

Application in the UK of EU Regulation 882/2004 on official feed and food controls - update 13

Introduction

1. This note provides an update on the work that the Agency has taken forward on application in the UK of EU Regulation 882/2004 since January 2008. This includes information on the review of the UK national control plan and publication of the first annual report on progress towards its implementation. It also provides an update on the proposed implementing rules for import controls for 'high-risk' feed and food products of non-animal origin (non-POAO), the Commission's 'Better Training for Safer Food' initiative and information about the work at EU level to evaluate the current arrangements in Member States for collecting fees and charges for official controls.

UK National Control Plan (January 2007 to March 2011) and annual report

2. The UK's first multi-annual National Control Plan was published in December 2006 and was prepared jointly by the Agency and the four Agriculture/Rural Affairs Departments in order to meet a requirement in Regulation 882/2004. The plan is kept under review and Revision 3 of the Plan was published earlier this month. No substantive amendments have been made but the Plan has been updated to reflect some organisational changes and to reflect the publication of new or revised guidance material and European and national legislation. The first annual report on progress made towards implementing the National Control Plan, which covers the period from 1 January to 31 December 2007, has also been published. The revised Plan and this annual report can be found on the FSA website at:

<http://www.food.gov.uk/foodindustry/regulation/europeleg/feedandfood/ncpuk>.

Implementing rules for import controls for 'high-risk' non-POAO feed and food

3. We last wrote to interested parties on 10 October 2008 to update them on the proposed measures and to seek views on the latest version of the draft Commission Regulation discussed at a Commission Working Group meeting in October. A copy of the letter is available at the link below. The European Commission has indicated its intention to present a revised version of the proposed Regulation to the Standing Committee on the Food Chain and Animal Health (SCoFCAH) in February.

<http://www.food.gov.uk/foodindustry/regulation/europeleg/euupdates/offcoct2008>.

'Better Training for Safer Food'

4. This is the Commission's strategy for the training of officials from the competent authorities in the Member States (MSs) and third countries in the feed, food, animal health and animal welfare, and plant health sectors. The objectives are to improve the consistency and effectiveness of controls within MSs and across the EU, and to provide safeguards to consumers. The 2009 programme will include courses on HACCP, veterinary and food safety checks at BIPS, zoonoses and microbiological criteria in foodstuffs, animal welfare, animal by-products, feed hygiene and marketing, TSEs, food hygiene and controls and plant health controls. The Agency is seeking expressions of interest from relevant enforcement officers as regards these courses. Further information is available at:

<http://www.food.gov.uk/multimedia/pdfs/enforcement/enfe08080.pdf>

Commission review of fees and charges for official controls

5. At EU level, the Commission has commissioned an evaluation of the current arrangements in Member States for collecting fees and charges for official controls under the framework laid down in Regulation 882/2004. The Commission has indicated that a report

on this will be submitted to the European Parliament and the Council in the first quarter of 2009.

Further information

6. If you require any further information, please contact either David Millis or Rufina Acheampong - contact details below.

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