



Overview of biosecurity systems in EU Member States

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Who are we?

A service of the European Commission

verifying compliance and/or equivalence with EU standards concerning food & feed safety, **animal health**, animal welfare, and plant health – Mandate recently extended.

The FVO is based in Grange, Ireland, since 2002 – as such since 1997.

- 170 staff – 90 auditors (7 animal health)
- Main activity – 250 audits per year
- covering EU MS and non-EU countries
- Contribution to development of policy and official control systems



What do we do?

We conduct **audits** and other related activities in order to provide :

assurances necessary to increase the **confidence** of consumers, facilitate **trade** and contribute to economic **growth**.

the Commission with **critical oversight** of how control systems (EU and non-EU) operate – the Commission can proactively take the necessary **steps to minimise risk**.

How do we do it

We gather audit evidence (questionnaires, review of documentation, interviews, observations, data analysis, verification on-the-spot) aimed at answering four basic questions:

- **IS THERE a system?**
- **CAN it work?**
- **DOES it work? WHY?**
- **If not, WHY not?**

EU and international (e.g. OIE) standards

Compliance / Equivalence / Effectiveness

Basis for:

- **FVO recommendations in reports**
- **Identification of best practice**



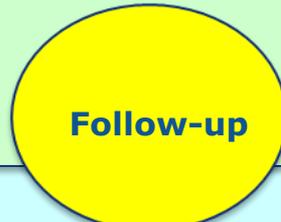
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SANCO

TC:
Listing
Request

FVO

Compliance
Equivalence



Events

Safeguard measures (MS)
Infringement (MS)
De-listing (TC)

Animal health FVO audits in MSs

A broad variety of areas to check

- **Contingency planning – Emergency preparedness and early warning systems.**
- **EU co-funded disease control and eradication programmes.**
- **Compliance with animal health rules for Intra-EU trade.**
- **Compliance with rules post-outbreak of an epizootic disease.**
- **Aquatic animal health.**

Biosecurity measures

Applied

as a preventive tool (in “peace time”).

when an outbreak occurs.

for specific eradication/control programme.

Legal framework for biosecurity established at both EU and at MSs levels.



Biosecurity measures as a preventive tool (in “peace time”) for Body, Institute or Centre (ABIC) and Semen Collection Centres (SCC)

The detailed rules established at EU level (Dir. 88/407, Dir. 90/429 and Dir. 92/65).

Biosecurity measures as a preventive tool (in “peace time”) on farms

Only very few criteria established at EU level.

Possibility to establish rules at national level.

Industry driven activities widely used.

Biosecurity measures as a preventive tool (in “peace time”) on farms

Biosecurity may be supported by the MSs as part of their rural development programmes

- **Training, advisory services, awareness**
- **On-farm investments**
- **Support to farmers to adopt new EU obligatory biosecurity standards**
- **Support specific farming practises**

Biosecurity measures when an outbreak occurs

The minimum criteria set in each control directive.

Additional measures taken at the national level (including poultry compartment conditions for AI, e.g. restrictions on movements of vehicles or persons for feed supply, egg collection, the transport to slaughterhouses of poultry, the collection for disposal of carcasses and other movements of personnel, veterinarians or persons supplying farm equipment).

Specific biosecurity measures imposed by the national eradication/control programme (to address the risk involved).

Aquatic animal health and biosecurity

Council Directive 2006/88/EC

on animal health requirements for aquaculture animals and products thereof, and on the prevention and control of certain diseases in aquatic animals –

Article 9 – obligation of aquaculture production businesses and authorised processing establishments to implement good hygiene practice, as relevant for the activity concerned, to prevent the introduction and spreading of diseases.

Annex V - Disease-free zone or compartment conditions - “upgraded higher level” biosecurity regime used in trade.

Aquatic animal health and biosecurity cont.

Commission Regulation (EC) 1251/2008

implementing Directive 2006/88/EC as regards conditions and certification requirements for the placing on the market and the import into the Community of aquaculture and products thereof and laying down a list of vector species



Aquatic animal health and objective of EU biosecurity network

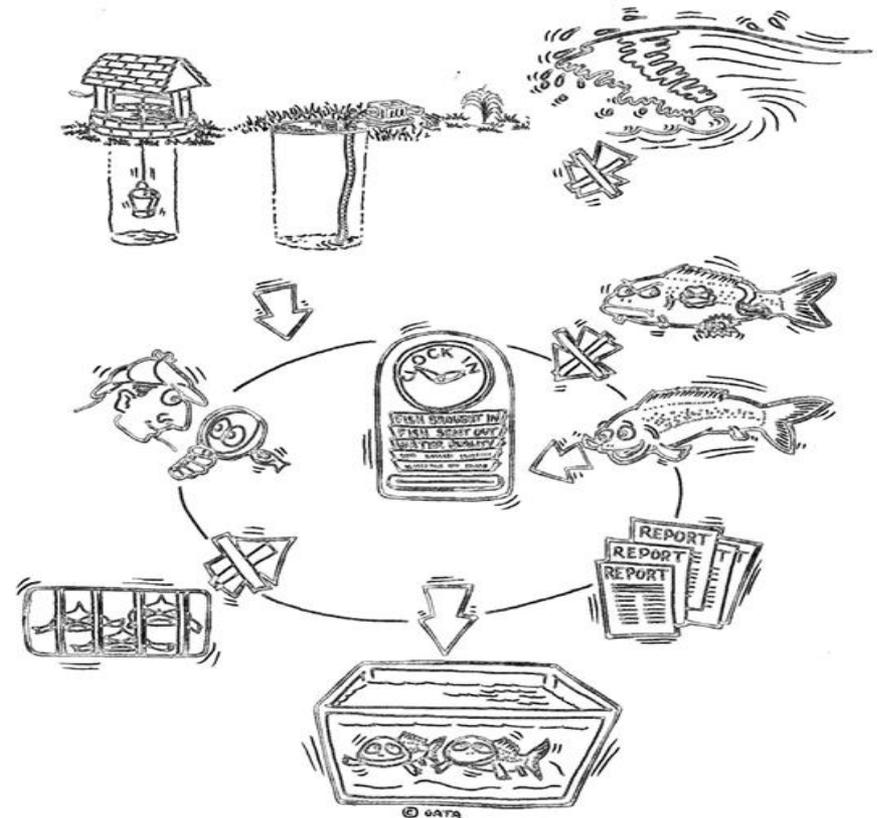
To provide an environment where MSs use the same biosecurity standards to facilitate free trade:

- **Agreement on which pathogens to control – lists susceptible and vector species**
- **Recognised common system for control and eradication-introduction of a risk-based surveillance policy**
- **Prescribed diagnostic procedures**
- **Common rules on import controls**
- **Agreed documents are used to certify the animal health status of intra-Union traded commodities**

Aquatic animal health and objective of EU biosecurity network

THE EU "APPROVED" FARM MODEL – Keeping the bad 'bugs' out!!

- Risks related to source of water
- Risks of flooding
- Risks from wild fish (rivers, lakes)
- Risks related to restocking – no fish from lower health status
- Regular fish checks and keeping of good records
- Healthy fish sent out to customers



Audits on biosecurity systems defined by EU legislation – ABIC and SCC

The rules established by the EU legislation include

- **Management measures (e.g. quarantine of new animals, conditions for accepting the animals, isolation of sick animals, safe disposal of carcasses).**

Audits on biosecurity systems defined by EU legislation – ABIC and SCC

- **Physical protection and hygiene barriers (structural requirements)**
- **Prevent contact with livestock outside.**
- **Structural requirements for quarantine facilities.**
- **Requirements for cleaning and disinfection of premises for animals.**

Audits on biosecurity systems defined by EU legislation – ABIC and SCC

- **Supervision (internal) + controls (external) (to provide guarantees that biosecurity is under control).**
- **Related documentations (procedures, instructions, records) to provide evidence that the system works and is suitable to achieve the objectives.**

Audits on evaluation the animal health control system in place for ABIC – main findings

Problems detected regarding infrastructures of quarantine facilities, affecting the biosecurity standard of the ABICs (quarantine facilities not met several requirements of Article 5.9.3. of the OIE code).

Quarantine facilities used also for isolation of sick animals at the same time.

Animals from non-approved sources introduced into ABICs compromising management measures to reduce disease risks due to direct and indirect contact with potentially disease-carrier or infected animals.

Audits on the animal health control system in place for SCC – main findings

Animal housings not so constructed or maintained that it could be readily cleaned and disinfected.

Structural and maintenance deficiencies were observed.

For animals kept in a grazing/sandy area the biosecurity needs to be adapted to risk (e.g. if pasture/sand used then SOP needed to reduce risk of contamination in case of infectious agent detected).

The quarantine station not meeting the requirements (small and dirty).

Audits on evaluation the animal health control system in place for SCC – main findings

The quarantine station not suitable for the purpose (small and dirty).

Animals kept in a grazing area, with a simple fence to isolate them from the outside.

Prevention of contact from other livestock not ensured
direct

airborne (IBR)

indirect

wildlife (Tb badgers)

Audits on Contingency planning, emergency preparedness and early warning systems.

One of the objectives - to gather information and to identify areas of best practice relevant to epizootic disease control but not explicitly specified in EU legislation; e.g. MSs requirements (national) for biosecurity measures on farms.

Audits on Contingency planning – main findings on biosecurity

Level of biosecurity measures in “peace time” required by national legislation varies between the MSs audited (9); from very few requirements (3 MSs) to strict and descriptive compulsory biosecurity measures applied to some (3 MSs) or all domestic animal species (3 MSs).

Compulsory biosecurity measures would be imposed in line with the requirements in EU legislation in case an outbreak of an epizootic disease was suspected or confirmed in all MSs visited.

Audits on Contingency planning – main findings on biosecurity cont.

The measures aimed at preventing introduction of animal disease, in particular zoonoses (*Salmonella* and Avian Influenza), and reducing the need for medication of animals intended for the food chain.

Well elaborated particularly in industrialized poultry and pig sectors.

Several guidance documents on biosecurity publicly available in MSs.

Audits on Contingency planning – main findings on biosecurity cont.

In some MSs (4) high levels of biosecurity widely practised and enforced by industry-driven biosecurity schemes - in two MSs linked with the levies, farmers have to pay, and industry health insurance schemes.

Although industry driven bio-security rules are in general not directly supervised by the CA, participation in such schemes is used as a risk mitigation factor when official controls are planned.

Audits on Contingency planning – main findings on biosecurity cont.

In certain MSs the animals from holding with lower biosecurity standard strictly not allowed to move to holding with higher standard.

Tendency to convert industry-driven biosecurity schemes into legal requirements noted.

Audits on EU co-funded disease control and eradication programmes and on compliance with rules post-outbreak of an epizootic disease – main findings on biosecurity

In general, biosecurity requirements applied in the places visited during the audits: some of them challenging for the backyard holdings.

Commercial holdings tend to have satisfactory albeit variable levels of bio-security; in general well-designed bio-security plans are in place.

Verification of FBO compliance with biosecurity requirements carried out by the CA, in particular for commercial holdings as foreseen under the eradication plans.

Audits on EU co-funded disease control and eradication programmes and on compliance with rules post-outbreak of an epizootic disease – main findings cont.

The post-outbreak system weakened to some extent by the lack of clear written instructions for animal keepers and the hunters on the measures to be respected.

The engagement of the veterinary profession in providing support to farmers and into the development of specific herd biosecurity plans can play major role in enhancing biosecurity and herd health management measures intended to curtail transmission and persistence of infectious diseases.

Audits on EU co-funded disease control and eradication programmes and on compliance with rules post-outbreak of an epizootic disease – main findings cont.

The main difficulties for the backyard holdings: handling of animal by-products, disinfection, fencing and changing rooms.

In some MSs small holdings which are not able to comply with bio-security measures have been closed i.e. all pigs have been culled from such holdings in areas affected by ASF.

However, in some MSs the traditional farming practices are still widely used. They do not meet the requirements for biosecurity and separation between domestic and wild animals which is of paramount importance for eradication of certain diseases such as CSF, ASF.

Audits on EU co-funded disease control and eradication programmes and on compliance with rules post-outbreak of an epizootic disease – main findings cont.

Definitions are not comparable between countries

- **Some MSs have biosecurity classification of their farms but their interpretation of biosecurity measures in place varies to very large extent (what they call biosecurity is just a fence or a low stone wall).**

Audits on aquatic animal health – main findings

In some instances insufficient level of the competent authority supervision on biosecurity measures (critical biosecurity issues not covered)

Availability of biosecurity plans, based on a template prepared by the industry and endorsed by the CA but not always complete and not always specific enough

Conclusions

Considerable variation in biosecurity on farm level between MSs

There is no “one fits all” solution – biosecurity should be adapted to present risks

Health threats and disease situation in the country/region increases motivation to implement biosecurity and the likelihood that decision makers will take extra measures

Conclusions

The level of biosecurity depends on farm-specific factors such as production type (commercial farm versus backyard holding, species dependant – aquaculture, pigs and poultry sector)

Positive correlation between farm size and the use of biosecurity measures (bigger farm better biosecurity)

Economic incentives applied to promote biosecurity (Compensation and payment policies)

Crucial role of veterinarians (advice on external and internal biosecurity, shared responsibility for biosecurity plans, auditable records)



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THANK YOU