certificadora* did read and cross-check the required 300 ear tags but only checked the presence of ear tags in the remaining animals from a distance. The auditor did not choose the lots to be checked in accordance with the agreed procedure but had decided to partially check a high number of lots instead.

In the breeding holding with 74 000 animals, the FVO team identified that around 2 000 animals had been re-tagged during the weeks up to the FVO visit. However, it was explained that this was done because the CA had received a notification from a slaughterhouse that some animals had arrived from this holding with only one ear tag present.

During the visit to one slaughterhouse the FVO team found that more than 20% of the animals arriving from one particular holding only had one ear tag present (either the large ear tag or the button tag was missing). The CA explained that in accordance with the Normative Instruction No 17 it was acceptable to receive animals with only one ear tag present as long as their identity and origin could be confirmed during the compulsory checks in the SISBOV database at the slaughterhouse.

Nevertheless, due to this high number of lost ear tags the CA decided immediately to initiate a full re-audit in the holding.

During the visit in the slaughterhouse the CA provided the mission team with copies of the two latest reports from the *certificadoras*, which indicated that no shortcomings had been identified by the *certificadoras* during their checks in the holding. The reports from July 2009 (visit No 2/2009) and January 2010 (visit No 1/2010) showed that 3 000 and 820 animals respectively had been checked and that none of these animals had lost any of their ear tags.

The report from the re-audit carried out 17-19 March confirmed the high number of animals with only one of the two ear tags present (83 out of 306 animals checked = 27%). No further action was proposed by the CA in the holding or against the *certificadora* because the holding still, in accordance with Normative Instruction No 17, is considered to be in compliance with the requirements as long as no unidentifiable animals were found during the audit.

There is no system in place that would provide a compulsory feed-back from slaughterhouses to the CCA in cases where the percentage of lost ear tags in a supplying holding exceeds a level that would be considered unacceptably high.

## **Conclusions**

The official supervision and audit of EU eligible holdings generally provides the guarantees required by Decision 79/542/EEC in relation to holding registration, animal identification and movement controls.

However, in some cases the performance of the certificadoras during their inspections of approved holdings are still not fully satisfactory. The presence of a high number of animals with one of the two ear tags missing increase the risk of unidentifiable animals being present in EU approved holdings which would be a breach of the requirements laid down in Decision 79/542/EEC.

### **5.3 FOOD BUSINESS OPERATOR'S COMPLIANCE WITH GENERAL AND SPECIFIC HYGIENE REQUIREMENTS**

#### **Legal requirements**

Article 12 of Regulation (EC) No 854/2004 requires that products of animal origin may be imported into the Community only if they have been dispatched from, and obtained or prepared in, establishments that appear on lists drawn up, kept up-to-date and communicated to the Commission. The establishments listed, together with any establishments handling raw material of animal origin used in the manufacture of the products shall comply with the relevant Community requirements, or with requirements determined to be equivalent to such requirements when deciding to add that third country to the relevant list.

#### **Findings**

The mission team visited one independent coldstore and six slaughterhouses with integrated cutting plants and coldstores listed for export to the EU.

The compliance with the general and specific hygiene requirements was acceptable in all the establishments visited. However, the maintenance programmes in five of the seven establishments visited were not sufficiently proactive and able to address minor maintenance problems in a timely manner.

Furthermore, in one of the slaughterhouses visited the slaughter hall was very congested due to increased throughput since the facilities initially had been established leading to the neck and front legs of some of the carcasses touching the equipment. The management of the establishment took immediate corrective action to temporarily solve the problem during the visit until the layout could be changed to correct the deficiency in a more permanent manner.

During the documentary checks in the establishment visits it was disclosed that the Brazilian guidelines regarding microbiological sampling of carcasses are not in line with the requirements of Regulation (EC) No 2073/2005 in regard to sampling procedures and frequencies (see point 5.1.).

According to the Brazilian guidelines, samples for aerobic colony count are to be taken from 5-10 carcasses in one sampling session each week, with a different sampling day each week, until a total of 50 samples are collected. This sampling procedure is to be repeated every six months, which means that no samples are taken during a period of 16 to 21 weeks every six months. However, it should be noted that the hygiene standard in the establishments visited was very high and that the results of the microbiological carcass sampling confirmed this high standard.

No problems were identified with regard to separation between EU/non-EU eligible animals and products, maturation of EU-eligible carcasses, identification marking and labelling of meat and traceability. The establishments had established comprehensive documented procedures over their

activities.

### **Conclusions on food business operators' (FBO) compliance with general and specific hygiene requirements**

All the establishments visited were found to be operating in accordance with the requirements laid down in Article 12 of Regulation (EC) No 854/2004 and generally being in line with the general and specific requirements of Regulations (EC) No 852/2004 and No 853/2004.

## **5.4 OFFICIAL CONTROLS AT ESTABLISHMENT LEVEL**

### **Legal requirements**

Article 12 of Regulation (EC) No 854/2004 lays down that the CA of the third country of origin has to guarantee that establishments placed on the list of establishments from which imports of specified products of animal origin to the EU are permitted, together with any establishments handling raw material of animal origin used in the manufacture of the products of animal origin concerned, complies with relevant Community requirements, in particular those of Regulation (EC) No 853/2004, or with requirements that were determined to be equivalent and that an official inspection service supervises the establishments and has real powers to stop the establishments from exporting to the Community in the event that the establishments fail to meet the relevant requirements.

### **Findings**

Ante- and post-mortem inspections, including the additional Foot and Mouth Disease controls were carried out in a very thorough way and in full compliance with the requirements. No shortcomings were identified in relation to health marking.

The CA verification of FBOs' compliance with the general and specific hygiene requirements was in all establishments carried out in line with the requirements. Satisfactory action was initiated by the CA to ensure that the FBOs took the necessary corrective action in case of any shortcomings identified.

During the FVO visit to the establishments the official veterinarians on site requested prompt action from the FBOs in case any shortcomings were identified, and did not hesitate to suspend the slaughter or cutting activities until satisfactory corrective action had been taken.

The CA kept comprehensive records of the results of all the official controls and verification activities, including the results of the ante- and post-mortem inspections, which facilitated audits of the control system in place. In cases where corrective action had been requested from the FBO this nearly always included deadlines and was followed-up in a timely manner.

### **Conclusions on official controls at establishment level**

No shortcomings were identified in relation to the official controls carried out at establishment level.

## **5.5 OFFICIAL CERTIFICATION**

### **Legal basis**

Directive 96/93/EC, in particular Article 6 sets out that the rules and principles applied by third-country certifying officers shall offer guarantees at least equivalent to those laid down in this Directive.

Decision 79/542/EEC draws up a list of third countries or parts of third countries, and lay down animal and public health and veterinary certification conditions, for importation into the Community of certain live animals and their fresh meat.

In point II.1. of the model certificate "BOV" in part 2 of Annex II to Decision 79/542/EEC the certifying officer declares that he is aware of the relevant provisions of Regulations (EC) No 178/2002, (EC) No 852/2004, (EC) No 853/2004, (EC) No 854/2004 and (EC) No 999/2001 and certifies that the meat of domestic bovine animals covered by the certificate was produced in accordance with those requirements.

The model certificate "BOV" include an Animal Health attestation and an Animal Welfare attestation in points II.2. and II.3. respectively.

### **Findings**

In response to the shortcomings identified in relation to transit certification during the latest mission the CCA informed the mission team that Circular No 1180/2008/CGPE/DIPOA of 17 December 2008 does address the concerns raised even if it was issued before the mission. This Circular requires:

- that transit certificates must be issued within the SIGSIF database and include an authenticity code;
- that information concerning the export certificate for the final destination country must be added into the SIGSIF database in the "Support Information" field under each transit certificate entry;
- that the transit certificate only can be issued for products from EU approved establishments and produced in compliance with EU requirements.

The circular also includes requirements in relation to transit for ship supplies, instructions concerning the information to be added in each field in the SIGSIF database and the responsibilities of SIF officials.

Circular No 96/2009/CGPE/DIPOA of 2 February 2009 was issued right after the 2009 mission and refers to shortcomings noted by the FVO during the mission and during DIPOA audits in 2008. The Circular prescribes two new adjustments to be made concerning transit certification.

The FVO team confirmed on-the-spot that the Brazilian CA has implemented the measure to which they had committed themselves in relation to transit certification.

The Brazilian CCA informed the FVO team that recent audits carried out in establishments in relation to export certification for the EU had exposed weaknesses in the internal certification system that should guarantee traceability for EU-eligible products and later provides the sanitary guarantees for issuing exports certificates to the EU. The CCA had therefore decided to improve the security and reliability of the internal certification system for EU-eligible products. The following new Circulars had therefore been issued earlier this year:

- Circular No 001/2010/CGPE/DIPOA of 28 January 2010 provides detailed guidelines on how to issue a new model of the National Health Certificates (*Certificado Sanitário Nacional*, CSN) within the SIGSIF certification database for internal transports of consignments eligible for export to the EU. The new CSN will be covered by an authenticity

code similar to the codes required for export certificates for the EU. The guidelines include detailed procedures on how to issue the new CSN in SIGSIF and include verification procedures to be followed prior to issuing as well as procedures to be followed in order to verify the authenticity on arrival of the consignment to the destination. The guidelines also prescribe requirements for record keeping in order to improve transparency and to facilitate audits and supervision of the system.

- Circular No 002/2010/CGPE/DIPOA of 28 January 2010 provides the implementing provisions which makes it compulsory from midnight on 1 February 2010 to issue all CSNs for products eligible for export to the EU within the SIGSIF certification database and in accordance with the guidelines provided in Circular No 001/2010/CGPE/DIPOA.

The FVO team confirmed that these new measures had been implemented in all the establishments visited.

The FVO team also checked international certificates issued in the establishments visited and confirmed that the necessary support documentation was available to guarantee proper traceability through the whole production chain back to the holding of origin.

### **Conclusions on certification**

The situation concerning certification of fresh bovine meat intended to be imported to the EU is satisfactory.

The Brazilian CCA has addressed the recommendation made in the previous FVO report regarding consignments introduced into the territory of the EU for transit to third countries in a satisfactory way.

## **6 OVERALL CONCLUSIONS**

The situation is satisfactory in relation to bovine meat establishments and certification.

The official supervision and audit of EU eligible holdings provides the guarantees required by Decision 79/542/EEC, as amended by Decision 2008/61/EC, in relation to holding registration, animal identification and movement controls.

## **7 CLOSING MEETING**

A closing meeting was held on 15 March 2010 with the representatives of the CCA. At this meeting the FVO team presented the findings and preliminary conclusions of the mission and requested an update regarding the re-audit carried out in one holding with a high number of lost ear tags.

The representatives of the CCA acknowledged the findings and preliminary conclusions presented by the FVO team and did not express disagreement with these. The CCA agreed to supply the requested information before the draft report from this mission is issued.

## **8 RECOMMENDATIONS**

An action plan describing the action taken or planned in response to the recommendations of this

report and setting out a time table, and a description of the actions taken to correct the deficiencies found should be presented to the Commission within 25 working days of receipt of the report.

<b>Nº.</b>	<b>Recommendation</b>
1.	To consider introducing a system of feed-back from slaughterhouses to the competent authorities regarding higher frequencies of lost ear tags in holdings approved for export to the EU and followed by re-audits in holdings where this feed-back underlines a significant number of lost ear tags.
2.	To ensure that the regular inspections in EU listed holdings carried out by the certificadoras are performed in a way that can ensure, that the relevant requirements provided for in Council Decision 79/542/EEC, replaced by Commission Regulation (EU) No 206/2010 of 12 March 2010 laying down lists of third countries, territories or parts thereof authorised for the introduction into the European Union of certain animals and fresh meat and the veterinary certification requirements, are respected.

The competent authority's response to the recommendations can be found at:

[http://ec.europa.eu/food/fvo/ap/ap\\_br\\_2010-8493.pdf](http://ec.europa.eu/food/fvo/ap/ap_br_2010-8493.pdf)

## ANNEX 1 - LEGAL REFERENCES

Legal Reference	Official Journal	Title
Reg. 1760/2000	OJ L 204, 11.8.2000, p. 1-10	Regulation (EC) No 1760/2000 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 17 July 2000 establishing a system for the identification and registration of bovine animals and regarding the labelling of beef and beef products and repealing Council Regulation (EC) No 820/97
Reg. 1825/2000	OJ L 216, 26.8.2000, p. 8-12	Commission Regulation (EC) No 1825/2000 of 25 August 2000 laying down detailed rules for the application of Regulation (EC) No 1760/2000 of the European Parliament and of the Council as regards the labelling of beef and beef products
Reg. 999/2001	OJ L 147, 31.5.2001, p. 1-40	Regulation (EC) No 999/2001 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 22 May 2001 laying down rules for the prevention, control and eradication of certain transmissible spongiform encephalopathies
Reg. 178/2002	OJ L 31, 1.2.2002, p. 1-24	Regulation (EC) No 178/2002 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 28 January 2002 laying down the general principles and requirements of food law, establishing the European Food Safety Authority and laying down procedures in matters of food safety
Reg. 852/2004	OJ L 139, 30.4.2004, p. 1, Corrected and re-published in OJ L 226, 25.6.2004, p. 3	Regulation (EC) No 852/2004 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 29 April 2004 on the hygiene of foodstuffs
Reg. 853/2004	OJ L 139, 30.4.2004, p. 55, Corrected and re-published in OJ L 226, 25.6.2004, p. 22	Regulation (EC) No 853/2004 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 29 April 2004 laying down specific hygiene rules for food of animal origin
Reg. 854/2004	OJ L 139, 30.4.2004, p. 206, Corrected and re-published in OJ L 226, 25.6.2004, p. 83	Regulation (EC) No 854/2004 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 29 April 2004 laying down specific rules for the organisation of official controls on products of animal origin intended for human consumption

<b>Legal Reference</b>	<b>Official Journal</b>	<b>Title</b>
Reg. 882/2004	OJ L 165, 30.4.2004, p. 1, Corrected and re-published in OJ L 191, 28.5.2004, p. 1	Regulation (EC) No 882/2004 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 29 April 2004 on official controls performed to ensure the verification of compliance with feed and food law, animal health and animal welfare rules
Reg. 2073/2005	OJ L 338, 22.12.2005, p. 1-26	Commission Regulation (EC) No 2073/2005 of 15 November 2005 on microbiological criteria for foodstuffs
Reg. 206/2010	OJ L 73, 20.3.2010, p. 1–121	Commission Regulation (EU) No 206/2010 of 12 March 2010 laying down lists of third countries, territories or parts thereof authorised for the introduction into the European Union of certain animals and fresh meat and the veterinary certification requirements
Dir. 93/119/EC	OJ L 340, 31.12.1993, p. 21-34	Council Directive 93/119/EC of 22 December 1993 on the protection of animals at the time of slaughter or killing
Dir. 96/93/EC	OJ L 13, 16.1.1997, p. 28-30	Council Directive 96/93/EC of 17 December 1996 on the certification of animals and animal products
Dir. 2002/99/EC	OJ L 18, 23.1.2003, p. 11-20	Council Directive 2002/99/EC of 16 December 2002 laying down the animal health rules governing the production, processing, distribution and introduction of products of animal origin for human consumption
Dec. 79/542/EEC	OJ L 146, 14.6.1979, p. 15-17	79/542/EEC: Council Decision of 21 December 1976 drawing up a list of third countries from which the Member States authorize imports of bovine animals, swine and fresh meat
Dec. 2007/777/EC	OJ L 312, 30.11.2007, p. 49-67	2007/777/EC: Commission Decision of 29 November 2007 laying down the animal and public health conditions and model certificates for imports of certain meat products and treated stomachs, bladders and intestines for human consumption from third countries and repealing Decision 2005/432/EC
Dec. 2008/61/EC	OJ L 15, 18.1.2008, p.	2008/61/EC: Commission Decision of 17 January



<b>Legal Reference</b>	<b>Official Journal</b>	<b>Title</b>
	33-35	2008 amending Annex II to Council Decision 79/542/EEC as regards the imports of bovine fresh meat from Brazil