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Final report

EFTA Surveillance Authority mission to

Norway

from 11 to 18 June 2013

regarding application of EEA legislation

related to Pure bred bovine animals and Intra-community trade with semen and embryo of bovines

Please note that comments from the Norwegian competent authorities to the draft report and information on the corrective actions already taken and planned by the Norwegian competent authorities are included in Annex 3 in the report and referred to in footnotes in underlined italic print in the body of the report.

Executive Summary

This report describes the outcome of a mission carried out by the EFTA Surveillance Authority in Norway from 11 to 18 June 2013.

The objective of the mission was to verify that official controls related to pure bred bovine animals and intra-community trade with semen and embryo of bovines were carried out in compliance with the European Economic Area legislation.

In comparison to a mission carried out in December 2005 on intra community trade with semen and embryo of bovines, some improvements were observed although some of the shortcomings identified during that mission still need to be addressed. In addition, the mission team identified shortcomings related to herd books of pure bred bovine animals kept in Norway.

The animal health situation in Norway is favourable and diseases included in the scope of this mission are covered by both passive and active surveillance schemes. The sampling and testing for diseases in the establishments visited were found to be mainly in line with the EEA requirements.

The areas that need improvement include the following:

- Transposition of all requirements laid down in EEA legislation into the Norwegian legal order, in particular in relation to the frequency of inspection in semen collection centres;

- No clear identification of the authorised centre veterinarian responsible for the permanent supervision of both semen collection centres and storage centres, due to the fact that any veterinarian authorised by the Norwegian Food Safety Authority is authorised as centre veterinarian;

- Consistency of official controls at all levels, including documented procedures and verification of the effectiveness of official controls;

- Approval of embryo teams and supervision of semen collection centres/ semen storage centres and embryo collection teams;

- Recognition and supervision of breeders associations establishing and maintaining herd books of bovines; and

- Approval of bodies setting rules for performance recording and assessing the genetic value and for publication of the evaluation results of pure-bred breeding animals of the bovine species.

The report includes a number of recommendations addressed to the Norwegian competent authority aimed at rectifying the identified shortcomings and enhancing the control system in place.

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1 Introduction

The mission took place in Norway from 11 to 18 June 2013. The mission team comprised two inspectors from the EFTA Surveillance Authority (the Authority), a national expert and an observer from the Food and Veterinary Office of the European Commission (FVO).

The opening meeting was held with representatives of the Norwegian Food Safety Authority (NFSA) on 11 June 2013 in Oslo.

At the meeting, the Norwegian representatives provided additional information to that set out in the reply to the Authority's pre-mission document. The mission team confirmed the objectives and the itinerary of the mission. The itinerary was later adapted in light of additional information obtained during the mission.

Throughout the mission, representatives of the head office of the NFSA accompanied the mission team. In addition, representatives of the relevant regional offices and district offices of the NFSA participated during meetings at the district offices and the visits to the different establishments.

A final meeting was held in Oslo with representatives of the NFSA, the Ministry of Food and Agriculture and the Norwegian Veterinary Institute (NVI) on 18 June 2013, at which, the mission team presented its main findings and some preliminary conclusions from the mission.

The abbreviations used in the report are listed in Annex 1.

2 Scope and objectives of the mission

The scope of the mission was to assess the application by the Norwegian competent authorities of:

a) *Council Directive 88/407/EEC of 14 June 1988 laying down the animal health requirements applicable to intra-Community trade in and imports of deep-frozen semen of domestic animals of the bovine species;*

b) *Council Directive 89/556/EEC of 25 September 1989 on animal health conditions governing intra-Community trade in and importation from third countries of embryos of domestic animals of the bovine species;*

c) *Council Directive 2009/157/EC of 30 November 2009 on pure-bred breeding animals of the bovine species;*

d) *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, as corrected, as amended and adapted.*

This assessment was carried out based on, and related to, the above-mentioned legal acts and other relevant European Economic Area (EEA) legislation referred to in Annex 2 to

this report. The assessment was further based on the reply to the pre-mission questionnaire of the Authority.

A particular focus was paid to the following areas:

a) The legal and administrative measures in place to implement the above-mentioned requirements;

b) The control framework established and operated by the Norwegian competent authorities to ensure the uniform application of these requirements;

c) The follow-up of controls, including corrective actions;

d) Other measures to achieve compliance.

The evaluation included the gathering of relevant information, and appropriate verifications, by means of interviews/discussions, review of documents and records, and on-the-spot inspections, to demonstrate the normal control procedures adopted and measures in place to ensure that necessary corrective actions were taken when necessary.

The meetings with the competent authorities and the visits to the different establishments during the mission are listed in Table 1.

Table 1: Competent authorities and establishments/sites visited during the mission

	Number	**Comments**
Competent authorities	2	An initial meeting between the mission team and the NFSA and a final meeting between the mission team and representatives of the NFSA, the Ministry of Food and Agriculture and the NVI.
	2	Meetings with two district offices of the NFSA in two regions.
	1	Meeting with representatives of the head office and the regional office of Rogaland and Agder of the NFSA.
Laboratory	1	One laboratory designated by NFSA to carry out analysis of official samples.
Breeding Association	3	Two associations officially recognized to establish and maintain herd-books for pure-bred bovine animals. One organisation registering animals.
Semen collection/storage centres, embryo collection team and quarantine.	4	Two semen collection centres were visited of which one was also an approved semen storage centre. One quarantine accommodation was visited. No approved embryo collection team was visited, however a meeting was held with the team veterinarian of one.

3 Legal basis for the mission

The legal basis for the mission was:

a) Point 4 of the Introductory Part of Chapter I of Annex I to the EEA Agreement.
b) Article 1(e) of Protocol 1 to the Agreement between the EFTA States on the Establishment of a Surveillance Authority and a Court of Justice.
c) The Act referred to at Point 1.2.74 of Chapter I of Annex I to the EEA Agreement, 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 the Member States.
d) Regulation (EC) No 882/2004 on official controls performed to ensure the verification of compliance with feed and food law, animal health and animal welfare rules.

Other legislation relevant for the mission is listed in Annex 2.

4 Background - Previous missions

A mission to Norway focusing on the official controls regarding intra community trade with semen and embryo of the bovine species was carried out by the Authority in December 2005. The final report from that mission is available on the Authority's website (www.eftasurv.int). Following that mission, the Norwegian competent authorities provided a plan of corrective actions to all the conclusions contained in the Authority's report. The Authority evaluated these corrective actions as satisfactory. However, in order to evaluate the full compliance of the corrective actions, a follow-up mission was suggested but not considered as urgent. The final report from this mission can be found on the Authority's website (www.eftasurv.int).

5 Main findings and conclusions

5.1 Applicable EEA legislation and national implementing measures

Legal Requirements
Article 7 of the EEA Agreement states that acts referred to or contained in the Annexes to the Agreement are binding upon the Contracting Parties and shall be, or be made, part of their internal legal order.

Findings
According to information provided by the NFSA in its reply to the pre-mission document of the Authority, the two Norwegian Acts providing the general framework for regulating animal health and animal breeding are Act of 19 December 2003 No 124 on food production and food safety etc. (Food Law) and Act of 4 December 1992 No 130 on animal breeding. Proposals for changes to the Food Law would be drafted by the Ministry of Food and Agriculture, the Ministry of Fisheries and Coastal affairs and the Ministry of Health and Care Services. Proposals for changes to the Act on animal breeding would be drafted by the Ministry of Food and Agriculture. Any changes in the two acts are to be decided by the Parliament. The legal power to issue regulations within closer defined areas within the scope of the Acts is given to the same ministries. By way of ministerial delegation of 5 May 2004, legal power to issue regulations within the scope of some of the Articles of the Food Act is given to the NFSA.

Directive 89/556/EEC has been transposed into the Norwegian legal order by Regulation of 31 December 1998 No. 1486 on animal health conditions for import and export of bovine embryos. Directive 88/407/EEC has been transposed by Regulation of 6 October No. 1242 on animal health condition for production, storage and export of bovine semen, and Directive 2009/157/EC has been transposed by Regulation of 13 January 1999 No. 68 on approved (pure bred) bovine breeding animals.

The mission team noted that:

- In 2011 the wording of Article 5 of Regulation 6 October No. 1242 on animal health condition for production, storage and export of bovine semen, transposing Directive 88/407/EEC was amended, adding the word authorised; "under the permanent supervision of an authorised centre veterinarian". Furthermore, according to the regulation any veterinarian authorised by the NFSA is authorised as a centre veterinarian;

- The same regulation does not include the provision laid down in Directive 88/407/EEC of minimum two inspections a year for semen collection and storage centres.

Conclusions
The relevant EEA legislation concerning intra community trade with semen and embryo of the bovine species and concerning breeding associations has been made part of the Norwegian legal order. However the Norwegian Regulation of 6 October No. 1242 on animal health condition for production, storage and export of bovine semen does not appear to fully transpose all requirements laid down in Directive 88/407/EEC.

5.2 Competent Authorities

Legal Requirements
Article 4(1) of Regulation (EC) No 882/2004 requires Member States to designate the competent authorities responsible for the official controls set out in the Regulation.

Article 4(5) of Regulation (EC) No 882/2004 requires that when, within a competent authority, more than one unit is competent to carry out official controls, efficient and effective coordination and cooperation shall be ensured between the different units.

Article 6 (a)-(b) of Regulation (EC) No 882/2004 lays down requirements for the training and up to date keeping of competence for staff performing official controls.

Findings
Part 1 of the country profile for Norway, available on the Authority's website (www.eftasurv.int), describes the overall organisation of the Norwegian authorities in the areas of food and feed safety, animal health and animal welfare. The organization and competencies of NFSA are also described in the Multi-Annual National Control Plan (MANCP) for Norway 2011-2014, available on the NFSA's website (www.mattilsynet.no).

According to information provided by the NFSA in its reply to the pre-mission document of the Authority, the only competent authority involved in control and monitoring of intra community trade in semen and embryos of bovines, is the NFSA. The head office is responsible for issuing of guidelines and the regional offices are the appeal bodies for

decisions made by the district offices. The district offices approve and carry out official controls on semen collection/storage centres and embryo collection/production teams in Norway. According to the "*Guideline on approval and supervision of semen collection centres and embryo collection teams etc.*" the district office where the main activity is located should approve embryo collection teams and coordinate the controls thereof.

The mission team noted that one district office had approved the embryo collection team while a second district office had approved two mobile units to be used by the embryo collection team. Since 2006, no evidence of supervision of the embryo collection team, by any of the two mentioned district offices, could be provided. Furthermore, the embryo collection team had applied for withdrawal of the approval for embryo production team in 2006 to the first district office. The approval had not been renewed or updated accordingly by either of the district offices.

According to information provided by the NFSA in its reply to the pre-mission document of the Authority, the competence to grant official recognition to breeders organisations or associations which maintains or establishes herd-books, including supervision of those already recognised, in Norway has been delegated from the central NFSA to the regional office of Rogaland and Agder by Regulation of 9 February 2009 No. 115. The delegated task also included the approval of bodies setting the rules for performance recording. The mission team noted that the regional office had not taken note that the delegation also included supervision of already recognised breeders associations or approval of bodies setting rules for performance recording.

A "Key skills training activity course" (*Sentrale kompetanseutviklingstiltak*) was arranged by the NFSA for inspectors at district level in March 2012. The topic covered was TRACES, and registrations related to export and import and trade of live animals and semen. The mission team noted that the staff responsible for supervision of semen collection and storage centres and embryo collection teams was, in general, competent. However, no training had been provided to the regional office responsible for recognising breeding organisations or associations to maintain herd-books or bodies setting rules for performance recording and the regional office was not fully aware of all the requirements for these organisations/bodies.

Conclusions

There is a designated competent authority in Norway responsible for the official controls in the area of breeding associations and bodies setting rules for performance recording and for the official controls of semen collection and storage centres and embryo collection teams, in line with Article 4(1) of Regulation (EC) No 882/2004.

Compliance with Articles 4(5) and 6 (a)-(b) of the same Regulation could not be ensured, as it seemed to be unclear which district office was responsible for the supervision of the embryo collection team. Furthermore, the delegation of tasks relating to breeding associations and bodies setting rules for performance recording was not accompanied by sufficient training or guidance to ensure that the regional office was prepared to perform all tasks included in the delegation.

5.3 Organisation of the controls

Legal Requirements

Article 3 of Regulation (EC) No 882/2004 requires Member States to ensure that official controls are carried out regularly, on a risk basis and with appropriate frequency.

Article 4(4) of Regulation (EC) No 882/2004 requires that competent authorities shall ensure the impartiality, quality and consistency of official controls.

Article 8 of Regulation (EC) No 882/2004 requires the competent authority to carry out official controls in accordance with documented procedures, have procedures in place to verify the effectiveness of official controls and to ensure that corrective action is taken when needed.

Article 41 of Regulation (EC) No 882/2004 requires Member States to prepare a single integrated multi-annual national control plan (MANCP). Article 42 of the same Regulation lays down the details in the MANCP, inter alia organisation of control systems applied to different sectors and coordination between the different services of competent authorities responsible for official controls in these sectors.

Findings

According to information provided by the NFSA in its reply to the pre-mission document of the Authority, the approval and official controls of semen collection/storage centres and embryo collection teams should be in line with the *"Guideline on approval and supervision of semen collection centres and embryo collection teams etc."* issued by the head office of the NFSA.

The mission team noted that:

- The version of the guideline enclosed to the reply to the pre-mission document was not numbered, nor signed.
- Identification of the authorised centre veterinarian is not included as a condition for approval of a semen collection/storage centre. According to Norwegian legislation, any veterinarian authorised by the NFSA is authorised to be a centre veterinarian (see also 5.1). Consequently the responsibility for permanent supervision and day to day compliance of the requirements are not defined.
- According to the guideline referred to above, the official veterinarian shall carry out inspections covering all aspects of the approval. However, the minimum frequency of inspections of semen collection and semen storage centres is not stated in the guideline; it refers to the Norwegian regulation in which the frequency is not given either (see 5.1).
- Frequency of inspections is set by official veterinarians at district level, based on their knowledge of the establishments. In one district, inspections had been carried out once a year. Another district office had inspected a semen collection centre twice, once in 2010 and again in 2012.
- According to information provided by the NFSA in its reply to the pre-mission document of the Authority, all controls and monitoring of intra community trade in bovine livestock, semen and embryo and herd-books, shall be recorded in the operational quality management system of the NFSA (MATS). These registrations are compiled in a report which the regional and head office can use to verify that the same procedures relating to inspections, decisions and use of enforcement measures are used.

The mission team noted that the inconsistency in inspection frequencies of semen collection and storage centres or the lack of official control of the embryo collection team had not been identified, questioned or followed up by the regional or the head office of the NFSA.

The task of recognition and supervision of breeders associations establishing and maintaining herd-books and bodies setting rules for performance recording has been delegated to a regional office (see also 5.2). The mission team noted that there were no documented procedures established related to recognition or supervision of these. The lack of official control of the breeding associations and bodies setting rules for performance recording had not been identified, questioned or followed up by the head office of the NFSA.

Official controls within the scope of this mission are not described in the country profile for Norway or in the Multi annual national control plan (MANCP). The mission team noted that the NFSA could not provide a risk assessment justifying the lack of controls in these areas.

Conclusions

Full compliance with Articles 3 and 4(4) of Regulation (EC) No 882/2004 could not be ensured as no risk assessment justifying the lack of controls was provided and inconsistencies in official controls were not addressed.

Full compliance with Article 8 of the same Regulation could not be ensured as documented procedures were not in place or insufficient to ensure that official controls were carried out consistently and the effectiveness of official controls had not been ensured.

Norway has prepared an MANCP in line with Article 41 of Regulation (EC) No 882/2004. However, the organisation of control systems applied to the sectors covered in this mission is not described as required by Article 42 of the same Regulation.

5.4 Control system in place covering intra community trade with bovine semen and embryo

Legal Requirements

Article 5 of Directive 88/407/EEC lays down that semen collection centres and semen storage centres shall only be granted approval where the provisions of Annex A are observed and where the collection centre is able to satisfy the other provisions of this Directive.

Chapter I of Annex A of Directive 88/407/EEC details the infrastructure requirements for approval of semen collection centres and semen storage centres.

Annex B, Chapter I, 1, a) of the same Directive specifies that quarantine of bovine animals must be performed in accommodation specifically approved for the purpose by the competent authorities.

Article 5 of Directive 89/556/EEC allows for approval of embryo collection team only if provisions of Annex A Chapter I of same Directive are met and that the approval shall be renewed whenever major changes are made in its organisation.

Findings

According to information provided by the NFSA in its reply to the pre-mission document of the Authority, there are two approved semen collection centres, one approved semen storage centre and one approved embryo collection team in Norway. Furthermore, there are two quarantine accommodations of which one is within a semen collection centre.

According to the same information there are no approved embryo production teams in Norway and the approved embryo collection team was not in operation as no embryos were collected in 2011 or 2012 and no collection was foreseen for 2013. Therefore, it was decided not to visit the embryo collection team during this mission. However, a representative of the embryo collection team was met and findings from the mission in 2005 were followed up on.

According to the *"Guideline on approval and supervision of semen collection centres and embryo collection teams etc."*, a centre veterinarian is responsible for the permanent supervision of semen collection centres and the day-to-day compliance with the requirements described in the guideline. An official veterinarian should regularly inspect the premises; however, the frequency is not indicated (see also 5.1, 5.2 and 5.3).

Semen collection/storage centres

In the report from the mission carried out by the Authority in 2005, it was concluded *inter alia* that compliance with point 1(a) of Chapter I of Annex A to Directive 88/407/EEC could not be assured. According to a letter from the NFSA dated 4 May (event no 377734, NFSA ref 2006/2897), the NFSA was revising the Norwegian legislation in order to ensure compliance with this point, completion of the measures was foreseen by end of November 2006. The report also included a conclusion relating to the inspection frequency of semen collection centres for which the NFSA notified in the above-mentioned letter that measures had been taken to rectify.

According to representatives of the NFSA, two semen collection centres located in two different regions are under the supervision of the same centre veterinarian. According to representatives of the semen collection centres, the centre veterinarian is present in one of these on a daily basis while the second is visited two to three times a month.

The mission team noted that:

- In general, the facilities visited were up to standard with regard to lay out, state of repair and hygiene and the staff was experienced. However, there were some exemptions; in one of the semen collection centres visited, some areas were found unsatisfactory with regard to animal welfare and hygienic conditions. Where the bulls mounted for semen collection it was evident that the bulls had hit the ceiling with their heads when mounting. In the same area, the paint was flaking of the walls and there were cracks in the floor. Consequently, this area could not be satisfactorily cleaned and disinfected. It should also be noted that this particular establishment was, at the time of the mission, being renovated.
- All tests results were stamped "seen by centre veterinarian". There were no other records indicating the presence or task carried out by the centre veterinarian in the two semen collection centres.
- Absence of written procedures and recording of tasks related to daily routines like cleaning and disinfection of equipment (storage/transport container, equipment to collect semen) and of the facilities.
- According to an inspection report, trucks with animals were collecting bulls to be slaughtered in one of the semen collection centres, and corrective action was required. The corrective action did not address the fact that trucks with animals arrived in the collection centre although according to the centre veterinarians only empty, cleaned and disinfected trucks were allowed onto the premises.
- There was no documentation of training of staff (technicians) in the semen collection centres involved in tasks such as sampling and health controls and filling out health reports at the day of collection.

- Official controls of the semen collection and storage centres were carried out once a year by one district office, while another district office had inspected a semen collection centre in 2010 and again in 2012. The first district office considered visits in relation to certification of consignments of semen as inspection although not all aspects of the approval were covered during these visits.

Quarantine accommodations

The mission team noted that:

- The quarantine was a fenced in semi-opened barn in good state of repair with experienced staff. No risk assessment related to possible transmission of diseases from wild-life was presented, although the overall health status in Norway is good.
- There were no signs indicating restrictions of access due to quarantine. At the time of approval, the NFSA had requested measures to be taken to ensure that, at time of auctions, the public was not granted access to the animals. The visited quarantine accommodation functions initially as a testing station. The NFSA is not notified when it turns into a quarantine. The quarantine period starts at the time of the first official sampling. This setup has been approved by the competent authorities.

Embryo collection team

In the previous mission of 2005, it was pointed out that the embryo team was incorrectly approved for embryo production for which it was not equipped. According to a letter from the NFSA dated 4 May (event no 377734, NFSA ref 2006/2897), the NFSA officially withdrew the approval of the embryo team for in-vitro embryo production in January 2006 as the embryo team only collects embryo. Additional information was submitted by letter dated 13 February 2006 (event no 362905) in which the NFSA explained that the embryo team applied on 6 January 2006 for withdrawal of the approval of embryo production. This was accepted by the district office on 9 January 2006 and the list of approved embryo collection teams for intra-Community trade in embryos and ova of domestic animals of the bovine species was updated accordingly.

The mission team noted that:

- The NFSA had not withdrawn the approval of the embryo production team on its own initiative, although requirements were not fulfilled. Furthermore, according to the approval document presented for the embryo collection team, it is still approved for embryo production since the NFSA had not issued a new approval reflecting the above-mentioned amendments. A representative of the embryo collection team stated that it is equipped to operate as embryo collection team only. It was also stated that some of the equipment of the team had been rented but it could be assembled should it be needed and the laboratory engineer mentioned in the approval has retired but is on call if needed.
- Of the two mobile units approved, only one is in use. This was not reflected in the approval document for the mobile units.
- The changes in set up of the collection team have not been communicated to the NFSA and no evidence of supervision of the embryo collection team, since 2006, could be provided.

Conclusions

The facilities of the approved semen collection centres mainly fulfil the requirements of Annex A to Directive 88/407/EEC as required by Article 5 of the same Directive. However, the permanent supervision of a centre veterinarian as laid down in point 1(a) of Chapter I of Annex A of Directive 88/407/EEC cannot be fully ensured, in particular in one of the semen collection centres which would only be visited two to three times a

month. Hygienic conditions are not always in line with point 1(d) of Chapter I of Annex A and training of staff in disinfection procedures and hygiene techniques as required by point 1(e) of Chapter II of Annex A could not be provided. Finally, semen collection centres and semen storage centres were not inspected by an official veterinarian at least twice a year as laid down in point 1(c) and 2(b) of Chapter II of Annex A of the same Directive.

The quarantine of bovine animals was performed in accommodations specifically approved for the purpose as required by point 1(a) of Chapter I to Annex B of Directive 88/407/EEC.

Compliance with Article 5 of Directive 89/556/EEC could not be ensured since the approval document of the embryo collection team had not been renewed and it was still stating that the embryo collection team was also approved for embryo production although it was not equipped for this.

5.5 Animal health situation with regard to intra-community trade

Legal Requirements
Chapter I of Annex B of Directive 88/407/EEC lays down conditions applying to animals in approved semen collection centres.

Chapter II of Annex B of Directive 88/407/EEC point out all routine tests which apply to all bovine animals in approved semen collection centre.

By Decision No 28/07/COL of 19 February 2007 of the EFTA Surveillance Authority Norway was granted free status from bovine tuberculosis, bovine brucellosis and enzootic bovine leucosis.

Furthermore, Norway obtained additional guarantees regarding Infectious bovine rhinotracheitis/infectious pustular vulvovaginitis (IBR/IPV) by Decision of the EFTA Surveillance Authority No 74/94/COL of 27 June 1994.

Findings
According to information provided by the NFSA in its reply to the pre-mission document of the Authority, the following diseases are all notifiable in Norway and surveillance and control programs are being carried out as described below:

- **Bovine tuberculosis**
  The program includes compulsory veterinary inspection of all bovine carcasses at slaughtering. Suspicious material is submitted to the NVI.
- **Bovine brucellosis**
  Blood, milk and aborted foetuses are examined by the NVI
- **Enzootic bovine leucosis (EBL)**
  Bulk milk and blood samples are tested for antibodies against EBL at the NVI
- **Infectious bovine rhinotracheitis/infectious pustular vulvovaginitis (IBR/IPV)**
  Bulk milk and blood samples are tested for antibodies against IBR/IPV at the NVI
- **Bovine viral diarrhoea/mucosal disease (BVD/MD)**
  Bulk milk samples are tested for antibodies against BVD/MD

None of these diseases have been diagnosed in Norway in the last three years, and Norway is considered officially free of bovine tuberculosis, bovine brucellosis and enzootic bovine leucosis. Furthermore Norway has gained additional guaranties regarding

IBR/IPV. The farming industry is responsible for monitoring *Campylobacter foetus spp. veneralis and Trichomonas foetus.*

In its reply to the pre-mission document of the Authority, the NFSA described under which conditions bulls are admitted to semen collection centres. Calves are recruited from holdings officially free from Brucellosis, Tuberculosis and Enzootic Bovine Leucosis in Norway, and are placed in a testing station where they undergo performance tests and tested for Schmallenberg virus. Bulls that pass the performance testing are then tested further according to the requirements laid down in Directive 88/407/EEC and quarantined. While in quarantine they are tested for Paratuberculosis and Schmallenberg virus in addition to the tests described in Directive 88/407/EEC. Semen exported to third countries may be tested further depending on the requirements set by the country of destination (e.g. Bluetongue, Leptospira spp and Q-fever). Donor animals intended for embryo collection for intra-community trade have to meet the requirements of Annex B to Directive 89/556. None of the above-mentioned diseases have been diagnosed within an approved semen quarantine station within the last three years.

The mission team noted that:

- Bulls recruited as potential semen donors for artificial insemination and donor bulls are tested regularly. Testing and monitoring procedures in the collection centres visited were generally carried out in accordance with the relevant EEA legislation and in some incidences there were additional tests carried out mostly in correlation with export of semen to third countries.
- Test results of individual animals could be traced throughout their time in service and all test results were stamped “seen by centre veterinarian”. One example of inconclusive result of an analysis had led to new samples being collected and analysed, this time with negative result.
- In the quarantine accommodations it was evident that bulls sometimes were older than six month when entering and it could not be excluded that such bulls had not had contact with females prior to quarantine. These bulls were not tested additionally for *Campylobacter foetus spp. Veneralis* and *Trichomonas foetus.*

Conclusions

The animal health situation in Norway is favourable and diseases included in the scope of this mission are covered by both passive and active surveillance schemes. Sampling and testing in the collection centres visited were mainly in line with the EEA requirements. However, bulls six months or older which could have had contact with females prior to quarantine were not tested additionally against *Campylobacter foetus spp. Veneralis* and *Trichomonas foetus* as required by point 1(e)(iv) and (v) of Chapter I of Annex B of Directive 88/407/EEC.

However, bulls were not tested additionally for *Campylobacter foetus* spp. *Veneralis* and *Trichomonas foetus* like foreseen in point 1(e)(iv) and (v) of Chapter I of Annex B of Council Directive 88/407/EEC when entering the quarantine at an age of 6 months or above.

5.6 Laboratories

Legal Requirements

Points 2 of Chapter I and II of Annex B of Directive 88/407/EEC require the health tests of the bovine animals in semen collection centres to be performed in a laboratory approved by the Member State.

Article 12 of Regulation (EC) No 882/2004 states that the competent authority may only designate laboratories that operate and are assessed and accredited in accordance with three different European standards, including the ISO/IEC 17025 standard.

Annex B, C and D of Directive 64/432/EEC describes the methods for testing for bovine tuberculosis, bovine brucellosis and enzootic bovine leucosis (EBL). They designate a national reference laboratory of an official institute in charge of tasks linked to quality control and assurance.

Findings

According to information provided by the Norwegian competent authority in its reply to the pre-mission document of the Authority, the Norwegian Veterinary Institute (NVI) in Oslo is the only laboratory that performs the testing for animal diseases in the framework of semen and embryo collection. All results are recorded in the NVI's electronic recording system. If there are positive results, they are immediately communicated to the NFSA and to the breeding company. The NVI is an accredited institution and all sections involved in the relevant analyses are accredited. Table 2 indicates what laboratory test methods are used for the relevant disease, none of specific methods mentioned below are accredited.

Table 2: Methods used for detection of certain diseases by NVI

	Method 1	Method 2	Method 3
Bovine brucellosis	Serology – ELISA for antibody-detection (Svanova).	If 1. positive: Blocking ELISA for antibodies (Svanova).	If 2. Positive: Agglutination-test (rose Bengal) for antibodies (confirmative test).
Enzootic bovine leucosis	Serology – ELISA for antibody-detection (Svanova).		
IBR/IPV	Serology – ELISA for antibody-detection (Svanova).	If 1. positive: Neutralization- test for antibodies.	
BVD/MD	Serology- ELISA for antibody-detection (Svanova).	If 1. positive: Neutralization- test for antibodies.	
Trichomonas foetus	Direct microscopy of preputial lavage.	Centrifugation of preputial lavage – the sediment is cultured for 4 days. The culture is examined by microscopy.	PCR
Campylobacter foetus spp veneralis	Culture of preputial lavage. Selective medium from Skirrow's is used. Colony morphology, bacteria morphology and biochemical tests are used to identify the bacteria.		

The mission team noted that:

- The laboratory visited had not been specifically approved for analysing samples under Directive 88/407/EEC. However, the NVI is the designated National reference laboratory approved by the NFSA to analyse samples for diseases notifiable in Norway. The laboratory provides service in all sectors; pathology, bacteriology, virology and parasitology.
- Methods used were not accredited and the NVI stated that they were aiming at having these methods included in a flexible accreditation. No specific timeframe for such an accreditation was provided.
- The NFSA had not informed the semen collection centres which laboratories could analyse samples in context of the Directive 88/407/EEC.
- Competent staff was met in the laboratory and in most cases procedures were found to be satisfactory.
- Deviation reports regarding unsatisfactory results in proficiency tests were not handled in the framework of general quality assurance system by all departments. The department of bacteriology did, however, the unsatisfactory result of the only proficiency test it had participated in for bovine brucellosis (2012) was recorded in a deviation report but no corrective action had been taken. Other proficiency test results seen by the mission team were satisfactory.
- The NVI used commercial kits when analysing samples. However, no documents could be provided related to the evaluation of the suitability of these kits e.g. related to standard reference sera as laid down in Directive 64/432/EEC.

Conclusions

The laboratory generally operates in compliance with the relevant EEA legislation; however the methods used within the scope of this mission are not accredited as required by Article 12 of Regulation (EC) 882/2004. Furthermore, the suitability of commercial kits used by the laboratory could not be documented by the laboratory at the time of the mission. Finally, the laboratory should follow up on unsatisfactory results of proficiency tests in order to ensure the reliability of the analyses carried out.

5.7 Breeders associations

Legal Requirements

Article 4 of Directive 2009/157/EC requires Member States to draw up list of breeders associations which have been officially recognized.

Commission Decision 84/247/EEC lays down the criteria for the recognition of breeders organisations and associations which maintain or establish herd books. Article 1 requires breeders associations to submit an application to the competent authorities and Article 2 states that the authorities must grant official recognition if the conditions laid down in the Annex of the Decision are met. According to Article 3, the authorities shall withdraw the recognition if the conditions are no longer met.

Commission Decision 84/419/EEC lays down the criteria for entering cattle into herd-books, Article 1(a) thereof states that an animal must be descended from parents and grandparents entered in the main section of the herd book of the same breed to qualify for entry in the main section of the herd book.

Commission Decision 2006/427/EC lays down performance monitoring methods, and point 1 of the Annex to that Decision requires the competent authority to approve the

bodies setting the rules for performance recording and assessment of the genetic value of pure bred breeding animals of the bovine species.

Findings

According to information provided by the Norwegian competent authority in its reply to the pre-mission document of the Authority, there are six breeding associations that have been officially recognized for the purpose of maintaining and establishing herd-books for bovine animals in Norway. The list of breeders' organizations is publicly available on the NFSA website (www.mattilsynet.no). These associations are also responsible for setting the rules for performance recording and assessing the genetic value and for publication of the evaluation results of pure-bred breeding animals of the bovine species. Four of these are small breeding organisations with the purpose of maintaining certain breeds. During preparation of the mission, the NFSA notified the Authority that one of these smaller organisations might not fulfil all the criteria to maintain a herd-book and the NFSA is consequently considering withdrawing the recognition. No further information related to this possible withdrawal of recognition was received by the Authority prior to sending the draft report to Norway.

According to information provided by the Norwegian competent authority in its reply to the pre-mission document of the Authority, the regional office of the Rogaland and Agder is responsible for the recognition and supervision of breeder's organisations and approval of bodies setting rules for performance recording (see 5.2 and 5.3). The organisations must apply for recognition. In the application, the organisation shall describe how they fulfil certain conditions related to the approval. It was also stated in the reply to the pre-mission document that there has been no official supervision of these organisations since the delegation of the task in 2007 to confirm that the required conditions are fulfilled.

According to information provided by NFSA during the mission, the former competent authority (*Landbrukstilsynet*) sent a letter to all breeding associations in 1994, requesting that they should apply for official recognition. According to a representative from the regional office of Rogaland and Agder, no breeder's organisations or associations had applied for recognition since 2007 when that office was delegated the task of recognition and supervision.

During the mission the team visited two breeding associations maintaining herd-books of cattle. In addition, a third organisation was visited that registered animals, pedigree and performance of dairy cattle in Norway.

The mission team noted that:

- One of the associations visited had been officially recognised in 1994 by the former competent authority, *Landbrukstilsynet.* The herd-book of this association was at that time located in another European country.
- Since the official recognition, the association had established a new register in Norway, the name of the association had been changed and criteria for performance recording had been changed. None of these changes had led the association to inform the competent authority nor were they reflected in the official recognition.
- The herd book mainly complied with the requirements set out in the Annex to Commission Decision 84/247/EEC. However, it was not sufficient to be descended from parents and grandparents entered in the main section of the herd book in order to qualify for entry into main section of a herd book as the association required five generations of purebred ancestors for an animal to be entered into the herd book.

- According to representatives of the NFSA and representatives of the second association visited, this association had also submitted an application to the former competent authority. However, no documentation related to the official recognition for establishing and maintaining a herd book or setting rules for performance recording could be provided.
- This association allocated an identifying number to, and registered, bulls owned by the company only. Other rules for entering animals into the herd book, the breeding goal and the rules for performance recording would be, according to a representative of the association, submitted to the mission team by the end of the mission. This information was not received by the Authority prior to sending the draft report to Norway.[1] A third organisation, not recognised to establish and maintain a herd-book, was visited. This organisation registered animals independent of ownership, recorded pedigree for both male and female animals and did performance recording.
- There has been no supervision of the recognised breeders associations, and consequently, the NFSA was unaware of the shortcomings detected by the mission team.
- The NFSA had not evaluated whether the breeders' associations fulfilled the requirements to be approved bodies responsible for setting the rules for performance recording and assessing the genetic value and for the publication of the evaluation results of pure-bred breeding animals of the bovine species. The name of such approved bodies has not been notified to the Authority by the NFSA.

Conclusions

Norway has, in line with Article 4 of Directive 2009/157/EC, drawn up a list of breeders associations. However it could not be ensured that all breeders associations included in this list had applied for and been granted recognition in line with Articles 1 and 2 of Commission Decision 84/247/EEC. Furthermore, since there have been no official controls of breeders' associations, it cannot be ensured that the recognition is withdrawn if the conditions are no longer met as required by Article 3 of the same Decision.

Full compliance with Commission Decision 84/419/EEC, in particular Article 1(a) thereof, could not be ensured since animals descended from parents and grandparents entered in the main section of the herd book of the same breed did not qualify for entry in the main section of the herd book of one of the associations.

Compliance with Commission Decision 2006/427/EC was not ensured since the rules for performance recording set by the breeders' association had not been evaluated and no bodies approved for setting such rules have been notified to the Authority.

6 Final meeting

A final meeting was held on 18 June 2013 in Oslo with representatives from the NFSA, The Ministry of Food and Agriculture, and the NVI. At this meeting, the mission team presented its main findings and some preliminary conclusions from the mission. Furthermore, the mission team pointed out that Norway had not finalised all the corrective actions addressing the conclusion from the previous mission carried out in December 2005 (event no 365961).

At the meeting the mission team also explained that, based on a more detailed assessment of the information received during the mission, additional conclusions could be included in the report.

[1]Part of this information was attached to Norway's reply to the draft-report please see Annex 4

7 Recommendations

Norway should inform the Authority in its reply to the final report, by way of written evidence, of the corrective actions taken and a plan for corrective measures and actions, including a timetable for completion of measures still outstanding, relevant to all the recommendations hereunder. This information will be annexed to the final report. The Authority should also be kept informed of the completion of the measures included in the timetable.

No	Recommendation
1	Norway should ensure that all EEA requirements laid down in Directive 88/407/EEC concerning official control of semen collection and/or storage centres are transposed into the Norwegian legal order.
2	Norway should ensure compliance with Article 4(5) of Regulation (EC) 882/2004, in particular by ensuring efficient and effective coordination between and within competent authorities.
3	The competent authorities should ensure that staff performing official control receives, for their area of competence, appropriate training enabling them to undertake their duties competently and to carry out official controls in a consistent manner as required by 6 (a) and (b) of Regulation (EC) 882/2004.
4	Norway should ensure that official controls are carried out regularly, on a risk basis and with appropriate frequency as laid down in Article 3 of Regulation (EC) 882/2004.
5	The competent authorities should ensure that official controls are carried out consistently; in accordance with documented procedures and that the effectiveness of the official controls is verified as required by Articles 4 and 8 of Regulation (EC) 882/2004.
6	The competent authority should ensure that approved semen collection and/or storage centres fulfil all the requirements of Annex A to Directive 88/407/EEC, in particular that such centres are under the permanent supervision of a centre veterinarian authorised by the competent authority as foreseen in point 1(a) and 2(a) of Chapter I of Annex A to Directive 88/407/EEC, that collection centres are so constructed that it can be readily cleaned and disinfected as required by point 1(d) of Chapter I of Annex A.
7	It should be ensured that semen collection centres and semen storage centres are regularly inspected by an official veterinarian at least twice a year as laid down in point 1(c) and 2(b) of Chapter II of Annex A of Directive 88/407/EEC.
8	Norway should ensure compliance with Article 5 of Directive 89/556/EEC, in particular that embryo teams are approved only where the provisions of the Annex A to that Directive are observed and that approval of the team shall be renewed whenever major changes are made.
9	Norway should ensure that animals aged six months or more which could have had contact with females prior to quarantine, are tested three times at weekly intervals for *Campylobacter foetus spp*. *Veneralis* and *Trichomonas foetus* as required by point 1(e)(iv) and (v) of Chapter I of Annex B of Directive 88/407/EEC.
10	The competent authorities should ensure that breeders organisations or associations which maintain or establish herd-books meet the conditions of the Annex to Commission Decision 84/247/EEC as required by Article 2 of that Decision. Furthermore, it should be ensured that official recognition is withdrawn if the conditions of the Annex are no longer met as required by Article 3 of the same Decision.

Annex 1 - List of abbreviations and terms used in the report

Authority	EFTA Surveillance Authority
EC	European Community
EEA	European Economic Area
EEA Agreement	Agreement on the European Economic Area
MANCP	Single integrated multi annual national control plan
NFSA	Norwegian Food Safety Authority
NVI	Norwegian Veterinary Institute

Annex 2 - Other relevant legislation

The following EEA legislation was also taken into account in the context of this mission:

a) The Act referred to at Point 4.1.1 of Chapter I to Annex I to the EEA Agreement, *Council Directive 64/432/EEC of 26 June 1964 on health problems affecting intra-Community trade in bovine animals and swine* as amended*;*

b) The Act referred to at Point 3.1.10 of Chapter I to Annex I to the EEA Agreement, *Council Directive 82/894/EEC of 21 December 1982 on the notification of animal diseases within the Community* as amended*;*

c) The Act referred to at Point 2.2.1 of Chapter I to Annex I to the EEA Agreement, *Commission Decision 84/247/EEC of 27 April 1984 laying down the criteria for the recognition of breeders' organisations and associations which maintain or establish herd-books for pure-bred breeding animals of the bovine species (OJ L 125, 12.5.1984, p. 58), as amended by: Decision 2005/379* as amended*;*

d) The Act referred to at Point 2.2.2 of Chapter I to Annex I to the EEA Agreement, *Commission Decision 84/419/EEC of 19 July 1984 laying down the criteria for entering cattle in herd-books* as amended*;*

e) The Act referred to at Point 2.2.5 of Chapter I to Annex I to the EEA Agreement, *Council Directive 87/328/EEC of 18 June 1987 on the acceptance for breeding purposes of pure-bred breeding animals of the bovine species (OJ L 167, 26.6.1987, p. 54),* as amended;

f) The Act referred to at Point 4.1.7 of Chapter I of the Annex I to the EEA Agreement, *Council Directive 88/407/EEC of 14 June 1988 laying down the animal health requirements applicable to intra-Community trade in and imports of deep-frozen semen of domestic animals of the bovine species* as amended;

g) The Act referred to at Point 8.1.5 of Chapter I to Annex I to the EEA Agreement, *Council Directive 89/556/EEC of 25 September 1989 on animal health conditions governing intra-Community trade in and importation from third countries of embryos of domestic animals of the bovine species* as amended*;*

h) The Act referred to at Point 2.1.6 of Chapter I to Annex I to the EEA Agreement, *Council Directive 91/174/EEC of 25 March 1991 laying down zootechnical and pedigree requirements for the marketing of pure-bred animals and amending Directives 77/504/EEC and 90/425/EEC;*

i) The Act referred to at Point 4.2.14 of Chapter I to Annex I to the EEA Agreement, *Commission Decision 93/52/EEC of 21 December 1992 recording the compliance by certain Member States or regions with the requirements relating to brucellosis (B. melitensis) and according them the status of a Member State or region officially free of the disease,* as amended*;*

j) The Act referred to at Point 2.1.7 of Chapter I to Annex I to the EEA Agreement, *Council Decision 96/463/EC of 23 July 1996 designating the reference body responsible for collaborating in rendering uniform the testing methods and the assessment of the results for pure-bred breeding animals;*

k) The Act referred to at Point 1.2.74 of Chapter I to Annex I to the EEA Agreement, *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 the Member States*;

l) The Act referred to at Point 2.2.30 of Chapter I to Annex I to the EEA Agreement, *Commission Decision 2002/8/EC of 28 December 2001 laying down the methods for the genetic identification of pure-bred breeding animals of the bovine species and amending Decisions 88/124/EEC and 96/80/EC;*

m) The Act referred to at Point 4.2.75 of Chapter I to Annex I to the EEA Agreement, *Commission Decision 2004/226/EC of 4 March 2004 approving tests for the detection of antibodies against bovine brucellosis within the framework of Council Directive 64/432/EEC,* as amended*;*

n) The Act referred to at Point 1.1.11 of Chapter I to Annex I to the EEA Agreement, *Agreement, 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,* as amended*;*

o) The Act referred to at Point 2.2.31 of Chapter I to Annex I to the EEA Agreement, *Commission Decision 2005/379/EC of 17 May 2005 on pedigree certificates and particulars for pure-bred breeding animals of the bovine species, their semen, ova and embryos;*

p) The Act referred to at Point 2.2.32 of Chapter I to Annex I to the EEA Agreement, *Commission Decision 2006/427/EC of 20 June 2006 laying down performance monitoring methods and methods for assessing cattle's genetic value for pure-bred breeding animals of the bovine species;*

q) The Act referred to at Point 2.1.1 of Chapter I to Annex I to the EEA Agreement, *Council Directive 2009/157/EC of 30 November 2009 on pure-bred breeding animals of the bovine species;*

r) The Act referred to at Point 2.2.34 of Chapter I to Annex I to the EEA Agreement, *Commission Decision 2009/712/EC of 18 September 2009 implementing Council Directive 2008/73/EC as regards Internet-based information pages containing lists of establishments and laboratories approved by Member States in accordance with Community veterinary and zootechnical legislation;*

Other:

Decision of the EFTA Surveillance Authority No 74/94/COL of 27 June 1994 concerning additional guarantees relating to infectious bovine rhinotracheitis for bovines destined for Norway

Decision of the EFTA Surveillance Authority No 28/07/COL of 19 February 2007 concerning the official tuberculosis, brucellosis and enzootic bovine leucosis-free status of Norway as regards bovine herd

Annex 3 – Reply from Norway to the draft report

ROYAL NORWEGIAN
MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FOOD

EFTA Surveillance Authority
Rue Belliard 35
B-1040

Your ref	Our ref	Date
CNo 73395 ENo 679124	12/1054-	02.09.2013

Subject: EFTA Surveillance Authority mission to Norway concerning intracommunity trade in bovine, AI./embryo collection centres and pure bred animals - draft report.

Please find enclosed the Norwegian Food Safety Authority's response to the Authority's draft report from the mission concerning intracommunity trade in bovine, AI./embryo collection centres and pure bred animals.

Yours sincerely,

Cathrine Steinland
Acting Deputy Director General

Anne Felde Doser
Adviser

This document has been signed electronically and therefore it is not signed by hand

Enclosures: 6

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EFTA SURVEILLANCE AUTHORITY

EFTA Surveillance Authority
Rue de Belliard 35
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Att: Egill Steingrimsson

Deres ref:
Vår ref: 2013/79285
Dato: 23.08.2013
Org.nr: 985 399 077

Statens tilsyn for planter, fisk, dyr og næringsmidler

Mattilsynet

EFTA Surveillance Authority mission to Norway from 11 to 18 June 2013 regarding application of EEA legislation related to Pure bred bovine animals and Intra-community trade with semen and embryo of bovines

The Norwegian Food Safety Authority has no comments on the factual content of the draft report.

A plan for corrective measures and actions to be taken, is attached.

Please find attached information requested for under "findings" pt. 5.7 in the draft-report, concerning information about rules for entering animals into the herd book, the breeding goal and the rules for performance recording for one of the associations visited.

Regards

Solfrid Åmdal
Head of section

Table of corrective actions

Recommendations and plan of corrective actions, EFTA Surveillance Authority mission to Norway from 11 to 18 June 2013, regarding the application of EEA legislation related to				
No	**Recommendations/subject**	**Action**	**Time aspect**	**Enclosures**
1	Norway should ensure that all EEA requirements laid down in Directive 88/407/EEC concerning official control of semen collection and/or storage centres are transposed into the Norwegian legal order.	Norway will ensure that the requirements in the Directive are implemented in the Norwegian legislation	01.07.2014	
2	Norway should ensure compliance with Article 4(5) of Regulation (EC) 882/2004, in particular by ensuring efficient and effective coordination between and within competent authorities.	NFSA will ensure that official controls are carried out by the the right District Office, according to what is stated in the guidelines. We will also make sure that inspection frequency is in line with the frequency in the guideline.	01.01.2014	
3	The competent authorities should ensure that staff performing official control receives, for their area of competence, appropriate training enabling them to undertake their duties competently and to carry out official controls in a consistent manner as required by 6 (a) and (b) of Regulation (EC) 882/2004.	The Head Office and the Regional Office of Rogaland and Agder, will work together more closely when dealing with issues related to bovine breeding. In June there was a meeting between the Head Office and the Regional Office, where different tasks related to the follow up of findings during the mission, was allocated.	Ongoing	
4	Norway should ensure that official controls are carried out regularly, on a risk basis and with appropriate frequency as laid down in Article 3 of Regulation (EC) 882/2004.	NFSA will update the country profile, including information about official controls within the scope of this mission. We will include supervision of breeding organisations and semen collection/storage centres and embryo collection team in our risk analysis record.	01.07.2014	
5	The competent authorities should ensure that official controls are carried out consistently; in accordance with documented procedures and that the effectiveness of the official controls is verified as required by Articles 4 and 8 of Regulation (EC) 882/2004.	Official controls shall be carried out according to issued guidelines, and the results of the controls shall be documented in the operational quality management system (MATS). Discrepancies shall be identified and adressed. Effectiveness of these controls can be made visible in reports based on the registrations in MATS. The Head Office will follow up that official controls are carried out as stated.	Ongoing	

6	The competent authority should ensure that approved semen collection and/or storage centres fulfil all the requirements of Annex A to Directive 88/407/EEC, in particular that such centres are under the permanent supervision of a centre veterinarian authorised by the competent authority as foreseen in point 1(a) and 2(a) of Chapter I of Annex A to Directive 88/407/EEC, that collection centres are so constructed that it can be readily cleaned and disinfected as required by point 1(d) of Chapter I of Annex A.	The guidelines and MATS are now updated. Informations regardings this recommandation are send to the Regional Offices in the Norwegian Food Safety Authority. Please see attached documents.	Completed	Guidelines, Supervisionchecklist in MATS
7	It should be ensured that semen collection centres and semen storage centres are regularly inspected by an official veterinarian at least twice a year as laid down in point 1(c) and 2(b) of Chapter II of Annex A of Directive 88/407/EEC.	The guidelines are now updated. Informations regardings this recommandation are send to all the Regional Offices in the Norwegian Food Safety Authority. Please see attached documents.	Completed	Guidelines, letter to the Regional Offices
8	Norway should ensure compliance with Article 5 of Directive 89/556/EEC, in particular that embryo teams are approved only where the provisions of the Annex A to that Directive are observed and that approval of the team shall be renewed whenever major changes are made.	Information regarding this recommendation is sent to the concerned Regional Office in the Norwegian Food Safety Authority. Please see attached document.	01.11.2013	Letter to the Regional Offices
9	Norway should ensure that, animals aged six months or more which could have had contact with females prior to quarantine, are tested three times at weekly intervals for Campylobacter foetus spp. Veneralis and Trichomonas foetus as required by point 1(e)(iv) and (v) of Chapter I of Annex B of Directive 88/407/EEC.	Information regarding this recommendation is sent to all Regional Offices in the Norwegian Food Safety Authority. Please see attached document	Completed	Letter to the Regional Offices

10	The competent authorities should ensure that breeders' organisation or association which maintains or establishes herd-books meet the conditions in the Annex to Commission Decision 84/247/EEC as required by Article 2 of that Decision. Furthermore, it should be ensured that official recognition is withdrawn if the conditions of the Annex are no longer met as required by Article 3 of the same Decision.	Norwegian regulation regarding breeding of cattle, does not differentiate between recognition of breeding organisations and approval of bodies setting rules for performance recording and assessing the genetic value of pure-breeding animals. Norway has approved associations for both tasks in one approval. We will look into how Commission Decision 2009/157 and Commission Decision 2006/427 is implemented in the Norwegian regulation. Within the end of 2013, NFSA will send a letter to all breeding associations requesting an application for renewal of recognition. We will go through the conditions for approval in the two mentioned Decisions, and make sure that only associations that fulfill the requirements will be approved /recognised. Norway will notify the Authority of bodies approved for setting rules for performance recording, in line with the requirements in Commission Decision 2006/427	31.12.2014	

Annex 4 – Information submitted by Norway

Norwegian Red: Description with Brief History
July 2013

Norwegian Red is the primary dairy breed in Norway. Norwegian Red cattle, often called NRF (for Norsk rødt fe in Norwegian), were developed in Norway and now number over 200,000 cows. Norwegian Reds make up over 97% of the dairy cattle and provide approximately 75% of the beef produced in Norway.

Brief history
The Norwegian Red breed has been carefully developed over many decades by utilizing a broad and well-designed breeding objective. Breeds contributing to the early development of the Norwegian Red (from the mid-1800s to mid-1900s) include Ayrshires from several countries and Swedish Reds from Sweden as well as several local breeds used for dairy production in Norway. Developments in the 1970s through the 1990s included the use of Swedish Red and Finnish Ayrshire sires along with the limited use of Swedish Friesian bulls and a small number of Holstein bulls from the US, Canada and the United Kingdom.

Characteristics
The Norwegian Red breed is characterized as the most hardy and robust of all dairy breeds with outstanding milk production. Norwegian Red cattle are moderate in size with mature cow weights around 600 kg but calves are hardy and fast growing. Young growing bulls can gain 1.4 kg of live weight per day or more. Top producing herds in Norway average about 11,000 kg milk per cow per year and top cows produce about 16,000 kg milk per year. Fat percentage averages 4.2% and protein percentage averages 3.4% so fat and protein production are outstanding, especially given the moderate cow size. Norwegian Reds are extremely healthy and fertile given their high milk production. Norwegian Reds have an extremely low frequency of important welfare related traits. Over 93% of the first lactation cows have no clinical mastitis each year. Over 97% of first lactation cows have no clinical metabolic disease. Major calving difficulty is observed in approximately 2% of all calvings and stillbirths occur in approximately 3% of all calvings. Average calving intervals are 12.5 months and first service conception rate in lactating cows is over 60%. Maiden heifer conception rates are more than 70%. Norwegian Reds come in red and white as well as black and white. The black gene comes from the local breeds used to form the Norwegian Red as well as from the imports of sires from other breeds. Norwegian Red has a high frequency of the polled gene (absence of horns) with approximately 50% of the recent calves born polled. Systematic selection of polled animals has increased the frequency of polled animals and will continue to increase the frequency until all animals are polled.

Breeding program
The Norwegian Red breeding program has had a balanced breeding goal throughout the breed's history. The program has focused on improving production traits as well as health, fertility, beef traits and other traits that are important for ease of management and lowered cost of production. Very accurate sire genetic evaluations along with a cleverly designed breeding program have allowed breeders to simultaneously improve all the important traits required for efficient and sustainable dairy production. Weights on various traits in the Norwegian Red breeding goal have changed some over the last 40 years. However, the overall aim of the program has always been to produce highly productive cows that are

healthy, fertile and easy to manage. Ten trait groups are included in the current breeding goal and total merit index. Milk component production, mastitis, fertility and udder characteristics currently receive the most emphasis. Table 1 provides a list of the trait groups and their importance in the current Norwegian Red total merit index.

Table 1: Relative weights on traits included in the current Norwegian Red total merit index.

Traits	Relative weight
Milk production	28
Mastitis	21
Fertility	18
Udder conformation	15
Leg conformation	6
Growth rate	6
Temperament	2
Disease other than mastitis	2
Milkability	1
Calving difficulty	0.5
Stillbirth	0.5

The Norwegian Red breeding program has been effective in improving traits like cow fertility and mastitis resistance, traits that have declined in other dairy populations, because of the emphasis in the breeding program and the strategy used for selection. The Norwegian Red breeding program has progeny tested approximately 125 young bulls each year for the last several decades. About 10 to 12 of the highest ranking bulls are selected from these 125 each year for use in the general population. Potential progeny-test bulls have traditionally been selected from thousands of young bulls after screening for pedigree merit as well as other performance characteristics. Currently each year the top 230 bull calves in Norway based on genomic information and pedigree merit are purchased and brought to a performance test station at 3 to 4 months of age. At one year of age approximately 125 of the 230 bulls are selected for progeny testing.
Progeny tested bulls receive very accurate genetic evaluations even for the lowly heritable traits like health and fertility because large groups of daughters are recorded in their first crop of daughters. Traditionally Norwegian Red sires have had 250 daughters or more in their first daughter-based genetic evaluations. This is more than double the number of first crop daughters obtained in most other breeding programs. The current progeny testing approach will continue in Norway until accuracies for genomic selection are dramatically improved and the heavy use of young bulls without daughter information becomes a more viable alternative. The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) has provided special recognition to the sustainable nature of the Norwegian Red breeding program and FAO has held the program as an example for others to follow (FAO report, 2009).

References

FAO report, 2009
Geno Global website: http://www.genoglobal.no/ Geno, Hamar, Norway