EUROPEAN COMMISSION
HEALTH & CONSUMERS DIRECTORATE-GENERAL

Directorate F - Food and Veterinary Office

DG(SANCO)/ 2009-8128 - MR - FINAL

FINAL REPORT OF A SPECIFIC AUDIT CARRIED OUT IN THE UNITED KINGDOM FROM 16 FEBRUARY TO 23 FEBRUARY 2009 IN ORDER TO EVALUATE THE CONTROL OF RESIDUES AND CONTAMINANTS AND THE USE OF VETERINARY MEDICINAL PRODUCTS IN FOOD PRODUCING ANIMALS IN THE CONTEXT OF A GENERAL AUDIT

In response to information provided by the Competent Authority, any factual error noted in the draft report has been corrected;any clarification appears in the form of an endnote.

Executive Summary

This report describes the outcome of a Food and Veterinary Office (FVO) specific audit in the United Kingdom, carried out from 16 to 23 February 2009, as part of the general audit of the United Kingdom carried out under the provisions of Regulation (EC) No 882/2004 on official food and feed controls.

The objective of the specific audit was to check that official controls to ensure the verification of compliance with feed and food law, animal health and animal welfare rules laid down in Regulation (EC) No 882/2004 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 29 April 2004 are carried out in accordance with the principles of that Regulation and in line with the multi-annual national control plan as specified in Article 41 of the above Regulation. In order to achieve that overall objective the specific audit evaluated the implementation of national measures, aimed at the control of residues and contaminants in live animals and animal products in accordance with the requirements of Council Directive 96/23/EC. Controls on the use of veterinary medicinal products in food producing animals were also evaluated.

In general the system of residues controls in the United Kingdom is in compliance with Community rules. The planning process takes all relevant aspects into account but the exclusion of goat/sheep milk and rabbits and the many omissions in the plans for equidae and farmed game weaken competent authority guarantees regarding the residue status of these commodities.

The implementation is effective but there are inconsistencies with regard to targeting of routine samples, which is not in line with Community requirements in Northern Ireland, and suspect sampling, which was not in line with Community requirements in the slaughterhouse visited in England. Supervision by the central competent authority (VMD) during the year is effective in Great Britain. However the central competent authority does not have access to sufficient data to ensure an evenly distributed sampling during the year in Northern Ireland as required under Article 4(2)(c) of Council Directive 96/23/EC and point 2.1. of the Annex to Commission Decision 98/179/EC. Confidence in competent authority guarantees on the residue status of food of animal origin in the United Kingdom is strengthened by the substantial number of samples analysed under official residue control programmes outside the National Residue Control Plan although these sample numbers are significantly larger in Northern Ireland than in Great Britain. Follow-up procedures are harmonised and function well, however the use of the investigation results for subsequent sample selection takes place in Northern Ireland but not in Great Britain. These differing approaches within the United Kingdom demonstrate an inconsistency in official controls, contrary to the requirements of Article 4(4) of Regulation (EC) No 882/2004.

The laboratory network has a harmonised analytical approach and in general the laboratories meet the criteria in Community legislation. Nevertheless the fact that the VMD has failed to assign a national reference laboratory for one of the substance groups required by Article 14 of Council Directive 96/23/EC and that not all methods have been validated according to Commission Decision 2002/657/EC potentially weakens the reliability of laboratory performance.

Medicine use on farms was well controlled, however controls were not coordinated

between the different competent authorities which may lead to inconsistency in the application of official controls between regions. In addition, the national legislation regarding retention of treatment records on farm is not in line with Article 69 of Directive 2001/82/EC. Significant problems were seen in relation to the residues status of equidae for slaughter for human consumption which were compounded by the conflict of interest for at least one horse passport-issuing authority and the very limited residues testing of equidae.

The report makes a number of recommendations to the competent authority in the United Kingdom, aimed at rectifying the shortcomings identified and enhancing the implementing and control measures in place.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

1 INTRODUCTION 1
2 OBJECTIVES OF THE MISSION 1
3 LEGAL BASIS FOR THE MISSION 2
4 BACKGROUND 3
4.1 SUMMARY OF PREVIOUS FVO MISSION RESULTS 3
5 MAIN FINDINGS 3
5.1 NATIONAL RESIDUE CONTROL PLAN 3
5.1.1 Competent authorities involved 3
5.1.2 Planning 3
5.1.3 Implementation 5
5.1.4 Supervision of implementation of the national residue control plan 7
5.1.5 Other residues control programmes 8
5.1.6 Follow-up of non-compliant results 9
5.2 LABORATORIES 10
5.2.1 General description 10
5.2.2 On the spot visits in LGC Ltd 11
5.3 VETERINARY MEDICINAL PRODUCTS 13
5.3.1 Distribution and use of veterinary medicinal products 13
5.3.2 Controls on the distribution and use of veterinary medicinal products 14
5.3.3 Identification of equidae and medicines records requirements 16
6 OVERALL CONCLUSION 18
7 CLOSING MEETING 19
8 RECOMMENDATIONS 19

ABBREVIATIONS & SPECIAL TERMS USED IN THE REPORT

Abbreviation	Explanation
AFBI	Agri-food Biosciences Institute
CEFAS	Centre for Environment, Fisheries and Aquaculture Sciences
CRL	Community Reference Laboratory
CSL	Central Science Laboratory
DARD	Department of Agriculture and Rural Development
DEFRA	Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs
DG(SANCO)	Health and Consumers Directorate General
EEC	European Economic Community
EU	European Union
FAPAS	UK Food Analysis Performance Scheme
FRS	Fisheries Research Services
FVO	Food and Veterinary Office
Group A, B	Categories of substances listed in Annex I to Council Directive 96/23/EC: A1 Stilbenes stilbene derivatives, and their salts and esters A2 Antithyriod agents A3 Steroids A4 resorcyclic acid lactones including zeranol A5 Beta-agonists A6 Compounds included in Annex IV to Council Regulation (EEC) No 2377/90 B1 Antibacterial substances, including sulphonamides and quinolones B2a Anthelmintics B2b Anticoccidials B2c Carbamates and pyrethroids B2d Sedatives B2e Non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs, NSAIDs B2f Other pharmacologically active substances (e.g. corticosteroids)

Abbreviation	Explanation
	B3a Organochlorine compounds including PCBs B3b Organophosphorus compounds B3c Chemical elements B3d Mycotoxins B3e Dyes B3f Others
ISO	International Organisation for Standardisation
LC-MS-MS	Liquid Chromatography-(Tandem) Mass Spectrometry
MRL	Maximum Residue Limit
NRCP	National Residue Control Plan
RASFF	Rapid Alert System for Food and Feed
SOP	Standard Operating Procedure
SOP	Standard Operating Procedure
SPC	Summary of Product Characteristics
UK	United Kingdom
UKAS	United Kingdom Accreditation Service
VMD	Veterinary Medicines Directorate
VMP	Veterinary Medicinal Product

1 INTRODUCTION

The specific audit took place in the United Kingdom (UK) from 16 to 23 February 2009. The audit team comprised 3 inspectors from the Food and Veterinary Office (FVO) The specific audit was undertaken as part of the general audit of the United Kingdom carried out under the provisions of Regulation (EC) No 882/2004 on official food and feed controls.

Representatives from the central competent authority accompanied the audit team for the duration of the audit. An opening meeting was held on 16 February 2009 with the central competent authority. At this meeting, the objectives of, and itinerary for, the specific audit were confirmed by the audit team and the control systems were described by the authorities.

2 OBJECTIVES OF THE MISSION

The objective of the specific audit was to check that official controls to ensure the verification of compliance with feed and food law, animal health and animal welfare rules laid down in Regulation (EC) No 882/2004 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 29 April 2004 are carried out in accordance with the principles of that Regulation and the multi-annual national control plan as specified in Article 41 of the above Regulation. In order to achieve that overall objective the specific audit evaluated the implementation of national measures, aimed at the control of residues and contaminants in live animals and animal products in accordance with the requirements of Council Directive 96/23/EC. Controls on the use of veterinary medicinal products in food producing animals were also evaluated. Attention was paid to examining the implementation of corrective actions promised in response to recommendations made in the report of a previous FVO residues product mission to the United Kingdom (DG (SANCO)/7503/2005) in February/March 2005. The table below lists sites visited and meetings held in order to achieve that objective.

Meetings/Visits		n	Comments
Competent Authorities	**Central**	**2**	Opening and closing meetings with the Veterinary Medicines Directorate
	Regional	**2**	Meetings at the Animal Health District Offices in Cardiff (Wales) and Taunton (England).
Laboratories		**1**	National Reference Laboratory LGC Ltd
Farms		**3**	One sheep farm, one beef cattle farm, one pig farm with on-farm mixing of medicated feedingstuffs
Establishments		**1**	One slaughterhouse (bovine, pigs and equines)
Other sites		**1**	One sampling site for hen eggs

3 Legal Basis for the Mission

The audit was carried out under the general provisions of Community legislation, and in particular:

- Article 21 of Council Directive 96/23/EC of 29 April 1996 on measures to monitor certain substances and residues thereof in live animals and animal products, and repealing Directives 85/358/EEC and 86/469/EEC and Decisions 89/187/EEC and 91/664/EEC;
- Article 45 of Regulation (EC) No 882/2004 of the European Parliament and of the Council on official controls performed to ensure the verification of compliance with feed and food law, animal health and animal welfare rules;
- Commission Decision 98/139/EC of 4 February 1998 laying down certain detailed

rules concerning on-the-spot checks carried out in the veterinary field by Commission experts in Member States.

A full list of the legal instruments referred to in this report is provided in the Annex and refers, where applicable, to the last amended version.

4 BACKGROUND

4.1 SUMMARY OF PREVIOUS FVO MISSION RESULTS

The residues sector was most recently inspected by the FVO in 2005 (DG (SANCO)/7503/2005 MR Final). The report of this mission (henceforth referred to as the 2005 FVO mission) has been published on the website of the Directorate – General for Health and Consumers: http://ec.europa.eu/food/fvo/ir_search_en.cfm

Planning, implementation, supervision and procedures for follow-up of non-compliant results in the scope of the NRCP were generally in line with EU requirements. However, shortcomings in the laboratory network, the mostly non-targeted sampling and the often announced visits on farm for sampling and follow-up investigations weakened the overall system of residue control. In addition, there were inadequate controls on the use of veterinary medicinal products on farms and in veterinary practices and several medicated premixes were distributed without prescription. Most of these deficiencies were observed already during the previous residues mission in 2002.

5 MAIN FINDINGS

5.1 NATIONAL RESIDUE CONTROL PLAN

5.1.1 Competent authorities involved

The Veterinary Medicines Directorate (VMD), an executive agency of the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA), is the central competent authority for the National Residue Control Plan (NRCP) of the United Kingdom, in accordance with Article 4 of Council Directive 96/23/EC. In Northern Ireland the Department of Agriculture and Rural Development (DARD) is responsible for implementation, supervision and follow up of the NRCP.

5.1.2 Planning

Legal Basis

The following Community legislation has a direct bearing on the elaboration of the

national residue control plan.

Article 3 of Regulation (EC) No 882/2004 deals with the general obligations with regard to the organisation of official controls. Articles 3 to 7 of Council Directive 96/23/EC deal with the requirements for residue monitoring plans. Commission Decision 97/747/EC lays down levels and frequencies of sampling for residues. Council Regulation (EEC) No 2377/90 lays down Maximum Residue Limits (MRLs) for residues of pharmacologically active substances in food. Regulation (EC) No 396/2005 lays down maximum residue levels of pesticides in or on food and feed of plant and animal origin. Commission Regulation (EC) No 1881/2006 lays down Maximum Levels for certain contaminants in food. Minimum Required Performance Limits are defined in Article 4 of Commission Decision 2002/657/EC.

Audit Findings

In September each year the members of the NRCP planning group meet under the chairmanship of VMD to plan the programme for the following year. The draft plan is presented to the Veterinary Residues Committee at its autumn meeting for comments, amendments and approval. This committee is an independent advisory committee, appointed to assess and advise on the NRCP and other residue surveillance programmes. The first quarterly sampling requests are usually generated at the end of the year and distributed to the sampling organisations/bodies in time for sampling to commence in January.

The audit team noted that:

- the planning process involves all relevant bodies and ensures that the new NRCP can be implemented from January;
- relevant risks, such as non-compliances found in UK and EU, new veterinary medicinal products and new MRLs are documented and taken into account in the planning process. However, past performance of food business operators are not taken into account as required under Article 3.1(b) of Regulation 882/2004;
- in the 2008 NRCP equines were not tested for substance groups A1, A2, A3, A4, B2b, B2c, B2d, B3a, B3b, B3c or B3d, aquaculture products were not tested for A3 and farmed game were not tested for A1, A3, A4 or A6. Monitoring of these substance groups is required under Article 5.2 of Council Directive 96/23/EC;
- in the 2009 NRCP substance group A3 has been added for aquaculture products. However, the number of substance groups for equidae has been further reduced to two (sedatives and non-steroidal anti-inflammatory substances, NSAIDs) out of sixteen and farmed game are still not tested for substance groups A1, A3, A4 or A6;
- there is no sampling of goat milk or sheep milk although substantial quantities of goat milk (35-40 million litres) is produced in the UK. The production of sheep milk is not known by the authorities;
- there is no sampling of rabbits, although at least one establishment is approved for slaughter of rabbits.

Conclusions on planning

Notwithstanding the strengths in the process of elaborating the national residue control

plan the exclusion of goat/sheep milk and rabbits from the plan as well as the omission of numerous mandatory substance groups for equidae and farmed game weaken competent authority guarantees regarding the residue status of these commodities.

5.1.3 Implementation

Legal Basis

Articles 4, 5 and 12 of Council Directive 96/23/EC deal with aspects pertaining to the implementation of the national residue control plan. Articles 3 and 4 of Regulation (EC) No 882/2004 deals with the general obligations with regard to the organisation of official controls. Commission Decision 97/747/EC lays down levels and frequencies of sampling for residues and Commission Decision 98/179/EC lays down the rules for official sampling under the national residue control plan. Community methods of sampling for the official control a wide range of residues in products of animal origin are laid down in several pieces of Community legislation: Commission Directive 2002/63/EC (pesticides); Commission Regulation (EC) No 1883/2006 (dioxins and dioxin-like PCBs); Commission Regulation (EC) No 333/2007 (certain chemical elements); Commission Regulation (EC) No 401/2006 (mycotoxins).

Audit Findings

The responsibility for sampling is delegated by the VMD to several official bodies in Great Britain by Service Level Agreements. DEFRA's Animal Health Agency undertakes on-farm sampling of bovines, pigs, poultry, eggs (through the Egg Marketing Inspectorate) and milk. In Scotland, egg samples are collected by the Scottish Government Egg Marketing Officers. The Meat Hygiene Service (MHS) under the Food Standards Agency carries out sampling for red meat, game and poultry in slaughterhouses. The Centre for Environment, Fisheries and Aquaculture Science (CEFAS) collects samples of aquaculture products in England and Wales, while in Scotland the Fisheries Research Services (FRS) is responsible for this task. DEFRA's National Bee Unit collects samples of honey in Great Britain.

In Northern Ireland DARD Veterinary Service carries out on-farm sampling of bovines, pigs and poultry, while inspectors attached to the Veterinary Service's Veterinary Public Health Unit, authorised by the Food Standards Agency (NI), take samples in the slaughterhouses. Inspectors from DARD Quality Assurance Branch collect egg, milk, fish and honey samples.

The audit team noted that:

- quarterly sampling plans, accompanied by sampling forms and sample identification bar codes, are distributed from the VMD to the implementing bodies in Great Britain. VMD selects the slaughterhouses while all other sampling sites are selected by the sampling bodies;
- annual sampling numbers are sent from VMD to DARD for implementation of the plan in Northern Ireland in line with Community and National legislation;
- the implementing bodies are responsible for drawing up and issuing sampling instructions, all of which have been elaborated in cooperation with VMD;

- the instructions for on farm sampling issued by DARD and Animal Health were different. For example, in Northern Ireland the selection of farms is random, which is not in line with the requirements of Commission Decision 98/179/EC, and done by a computer software (APHIS). In Great Britain the instructions comprise certain risk based selection criteria for manual selection of farms for sampling in accordance with Commission Decision 98/179/EC;
- in Great Britain farms may not be sampled for the NRCP more than once in a three year period, unless specifically requested by VMD. For certain types of farms, e.g. poultry Animal Health informed the audit team that they had "run out of farms" to sample and were awaiting further instructions from VMD(see Endnote);
- the VMD was not aware if any restrictions regarding the frequency for sampling on farm apply in Northern Ireland;
- samples had been submitted to the laboratory in Great Britain from Northern Ireland in 2007 and 2008 but there were no sampling instructions for sampling of honey in Northern Ireland(see Endnote);
- honey samples were collected in Scotland in 2007 but not in 2008 as VMD could not identify someone to collect the samples;
- the instructions for sampling in slaughterhouses included targeting criteria in line with the requirements of Annex III to Council Directive 96/23/EC for routine NRCP samples in Great Britain. Targeting criteria were not included in the corresponding instructions for Northern Ireland;
- both in Great Britain and Northern Ireland clear instructions had been issued for the identification of animals for suspect sampling;
- in the slaughterhouse visited in England, animals which would, according to the instructions, fall under the suspect category were not sampled and detained as suspect animals in line with the instructions, which were known to the official veterinarian. Some of these animals were instead targeted for routine sampling under the NRCP, i.e. the sampled carcasses were not detained pending results as required under Article 24.1 of Council Directive 96/23/EC. In all other sites visited (in England and Wales) evidence was seen that sampling was carried out in accordance with the sampling plan and documented instructions;
- in general on-farm sampling for the NRCP is unannounced to the farmer. Sampling usually takes place in conjunction with other, announced official visits, for example cross compliance checks or disease control programmes;
- sampling staff interviewed had been trained for sampling, training activities were documented and staff were well aware of the sampling requirements.

Conclusions on implementation

On the basis of the sites visited in Great Britain it is concluded that the sampling for the NRCP is carried out effectively and in a timely fashion. There are inconsistencies in the approaches taken in Great Britain and Northern Ireland regarding targeting and selection of farms where procedures in Northern Ireland are not in line with Community requirements, and suspect sampling where practices in Great Britain were not in line with

Community requirements. Thus official residue controls are carried out inconsistently, contrary to the requirements of Article 4(4) of Regulation (EC) No 882/2004(see Endnote).

5.1.4 Supervision of implementation of the national residue control plan

Legal Basis

Art 4(2)(b) and (c) of Council Directive 96/23/EC lay down the requirements for central competent authorities in co-ordinating the activities of all bodies involved in residues controls. General principles governing the co-ordination of activities and ensuring the co-operation between the various competent authorities are laid down in Articles 4(3), 4(4) and 4(5) of Regulation (EC) No 882/2004. Article 8(3) of Regulation (EC) No 882/2004 places the obligation on competent authorities to *inter alia*, ensure that corrective action is taken when needed.

Audit Findings

VMD is responsible for the supervision of the implementation of the NRCP in the United Kingdom. Monthly reports are sent to central level of each of the implementing bodies indicating sampling performance, shortfalls and assayability.

The audit team noted that:

- in respect of samples taken in Great Britain, VMD has real-time access to sample data from the main laboratory for analyses of samples collected in Great Britain, LGC Ltd, which allows day to day monitoring of sampling progress. For honey, VMD receives weekly data from the Central Science Laboratory (CSL);
- supervision of implementation in Northern Ireland during the sampling year is delegated to DARD. VMD does not have real-time access to data about implementation and results from Northern Ireland but receives monthly and quarterly reports of non-compliant results. At the end of the sampling year DARD provides VMD with the total numbers of samples taken and analysed;
- in 2008 the numbers of samples taken and analysed in UK were in accordance with the 2008 plan;
- the number of samples deemed unassayable in LGC Ltd was very low and VMD had taken timely action to ensure that new samples were taken in these cases. The VMD did not have access to the corresponding information from Northern Ireland.

Conclusions on supervision

In Great Britain supervision of the implementation of the NRCP by the central competent authority, the Veterinary Medicines Directorate, is effective. However the central competent authority does not have access to sufficient data to monitor the implementation and to ensure an even distribution of sampling during the year in Northern Ireland. Thus the VMD cannot ensure that the NRCP is implemented uniformly during the year throughout the UK as required by point 2.1. of the Annex to Commission Decision 98/179/EC.

5.1.5 Other residues control programmes

Legal Basis

In addition to the national residue control plan, Article 11 of Council Directive 96/23/EC gives Member States the option of conducting other residues testing, particularly in relation to detection of illegal treatment of food producing animals. Article 9 of Council Directive 96/23/EC foresees the application of own-checks by food business operators. Article 8(2) of Regulation (EC) No 882/2004 obliges Member States to have the legal provisions in place to allow competent authorities to have access to such information. Competent authorities are obliged to examine inter alia records (of own checks) as laid down in Article 10(2)(e) and (g) of Regulation (EC) No 882/2004. Article 19 of Regulation (EC) No 178/2002 obliges food business operators to inform the relevant competent authorities when non-compliances are detected, which may pose a risk to the consumers.

Audit findings

In Northern Ireland three extensive residue testing programmes outside the NRCP are in place (the Meat Inspection Scheme, the Pig Inspection Scheme and the Bovine QA Scheme). In Great Britain the so called non-statutory surveillance programme for residues covers mainly imported foodstuffs. In addition, several organisations and food business operators carry out surveillance for residues.

The audit team noted that:

- the additional schemes in Northern Ireland cover domestic production. Significantly more samples are collected under the additional residue testing schemes than under the NRCP in Northern Ireland;
- the non-statutory surveillance scheme in Great Britain targets imported food of animal origin, as well as retail outlets in Great Britain and Northern Ireland. The sample numbers are significantly lower than in the additional residues programmes in Northern Ireland;
- the results of all official residues programmes in the UK are taken into account when the NRCP is planned. The results are also submitted annually to the Commission services;
- the results, including non-compliant results, of residues testing by food business operators or organisations are not routinely made available to the authorities. However the food business operators are obliged to provide these results upon request, e.g. during official controls;
- on an annual basis the VMD formally invites more than 200 operators to provide the results of privately organised residue analyses for inclusion in the publicly available annual report of the Veterinary Residues Committee but few have provided results.

Conclusions on other residues control programmes

Whilst significantly different, the other residues control programmes operated in Northern Ireland and Great Britain increase confidence in competent authority guarantees on the residue status of food of animal origin in the UK. In addition the data generated by these programmes facilitates the risk based planning of the NRCP in accordance with the

requirements of Article 3.1 of Regulation (EC) No 882/2004.

5.1.6 Follow-up of non-compliant results

Legal basis

The measures to be taken by the competent authorities in response to the finding of non-compliant residues results are described in Articles 13, 16, 17, 18, 19, 23, 24, 27 and 28 of Council Directive 96/23/EC. In addition Article 54 of Regulation (EC) No 882/2004 lays down the principles to be followed in the application of national enforcement measures and actions to be taken in cases of non-compliance.

Audit Findings

VMD and DARD are responsible for initiating and co-ordinating follow-up actions of non-compliant results in Great Britain and Northern Ireland, respectively. In Great Britain, non-compliant results are sent directly from the relevant laboratories to the VMD, which will forward the results and a request for further investigation regarding red meat, poultry, egg, milk and game to the Veterinary Advisor (Residues) at Animal Health, regarding aquaculture products to CEFAS or FRS or regarding honey to the National Bee Unit. In Northern Ireland non-compliant results are sent from the laboratory to the Divisional Veterinary Officer (Residues) and the Food Policy Branch in DARD. These documents and a request for an on-farm investigation are forwarded to the relevant local Divisional Veterinary Officer. If prosecution is anticipated for gross violations of the MRL or for the detection of unauthorised substances, an Investigation officer from DEFRA's or DARD's legal branches will be involved in, or lead, the investigation.

The audit team noted that:

- instructions for follow-up are included in the relevant sampling instructions and are harmonised, if not identical, between Northern Ireland and Great Britain;

5.1.6.1 Non-compliant results in the 2008 NRCP

Audit Findings

- follow-up files studied showed that timely follow-up had taken place, visits were unannounced, investigations were well documented and UK results had been communicated to the Commission services and to the Veterinary Residues Committee;
- the Rapid Alert System for Food and Feed had been used when horse meat from a horse with a subsequent non-compliant result for phenylbutazone had been sold to another Member State;
- several of the follow-up investigations reported to the Commission services indicated that the farm in question would be targeted under the NRCP for further sampling at slaughter. However, VMD could not neither provide evidence of such sampling having taken place nor explain which procedures were in place to initiate such targeting(see Endnote);
- within the Meat Hygiene Service in Great Britain there is no system in place where farms could be "flagged" for further sampling in any slaughterhouse, while in

Northern Ireland this can be done through the APHIS system;

- when an initial follow-up investigation, initiated by the VMD and carried out by AH, indicates a possible environmental source for a heavy metal contamination the Food Standards Agency is responsible for any further action needed to protect public health. Summaries of such results are presented at the Veterinary Residues Committee meetings. One case file of such an investigation was studied by the audit team. It could not be ascertained if the Food Standards Agency had taken action but this case was recent.

Conclusions on follow-up investigations/actions

The harmonised approach for conducting follow-up investigations and evidence that comprehensive and prompt investigations had been carried out underpins the effectiveness of residue controls in the UK. However, targeting of non-compliant farms for further sampling under the NRCP, reported in the annual report to the Commission services as actions taken, had not been carried out in Great Britain as procedures for such follow-up are only available in Northern Ireland. This has led to an inconsistency of official controls which is not in line with the requirements of Article 4(4) of Regulation (EC) No 882/2004.

5.2 LABORATORIES

5.2.1 General description

Legal Basis

Requirements for designating laboratories are laid down in Article 12(1) of Regulation (EC) No 882/2004 and Article 14 of Council Directive 96/23/EC. Requirements pertaining to the capacity and capability of laboratories are described in Article 4(2)(c) of Regulation (EC) No 882/2004. Requirements for accreditation of laboratories are laid down in Point 1.2. of the Annex to Commission Decision 98/179/EC and in Article 12(2) and (3) of Regulation (EC) No 882/2004. Requirements for the validation of analytical methods for residues of pharmacologically active substances and certain contaminants are laid down in Articles 3, 4, 5 and 6 of Commission Decision 2002/657/EC. Requirements for analytical methods are also laid down in the annexes to Commission Regulation (EC) No 1883/2006 (dioxins and dioxin-like PCBs in foodstuffs), Commission Regulation (EC) No 333/2007 (chemical elements in foodstuffs) and Commission Regulation (EC) No 401/2006 (mycotoxins).

Audit Findings

In the UK three laboratories are involved in the NRCP - Agri-Food and Biosciences Institute Northern Ireland (AFBI), CSL and LGC Ltd. Each of these laboratories has been designated as a National Reference laboratory (NRL) and all are listed in the MANCP. All function as routine field laboratories and in Great Britain, there are service level contracts between VMD and both LGC Ltd and CSL. In Northern Ireland there are similar arrangements between the AFBI laboratories and DARD.

LGC Ltd carries out the bulk of testing in the UK NRCP being responsible for the testing

of all samples collected in Great Britain with the exception of honey which is analysed in the CSL. Similarly, all samples collected in Northern Ireland are, with the exception of honey, analysed in the AFBI laboratories. In addition to its testing responsibilities under the NRCP, CSL carries out all testing in the UK for the non-statutory surveillance programme. As required by Commission Decision 98/179/EC, all of the laboratories are accredited to an internationally recognised standard (in this case ISO 17025) by the United Kingdom Accreditation Service (UKAS). UKAS is a member of both European Accreditation Co-operation (EA) and the International Laboratory Accreditation co-operation (ILAC).

Following the 2005 FVO residues mission a UK NRL group was established under the auspices of the VMD with the objective of ensuring regular communication between each of the NRLs. Formal meetings are held twice per year.

The VMD has also initiated a programme of audits of laboratories carried out jointly with UKAS, the objective of which is to assess compliance with validation requirements to Commission Decision 2002/657/EC. To date one such audit, in LGC Ltd, has been carried out.

The audit team noted that:

- as was the case in 2005, there is no NRL assigned for group B2e (NSAIDs). This does not comply with Article 14 of Council Directive 96/23/EC;
- minutes of the UK NRL meetings and documentary evidence of communication and co-operation between each of the UK NRLs were available. This included for example the dissemination of information from workshops organised by the Community Reference Laboratories (CRL) in which the respective NRLs had participated, advice on analytical methods, and assistance in accessing analytical standards;
- each of the NRLs is assisting the VMD in the planning of the NRCP;
- each of the NRLs has participated in a substantial number of externally-organised proficiency testing schemes with largely satisfactory results. In cases where results had been deemed questionable or unsatisfactory there was evidence that corrective measures had been taken. The majority of these tests have been organised by the UK Food Analysis Performance Scheme (FAPAS);
- VMD had specifically commissioned extra FAPAS proficiency tests in the veterinary drug residues area to facilitate inter-comparison of laboratory performance of the UK laboratories, which would not be possible if each of the NRLs organised ring tests solely within the small number of laboratories in the UK network;
- to date the VMD has only audited one of the four UK laboratories – LGC Ltd. This was carried out in line with the requirements laid down in the contract drawn up between VMD and the LGC Ltd.

5.2.2 On the spot visits in LGC Ltd

The audit team noted that:

- the laboratory is functioning in accordance with ISO 17025 and is very well equipped in modern facilities with state of the art equipment. Training records for staff were available and, for those selected for random examination by the audit team, were in order;
- anonymity of sample ownership is assured and procedures to ensure full traceability of the sample within the laboratory were in place and were seen to be functioning correctly;
- there is a comprehensive quality manual and list of standard operating procedures (SOPs). There are over 100 individual methods included in the scope of accreditation;
- there is an SOP for the validation of methods according to Commission Decision 2002/657/EC which covers all of the relevant performance criteria specified in Commission Decision 2002/657/EC. This validation approach had been agreed between all of the NRLs;
- with the exception of analyses for group B2c (carbamates and pyrethroids) and B3b (organophosphate pesticides) all screening methods had been validated to Commission Decision 2002/657/EC. The CRL for pesticides in food of animal origin (high fat content) had advised NRLs during the most recent workshop to apply Commission guidelines in validation of analytical methods for pesticides (SANCO/2007/3131 of 31 October 2007) instead of Commission Decision 2002/657/EC. This is not in line with Community requirements as Commission Decision 2002/657/EC is applicable to pesticides in food of animal origin;
- not all of the confirmatory methods in place have been validated according to Commission Decision 2002/657/EC. The laboratory has a policy of only fully validating existing confirmatory methods as and when required or outsourcing confirmation to the relevant NRL. The rationale given is that there are relatively few non-compliances each year and UKAS requires revalidation of methods which have not been used for one year. This situation is not fully in line with Commission Decision 2002/657/EC (i.e. the deadlines for validation have not been respected), however, all methods used to confirm screening positive results had been validated to the standard;
- in general blank matrix-fortified calibration curves are used for all analyses by liquid/gas chromatographic methods. Analytical recoveries are determined by spiking matrix extracts and comparing measured content with pre-extracted matrix spikes. Analytical recovery must fall within a pre-determined range in order for the analytical result to be accepted;
- several methods were selected at random by the audit team and examined. In each case method SOPs were available, had been laid out in a consistent manner and full supporting validation files were available;
- the LC-MS/MS method for phenylbutazone in equine and bovine plasma and bovine milk had been fully validated in accordance with Commission Decision 2002/657/EC. Validation predated the latest CRL recommendation document on recommended testing levels. As such the CC-alpha estimate for equine and bovine

plasma (5.7 µg/kg) was slightly in excess of the CRL-recommended value of 5 µg/kg;

- a novel liquid chromatography-time of flight mass spectrometry (LC-ToF) method is used for screening analysis of a range of over 50 antimicrobial residues in animal tissues. The method was suitable to detect each of the residues at their respective Community MRLs and CC-beta estimates were in most cases close to the MRL. The method had not been validated entirely in accordance with point 3.1.2.3. in the Annex to Commission Decision 2002/657/EC as validation had been carried out only on a single day (albeit with a greater number of replicates than required by the Decision). Data which would allow between-day within-laboratory reproducibility to be assessed were available but had not yet been used to assess this performance criterion.

Conclusions on laboratories

The initiative of the central competent authority to improve and formalise communication between the National Reference Laboratories in the UK has facilitated the harmonisation of performance standards throughout the network. Guarantees on the reliability of laboratory performance have been assured by the accreditation status of the laboratories, largely satisfactory performance in proficiency tests and largely correct validation of methods examined by the audit team. Nevertheless the fact that the VMD has not assigned a National Reference Laboratory for each substance group as required by Article 14 of Council Directive 96/23/EC and that some methods have only been partially validated to Commission Decision 2002/657/EC potentially weakens the reliability of laboratory performance.

5.3 VETERINARY MEDICINAL PRODUCTS

5.3.1 Distribution and use of veterinary medicinal products

Legal Basis

Conditions governing the distribution and use of veterinary medicinal products are laid down in Articles 65-71 of Directive 2001/82/EC. Article 67 (aa) of Directive 2001/82/EC requires that veterinary medicinal products for food producing animals are only dispensed to the public under a veterinary prescription unless exempted under the conditions laid down in Article 2 of Commission Directive 2006/130/EC. In respect of medicated premixes conditions governing the distribution and use are laid down in Articles 2, 8 and 9 of Council Directive 90/167/EEC. Production of medicated feedingstuffs can only take place in establishments which have been authorised for the production of feedingstuffs containing additives in accordance with Articles 9, 10, 11 and 13 of Regulation (EC) No 183/2005 and the production process must satisfy the conditions laid down in Annexes I and II to that Regulation. With regard to the use of certain hormones and beta-agonists for zootechnical and/or therapeutic purposes, the conditions governing such use are laid down in Articles 4, 5, 6, 8, 9 of Council Directive 96/22/EC.

Audit Findings

Veterinary medicinal products are distributed to farmers by veterinary practitioners, pharmacies and licensed merchants. All veterinary medicinal products, for food producing animals, containing pharmacologically active substances are prescription-only medicines if not exempt in accordance with the requirements laid down in Commission Directive 2006/130/EC. Depending on the classification veterinary medicinal products for food producing animals can be prescribed by veterinarians only (POM-V) or by veterinarians, pharmacists or "suitably qualified persons" (POM-VPS). If exempt from the requirement for prescription the classification is AVM-GSL and the product is approved for general sale.

The audit team noted that:

- the full summary of product characteristics (SPC) and information about the classification for each authorised product is published on the VMD website. The SPCs are not required to contain information about the classification of the products. These sale classifications (i.e. prescription or not) are listed separately on the website;
- all veterinary medicinal products for food producing animals checked by the audit team contained active substances listed in Annexes I-III to Council Regulation (EEC) No 2377/90;
- one product, authorised for use in piglets, containing toltrazuril (listed in Annex I to Council Regulation (EEC) No 2377/90) with a withdrawal time of 77 days according to the published SPC is listed on the VMD website as AVM-GSL, i.e. exempt from the requirement for prescription. The VMD stated that this product could only be sold on prescription and had not been exempted under the conditions listed in Commission Directive 2006/130/EC so this listing was a mistake;
- under certain conditions bee colonies infected with European foulbrood are treated under the "cascade" (Article 11 of Directive 2001/82/EC) with oxytetracycline prescribed from the Veterinary Laboratory Agency. The applicable standard operating procedure from the National Bee Unit states that honey can be harvested from 6 weeks after treatment and marketed for human consumption provided it is stored until six months have passed since the treatment;
- standardised prescription forms are used for the prescription of medicated premixes.

Conclusions on distribution and use of veterinary medicinal products

Veterinary medicinal products for food producing animals are authorised in line with Community legislation and the VMD website provides all relevant information regarding authorised products.

5.3.2 Controls on the distribution and use of veterinary medicinal products

Legal Basis

Competent authorities have a general obligation under Article 80 (1) of the Community code relating to veterinary medicinal products (Directive 2001/82/EC) to carry out inspections throughout the distribution chain of veterinary medicinal products in order to

verify compliance with the provisions of the Directive 2001/82/EC. Specific obligations for competent authorities are laid down in Articles 65, 66, 68, 69 of the above Directive. With regard to ensuring that the production of medicated feedingstuffs is in accordance with Council Directive 90/167/EEC, the rules governing control functions by the competent authorities are laid down in Articles 4, 9 and 13 of said Directive.

The veterinary medicines record keeping requirements of stockowners are laid down in Article 69 of Directive 2001/82/EC, Article 10 of Council Directive 96/23/EC, and Annex I, Part A III, point 8(b) to Regulation (EC) No 852/2004. The requirements for food chain information accompanying animals submitted for slaughter for human consumption are laid down in and Annex II, Section III, point 3(c) to Regulation (EC) No 853/2004.

5.3.2.1 Controls on farm

Audit Findings

The audit team noted that:

- there is a requirement for all farmers of food producing animals to keep treatment records. However, national legislation requires treatment records on farm to be retained for three years instead of the five years required under Article 69 of Directive 2001/82/EC;
- inspectors interviewed often made use of information from the pharmaceutical industry (NOAH), which is incomplete, instead of the information provided on the VMD website when checking the authorisation status of veterinary medicinal products;
- comprehensive treatment records were kept on all farms visited, standardised veterinary written directives (prescriptions) were available for medicated premixes used for production of medicated feed, and all prescription-only veterinary medicinal products in stock were labelled by the supplying veterinary practitioner in accordance with national rules;
- the existence of treatment records and the retention of records for at least three years is checked in Great Britain by Animal Health and in Northern Ireland by DARD during cross compliance inspections and in the framework of certain disease control programmes.
- the existence and retention of treatment records are also checked in Great Britain by Local Authority Trading Standards Departments. The quality and frequency of such controls are not coordinated between Local Authorities , nor are these controls coordinated with those carried out by Animal Health. VMD does not have access to information to check if overlaps or gaps occur;
- the quality of treatment records on farm, as well as medicines kept on farm, are checked in Great Britain by Animal Health during on farm sampling for the NRCP. In addition such checks are carried out in UK by Animal Health and DARD as part of follow-up investigations;
- There is no coordination between Animal Health and DARD regarding the procedures or practices for controls on the use of veterinary medicinal products on

farm;

- food chain information requirements had been implemented for pigs, equidae and veal calves in the slaughterhouse visited in line with Community legislation. National legislation requires food chain information for horses from 1 July 2009. Standardised forms from the British Pig Executive were used for pigs while the slaughterhouse had designed its own documents for equidae. In the documents for equidae the owners were required to declare that a six month withdrawal period had been respected not only for "essential substances" listed in Regulation (EC) No 1950/2006 but also for all substances listed in Annexes I-III of Regulation (EEC) No 2377/90.

Conclusions on official controls on the distribution and use of veterinary medicinal products

There is a comprehensive framework in place for the checking of the maintenance of treatment records and storage of veterinary medicines on farm with many different authorities carrying out such checks. The low rate of non-compliances observed indicates that such checks are effective even though they are not well coordinated between the various authorities involved. However, the minimum retention time for treatment records on farm in national legislation is substantially shorter than Community requirements.

5.3.3 Identification of equidae and medicines records requirements

Legal basis

Equidae must be identified by an identification document (passport) as established in Commission Decision 93/623/EEC and Commission Decision 2000/68/EC. (From 1 July 2009, this legislation is repealed by Commission Regulation (EC) No 504/2008). In addition Commission Regulation (EC) No 1950/2006 lists certain pharmacologically active substances which are deemed to be essential for the treatment of equidae and even though they are not listed in Annexes I, II or III to Council Regulation (EEC) No 2377/90, these substances may be used to treat equidae intended for human consumption. The corollary of this is that if equidae are treated with a substance which is neither listed in Annexes I, II or III to Council Regulation (EEC) No 2377/90 nor defined as an essential substance by Commission Regulation (EC) No 1950/2006, such a treatment permanently excludes the animal from the food chain. The exclusion must be declared by the owner under Part 2 of Section IX of the passport.

For those equidae which are eligible for human consumption, treatment with pharmacologically active substances listed in Annexes I, II or III to Council Regulation (EEC) No 2377/90 must be recorded in a medicines record kept on the farm as required by Article 10 of Council Directive 96/23/EC, Annex I, Part A, III, point 8(b) to Regulation (EC) No 852/2004 and Annex II, Section III, point 3(c) to Regulation (EC) No 853/2004).

For those equidae which are eligible for human consumption, treatment with any of the essential pharmacologically active substances listed in Commission Regulation (EC) No 1950/2006 must be recorded in Part 3 of Section IX of the equine passport and a period of six months from the date of last treatment to time of slaughter must be observed. In

accordance with Article 5 and Annex I, chapter IIA point 1 of Regulation (EC) No 854/2004 *inter alia* equine passports and other food chain information must be checked by the official veterinarian before slaughter.

Audit Findings

An identification system for equidae (equine passports) has been implemented in the United Kingdom. The central competent authority for this implementation and its enforcement is DEFRA. Equine passports are required *inter alia* when horses are sold, transported or submitted for slaughter. In the latter case, Section IX (medical treatment) must be included in the passport and completed. Equine passports are checked by staff of Local Authority Trading Standards Departments to ensure that equidae have identity documents *inter alia* when sold and transported. Equine passports, in particular the proper completion of Section IX confirming that the animal has not been excluded from the food chain, are also checked at slaughter by official veterinarians contracted by the Meat Hygiene Service.

The audit team noted that:

- in the UK, fifty-two issuing bodies for equine passports have been designated by DEFRA. Most of them are breed societies while 5-10 are other organisations or companies including auctioneers;
- the rules for implementation of the equine passport system, in particular the requirements for signing Section IX, are not the same in England, Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland;
- information about the food chain information requirements on the DARD website lists the equine passport as sufficient to fulfil the requirements. This is not in line with the requirements of Annex II, Section III, point 3(c) to Regulation (EC) No 853/2004, as information is given in the passport only about treatments with medicines which require the animal to be excluded from the food chain or for which a six month withdrawal period applies under Commission Regulation (EC) No 1950/2006;
- the veterinary practitioner interviewed would not always ensure that the equine animal(s) had been signed out of the food chain in Section IX of the equine passport before dispensing medicines which cannot be used in food producing animals. This is not in line with Article 10(2) of Directive 2001/82/EC;
- certain veterinary medicinal products (permethrin) are authorised for sale without prescription for use only in equidae which have been signed out from the food chain in the equine passport;
- the Local Authority Trading Standards Department in the local authority visited focused on checking that equidae sold or transported were accompanied by equine passport and that the description in the passport matched the animal;
- in the slaughterhouse visited, slaughtering 200-300 horses per month, the official veterinarian checked all equine passports before horses were accepted for slaughter for human consumption in line with the requirements of Article 5 and Annex I, chapter IIA point 1 of Regulation (EC) No 854/2004. In particular, section IX was

checked to ensure that the horse was declared as intended for human consumption;

- in a large number of equine passports studied by the audit team, either the whole passport or Section IX comprising the declaration that the animal was intended for human consumption had been issued and signed on the same day as the horse was slaughtered;
- in several passports the listing of the owner(s) or owner changes were not dated;
- the person renting the slaughterhouse for equine slaughter one day per week, also run a business which is designated as an issuing body for equine passports. All passports and most of Sections IX issued on the day of slaughter were issued by this latter business. Some passports had the horse slaughtering business listed as the Competent Authority issuing Section IX;
- in many of the passports studied the declaration that the horse was intended for human consumption was signed shortly prior to slaughter by a horse dealer in Northern Ireland or by a representative of the slaughtering business in Great Britain. In addition, the registration of the first owner of the horse (the horse dealer selling the horse to the issuer of the passport) was in one passport dated eight months after the date of the identification section in the same passport, signed by the issuer of the passport who subsequently bought the horse for slaughter.

Conclusions on requirements for the identification of equidae and maintenance of medicines records

The way the equine passport system is implemented in the UK is not uniform and does not offer adequate guarantees regarding the treatment history of equidae slaughtered for human consumption. In particular, the fact that an owner of a business buying and slaughtering horses for human consumption can be designated as an issuing body for equine passports poses an obvious risk of conflict of interest and undermines the food safety aspect of the passport system even though the controls carried out by the official veterinarian at slaughter are in line with the requirements of Article 5 and Annex I, chapter IIA point 1 of Regulation (EC) No 854/2004. In addition, the interpretation by DARD that the equine passport is the only document required as food chain information does not provide the food business operator and the official veterinarian with sufficient information to assess if the animal is suitable for slaughter for human consumption.

6 OVERALL CONCLUSION

In general the system of residues controls in the United Kingdom is in compliance with Community rules. The planning process takes all relevant aspects into account but the exclusion of goat/sheep milk and rabbits and the many omissions in the plans for equidae and farmed game weaken competent authority guarantees regarding the residue status of these commodities.

The implementation is effective but there are inconsistencies with regard to targeting of routine samples, which is not in line with Community requirements in Northern

Ireland, and suspect sampling, which was not in line with Community requirements in the slaughterhouse visited in England. Supervision by the central competent authority (VMD) during the year is effective in Great Britain. However the central competent authority does not have access to sufficient data to ensure an evenly distributed sampling during the year in Northern Ireland as required under Article 4(2)(c) of Council Directive 96/23/EC and point 2.1. of the Annex to Commission Decision 98/179/EC. Confidence in competent authority guarantees on the residue status of food of animal origin in the United Kingdom is strengthened by the substantial number of samples analysed under official residue control programmes outside the National Residue Control Plan although these sample numbers are significantly larger in Northern Ireland than in Great Britain. Follow-up procedures are harmonised and function well, however the use of the investigation results for subsequent sample selection takes place in Northern Ireland but not in Great Britain. These differing approaches within the United Kingdom demonstrate an inconsistency in official controls, contrary to the requirements of Article 4(4) of Regulation (EC) No 882/2004.

The laboratory network has a harmonised analytical approach and in general the laboratories meet the criteria in Community legislation. Nevertheless the fact that the VMD has failed to assign a national reference laboratory for one of the substance groups required by Article 14 of Council Directive 96/23/EC and that not all methods have been validated according to Commission Decision 2002/657/EC potentially weakens the reliability of laboratory performance.

Medicine use on farms was well controlled, however controls were not coordinated between the different competent authorities which may lead to inconsistency in the application of official controls between regions. In addition, the national legislation regarding retention of treatment records on farm is not in line with Article 69 of Directive 2001/82/EC. Significant problems were seen in relation to the residues status of equidae for slaughter for human consumption which were compounded by the conflict of interest for at least one horse passport-issuing authority and the very limited residues testing of equidae.

7 CLOSING MEETING

A closing meeting was held on 23 February with representatives of the central competent authority. At this meeting, the audit team presented the main findings and preliminary conclusions of the audit. The authorities did not express disagreement with these.

8 RECOMMENDATIONS

The competent authority of the United Kingdom is recommended to:

No.	Recommendation
1	Ensure that equidae and farmed game are also sampled under the National Residue Control Plan for all mandatory substance groups required under Article 5.2 of Council Directive 96/23/EC.

No.	Recommendation
2	Ensure that milk from other species (goat and sheep) is sampled under the National Residue Control Plan, in addition to bovine milk, in line with the requirements in Chapter 1.2 in the Annex to Commission Decision 97/747/EC.
3	Ensure that rabbits, if slaughtered for human consumption in the UK, are sampled under the National Residue Control Plan in line with the requirements in Chapter 3 in the Annex to Commission Decision 97/747/EC.
4	Ensure that the implementation of the sampling for the National Residue Control Plan, in particular targeting of farms for routine sampling is consistent throughout the United Kingdom as required under point 2.3.2. in the Annex to Commission Decision 98/179/EC and Article 4(4) of Regulation (EC) No 882/2004, respectively.
5	Ensure that the central competent authority has sufficient information, as required under Article 4(2)(c) of Council Directive 96/23/EC, about the sampling in all regions and sectors to guarantee that sampling is carried out throughout the sampling year in accordance with the National Residue Control Plan and in line with point 2.1. of the Annex to Commission Decision 98/179/EC.
6	Ensure that suspect sampling, and detention of sampled carcasses, is carried out in line with national instructions and as required under Article 24.1 of Council Directive 96/23/EC.
7	Designate a National Reference Laboratory for substance group B2e (non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs) as required by Article 14 of Council Directive 96/23/EC.
8	Ensure that all methods used for analysis of samples under the National Residue Control Plan are validated in accordance with the requirements of Commission Decision 2002/657/EC.
9	Ensure that the required retention time for treatment records on farm is in line with the requirements of Article 69 of Directive 2001/82/EC.
10	Ensure that Section IX in the identification document (passport) for equidae is implemented in line with the requirements of Commission Decision 93/623/EEC as amended by Commission Decision 2000/68/EC and that by 1 July 2009 all issuing bodies for identification documents fulfil the criteria under Article 4 of Commission Regulation (EC) No 504/2008.

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

http://ec.europa.eu/food/fvo/ap/ap_the_united_kingdom_8128_2009.pdf

9 ENDNOTES

Concerning	Detail
Section 5.1.3	In the response to the draft report the UK competent authority stated that

Concerning	Detail
	this three year restriction in Great Britain does not stop the authorities targeting farms more often where there are residues concerns. The CCA is in discussion with the Animal Health Agency to look at alternative procedures.
Section 5.1.3	In the response to the draft report the UK competent authority stated that field instructions for honey collection in Northern Ireland are being drafted.
Section 5.1.3	In the response to the draft report the UK competent authority stated that the CCA will discuss scope for harmonising procedures for dealing with suspect and target sampling with DARD.
Section 5.1.6.1	In the response to the draft report the UK competent authority stated that since the audit targeting of re-offenders of non-compliant samples have been stepped up and further sampling has been carried out at the slaughterhouses. This involves liaising with the Meat Hygiene Service and discussions are continuing to incorporate these processes into the field instructions.

ANNEX 1 - LIST OF LEGISLATION REFERENCED IN THE REPORT

Reference	OJ Ref.	Detail
Audits by the Commission Services		
Regulation (EC) No 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
Decision 98/139/EC	OJ L 38, 12.2.1998, p. 10–13	98/139/EC: Commission Decision of 4 February 1998 laying down certain detailed rules concerning on-the-spot checks carried out in the veterinary field by Commission experts in the Member States
Food Law		
Regulation (EC) No 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
Regulation (EC) No 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
Regulation (EC) No 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
Monitoring and sampling of residues in food of animal origin		
Directive 96/23/EC	OJ L 125, 23.5.1996, p. 10–32	Council Directive 96/23/EC of 29 April 1996 on measures to monitor certain substances and residues thereof in live animals and animal products and repealing Directives 85/358/EEC and 86/469/EEC and Decisions 89/187/EEC and 91/664/EEC

Reference	OJ Ref.	Detail
Decision 97/747/EC	OJ L 303, 6.11.1997, p. 12–15	97/747/EC: Commission Decision of 27 October 1997 fixing the levels and frequencies of sampling provided for by Council Directive 96/23/EC for the monitoring of certain substances and residues thereof in certain animal products
Decision 98/179/EC	OJ L 65, 5.3.1998, p. 31–34	98/179/EC: Commission Decision of 23 February 1998 laying down detailed rules on official sampling for the monitoring of certain substances and residues thereof in live animals and animal products
Validation of analytical methods for residues and Minimum Required Performance Limits		
Decision 2002/657/EC	OJ L 221, 17.8.2002, p. 8–36	2002/657/EC: Commission Decision of 12 August 2002 implementing Council Directive 96/23/EC concerning the performance of analytical methods and the interpretation of results
Bans on the use of hormones and beta-agonists for growth promotion in food producing animals		
Directive 96/22/EC	OJ L 125, 23.5.1996, p. 3–9	Council Directive 96/22/EC of 29 April 1996 concerning the prohibition on the use in stockfarming of certain substances having a hormonal or thyrostatic action and of ß-agonists, and repealing Directives 81/602/EEC, 88/146/EEC and 88/299/EEC
Maximum Residue Limits for veterinary medicines in food of animal origin		
Regulation (EC) No 2377/90	OJ L 224, 18.8.1990, p. 1–8	Council Regulation (EEC) No 2377/90 of 26 June 1990 laying down a Community procedure for the establishment of maximum residue limits of veterinary medicinal products in foodstuffs of animal origin
Maximum Levels for pesticide residues in food of animal origin		
Regulation (EC) No 396/2005	OJ L 70, 16.3.2005, p. 1–16	Regulation (EC) No 396/2005 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 23 February 2005 on maximum residue levels of pesticides in or on food and feed of plant and animal origin and amending Council Directive 91/414/EEC
Maximum Levels for contaminants in food		
Regulation (EC) No 1881/2006	OJ L 364, 20.12.2006, p. 5–24	Commission Regulation (EC) No 1881/2006 of 19 December 2006 setting maximum levels for certain contaminants in foodstuffs
Authorisation of veterinary medicinal products		

Reference	OJ Ref.	Detail
Directive 2001/82/EC	OJ L 311, 28.11.2001, p. 1–66	Directive 2001/82/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 6 November 2001 on the Community code relating to veterinary medicinal products
Directive 2006/130/EC	OJ L 349, 12.12.2006, p. 15–16	Commission Directive 2006/130/EC of 11 December 2006 implementing Directive 2001/82/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council as regards the establishment of criteria for exempting certain veterinary medicinal products for food-producing animals from the requirement of a veterinary prescription
Medicated feedingstuffs and additives		
Directive 90/167/EEC	OJ L 92, 7.4.1990, p. 42–48	Council Directive 90/167/EEC of 26 March 1990 laying down the conditions governing the preparation, placing on the market and use of medicated feedingstuffs in the Community
Regulation (EC) No 1831/2003	OJ L 268, 18.10.2003, p. 29–43	Regulation (EC) No 1831/2003 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 22 September 2003 on additives for use in animal nutrition
Regulation (EC) No 183/2005	OJ L 35, 8.2.2005, p. 1–22	Regulation (EC) No 183/2005 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 12 January 2005 laying down requirements for feed hygiene
Sampling methods and methods of analysis for contaminants in foodstuffs		
Regulation (EC) No 333/2007	OJ L 88, 29.3.2007, p. 29–38	Commission Regulation (EC) No 333/2007 of 28 March 2007 laying down the methods of sampling and analysis for the official control of the levels of lead, cadmium, mercury, inorganic tin, 3-MCPD and benzo(a)pyrene in foodstuffs
Regulation (EC) No 401/2006	OJ L 70, 9.3.2006, p. 12–34	Commission Regulation (EC) No 401/2006 of 23 February 2006 laying down the methods of sampling and analysis for the official control of the levels of mycotoxins in foodstuffs
Regulation (EC) No 1883/2006	OJ L 364, 20.12.2006, p. 32–43	Commission Regulation (EC) No 1883/2006 of 19 December 2006 laying down methods of sampling and analysis for the official control of levels of dioxins and dioxin-like PCBs in certain foodstuffs
Sampling methods for pesticides in foodstuffs		
Directive 2002/63/EC	OJ L 187, 16.7.2002, p. 30–43	Commission Directive 2002/63/EC of 11 July 2002 establishing Community methods of sampling for the official control of pesticide residues in and on products of plant and animal origin and repealing

Reference	OJ Ref.	Detail
		Directive 79/700/EEC
Horse identification (passport)		
Decision 2000/68/EC	OJ L 23, 28.1.2000, p. 72–75	2000/68/EC: Commission Decision of 22 December 1999 amending Commission Decision 93/623/EEC and establishing the identification of equidae for breeding and production
Regulation (EC) No 504/2008	OJ L 149, 7.6.2008, p. 3–32	Commission Regulation (EC) No 504/2008 of 6 June 2008 implementing Council Directives 90/426/EEC and 90/427/EEC as regards methods for the identification of equidae
Medicines essential for the treatment of equidae		
Regulation (EC) No 1950/2006	OJ L 367, 22.12.2006, p. 33–45	Commission Regulation (EC) No 1950/2006 of 13 December 2006 establishing, in accordance with Directive 2001/82/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council on the Community code relating to veterinary medicinal products, a list of substances essential for the treatment of equidae