Brussels, March 2014
Case No: 73848
Event No: 702258

EFTA SURVEILLANCE AUTHORITY

COUNTRY PROFILE

Norway

Competent authority control systems in the areas of food and feed safety, animal health and animal welfare

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INTRODUCTION

This country profile has been drawn up by Norway in cooperation with the EFTA Surveillance Authority ("the Authority") to present in a summary form the latest information available on Norwegian control systems related to food and feed safety, animal health and welfare. Plant health is not part of the country profile as it does not fall under the Agreement of the European Economic Area ("the EEA Agreement", "the Agreement").

The information in this country profile has been compiled from:

- recent written submissions and other documentation from the Norwegian competent authorities detailing how control systems are organised.
- the results of the EFTA Surveillance Authority's missions to Norway in recent years and, in particular, a general review mission in Norway which took place in October 2013.

The country profile is presented in four parts:

Part 1 describes the overall organisation of the Norwegian competent authorities and the respective responsibilities of the relevant ministries in relation to the different components of the control system.

Part 2 gives a more detailed description of the different control systems that form the complete range of official controls in Norway and covering the whole chain of animal feed and food production.

Part 3 contains an overview of missions carried out by the Authority to Norway from July 2009 to December 2012, including assessment of specific recommendations reviewed in a general review mission of October 2013.

Part 4 contains executive summaries of finalised missions carried out by the Authority in Norway, since January 2013.

The country profile is to be updated at regular intervals based on recommendations, and pursuant to the EFTA Surveillance Authority's missions or additional relevant information being submitted by the Norwegian competent authorities.

Acronyms are used extensively throughout this report for the sake of brevity. A list of acronyms, abbreviations and special terms is given in Annex I.

1 COMPETENT AUTHORITIES AND DISTRIBUTION OF RESPONSIBILITIES

The Ministry of Agriculture and Food, the Ministry of Trade, Industry and Fisheries and the Ministry of Health Care Services are the three Ministries in Norway responsible for developing policy and legislation on food and feed safety, animal health and welfare. When necessary the ministries coordinate their policies.

1.1 The Ministry of Agriculture and Food (*http://www.lmd.dep.no*)

The Ministry is responsible for food and agricultural policymaking. The food policy of the Ministry aims to provide consumers with wholesome, high quality food products, and to ensure that the food production process is carried out with environmental, public health and animal welfare concerns in mind. The Ministry is responsible for terrestrial primary production.

The food and agricultural policy is based on two main principles: A consumer focus for all activities within the Ministry's administrative responsibility, and an efficient and forward-looking business development policy that harmonises social and commercial interests.

In addition, the Ministry is administratively responsible for the Norwegian Food Safety Authority (NFSA), which is the central competent authority in Norway for food and feed safety, animal health and welfare.

The responsibility for shaping food policy and for the management of foodstuffs from production to delivery to the consumer is shared between the Ministry of Agriculture and Food, the Ministry of Trade, Industry and Fisheries and the Ministry of Health and Care Services.

1.2 The Ministry of Health and Care Services *(http://www.hod.dep.no)*

The Ministry is responsible for policymaking on drinking water and foodstuffs. The production and marketing of safe and wholesome food is an essential principle in this regard, as is the avoidance of misleading practices and ensuring of honest information to consumers.

1.3 The Ministry of Trade, Industry and Fisheries *(www.nfd.dep.no)*

The Ministry, established 1 January 2014, is responsible for designating industrial and seafood policy. This includes involvement in any policy area that affects value creation. The collective value creation nationwide is what determines prosperity and well-being in Norway. The objective of the government's industrial and seafood policy, therefore, is to maximise value creation in the Norwegian economy.

The Ministry designates and creates a framework for administers policy regarding Norwegian business activities as well as other industrial and seafood policy instruments and policy for the shipping industry. The Ministry promotes trade, research, innovation and entrepreneurial spirit. In addition the Ministry aids in coordinating the efforts of the various ministries in order to ensure a sound, unified, future-oriented industrial and seafood policy.

1.4 The Norwegian Food Safety Authority *(www.mattilsynet.no)*

The Norwegian Food Safety Authority (NFSA) is a governmental body and the competent authority operating on a national basis, whose aim is to:

- Ensure safe food and drinking water
- Promote healthy plants, fish and animals
- Promote animal welfare and respect for animals
- Promote health, quality and consumer interests along the food chain
- Ensure environmentally friendly production

The NFSA is responsible for all legislation on the production and distribution of food. This includes business activities related to primary production, food industries, retail stores, food catering, and certain imports such as the import of animals, food and plants.

The NFSA also inspects and licences veterinary surgeons, other animal health workers and animal caretakers. Furthermore, the NFSA inspects industries producing cosmetics and body-care products, as well as the distribution of medicinal products sold outside of pharmacies. The NFSA also issues authorisations and approvals of food business operators and animal by-product establishments.

The NFSA legislates and provides guidance documents to both natural and legal persons; hereto food business operators. The NFSA also carries out inspections in order to ensure compliance with legislation within its field. In addition, the NFSA's task and role consist of drafting and providing information on legislation, performing risk-based inspections, monitoring food safety as well as plant, fish and animal health, and providing updates on developments within its field and on emergency planning. The NFSA has an obligation to advise the three Ministries on subjects that fall within their competence and reports to the Ministries, according to the distribution of the tasks and responsibilities between the Ministries.

Organisation and management of the NFSA

There are three administrative NFSA levels: the head office, the eight regional offices and the 52 district offices. The head office is responsible for the safe protection of all audit data and ensures the compliance of the regional offices.

The head office is headed by the Director General alongside with his or her communications staff and analysis and management staff. There are three different head office departments

- The Department of Legislation (Bergen, Sandnes, Ås, Oslo);
- The Department of Control (Bergen, Sandnes, Ås, Oslo);
- The Department of Administration (Brumunddal, Sortland, Oslo)

The regional level with its eight regional offices coordinates the activity of the district offices. The regional office is the appeal body if business operators disagree with decisions made by the district offices within their respective regions. The district offices carry out official controls on the food business operators. The district offices report to the regional offices, which, in their turn, report to the head office. Individual decisions related to specific audits at specific businesses are delegated to the regional and local levels using documents for guidance.

There is a reporting system every tertiary and the regions are supposed to report main priorities and other important tasks. The report of the last tertiary is a summary for the whole year. NFSA has a goal-board where the numerical indicators are used to follow-up the priorities.

Management meeting with the heads of the region and head office are conducted during the year addressing running issues in management. Furthermore each region has a management meeting with the Directors of head office.

The management of the NFSA is based on a process-based quality managing system. There are four main processes which reflect its core activities, one management process and one administrative process. There is one main goal per process which forms the basis for planning and review of activities and allocation of resources. These processes and main goals take into account the strategy and main objectives of the NFSA.

Table 1: Overview of NFSA Processes

Main process	Process owner	Main goal
Development of regulations	Director, Department of Legislation	Legislation that ensures protection in the appropriate place and in the appropriate manner.
Supervision	Director, Department of control	Business operators that meet the relevant legal requirements.
Communication and guidance	Director, Staff Communications	Communication is a strategic tool to achieve the main goals of the NFSA.
Obtaining knowledge and analysing status	Director, Staff Strategic Analysis and Management	A good understanding of developments within our field.
Managing the NFSA	Director, Staff Strategic Analysis and Management	An efficient and innovative NFSA
Supporting the NFSA	Director, Department of Administration	Efficient and innovative administration of the NFSA that promotes a learning organisation and provide value for other processes and external users.

There are a number of secondary goals with accompanying indicators for the measurement of results for each main goal.

Delegation of control tasks to other control bodies

Debio (http://www.debio.no)
All providers of organic products in Norway are certified by Debio. Debio performs official controls on organic products in Norway, including decisions concerning products from third countries, exemptions and any temporary use of non-organic products.

The National Animal Research Authority - Forsøksdyrutvalget (http://www.fdu.no)
The National Animal Research Authority authorises and performs official controls on the just use and the welfare of animals used for research.

1.5 Cooperation between authorities

The NFSA cooperates with several other governmental bodies. The most important of these are listed in table 2.

Table 2. Table of authorities

Organisation	Tasks
The Directorate of Customs and Excise www.toll.no	The Directorate of Customs and Excise and the NFSA have signed a cooperation agreement related to the import of products falling within the scope of controls of the NFSA. The agreement includes regular meetings between the two authorities as well as cooperation at the local level.
The Police www.politiet.no	In major cities the NFSA, the police and other relevant governmental bodies cooperate and have joint inspections of restaurants and other businesses serving or producing food. Intentional or negligent violations of the Food Act and accompanying regulations are considered as criminal offences under Norwegian law. The NSFA reports serious infringements to the police for public prosecution.
The Directorate of Fisheries http://www.fiskeridir.no	The Directorate of Fisheries is an executive governmental body in matters pertaining to fishing and the management of aquaculture. Its main tasks include regulation, guidance, supervision, resource management and quality control. The NFSA and the Directorate of Fisheries cooperate on the management of some regulations regarding aquaculture and the audit of the internal control on aquaculture.
The Norwegian Environment Agency www.miljodirektoratet.no	The Norwegian Environment Agency under the Ministry of the Environment acts in the area of nature management and pollution issues. The agency has an executive responsibility for instructions and control relating to measures to combat industrial pollution, acute pollution, chemical substances and products, and monitoring pollution in the air and in water. The NFSA and the Agency cooperate on water management and other closely linked areas.
The Directorate of Health http://www.helsedirektorate	The Directorate of Health is a governmental body in the area of public health and health services. The NFSA

Organisation	Tasks
t.no /	cooperates with the Directorate of Health on food safety issues.
The Norwegian Medicine Agency *http://www.legemiddelverket.no*	The Norwegian Medicine Agency is the national regulatory authority for new and existing medicines and the supply chain. The NFSA is responsible for inspection of the distribution of medicinal products sold outside of pharmacies.
The Norwegian Coastal Administration *www.kystverket.no*	The Norwegian Coastal Administration is the Ministry of Fisheries and Coastal Affairs' advisory and executive body in matters pertaining to the administration of ports and seaways. The NFSA and the Norwegian Coastal Administration cooperate on possible outbreaks of diseases in sea mammals.
The County Administrations *www.norway.no/styresmakter/liste.asp?el=59&nside=fylke*	The County Administrations implement political decision regarding their county. Applications for aquaculture sites undergoes an application procedure, with the county acting as the coordinating authority. The County Administration forwards the application to the local authorities and other relevant sector authorities for evaluation. The sector authorities are: the Directorate of Fisheries, the local Norwegian Food Safety Authority, the Norwegian Coastal Administration, the County Governor and in some cases the Norwegian Water Resources and Energy Directorate. The County makes its decision based on the outcome of the different authorities' assessments, decisions and the Aquaculture Act. The NFSA may decide against an aquaculture site based on the Food Safety Act and the Animal Welfare Act. The County Administrations are also regional Water Basin authorities on regional planning according to the Water Framework Directive. NFSA do also participate in processes connected to this directive.
The Norwegian Agricultural Authority *http://www.slf.del.no*	The Norwegian Agricultural Authority has the competence to ensure that all schemes and regulations related to agriculture are administered uniformly across the country, and throughout the production chain. The NFSA cooperates with the Norwegian Agricultural Authority with regard to the controls related to compliance with the legislation on animal identification.
The Petroleum Safety Authority Norway	The Petroleum Safety Authority coordinates inspections on the Norwegian continental shelf including eight land-

Organisation	Tasks
www.ptil.no	based installations. The actual inspections of foodstuff and potable water offshore are performed by the County Governor of Rogaland by delegation from NFSA. The Director General meet in a joint Enforcement Agencies' Director General Group; there is also a joint Enforcement Agencies Group who cooperate on a general level.
The Norwegian Radiation Protection Authority www.nrpa.no	The Norwegian Radiation Protection Authority is the government authority for radiation protection and nuclear safety. The NFSA and the Norwegian Radiation Protection Authority cooperate on the nuclear contingency plan in case of threat of radioactive fallout
The Norwegian Board of Health Supervision http://www.helsetilsynet.no	The Norwegian Board of Health Supervision has overall responsibility for the supervision of health and social services in Norway. The NFSA and the Norwegian Board of Health Supervision cooperate on a local level regarding outbreaks of disease when the reason for the outbreak is within the field of responsibility of the NFSA.
The Norwegian Labour Inspection Authority www.arbeidstilsynet.no/	The NFSA is cooperating with the Norwegian Labour Inspection Authority with the aim of developing a common methodology for inspections and provision of information related thereto.
The Directorate for Civil Protection and Emergency Planning www.dsb.no/	The NFSA is cooperating with the Directorate for Civil Protection and Emergency Planning with the aim of developing a common methodology for inspections and provision of information related thereto.

The NFSA in particular cooperates with some authorities/organisations with the aim of developing a common methodology for inspections and provision of information related thereto. These organisations are: the Norwegian Labour Inspection Authority; the Directorate for Civil Protection and Emergency Planning; the Norwegian Industrial Safety and Security Organisation; the Norwegian Environment Agency; the Petroleum Safety Authority Norway; the Norwegian Board of Health Supervision; and the Norwegian Radiation Protection Authority. As a result of this cooperation an educational programme has been developed for inspectors, focusing on risk analysis and inspections.

The Norwegian Agricultural Quality System and Food Branding Foundation - Matmerk (*www.matmerk.no*)

The Norwegian Agricultural Quality System and Food Branding Foundation provides guidance and information to business operators who apply for protection of geographical indications, designations of origin or certificates of specific character for agricultural products, foodstuffs, fish and fish products.

The Norwegian Scientific Committee for Food Safety (*www.vkm.no*)
The Norwegian Scientific Committee for Food Safety (VKM) carries out independent risk assessments for NFSA across the Authority's field of responsibility. The Committee is appointed by the Ministry of Health and Care Services. VKM is organised as an independent body, fulfilling national requirements to independence, transparency and the carrying out of open scientific risk assessments.

VKM has nine scientific panels whose areas of responsibility largely correspond to those of the EFSA panels. Risk assessments in VKM follow current international standards and methodology in the respective fields of responsibility for its panels. NFSA uses the risk assessments when giving advice to the relevant ministries, when choosing measures to take and as part of the background for developing new laws and regulations.

1.6 Laboratory services

The NFSA has designated laboratories that carry out the analysis of samples taken during official controls. The names of the laboratories are given in table 3.

All the laboratories are assessed and accredited in accordance with the Standard EN ISO 17025. The Norwegian Accreditation monitors all the laboratories annually. Should a laboratory fail to meet the standard the designation is cancelled.

With each of the laboratories the NFSA has a written agreement and contracts describing the extent and quality of the services the laboratories shall provide to the NFSA.

The research-based advisory institutions give the NFSA scientific advice and conduct risk assessments concerning animal health, fish health, plant health and food and feed safety and they are participating in the surveillance and control programmes. They are also involved in the reports from the surveillance and monitoring programmes. Several of these research-based institutions/laboratories are designated as national reference laboratories (NRL) for one or more parameters. The reference functions are based on both international and national regulations. An overview of Norwegian NRLs can be found here: http://www.mattilsynet.no/om_mattilsynet/nasjonale_referanselaboratorium.7670

The official laboratories are designated by the NFSA according to a tendering and assessment procedure. Accreditation according to EN ISO 17025 is a prerequisite for participation in the tender. The laboratories have a two year contract with the NFSA which is renewable once, where after there is a call for a new tender. These laboratories are primarily used by NFSA district offices.

Table 3. List of designated laboratories involved in controls on food, feed and animal health

Research-based advisory institutions		**Website**
VI	The Norwegian Veterinary Institute	www.vetinst.no
Bioforsk	The Norwegian Institute for Agricultural and Environmental Research	www.bioforsk
NIFES	The National Institute of Nutrition and Seafood Research	www.nifes.no
FHI	The Norwegian Institute of Public Health	www.fhi.no
HI	The Norwegian Institute of Marine Research	www.imr.no

NMBU	The Norwegian School of Veterinary Science	www.nmbu.no
Kimen	Kimen Seed Laboratory	www.kimen.no
LabNett	LabNett	www.labnett.com
Hormon-laboratoriet	The Norwegian Doping Control Laboratory, Oslo University Hospital	www.oslo-universitetssykehus.no
DTU	The Technical University of Denmark, National Food Institute	http://www.food.dtu.dk
Official laboratories		**Website**
Eurofins		www.eurofins.com
LabNett		www.labnett.com
SenjaLab		www.senjalab.no
Analysesenteret		www.trondheim.kommune.no
Mat og Miljølaboratoriet		www.welcon.no
VestfoldLab		www.vestfoldlab.no
ØMM-Lab		www.ommlab.no
LGC Ltd, Laboratory for Government Chemist, UK		www.lgcgroup.com

National accreditation bodies

Norwegian Accreditation is the only Norwegian body for accreditation of laboratories. All the laboratories designated by NFSA are assessed and accredited in accordance with the Standard EN ISO 17025 by Norwegian Accreditation.

Norwegian Accreditation is the Norwegian signatory to the EA multilateral agreements on accreditation (MLA). Through this MLA, Norwegian Accreditation is also a signatory to the ILAC and IAF agreements.

Table 4. Other bodies with duties related to food, feed and animal health

Other bodies	**Website**
Norwegian Accreditation	http://www.akkreditert.no/

1.7 Multi Annual National Control Plan

A Multi Annual National Control Plan (MANCP) has been established by the NFSA, as required by Regulation (EC) No 882/2004 as adapted to the EEA Agreement by Protocol 1 thereto, and is available on the NFSA website.

1.8 Competent Authority Audit Systems

The NFSA has established procedures for both external and internal audits. The NFSA has an internal auditor related to the Director's staff. The NFSA's auditor is independent of all organizational units in the NFSA. Internal audits are conducted by teams of specialists, compiled by employees of the NFSA. All audits are carried out in accordance with documented procedures provided in the quality management system of the NFSA head office. The Office of the Auditor General of Norway conducts external audits of the NFSA. The NFSA Quality Management System is a tool for the NFSA in order to manage the quality of our activities (products and services), appear uniform and efficient, and to work systematically to improve our activities, products and services. This system also contains a system for reporting improvement proposals, incidents and non-conformities ('the improvement portal'). This is intended to help the NFSA to work in a more systematic manner on improvements in all areas.

2 ORGANISATION OF RESPONSIBILITIES IN RELATION TO CONTROL SYSTEMS

The ministries are responsible for coordination of policies regarding official control, whilst the NFSA implements these policies in practice.

The NFSA is the competent authority for all areas covered by Regulation (EC) 882/2004. The following table gives an overview of the distribution of responsibilities in relation to control systems and operational levels in Norway.

More detailed descriptions of the allocation of responsibilities between authorities for each control system are given in the following sections.

Table 5. Distribution of responsibilities related to each control system – an overview.

Sector	Policy and co-ordination	Co-ordination and implementation of controls	Risk assessments and scientific advice
Animal health (including aquatic animal health)	Ministry of Agriculture and Food Ministry of Trade, Industry and Fisheries	NFSA	Norwegian Scientific Committee on Food Safety, NVI
Food of animal origin	Ministry of Agriculture and Food Ministry of Trade, Industry and Fisheries Ministry of Health and Care Service	NFSA	Norwegian Scientific Committee on Food Safety, NVI, NIFES, NMBU
Imports of animals and food of animal origin	Ministry of Agriculture and Food Ministry of Trade, Industry and Fisheries	NFSA	NVI, NIFES, NMBU
Feeding stuffs and animal nutrition	Ministry of Agriculture and Food Ministry of Trade, Industry and Fisheries	NFSA	Norwegian Scientific Committee on Food Safety, NVI,NIFES, Bioforsk, LabNett
TSE/Animal by-products (ABP)	Ministry of Agriculture and Food Ministry of Trade, Industry and Fisheries	NFSA	NVI, LabNett; NIFES
Veterinary medicines and residues	Ministry of Agriculture and Food Ministry of Trade, Industry and Fisheries Ministry of Health and Care Service	NFSA	Norwegian Scientific Committee on Food Safety, NVI NIFES,; Hormonlaboratoriet
Foodstuffs and food hygiene, import of food of plant origin and pesticides	Ministry of Agriculture and Food Ministry of Trade, Industry and Fisheries	NFSA	Norwegian Scientific Committee on Food Safety, NVI,NIFES, Bioforsk, DTU

	Ministry of Health and Care Service		
Animal welfare (including aquatic animal welfare)	Ministry of Agriculture and Food Ministry of Trade, Industry and Fisheries	NFSA	Norwegian Scientific Committee on Food Safety, NVI, HI

Management of official control

Official controls are carried out by the district offices in accordance with delegation decisions adopted by the central NFSA.

The long-term plan for official control describes the activities of the NFSA plan for the following five years. These activities are described at a national level. Local and regional levels may be described in more detail and include other priorities based on a risk evaluation. The long-term plan includes obligatory control activities for the NFSA. The plan is updated annually and forms the foundation for the discussion of the upcoming year's priorities for official control.

The annual budget disposal letter to the regional level is based on the long-term plan for official control, other main priorities and a regional risk evaluation. It contains the annual budget, ongoing tasks, special assignments and prioritisations. Feedback from the regional offices during the year is given in the interim reports. Based on the annual budget disposal letter, the operational plans for appurtenant activities incorporate effectiveness targets and a risk-based approach that reflects where unacceptable conditions might arise, with the resulting consequences. When circumstances change, (e.g. a health situation or other occurrence), the annual budget disposal letter to the regions may be updated. Such updates generally occur twice a year (in June and in October); however the head office may update the annual budget disposal letter whenever it is considered necessary.

The objective of the annual budget disposal letters and the long-term plan for official control, as well as of the other tools mentioned above, is to control or supervise all segments of the food sector within a set period, covering all stages of production, processing and distribution.

2.1 Control system for animal health

Aquaculture animals

The national legislation in place fulfills the relevant EEA requirements in the field of fish health. In some instances Norway has established and implemented stricter requirements than are required by EEA legislation regarding fish health.

NFSA, Department of control, Section for Fish Health and Fish Welfare, is the competent authority in the control and monitoring of fish health and fish welfare. The NFSA cooperates with the Directorate of Fisheries on authorisations and controls by joint inspection- and audit teams. The NFSA also cooperates with private fish health services in the control and monitoring of fish diseases at fish farm level.

Site registration and identification

No person may engage in aquaculture activities without registration as the holder of an aquaculture license in the aquaculture register. The aquaculture license permits the production of specific species in limited geographic areas (sites) subject to the prescribed restrictions on the scope of the license that apply at any given time.

The establishment of aquaculture establishments and mollusc farming areas, expansion of production and any other significant change of previously approved aquaculture establishments or mollusc farming areas shall be approved by the NFSA.

For approval to be granted, the establishment of the aquaculture establishment must not involve any unacceptable risk of spreading disease, including to the aquaculture establishment or mollusc farming area and the surrounding environment.

When considering the risk of spreading disease, particular emphasis shall be given to the distance to watercourses, other aquaculture related activities and groups of aquaculture establishments. There must also be emphasis on the species to be produced, the form of operation and the scope of production.

For marine aquaculture establishments the distance to other aquaculture related undertakings and watercourses shall primarily be considered on the basis of where the production units are placed. For land-based aquaculture establishments, the distance to other aquaculture related undertakings and watercourses shall primarily be considered on the basis of water inlet(s) and outlet(s).

An internal control system shall be in place substantiating that requirements for reasonable operations in terms of biosecurity and animal welfare, including requirements for a contingency plan, risk based medical examinations, maintaining good water quality and log-keeping, can be complied with;

The aquaculture establishment must be able to ensure the requirements of the species for a good aquatic habitat. There must be a reliable and sufficient supply of water of appropriate quality. The establishment shall be located and designed so that there is a low risk of harming or exposing the aquaculture animals to unnecessary stress. When considering the welfare aspect, information about the establishment's design and equipment, and where it is placed at the location shall be considered in relation to the form of production and water data.

Approval may be subject to conditions. A register of Norwegian aquaculture establishments is available in MATS, the NFSA´s operating system for official control.

The NFSA regulations and control cover the whole production chain. There are i.a. regulations relating to the approval and use of disinfectants in aquaculture establishments and transport units, and regulations relating to disinfection of inlet water to and waste water from aquaculture-related activities.

Movement controls

In order to be authorised for transporting aquaculture animals, the vessels must comply with the national Regulation of 17 June 2008 No. 820 containing requirements related to fish health and fish welfare during transport. The district office has the competence to authorise and withdraw authorisation of the means of transport. In general, the authorisations are valid for five years. The NFSA has made the list of authorised means of transport available on its website.

Movements into disease free zones or compartment and movements between infected and non-infected farms are regulated by procedures to reduce the probability for spreading disease. *E.g.* according to the contingency plan for control of Infectious Salmon Anaemia (ISA) in Norway, the transport route shall be authorised by the NFSA when transporting fish from farms with confirmed ISA. Furthermore, the NFSA and the operators pay special attention to the epidemiological status of the areas sailed through when transporting fish on well boats.

Transport routes of infected live fish have to be authorised by the NFSA. Strict rules apply for the disinfection of transport water. The operators are obliged to keep records on movements. The NFSA has issued guidelines for the inspection of means of transport.

An overview of areas declared free from Infectious salmon anaemia (ISA) in Norway can be found here:
http://www.mattilsynet.no/language/english/fish_and_aqaculture/fish_health/areas_declared_free_from_infectious_salmon_anaemia_isa.8754

Health controls

Own supervision
According to the Norwegian regulation relating to operation of aquaculture farms the person responsible for daily operations shall ensure that risk based supervision be carried out of factors of significance for the environment, health and welfare of aquaculture animals. Supervision of fish farms shall be done at least once daily insofar as weather conditions permit.

Health checks
Risk-based health checks shall be made of aquaculture animals to prevent and treat disease and injury. The health check shall be performed by authorised veterinarians or fish health biologists. The operating log shall be reviewed during each health check. On the basis of a risk evaluation, a representative sample of the production units shall be inspected. A representative sample of newly dead animals or animals exhibiting abnormal behaviour shall be examined and relevant tests shall be performed. Revealing any cases of diseases on lists 1, 2 and 3 shall be particularly stressed. In the event of increased mortality, apart from when such mortality is obviously not caused by disease, or when there is no reason to suspect contagious/non-contagious disease, the health status of the entire aquaculture establishment shall be assessed. Specimens shall be taken and tests performed to establish the cause.

Notification
The Norwegian Food Safety Authority shall be notified immediately if there is:
a) unexplained increased mortality,
b) reason to suspect diseases on lists 1,2 or 3, or
c) other factors which have led to significant repercussions in terms of fish welfare, including disease, injury or failure.

Requirements for weekly reporting of mortality, from aquaculture production businesses during an outbreak of list 1 or list 2 diseases, are also laid down in the Norwegian legislation. Sea lice levels have to be reported weekly.

Terrestrial animals

The NFSA, department of control, Section for Animal Health is the competent authority in the control and monitoring of animal health of terrestrial animals. Passive surveillance of terrestrial animal diseases relies on a reporting system which is an important part of animal health controls. The NFSA will take action if a listed disease is reported.

Holding registration and animal identification

The domestic animal database "Husdyrregister" contains a register of all bovine, ovine, caprine, porcine and poultry herds. The database is a part of MATS, the operating system for official control in the NFSA. Anyone keeping cattle is obliged to register. The central register is available to NFSA's personnel through the intranet. The maximum time limit for reporting of events to the database, is seven days after the event has occurred.

Updating and reporting to the central register is by direct input through the web from various stakeholders such as animal keepers, slaughter house organisations, dairy organisations, ear tag producers, the NFSA district offices and the data personnel in charge of the central register.

The domestic animal database "Husdyrregister" contains a register of all bovine herds. A herd number is allocated to each herd of bovine animals. The herd number is also the registration number of a holding. Cattle identification and tracing includes: ear tagging; on-farm register; and the cattle movement registration. All cattle are tagged at birth with a unique identification number issued by the NFSA. The "Husdyrregister" records the origin, identity, movement and disposal of all cattle, using input from: cattle birth and movement data, livestock markets, slaughter houses and export points for live animals.

Farmers of sheep and goats are required to tag all animals born on their holdings either before movement off the holding or within 30 days after birth. Farmers are required to have a holding register to record the details of the animals on the farm and the details of all movements onto and off the farm. The NFSA has a central register of sheep and goat holdings in its computer database.

The register for sheep and goat includes identification code of the holding, postal address and geographical location, name, address and occupation of the animal keeper, species of animals (sheep/goat), type of production, inventory of animals and total number of sheep and goat per 1 January of each calendar year. The majority of keepers receive production aid in accordance with total number of animals they keep per 1 January. Each keeper that is eligible to receive production aid, must apply to the Norwegian Agricultural Authority. The application includes information on how many sheep/goat the keeper owns at this date. NFSA receives this information from the Norwegian Agricultural Authority, and in this way "Husdyrregisteret" is updated.

Data field is reserved for the NFSA for entering of animal health information (animal movement restrictions, status or other relevant information) in the context of Community or national control programs. All NFSA remarks on animal movement restrictions are handled in MATS.

Pigs are registered in the "Husdyrregister". Pigs moving from the farm direct to the slaughterhouse must be identified with a tattoo ("slap mark") showing the herd identification number. All other pigs leaving the farm must be tagged with the herd

number. The receiver of the animals is obliged to report to the register. Breeding pigs on the holding must be tagged with both the herd number and an individual number.

Commercial poultry holdings are required to be registered. Data about the holding includes; name and address of the operation manager, address of the holding, type of holding, capacity of the establishment. Recent additions to the register include information required by the Directive 2002/4, Annex 1, and definitions referred to under point 2.1. Changes in information about the holding shall be reported within 1 month after the change has taken place.

Bio security measures and movement control

There are minimum requirements in the Norwegian animal health legislation concerning bio security measures on the farm and on the movement of animals. The NFSA supervises that the rules are followed and the district offices of the NFSA do on-the-spot checks and follow up reports about illegal movement of animals.

The rules for control of live animals imported to Norway are laid down in the Norwegian Regulation of 31 December 1998 regarding supervision and control of import and export of live animals, germ plasma and animal waste within the EEA, and of import of live animals from third countries.

Animals can enter Norway from other EEA States in accordance with the EEA legislation. Entry of animals to Norway from third countries is also allowed in accordance with the relevant EEA legislation. Norway has two border inspection posts for live animals, one at Gardermoen airport (nearby Oslo) and one in Storskog (in the county of Finnmark, near the Russian border).

Quarantine is not required for imported production animals. However, there are restrictions on moving animals from herds not included in the Norwegian surveillance programmes for certain diseases (Paratuberculosis in cattle, lama and alpaca; Bovine Viral Diarrhoe (BVD) and Mucosal Disease (MD) in cattle; tuberculosis in farmed deer; scrapie in sheep and goat; maedi in sheep; Porcine Reproductive and Respiratory Syndrom (PRRS), Swine Influenza and Transmissible Gastro Enteritis (TGE) in swine; Infectious Laryngotracheitis (ILT) in poultry, turkey, partridge, pheasant; guinea hens and quail; Avian Rhinothracheitis (ART) in turkey, pheasant; ostrich, and guinea hens) to herds included in the programmes, before their health status has been examined and found satisfactory. As a consequence imported animals must normally be kept isolated in approved isolation facilities the first weeks or months after arrival. The period of time the animals are isolated differs between the species and depends on the nature of the disease in question. During the isolation period the animals are tested for several diseases. NFSA is responsible for the approval of isolation facilities and the testing in the isolation period.

Official controls of semen collection/ storage centers, embryo collection teams and breeding organizations

Norwegian semen collection/ storage centers and embryo collection/ production teams are approved by the district offices of NFSA. Approved establishments are allocated a registration number. Official controls of these establishments are carried out by the district offices. The regional offices are the appeal bodies for decisions made by the district offices. The head office is responsible for issuing of guidelines.

The recognition and inspection of breeding organisations, and organizations recognised to maintain herd-books in Norway, is done by the Regional Office of Rogaland and Agder. The organisations must apply for recognition. In the application, the organisation shall describe how they fulfil certain conditions related to the recognition.

Active surveillance of animal diseases

Norway has on-going surveillance programmes for several aquaculture and terrestrial animal diseases. Detailed information about the programmes and the results of these programmes are found in annual reports, which can be downloaded from the Norwegian Veterinary Institute's website: http://www.vetinst.no/eng/Research/Publications

The Norwegian Veterinary Institute ensures the scientific quality of the programmes with regard to the epidemiological design, testing and analysis with approved methods and by presenting and interpreting the results according to accepted standards. Sampling is performed by or under supervision of official inspectors of the NFSA.

The Norwegian Food Act provides the legal basis for Regulation of 27 June 2002 concerning measures against contagious animal diseases (including aquatic animal diseases). The regulation lays down the general principles for eradication of animal diseases in Norway. The Regulation implements EEA legislation on animal diseases.

National reporting procedures

According to the Norwegian Food Act, everyone who suspects an animal disease which may cause considerable social consequences shall immediately notify the NFSA.

Obligations for veterinarians to report terrestrial animal diseases are laid down in the Norwegian Regulation of 5 February 1990 No 144 concerning instructions for A-, B- and C-diseases. The regulation requires veterinarians to immediately notify the NFSA if a List A disease is suspected. Immediate notification to the NFSA also applies to List B diseases which haven't occurred in the country before or only occurs sporadically. As regards other List B diseases, veterinarians must notify the NFSA as soon as disease is confirmed in holdings not already subjected to official restrictions.

Reporting procedures between the three administrative levels of the NFSA as regards List A diseases for terrestrial animals and list 1 and 2 diseases for aquatic animals are described in contingency plans/instructions. If a List A disease is suspected, the district office shall notify its relative regional office and local organisations. The regional office shall notify the head office and regional organisations. The regional office shall also update the national animal disease database. The head office shall notify central organisations and inform the public. The head office shall also consider reporting to the Office International des Epizooties (OIE), the EFTA Surveillance Authority and the European Union (EU), but this is not required if it is only suspicion.

If a List A disease is confirmed, the district office shall notify its relative regional office and local organisations. The regional office shall notify the head office and regional organisations. The regional office also updates the national animal disease database. The head office shall notify the OIE, the EFTA Surveillance Authority and EU within 24 hours after an outbreak has been confirmed.

As regards List B diseases, the district office must notify its relative regional office and also update the national animal disease database.

At the slaughterhouses the district offices of the NFSA are responsible for the controls and the reporting.

The Norwegian Veterinary Institute immediately reports laboratory findings indicating occurrence of List A and List B diseases and rare agents/agents not previously detected in Norway to the NFSA. Negative test results on samples taken if a List A or List B disease is suspected are reported the same way.

International reporting procedures

According to international agreements, Norway is obliged to report outbreaks of various animal diseases to the other EEA States. Reporting according to these agreements is the responsibility of the head office of the NFSA.

As a contracting party to the EEA Agreement, Norway is obliged to report primary outbreaks of the diseases listed in Council Directive 82/894/EEC to the EFTA Surveillance Authority and the European Commission within 24 hours after the outbreak has been confirmed. Secondary outbreaks must be reported on weekly intervals. Also lifting of restrictions must be reported. Reporting is done in the Animal Diseases Notification System (ADNS) or by e-mail according to Council Directive 82/894/EEC.

As member of the OIE, Norway also reports outbreaks of animal diseases to the OIE according to the requirements laid down in the Terrestrial Animal Health Code, Article 1.1.2.3. This includes notification within 24 hours of listed diseases, weekly reports, six-monthly reports and annual reports.

Contingency plans

The NFSA is responsible for managing a wide range of incidents. To ensure effective management, there is established one administrative contingency plan (ACP) that outlines the chain of command, the organisation of staff/crisis centre, the early warning systems, our own warning systems and the system of communication covering all areas for which the NFSA are responsible.

In addition to the ACP, Norway has for terrestrial animals, as a part of its obligations under the EEA Agreement, elaborated contingency plans against foot and mouth disease (FMD), Avian Influenza (AI) and Bluetongue (BT). The plans consist of an administrative and an operational part. The responsibilities of the three administrative levels within the NFSA are specified in the plans.

Crisis management is sometimes managed at two levels: a central disease control centre (CDCC) located at the head office and local disease control centres (LDCCs) which are located at the regional offices. At the local level the organisation in a contingency situation foresees that field commanders organise and manage the crisis in each district involved, under direct command of the LDCCs.

For aquatic animals a contingency plan for list 1 and 2 diseases as required by Article 47 of Directive 2006/88/EC has been prepared and notified to the EFTA Surveillance

Authority. The purpose of the plan is to provide an overview of the professional and administrative framework that forms the basis for the efforts to control and prevent outbreaks of Listed Exotic Diseases (LED). The plan is primarily concerned with diseases in aquaculture fish. The plan is addressed to the NFSA personnel who are involved in the effort in various ways and at various levels. Those parts of the plan that require action on the part of the NFSA, shall be understood as instructions for the NFSA's personnel and shall also apply to personnel carrying out assignments for the NFSA. Requirements laid down in regulations directed at those in charge of aquaculture establishments and personnel that come under the scope of the Act relating to veterinarians and other animal health personnel are also mentioned. The contingency plan is applicable in all situations in which LED is suspected or detected

The overriding goal of the action plan is to contribute to:

- eradication of the infective agent that is the cause of the LED;
- controlling outbreaks of LED in a safe and effective manner;
- preventing the transmission between marine and onshore aquaculture establishments of infections that can result in LED being contracted;
- preventing the transmission of infections that can result in LED being contracted in connection with the transportation of aquatic organisms;
- limiting the possibility of spreading infective agents that can result in LED being contracted in connection with slaughtering or processing of aquatic organisms;
- reducing the risk of contamination through other human activity, and;
- preventing the introduction to aquaculture establishments of infections that can result in LED being contracted.

In case of an outbreak, the NFSA will enter into agreements with the animal industry and central, regional and local organisations in order to carry out culling and destruction of animals and other organic material. For the purpose of cleansing and disinfection, the NFSA has an agreement with an external cleansing and disinfection company.

For diseases with zoonotic potential there is established a standing committee with representatives from The Ministry of Health and Human Care, The Ministry of Agriculture and Food, The Norwegian Institute of Human Health and NFSA.

The contingency plans of the NFSA are available on its website www.mattilsynet.no.
A contingency plan for aquatic animal emerging diseases is under preparation.

2.2 Control system for food of animal origin

Control and monitoring of food of animal origin in Norway, is under the responsibility of the NFSA. The staff at the department of legislation of the head office of the NFSA follow-up and implement EEA legislation and the department of control of the NFSA is responsible for interpreting legislation, developing control plans, surveillance programmes, guidelines and instructions for the regions and the local district offices.

The Section for Animal Products, department of control is responsible for interpretation of legislation on the field of work, risk assessment and giving directions on control and surveillance to the regional and district offices. The regional offices decide which topics should be prioritised in the surveillance and controls, within the frame set by the head

office and instructs the district offices. The district offices are responsible for carrying out the controls. Meat control, approvals and inspections in milk, meat, and egg establishments, and taking samples in control- and surveillance programmes is the major part of the district offices' work.

The NFSA approves establishments subject to approval according to Regulation (EU) No 853/2004. By use of MATS, the establishments will be given the possibility of a web-based application for approval. MATS has standardized procedures for approval and layout of the certificate for approval.

All establishments supervised by the NFSA (for food of animal origin) have to be approved according to the legislation. The evaluation of establishments based on their application, is performed by the district offices, and a certificate of full approval or conditional approval is issued by the district office.

The mandatory official controls at the slaughterhouses are mostly carried out by the official veterinarians with permanent presence of the officials at the establishments. The routine meat control task alone uses a third of the districts offices' staff and resources.

Official controls of the rest of the food sector are carried out with different approaches, based on inspections, sampling and audits, where the officials carry out on-the-spot checks but are not permanently present. Staff with different professional backgrounds participates in these controls.

In the meat sector there is both a concentration on larger establishments and centralizing of slaughtering, and an interest on small-scale production. This applies to both red meat and poultry. The use of resources in meat inspection has traditionally been proportional to the slaughtered volume, but larger slaughterhouses often have a well established internal control system, well qualified staff and an interest in taking over control tasks.

Official controls are financed through general taxation and by some established fees, i.e. fee for meat inspection, fee for some specified purposes according to a listing, and fee for additional official controls.

Animal holders are responsible for identification of food producing animals, whereas the NFSA is responsible for establishing and servicing of the central database for traceability and labelling of beef.

Official controls on identification marks and tagging of living animals are carried out on animals sent to slaughter. In this context there has been some focus on horses, but the number of slaughtered horses is small.

The food producing industry is responsible for identification marks and labelling on food, and official controls are carried out as part of the supervision and audits of the establishments.

NFSA is the competent authority for policy and enforcement of food safety and animal health legislation including fish and fishery products and live bivalve molluscs. Official controls consist of inspections, approvals and audits and are generally carried out by NFSA districts office personnel.

Lists on registered and approved fishery establishments are generated automatically from MATS and updated daily. The responsible NFSA inspector and district office is responsible for the content in lists of approved establishments.

The lists of approved establishments for fish and fishery products are available on the NFSA website: http://www.mattilsynet.no/english/import_export/approved

Official controls on fish and fishery products from fishing ground, first landing, to movement, processing, wholesale and distribution is carried out by the district offices. Directions for frequency and focus areas of official controls are given annually to the regional offices.

Official controls on live bivalve molluscs from harvesting first landing, to movement, processing, wholesale and distribution is carried out by the district offices. Directions for frequency and focus areas of official controls are given annually to the regional offices.

Monitoring of zoonosis and zoonotic agents

In Norway, *Salmonella* control plans are compulsory for breeding flocks of *Gallus gallus*, laying hens, broilers, turkeys, swine and cattle. The Norwegian Veterinary Institute (NVI) is responsible to edit the Norwegian annual report on trends and sources of zoonoses and zoonotic agents in humans, foodstuffs, animals and feedingstuffs. The institutions and laboratories involved in the reporting are the NFSA, the NVI, the NIFES and the NIPH. See report on NVI`s website http://www.vetinst.no/eng/Publications/Zoonosis-Reports

The Norwegian legislation includes some stricter national measures regarding monitoring and control of *Salmonella* and *Campylobacter* than those laid down in EEA legislation e.g:

- in breeding turkeys holdings the food business operator collects samples every two weeks instead of every three weeks;
- all broilers holdings are submitted to official controls each year (not only at least one flock of broilers on 10% of the holdings with more than 5000 birds);
- the application of sanitary restrictive measures are considered mandatory for all *Salmonella* serovars (not only for *Salmonella* Enteritidis and *Salmonella* Typhimurium) and these measures are applied immediately after the suspicion of a positive result;
- use of vaccines is forbidden at all levels.

2.3 Control system for imports of animals and food of animal origin

The NFSA, department of control, Section for Export and Import, is the competent authority for veterinary import control of products of animal origin (POAO) and live animals from third countries. However, the Section for Animal health and Animal Personnel is the CA for non-commercial imports of pet animals. The NFSA is responsible for all the border inspection posts (BIPs) in Norway. The BIPs are organised as part of the district office.

The Section for Export and Import has the coordinating responsibility for the BIPs. The section has thirteen persons employed, nine in Bergen, three in Oslo and one in Ås. Three employees are dealing full time with the BIPs. In addition one employee in the department of legislation is dealing full time with the legal acts concerning veterinary border control.

The implementation of all the EU legal acts is the responsibility of the department of legislation. It also distributes information on new legislation on the website of the NFSA and notifies Customs of relevant news and changes.

Section for Export and Import is also the national contact point for TRACES and RASFF, not only towards the EU Commission but also within the NFSA. All the BIPs have access to the RASFF database and they all use TRACES. The web pages with information on RASFF and TRACES are the responsibility of Section for Export and Import and are continuously updated.

The BIP, TRACES and RASFF manuals are produced by the Section for Export and Import. Circulars concerning border control are issued from the Section for Export and Import as the need arises. These provide information on procedures, legislation etc. Relevant information from the Commission or competent authorities of other countries is continuously sent out by e-mail to the BIP inboxes which are to be checked daily. Furthermore, the Section for Export and Import has developed an electronic documentation system where all the relevant legal acts and information are easily accessible to the BIPs. This system is also continuously updated.

Yearly seminars for the BIP personnel are arranged by the Section for Export and Import.

The NFSA has established a system to ensure timely implementation of safeguard measures adopted subject to the simplified procedure[1]. Information on Acts subject to simplified procedures is received from the EFTA Secretariat. In addition, the department of legislation of the NFSA monitors the Official Journal daily and identifies Acts that should be applied simultaneously in Norway/EEA and EU. The department of legislation is responsible and keep an overview of relevant Acts to ensure that deadlines are respected.

Changes in legislation are distributed by e-mail. Depending on the type of legislation the changes are accompanied by explanations to the BIPs/district level, and published at the NFSAs homepage as well as on the intranet. The NFSA has established a site in the data system of NFSA which is accessible for the BIPs. On this site the NFSA distributes and archives information on legal acts and other documentation for the BIPs.

A revised system for audits as set out in Article 4(6) of Regulation (EC) No 882/2004 of BIPs has been launched in 2012. Audits are carried out by staff from the head office of NFSA, department of control, Section for Export and Import. All BIPs should be visited every three to five years according to a written plan. The BIPs to be inspected are chosen on a risk-basis (e.g. factors relevant are findings from the last visit by the Authority or last NFSA visit, re-approvals for new products and the general impression of the BIP). During the audit the procedures, documents, facilities and equipment are controlled. The BIPs are informed about these audits before they take place. All audits must be followed by a written report from Section for Export and Import.

Import controls

[1] The simplified procedure is derogation from the general procedures for incorporation of acquis laid down by the EFTA Standing Committee. Simplified procedures signify that acts which are subject to these procedures are no longer incorporated into the EEA Agreement by a Decision of the EEA Joint Committee in order to become applicable in the EEA EFTA States.

Information on approved border inspection posts (BIPs) is available on the EFTA Surveillance Authority's website: http://www.eftasurv.int/internal-market-affairs/areas-of-competence/food-safety/decisions-taken-by-the-authority/.
As stated earlier the BIPs are organised as part of the district offices. The administrative responsibility for the BIPs concerning economy, personnel administration, and the day to day management, lies with the district office. Ten of the BIPs are run by an official veterinarian (OV), while the other five, which are only approved for fishery products for human consumption, are run by an official fish inspector (OFI). The number of people working with border control can in many BIPs vary according to season and workload. All personnel at Norwegian BIPs must be approved by the Section for Export and Import, and subsequently appear on the national list of approved signatories, in order to issue CVEDs. Prior to approval the Section for Export and Import must receive confirmation that the personnel have completed local training as set out in a national procedure.

Checks on incoming consignments are based on pre-notification via the CVED. This information is cross-checked with information from other authorities, for example Customs, port authorities, the pilot service and the coast surveillance authorities. In addition TVINN, the electronic database of the Customs, will intercept goods that must undergo border control but which has not been correctly pre-notified.

The NFSA also cooperates with Customs when it comes to checking for illegal POAO in personal luggage. Joint actions on airports and border crossings have taken place and are planned on yearly basis to check for illegal products and give information to travellers.

Norway is fully harmonized with the EU on veterinary border control through the EEA agreement, but is not part of the European Customs Union. In some cases, especially concerning the implementation of new CN-codes for products subject to vet checks, this can be a challenge. However, the Norwegian Customs generally endeavour to match the Norwegian KN-codes, as much as possible, with the EU CN-codes. To ensure a correct and professional handling of illegal imports the routines to be followed are regulated in an instruction in 2003. Illegal imports of POAO to Norway are handled by the district offices and the BIPs. Illegal imports are seized by the district offices and transported to the nearest BIP approved for the relevant product-category. The transport must be agreed upon with the BIP and must ensure that no contamination is possible during the transport. Further handling of the goods is decided by the BIP.

For further information see the administrative instruction on the NFSA's website:
http://lovdata.no/dokument/INS/forskrift/2003-01-10-28?q=varepartier%20som%20er%20ulovlig%20innf%C3%B8rt*

Catering waste
Handling of catering waste from ships in international traffic is dealt with in a guideline from the head office to the BIPs in 2007, revised in February 2009, and guidelines to district offices sent through the regional offices. NFSA personnel have intensified control of compliance of ports to ABP regulation in 2011. Collaboration between NFSA and the Norwegian Environment Agency has been intensified since 2011. The controls were carried out in collaboration between the NFSA district offices and County Governor Offices (the authority in charge of the environmental controls). The guidelines of the head office to the BIP and to the district offices indicate that it is the border veterinarian and

district offices responsibility to ensure that catering waste is handled as category-1 material and that the waste is stored in leak proof, labelled containers and the port must have an agreement with an approved incineration plant for destruction of the waste. The guidelines also indicate, that the responsibility for handling the waste may be sourced out to the local harbour services. Nevertheless, the border veterinarian remain responsible for keeping copies of receipts from the destruction and controlling that legal requirements are fulfilled. The guidelines are accessible for the BIPs in NFSA's intranet only.

Laboratories
Approved laboratories are available for testing out samples taken at the BIPs. This includes samples taken for surveillance programmes, as part of the physical control of consignments and samples taken on suspicion. The samples taken for surveillance programmes are sent to central laboratories (NVI, NIFES), while other samples are sent to official laboratories the regional offices have agreements with.

2.4 Control system for feeding stuff and animal nutrition

The competent authority on feeding stuff and animal nutrition is the NFSA, department of control, Section for Animal Health and Animal Health Personnel.

Norway incorporated Regulation (EC) No 183/2005 into its national legal order as of 1 March 2010, and Annex IV of Regulation (EC) No 999/2001 as of April/May 2010.

Registration and approval
Registration and approval of establishments falling under Annex I (primary producers) are as a main rule registered automatically via the already existing register maintained by the Norwegian Agricultural Authority (Administration of farm subsidies/grants).

Establishments that falling under Annex III of Regulation (EC) 183/2005 (feed users) are also mainly registered already, in the central farm animal register, and in the register of fish-farmers. Feed users feeding "nonfarm" horses and other animals which fall under Annex III will register through the NFSA web-based registration system. Annex II operators are registered by web-based routines. Application for approval is also web-based, and will in most cases be followed up by way of inspection prior to the granting of approval. The approved / registered operators are listed in: http://www.mattilsynet.no/om_mattilsynet/godkjente_produkter_og_virksomheter/

Risk evaluations are carried out by the NFSA for all Annex II operators, based on type business activity, volume and, if so, earlier control results.

For approval according to Annex IV of Regulation (EC) No 999/2001, the NFSA has established a specific system for approval of the establishments using fish meal in feed for non-ruminants. The same applies for other relevant provisions in the Annex, such as use/storage of fish meal for non-ruminants on farms also holding ruminants.

Official controls
The official controls are risk-based. Criteria for risk-assessment of establishments take into account if the establishments are:

- approved or registered;

- type of establishment and ingredients in feed, feed-material, additives, premixes etc;
- the size of the business and volume produced;
- relevant annex (I, II or III) according to Regulation (EC) No183/2005;
- HACCP, if applicable;
- results from former controls and analysis results.

This assessment divides the establishments in 4 different risk-classes, with the following basis control programmes:

- risk class 1; audit minimum once a year;
- risk class 2; audit minimum once every two years;
- risk class 3; 50 per cent of the establishments are inspected, and 25 per cent audited yearly;
- risk class 4; inspection / audit on suspicion. Risk class 4 is designated for operators with a very low (negligible) risk. An example would be a wholesaler of pet foot in sealed package.

Audits may include all of, or parts of, the establishment's areas. Inspections are unannounced, for instance, in connection with sampling. The controls are supported by extra controls and sampling/analysis for verification of results, or on suspicion. In addition, specific campaigns on visits within fields of special interest can count as inspections. (Feed use on farm level as an example.) Campaigns are announced as a special work field in the period, but will not always imply control of all establishments in the target group.

Samples are taken and analysed as part of the NFSA basis surveillance programme, communicated yearly. As mentioned above, additional samples can be taken /analysed for verification or upon suspicion.

With regards to feeding stuffs controls, two types of samples are taken:

- samples taken as a part of the surveillance programme;
- samples taken as a part of an on-site inspection, such samples are taken to verify findings in the own check system of the feed business or in case the inspector has reason to suspect infringements.

Samples taken as a part of the surveillance programmes are distributed among the designated central laboratories. The NFSA has approved the use of these laboratories for surveillance programmes and has also signed agreements on advisory support with these central laboratories.

For samples taken as a part of the on-site inspections certain official laboratories are to be used, provided that the analytical method in question is a part of the agreement between the NFSA and the laboratory. Otherwise, the designated central laboratory is to be used.

In practice this means that samples taken according to the surveillance programme for land animal feed are distributed between the laboratories, LabNett, the Norwegian Veterinary Institute, the National Institute of Nutrition and Seafood Research and the Norwegian Institute for Agricultural and Environmental Research. Samples taken according to the

surveillance programme for fish feed are analysed by the National Institute of Nutrition and Seafood Research.

2.5 Control system for Transmissible spongiform encephalopathies (TSE)

Competent Authorities

The NSFA is the competent authority for the epidemiological surveillance and national control programmes on TSE. Department of control at NSFA's head office has the overall responsibility for the maintenance of TSE control programmes and their implementations and the NSFA's local offices have responsibility for implementing TSE controls according to instructions, standard operational procedures (SOPs), sampling plans and NFSA regional offices' supervision. Private veterinary practitioners carry out activities such as notification of animals with suspected TSE and occasional sampling on behalf of the NSFA.

NSFA's local offices are the competent authority responsible for the enforcement of official controls on the removal of specified risk material (SRM) in food establishments.

Epidemio-surveillance

The Norwegian regulation FOR 2002-06-27 no 732, on control of animal diseases establishes the obligation for private veterinary practitioners to notify any clinical suspect animal detected while carrying out private work on-farm. It also establishes the same obligation for the keeper, transporter or others responsible for the animal. TSE in small ruminants has been a notifiable disease since 1965 and in cattle since 1991.

SOP on guidelines and other information on handling TSE clinical suspects and confirmed cases are in place. When an animal is declared an official TSE suspect, it is euthanized on the spot. The carcass is brought to an incineration plant by a dead animal collection service or by other means and the head sent to one of the National Veterinary Institute's regional laboratories.

In the context of active surveillance the following subpopulations shall be monitored (per February 2013):

Bovine animals:

- all bovine animals over 24 months of age subject to a special emergency slaughter;
- all bovine animals over 24 months of age subject to special slaughter after ante-mortem inspection;
- all bovine animals over 24 months of age which have died or been killed (fallen stock) except those killed in the framework of an epidemic;
- all bovine animals irrespective of age when exact age or origin is not known;
- all imported bovine animals irrespective of age.

Also, a random selection of 10 000 bovine animals over 30 months subject to normal slaughter for human consumption are annually tested for Bovine spongiform encephalopathy (BSE).

Ovine and caprine animals:

- all ovine and caprine animals over 18 months of age or have more than two permanent incisors erupted through the gum which have died or been killed for other purposes than slaughtered for human consumption (fallen stock);

- a random selection of 10 000 of ovine animals over 18 months of age or have more than two permanent incisors erupted through the gum slaughtered for human consumption;
- all ovine and caprine animals over 18 months or have more than two permanent incisors erupted through the gum slaughtered for human consumption, dead or killed from holdings placed under an official movement restriction;
- all imported ovine and caprine animals irrespective of age;
- animals over 12 months of age which are killed for destruction in accordance with official guidelines on eradication of TSE.

With regard to scrapie in sheep and goat and BSE in cattle, the competent authority has taken several initiatives to raise awareness among farmers, private veterinary practitioners and others who handle such animals.

Other animals:
Farmed and wild cervids (hunted, fallen cervids, clinical sick cervids, road injured or killed cervids).

Specified Risk Material (SRM)
Removal of SRM from food is verified as part of the official control of food establishments. In order to ensure the correct application of the regulation an official guideline on SRM controls has been issued.

Total Feed ban
Since 1 January 2001 and in accordance with Council Decision 2000/766/EC, imports of meat and bone meal (MBM) are prohibited, unless destined for pet food or fur animal feed.

The ban on ruminant MBM in ruminant feed was adopted 26.11.1990. Since there is no separation of ruminant waste material and waste from other species at the slaughterhouses and rendering plants, this was a *de facto* ban on the use of mammalian MBM also. The mammalian MBM ban was formally adopted on 15.10.1999.

Norwegian regulation of 29 March 2007 No 511 implemented Regulation (EC) No 1292/2005 According to the Norwegian regulation the use of processed animal protein as feeding stuffs for food producing animal is prohibited. Fishmeal was exempted from this prohibition and could be used as feed for farm animals including ruminants until May 2010.

In Norway, the production of ruminant feed may take place in facilities not physically separate from facilities that also produce feed for non-ruminant species containing fishmeal, as long as the different productions are separated in time. Such conditions incorporate a special approval. Such approval can be given if efforts are made to avoid cross contamination. Furthermore, a contamination of the ruminant feed of up to 0,15% of fishmeal is tolerated in Norway. All contaminations are, also those below 0,15 %, to be reported, with information on how to avoid future contamination.

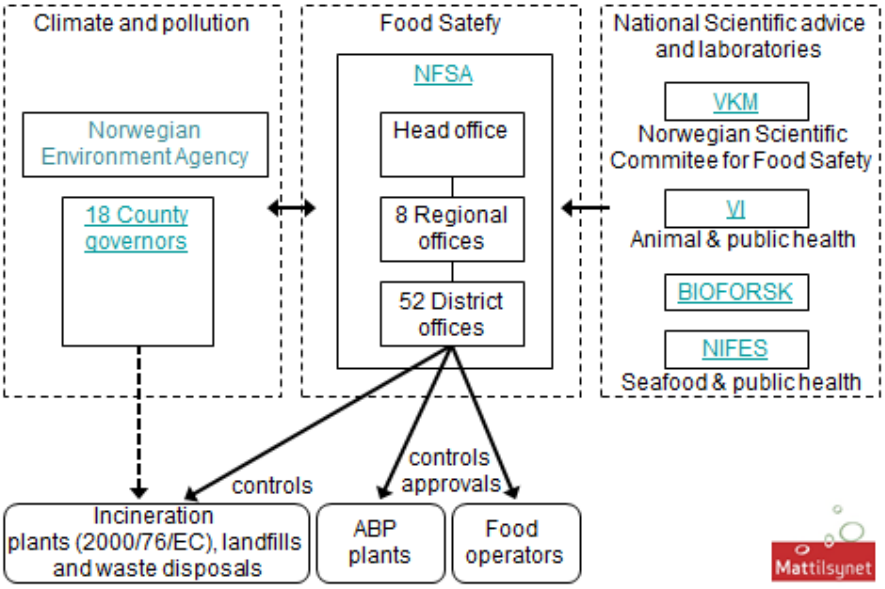
The monitoring of animal feed production is performed by inspections, sampling and analysis in compliance with Regulation (EC) No 882/2004 and Regulation (EC) No 183/2005.

Laboratories

NVI performs all tasks for the diagnosis of cases of TSE. NVI is the NRL for TSE. BSE samples are analyzed in two VI laboratories and both laboratories are accredited, and checked by the Norwegian body for accreditation annually. They also participate in annual ring trials for the tests used, organized by the respective European Union Reference Laboratories (EURLs). An ELISA test, TeSeE from Bio-Rad, is used for detection of PrPSc in cattle. Positive samples are analyzed further by Western-blotting in one of the NVI laboratories. The NRL reports monthly to NFSA concerning the progress in sampling and will also report to the relevant NFSA district office if samples received are unsuitable for analysis.

Laboratory service for feed analysis, see 2.4 control systems for feeding stuff .

2.6 Control system for Animal by-products (ABP)



The NFSA is the competent authority for policy and enforcement of ABP legislation. The NFSA has the overall responsibility for implementation of controls. Two sections in the head office control department have the responsibility for the implementation of controls.

The NFSA enforces ABP regulations directly in the premises that it supervises. Official control of ABP at food, feed and other APB processing establishments is generally carried out as an extension to official controls by the districts offices of the NFSA.

The district offices are responsible for all food, feed and ABP processing establishments. However, incinerators, and food waste collection and management establishments come also under the responsibility of the Norwegian Environment Agency.

For securing a unified and comprehensive implementation of ABP regulations throughout

Norway, the NFSA established a national ABP and Feed Forum in 2012. The Forum provides optimal communication at all levels of NFSA as it include permanent representatives from the head office and regional offices. In parallel to the National Forum, each Region has established a Feed and By-products working group with representatives from all districts in the region. The Forum and working group convene a minimum of two meetings per year and insure the flow of information both ways, so that implementation of regulation, practice and experience, are coordinated and unified across all administrative levels in the NFSA and thus nationally.

Approval of ABP plants and other premises

An electronic approval system is implemented for all types of plants controlled in compliance with the ABP regulation (processing, storage, intermediate plants, and pet animals feed and collecting centres). The NFSA disseminates information concerning approval requirements under the ABP regulation at NFSA's website, as well as in meetings between the NFSA and the industry and by direct communication. Plants requiring approval must submit an application (electronic form available in MATS), which is followed by an approval inspection by the respective district office.

A list of ABP plants as well as other types of special users approved or registered in compliance with ABP regulations, is compiled and made publically available on the NFSA's website.

Official controls

MATS is in use for official controls of ABP at food, feed and all other types of ABP establishments. The system includes inspection as well as provides information on requirements, advice and approval guidelines to the industry. Application forms for recording movement of ABP are also included in the system. The system ensures the traceability of ABP, as commercial documents and templates for health certificates are included in the system. ABP plants are inspected regularly.

The NFSA prioritize an ABP control area each year. This is planned and managed by the head office. Control of fish derived by-products, Biogas and compost plants, use of ABP's of farmed fish in fish feed, traceability and use of commercial documents and catering waste from international traffic were areas of control focus, in the years 2009, 2010, 2011 and 2012 respectively. In 2013 the head office focus was on training course on the new ABP regulation.

In 2010 the NFSA's head office had the responsibility of chairing the Nordic ABP controls network. The network focused on fish ABPs. Competent authorities responsible for ABPs in all the Nordic countries participated in the network. The Nordic network produced a letter of understanding on control of fish ABPs by the end of 2011. In 2013 the NFSA chaired ABP working group in the Nordic-Baltic meeting on feed control

In 2011 the NFSA took initiative for collaboration with the Norwegian Environment Agency in an effort to strengthen cooperation between the two authorities in areas of mutual responsibilities. The meetings focus on ensuring the constant updating and exchange of information on legislative changes and collaborative control plans New ABP regulations (Regulation (EC) No 1069/2009 and Regulation (EU) No 142/2011) are expected to be incorporated into the EEA Agreement and consequently into the national Norwegian legal order in 2014, the efforts of the head office ABP personnel are to

concentrate during 2013 - 2014 on upgrading the MATS system to accommodate changes required for implementing the new ABP regulations, as well as planning and executing more training course on a national level, and preparation of new guidelines.

The list of approved ABP establishments is available on the NFSA's website. www.mattilsynet.no.

2.7 Control system for veterinary medicines and residues

Veterinary Medicinal Products (VMPs)

Competent Authorities

The Norwegian Medicines Agency (NoMA) is the national, regulatory authority for licensing and follow-up of medicinal products. NoMA is also responsible for the licensing and inspections of the supply chain for medicinal products, including VMPs. In addition, the agency is responsible for supervising clinical trials concerning medicinal products and for the pharmacovigilance system. In total NoMA have approximately 260 employees, of which 50 people to some extent are involved in VMPs. NoMA is a public body under the Ministry of Health and Care, and is funded over the national budget. NoMA is managed by Section for Medical Products, within the Public Health Department of the Ministry.

Co-operation related to VMPs

As mentioned, NoMA is responsible for the controls of manufacturing and distribution of VMPs up until the retail level. NoMA is also responsible for the licensing of VMPs, and granting exemptions for use of unlicensed medicinal product, e.g. according to the cascade. The supervision and control on the use of VMPs and medicated feeding stuffs are however the responsibility of the NFSA.

NoMA has the following contact points with the NFSA:

- Classification of products as food, animal care products, or medicinal products;
- inspections of outlets for medicinal products other than pharmacies; sampling by the NFSA for analysis of medicated feeding stuffs from fish farms;
  input to the NFSA on the National residue control plan (NRCP);
- Maximum residue levels (MRLs); NoMA participates in EUs scientific assessment, NFSA implements MRLs in Norwegian legislation

NoMA participates in the EU authorisation procedures for VMPs. NoMA also participates in working group of enforcement officers (WGEO). WGEO is a formal working group under the Heads of the Medicines Agencies. It is a European forum for exchange of information on enforcement issues, such as counterfeit medicinal products, illegal imports and other aspects of pharmaceutical crimes. The ad hoc group of European Veterinary Medicine Enforcement Officers participates at WGEO meetings. The ad hoc group mainly deals with the illegal importation and use of medicinal products in food producing animals. NFSA participates in this group.

Residues

Competent Authorities
The NRCP is developed and implemented by the NFSA. For the aquaculture part of the plan there is a service contract in place with the National Institute for Fish and Seafood (NIFES). The rest of the plan is administrated by the NFSA Head office which has a contract for all the laboratory work with LCG Ltd, UK The NRCP includes meat, fish, egg, milk and honey.

Official controls on residues
NFSA's head office issues the annual sampling plan to the regional offices taking account of the production in each region. The regional offices issue an annual sampling plan to the different district offices. The district offices are responsible for all sampling on production sites and farms. Written instructions on the targeting of sampling are distributed together with the plan to the regional offices and are also available electronically on NFSA's intranet. There are guidelines on how to ensure sampling throughout the year. All sampling is performed unannounced. The results of the NRCP are published and reported to the EFTA Surveillance Authority annually.

Non-compliant results are reported directly to the district office involved by either the analysing laboratory or by NIFES (aquaculture), with a copy to the regional- and to the head office. When a residue violation is detected under the NRCP, an investigation, initiated at the farm of origin, is normally carried out by the district office. Where appropriate, further sampling may be undertaken and advice provided.

Laboratories
The laboratories for the NRCP concerning live terrestrial animals and their products are chosen after an international competition of competent laboratories. From 2014 the contracted laboratory is LGC Ltd, UK. The NIFES is hired to do the "day-to-day" running of the plan concerning aquaculture.

2.8 Control system for foodstuffs and food hygiene

Control and monitoring of general foodstuffs, food hygiene and water supply systems is under the responsibility of the NFSA. Section for Consumer Distribution is responsible for interpreting the regulations in question.

Licensing and registration of food premises
All food establishments, including primary producers, are required to sign up for registration. However, all establishments covered by regulation (EC) No 853/2004 must be approved by the NFSA.

Lists of registered and approved establishments are kept and maintained as required in Regulation (EC) No 882/2004 and are available at the website of the NFSA.

Official controls of food premises
As for food hygiene, all Norwegian regulations are, since 1 March 2010, in line with the EU food hygiene package, pursuant to its incorporation into the EEA Agreement. All

establishments, carrying out any activity involving productions, processing and distribution of food, have to comply with the hygiene requirements therein. The NFSA district offices are responsible for official controls on foodstuffs at all levels, including retail, service sector, manufacturers, producers and packers.

Potable water

The main sources of water providing potable water in Norway are surface waters, amounting to approximately 90%. Groundwater is the source of the remaining 10%. Approximately 5000 water supplies are registered in MATS. Around 1800 of these serve about 4.7 million persons in permanent settlements, i.e. approximately 94% of the population in Norway. The yearly production of these water supplies were approximately 710 million m³ of water in 2013.

The legal power to enforce the Norwegian Food Act and the regulations issued with a legal basis in that Act, is given to NFSA in Section 23 of the Food Act and in national Norwegian Regulation No. 884/2004. In general, it is the district level in NFSA that has been delegated the principal power to enforce the Food Act and its regulations in national Norwegian Regulation No. 11/2005. However, in the area of drinking water, the national Norwegian Regulation No. 1372/2001 implementing Directive 98/83/EC has its own provisions as concerns decisions taken at the various levels of NFSA. NFSA may also delegate its powers to administrative organs outside NFSA.

The NFSA collects all information concerning water supply systems into the MATS system. The system is designed to collect detailed data on various facts such as size and scope of operation of the water supply systems, including treatment types, volume produced, number and type of end users etc. Results concerning parameters and parametric values reported by the water suppliers are also stored in the system. According to information available in MATS there are approximately 1700 water supply systems serving more than 50 people or producing more than 10 m³ a day in Norway. According to the national legislation, owners of approved water supply systems are required to send in annual reports to NFSA.

The obligations concerning water monitoring and sampling are put on the owner of the water supply system and each food business operator, where a water monitoring program shall be a part of the different food production own control systems. The sampling program for each water supply system is designed and implemented by the owner of the water supply system. NFSA does not have any monitoring programme for water quality, but district offices may take samples for verification in the water supply systems or in food business establishments as a part of an inspection.

NFSA uses MATS to keep an overview of water supply systems and monitoring done by the owners of the water supply systems. NFSA does not demand that all parameters laid down in the national transposing Regulation No. 1372/2001 are monitored unless there is a need for it.

Rapid Alert System for Food and Feed (RASFF)

The national contact point for RASFF is located at the section for import and export of the department of control of the head office of the NFSA. The national contact point is staffed with three advisers, which share the responsibility for ensuring that e-mails concerning RASFF notifications are read and dealt with without unnecessary delay. All information

related to RASFF, both from the Commission and information from the district offices of the NFSA, is sent to the same e-mail address. The RASFF e-mail box is under constant surveillance during office hours, while the emergency phone of the NFSA can be contacted outside office hours. When the national contact point receives information from the Commission regarding a food or feed that may pose a health risk in Norway, the information is forwarded to the relevant district offices and regional offices of the NFSA. The district office at the place where the product has been distributed to or where the product originates from, will then contact the food business operators involved. The national contact point has developed internal guidelines for the district offices of the NFSA which describe how RASFF notifications should be dealt with. These guidelines also describe how information regarding a finding of non-compliance on the Norwegian market, which may pose a potential health risk, should be forwarded to the national contact point. The contact point will thereafter validate the information and inform the Commission via the Authority by using the data tool iRASFF.

Food contact materials

The EEA legislation concerning food contact materials has been made part of the Norwegian legal order with Regulation no. 1381 of 21 December 1993 on materials and articles intended to come into contact with foodstuffs. According to this regulation it has since January 2007 been an obligation for producers and importers of food contact materials to be registered with the NFSA, thereby exceeding the requirements of EEA legislation.

The official controls on food contact materials under the national Food Act and its regulations is in Norway enforced by the NFSA. The district offices carry out all official controls on food contact materials. The national legislation exceeds requirements of EEA legislation, since it requires all food contact materials to have declarations of compliance (and not just those for which specific measures have been developed as for instance food contact materials made of plastic components). In addition, the national legislation also exceeds requirements of EEA legislation by including lower limits for lead and cadmium migration from ceramics, a limit on barium migration from ceramics and the application of the legislation to other food contact materials such as glass. However, in the current national legislation the restrictions concerning soothers of Directive 93/11/EC have not been transposed.

2.9. Control system for imports of food of plant origin

The Central Competent Authority (CCA) for imports of food of non-animal origin is the head office of the NFSA.

Import control is an integral part of the general inspection of establishments which is carried out by the district offices of the NFSA. All importers of food must register with the NFSA. The registration shall be performed by the establishment itself. The importer must register the name of the establishment, address, telephone number e-mail address and contact person for the establishment. In addition, information must be provided on which commodities that shall be imported to Norway, including customs tariff codes with 4 digits or more for each commodity group.

Import of products of non-animal origin from third countries, must be notified to the NFSA 24 hours prior to the physical arrival of the consignments. The notification must

include information on the importer and the first consignee, the amount and time of arrival of the commodities, the name of the dispatcher and the dispatching country, the country or origin of the commodities and the eight digit custom tariff code for each commodity group. The requirement of prior notification does not apply to certain fresh fruits and vegetables specified in Norwegian import regulations. There is no requirement for prior notification of foods of non-animal origin from countries within the EEA.

The first consignee of foods of non-animal origin is obliged to keep an import register that contain information on all consignments that has been imported to the establishment. The register shall be available for control by the NFSA. Information on imported consignments must be kept for two years. The first consignee shall also control that the imported consignments comply with requirements in Norwegian food legislation. In case the first consignee discovers a non-compliance with an imported consignment, this should immediately be notified to the NFSA. In this case, the consignment shall not be released to the market without permission from the NFSA.

The NFSA has made an agreement for co-operation with the Norwegian Customs and Excise Directorate (NCE). The two Authorities cooperate both at the central level and at the local level. As for import of food of non-animal origin, the main cooperation is on commodities that are subject to EU safeguard measures. Based on information from the NFSA, the NCE can add restrictions or information to the electronic customs clearance system (TVINN). This ensures correct border control of the consignments. Consignments subject to safeguard measures are not released to the market until the results of the official control are available. Certain commodities that are subject to safeguard measures can be imported only through specifically designated points of entry.

2.10 Control system for plant protection products (PPP) and residues

The NFSA, department of control, section for Plant Health and Foods of Plant Origin is the competent authority for legislation on contaminants and biotoxins in food of plant origin, including e.g. pesticides, mycotoxins and nitrate. The section is responsible for interpreting legislation, developing control plans, coordinate the surveillance programme for pesticides in food, guidelines and instructions for the regions and the district offices and reporting as laid down in the legislation; Regulation (EC) No 396/2005 on maximum residue levels (MRL) of pesticides in or on food and feed of plant and animal origin and Regulation (EC) No 1881/2006 which sets the maximum levels for certain contaminants in foodstuffs.

The department of legislation, section for plants, ecology and genetic modification follow-up and implement EEA legislation on pesticides. The department of legislation, section for food safety follow-up and implement EEA legislation as regards contaminants in foodstuffs.

For pesticide residues in feed, the department of legislation, section for animal health and feed, follow-up and implement EEA legislation. The department of control, section for land animals and animal health personnel is responsible for interpreting and enforcing the legislation for the regions and the district offices.

Inspectors at the district offices are responsible for the sampling. Annual sampling plans for the surveillance programme are drawn up.

Official controls on pesticide residues

The NFSA participates in the coordinated multi-annual Community control programme to ensure compliance with maximum levels of and to assess the consumer exposure to pesticide residues in and on food of plant and animal origin.

The national reference laboratory for pesticides is involved in preparation of the annual sampling and control plan for the surveillance programme. This work is done in consultation with the NFSA. The number of samples and type of food products is based on the recommendations in the relevant EU/EEA legislation and guidelines. The plan specifies the food to be sampled, the number of samples to be taken, and the pesticides for which they are to be tested.

About 5% of the samples should be of ecological products. The samples are submitted throughout the year taking account of the analysing capacity of the laboratory. The laboratory is also involved in the annual training of NFSA inspectors, taking samples for pesticide analyses and carrying out the surveillance programme.

The samples are taken at the wholesale level and covering both imported and domestic products. The inspectors send the samples to the laboratory. Procedures have been established for the distribution of results from the laboratory to the NFSA. There are also guidelines for inspection procedures and on how to follow-up detections of residues of pesticides. Where pesticide residues are detected in food and the level is found higher than the MRL the NFSA follow EFSAs model for chronic and acute risk assessment and consider whether the residue level is a risk to the consumer. If the residue level found is higher than the MRL and the residue is considered a risk to the consumer, the rapid alert process is followed.

Laboratories for pesticide analyses

The NRL for pesticide residue analyses in food of plant origin is Bioforsk, Norwegian Institute for Agricultural and Environmental Research. Bioforsk is a national institute under the Norwegian Ministry of Agriculture and Food. The NFSA has signed annual contracts with the laboratory for the pesticide residue surveillance programme.

All samples are routinely analysed for 315 pesticides, including some metabolites. The majority of the analysing methods (more than 90%) used by the NRL are accredited. According to the annual contract between the NFSA and the NRL, results of the analyses carried out as a part of the pesticide monitoring programme, must be provided within three weeks.

However, when requested by the NFSA, results of official targeted samples can be provided within 24 hours. Since 2009 samples of food of animal origin have been taken into the programme. These samples are analysed at the Norwegian School of Veterinary Science.

2.11 Control system for animal welfare

Control and monitoring of animal welfare is under the responsibility of the NFSA, department of control, section for Animal Health and Animal Health Personnel. The district offices and the animal welfare committees are the ones responsible for controls related to animal welfare. Until 2010 the animal welfare committees have been independent bodies benefitting from a district office administrative secretariat. Due to changes in the legislation regarding animal welfare, the animal welfare committees are now a part of the NFSA. The district offices consist of professional staff (mainly veterinarians) whilst the animal welfare committees consist of laymen. The idea behind this is that the lay opinion should be emphasized when controlling animal welfare.

The regional offices instruct the district offices. They are the court of appeal for decisions made by the animal welfare committees and district offices, and may also grant exceptions from regulations in certain cases.

Official controls on farm

All measures are, after the change in the legislation, imposed by the district offices. The animal welfare committees will still have the authority to carry out controls but under the responsibility of the district offices.

The head of section at the district offices is responsible for the distribution of responsibility between the district offices and the animal welfare committees. The district office and the animal welfare committees may assist each other on inspections when considered appropriate.

As a starting point, all species and kinds of farming systems are supposed to be inspected during the year. There are no annual targets for inspections, but in recent years approximately 10 % of holdings keeping farm animals are inspected with some variation between the different species. The district offices select the holdings for inspection. In some cases, in order to make the best out of resources, the inspection may be carried out in conjunction with checks for other purposes. The district offices are instructed to select the farms and the numbers of farms, not only based on the total number of farms keeping each species but also to include a risk based approach when selecting the farms. Relevant criteria will be such as previous welfare history, whether the farming is intensive or extensive, findings in connection with slaughtering of animals from the specific farm etc. Also, the head office is able to control the focus by making some of the points in the different checklists obligatory, when needed.

In addition, the NFSA arranges campaigns with focus on special areas. These areas are usually selected on the basis of experience showing special problem areas etc. Some are national campaigns initiated by the central level and others are regional campaigns.

The reaction from the NFSA in cases of infringements will vary, depending on the specific situation. In some cases, giving advice to the farmer or pointing out the requirements/the duty of the farmer will be sufficient. In other cases there is a need for more formal reactions, such as imposing measures to improve the conditions. In these cases, the Norwegian regulation requires that a formal notice is given previous to the imposition. In most of the cases when a previous notice does result in sufficient changes, there will not be given any formal reaction. In some cases the NFSA may use the imposition of an

administrative fine to enforce necessary changes in the situation. The NFSA may also fine persons or firms in cases of infringements.

In severe cases the NFSA reports the situation to the police for further investigation and possible prosecution. If needed, the NFSA has the authority to take animals in custody and also to prohibit individual persons from keeping animals in the future or for a specific period. The results of inspections, including infringements detected and actions taken, are recorded in MATS.

The instruction from the central level is to make as many inspections as possible without prior notice to the farmer/animal keeper. Nevertheless, in some cases it is necessary to announce the inspection to make sure there is someone representing the farmer/animal keeper present at the time of inspection. If the notice is given less than 30 minutes before arrival at the holding, we consider the inspection to be unannounced.

Official controls during transport

In addition to Regulation (EC) No 1/2005 on the protection of animals during transport and related operations, Norway has stricter measures in force for transports taking place entirely within Norway. For instance, in Norway it is forbidden to transport animals destined to slaughter for more than eight hours although the legislation allows exceptions from this ban in the northern part of the country (Nordland, Troms and Finnmark), if it is not possible to move animals from the holding of origin to any slaughterhouse within eight hours. In these cases, long journeys of up to eleven hours are allowed. The ban against long journeys for animals transported for slaughter does not apply to poultry. According to national legislation, specific requirements concerning space availability, temperature and duration have been established for transport of reindeer.

Authorisation of transporters is given by the district offices of the NFSA. Transporters submit an application to the district office of the NFSA providing details of the company (name and address), drivers (name and dates of competence course) and license number of the vehicle(s). Annexed to the application is the registration book of the vehicle(s). In addition, a letter confirming the authorisation is issued. Such authorisation is valid for not more than five years from the date of issue. The district offices of the NFSA approve means of transport. Before approval of means of transport, the vehicles are controlled by the Driver and Vehicle Licensing Office (NPRA), which provides a filled in check list to the NFSA. This checklist is developed in cooperation between NFSA and NPRA. The checklists include the technical requirements for vehicles to be used for transport of live animals and guidance from the NFSA to the NPRA staff. The results from this inspection will be the main basis for the formal approval by the NFSA. Nevertheless, the district office is responsible for collecting any other information necessary to evaluate the vehicle if the check list from the Driver and Vehicle Licensing Office do not give sufficient information. The approval of the vehicle lasts five years.

Training courses for drivers/attendants are available. The courses include examination. Two designated bodies offer training courses for different species of animals transported. For transport of bovine, ovine, caprine, porcine species and poultry there is one approved course offered by a designated body. This course takes place twice a year for drivers/attendants who transport bovine, ovine, caprine and porcine species while one or two (depending on the demand) course(s) is/are organized by the designated body for drivers/attendants transporting poultry.

For transport of horses, there is one approved course offered by another designated body which normally offers two courses per year (spring and autumn). The two designated bodies are independent trade organizations, and have been given the authority to arrange the final examination. The formal certificate of competence is given by the NFSA at district level, based on information from the course providers (course diploma is issued for all the participants who has successfully completed the course).

Official controls at slaughter

The inspections are carried out by the district offices, having special teams working at the slaughterhouses. The aim is to ensure that all animals slaughtered are spared any avoidable/unnecessary stress, pain, or suffering during movement, lairage, restraint, stunning or slaughter.

3 CURRENT STATUS OF PROGRESS IN IMPLEMENTATION OF RECOMMENDATIONS

Summary of missions and follow-up status of recommendations

The EFTA Surveillance Authority (the Authority) regularly conducts missions to Norway to evaluate compliance with relevant EEA legislation. Article 45 (5) (a) of *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*, requires that EEA states take appropriate follow-up actions in the light of recommendations resulting from the Authority controls. In relation to missions carried out by the Authority in Norway, recommendations are issued in mission reports, addressing shortcomings identified where Norway is requested to present action plans to the Authority, detailing the actions taken or planned to rectify the identified shortcomings. The Authority evaluates these action plans and systematically monitors their implementation through a number of follow-up activities including conducting a general follow-up mission every three years. In the intervening period Norway shall provide information on progress and, following assessment by Authority, this may result in an update of the follow-up status of recommendations. All Authority mission reports are available on the Authority website (www.eftasurv.int).

This part of the country profile gives an overview of missions (table 6 and table 7) carried out by the Authority in the period from July 2009 to December 2012. Table 8 presents an overview of number and status of all issued recommendations from Authority missions conducted in this period, including assessment of status of progress. The aim is to provide a summary of progress on the implementation of recommendations. In the following chapters related to specific control systems, recommendations identified by the Authority and addressed during a general follow up mission in October 2013, are listed including also other recommendations where the deadlines for notified corrective actions have not yet passed or where the Authority considers actions still required on behalf of Norway.

For the purpose of assessment the following terms are used and defined as follows:

Action taken: Appropriate measures to address the recommendation have been implemented. The recommendation is therefore closed.

No longer relevant: For administrative, technical or legal reasons follow-up of the recommendation is no longer appropriate. The recommendation is therefore closed.

In progress: Appropriate measures to address the recommendation have been initiated but not all of the measures have been implemented. The recommendation therefore remains open.

Action still required: Appropriate measures to address the recommendation have not been initiated. The recommendation therefore remains open.

Recommendations classified as "In progress" or "Action still required" do not necessarily require any immediate specific legal or administrative action on the part of the Authority but these recommendations will remain the subject of monitoring by the Authority to assess progress. On the other hand where the Authority considers the situation warrants additional action on its part, it takes appropriate additional measures.

Table 6: Overview of missions to Norway subsequent to the last general follow-up mission and included in the scope for follow up for the 2013 general follow up mission.

Date (Y/M)	Topic
2009/08	Transmissible Spongiform Encephalopathies and the total feed ban
2009/09	Animal welfare on farms
2009/10	Residues and contaminants in live animals and animal products, including controls on veterinary medicinal products
2010/01	Safety of food of animal origin, in particular poultry meat and poultry meat products
2010/04	Fish health
2010/09	Animal by-products not intended for human consumption
2010/10	Feed Safety
2010/11	Approval of a border inspection post (Joint mission with FVO)
2011/01	Safety of food of animal origin, in particular meat, milk and their products
2011/05	Catering waste from means of transport operating internationally, import control on non-commercial pets and private consignments of products of animal origin in personal luggage and mail
2011/08	Production and placing on the market of fishery products
2011/10	Identification, registration and movements of live bovine animals and labelling of beef and beef products
2011/11	Safety of food of animal origin, in particular farmed and wild game meat
2012/01	Food Hygiene and Import Controls of Food of Non-Animal Origin
2012/02	Re-approval of a border inspection post
2012/03	Food contact materials (FCM)
2012/04	Contingency plans for epizootic diseases, in particular foot and mouth disease and classical swine fever
2012/06	Monitoring and control of zoonotic agents in live animals and products of animal origin with emphasis on *Salmonella*
2012/10	Animal welfare during transport and for laying hens on farms

Table 7: Overview of more recent Authority missions not included in the scope of the 2013 general follow-up mission.[2]

2013/01	Import/transit control systems and border inspection posts
2013/03	Evaluation of control systems for the quality of water used and produced by the food industry
2013/04	Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy (BSE) epidemio-surveillance
2013/06	Pure bred bovine animals and Intra-community trade with semen and embryo of bovines
2013/09	Primary products – Food of non-animal origin

It should be noted that the number of recommendations in the following overview does not represent per se a measurement of the degree of responsiveness by Norway or of the

[2] Executive summary from these missions are found in chapter 4.

seriousness of non-compliances identified. Some recommendations may be related to minor technical aspects while others may refer to more problematic, systemic, issues.

Table 8: Overview of status of progress in implementation of Authority recommendations from finalized missions subsequent to the last general follow-up mission in 2010 (May 2009 to Dec 2012).

Control system (Number of missions)	Number and status of recommendations				
	No	Action taken	No longer relevant	In progress	Action still required
Animal health (3)	30	24	1	5	0
Food of animal origin (5)	61	53	0	4	4
Import controls animals, food of animal origin (3)	11	9	0	2	0
Feeding stuffs and animal nutrition (1)	14	13	0	0	1
Transmissible spongiform encephalopathies (1)	16	16	0	0	0
Animal by products (1)	14	13	0	0	1
Veterinary medicines and residues (1)	8	8	0	0	0
Foodstuffs[3], food hygiene, imports of food of plant origin, and pesticides (2)	21	19	0	1	1
Animal welfare (2)	31	15	0	15	1
Total (19)	**206**	**170**	**1**	**27**	**8**

Recommendations not included in the scope of the 2013 general follow-up mission, where deadline for corrective actions indicated by Norway have not passed or where the Authority is considering or have already initiated specific follow up procedures, are included in the overview in table 9 and in the tables in the following chapters.

The basis for the assessment of actions in relation to the individual recommendations, is presented in the following chapter for each control system. The information has been compiled on the basis of the general follow-up mission which carried out by the Authority in Norway 21 to 24 October 2013 and on other follow-up actions and verification carried out by the Authority.

[3] Includes food contact materials

3.1 Animal health

In the period from July 2009 to December 2012, the Authority has completed 3 missions in relation to Animal health. Out of a total of 30 recommendations issued in relation to these missions, 6 were identified to be addressed during the general follow-up mission in October 2013, 2 recommendations were considered in progress where deadlines indicated by Norway for corrective actions had not passed at the time of the general follow up mission. In addition, one recommendation still open from the previous general follow-up mission to Norway in 2010 was also addressed during the 2013 general follow-up mission.

Mission to Norway from 23 to 27 April 2012 regarding the application of EEA legislation related to contingency plans for epizootic diseases, in particular foot and mouth disease and classical swine fever		
(Reference) Recommendation	Information provided by the Norwegian authorities	ESA Assessment
(1) The competent authorities should ensure full compliance of Article 4(3) of Regulation (EC) No 882/2004 and Annex XVII(6) to Directive 2003/85/EC concerning efficient and effective coordination and cooperation between the Norwegian Food Safety Authority and other authorities involved in official controls in case of epizootic diseases and within the NFSA's units as laid down in Article 4(5) of the above mentioned Regulation.	The NFSA has asked the Norwegian Environment Agency to inform the county governors about the need for ensuring suitable sites for burial of carcasses. The regional offices will invite the county governors to a dialogue so that they can contribute constructively to comply with the requirements The County Governors are asked to coordinate their relevant departments - environmental protection department, agriculture department and emergency department - to appoint suitable sites for burial of carcasses in accordance with the carcass-regulation for the control of serious infectious diseases in animals and fish. The County Governors will also be requested to contact the NFSA´s regional offices in this work. NFSA will in turn include this in the BDS to the regional offices. The NFSA will contact the Norwegian Directorate for Nature Management informed the The Norwegian Directorate for Nature Management and through them The Norwegian Nature Inspectorate to inform them about relevant exotic animal diseases in wild animals. The NFSA has established guidelines to the district and region offices on when and how to register suspicions of exotic diseases. The guidelines are included in a generic contingency plans.	Action taken
(2) Norway should submit to the Authority for approval the contingency plans for classical swine fever in line with Article 29 of Directive 2001/89/EC, for African swine fever in line with Article 21 of Directive 2002/60/EC and for other diseases in line with Article 17 of Directive 92/35/EEC for African horse sickness and Article 20 of Directive 92/119/EEC for the	Norway will, pursuant to formal procedures, submit the following contingency plans to ESA for approval: African swine fever, Classical swine fever, African horse sickness and diseases listed in directive 91/119/EEC. Time limit for implementation: ASF and CSF 01.07.2013 African horse Sickness and disease listed in directive 91/119/EC 01.01.2014	In progress

Mission to Norway from 23 to 27 April 2012 regarding the application of EEA legislation related to contingency plans for epizootic diseases, in particular foot and mouth disease and classical swine fever		
(Reference) Recommendation	Information provided by the Norwegian authorities	ESA Assessment
control of certain animal diseases and specific measures relating to swine vesicular disease.		
(3) Norway should ensure that procedures for review and updating the contingency plans are in conformity with the requirements laid down in the EEA legislation, in particular relating to the submission of revised version to the Authority for foot and mouth-disease in line with Article 72(8) of Directive 2003/85/EC, for classical swine fever in line with Article 22(3) of Directive 2001/89/EC and African swine fever in line with Article 21(3) of Directive 2002/60/EC. Furthermore, Norway should ensure that the frequency of their updating contingency plans is in line with Article 22(3) of Directive 2001/89/EC for classical swine fever and Article 21(3) of Directive 2002/60/EC for African swine fever.	NFSA will develop procedures that ensure updating of the CP in accordance to the mentioned Directives. The review and update of CP CSF and ASF are at present given highest priority with the aim to be finalised February 2014. NFSA is also working on a generic CP which is due to be finalized end of 2013. For AHS and diseases listed in Directive 91/119/EC the internal deadline is set February 2014. With regard to FMD CP the aim is to complete before June 2015. These plans have not been approved by ESA, but will be submitted when they are finished Designated personnel will be responsible for updating CPs in order to secure continuity in this area	In progress
(5) The competent authorities should ensure that the requirements laid down in Annex XVII (13 and 14) to Directive 2003/85/EC in relation to the appropriate arrangements for disposal of carcasses and animal waste resulting from the stamping out operations are fulfilled.	See also answers to Recommendation 1. The NFSA will make a list on predefined burial places when they are identified. In order to ensure correct disposal of carcasses and animal waste, The Regional Offices will receive instructions from the Head office to get into negotiations with the County Governor for the purpose of getting an overview of pre-defined and appropriate sites for embedment of the above mentioned contaminated organic material. Deadline is set to 01/01/2014	In progress
(7) The competent authorities should ensure that the analytical methods used by the national reference laboratory in the context	The Section for Virology at the NVI has worked out all documentation necessary for the application for flexible accreditation for use of real-time PCR for virus diagnostics. The application is based on the method for detection of avian influenza virus, which has been accredited for more than one year according to the ISO	In progress

Mission to Norway from 23 to 27 April 2012 regarding the application of EEA legislation related to contingency plans for epizootic diseases, in particular foot and mouth disease and classical swine fever		
(Reference) Recommendation	Information provided by the Norwegian authorities	ESA Assessment
of official controls are accredited as laid down in Article 12(2) of Regulation (EC) No 882/2004.	17025 standard, and where the one-year post accreditation follow-up inspection was conducted in January 2012. The application is to be sent to the Norwegian accreditation body by the end of June 2012, and the analyses for detection of FMD and swine fever viruses are expected to be run accredited by the end of the year. With regard to serology the NVI is accredited for analysis of antibodies in milk and serum against bluetongue virus using ELISA methods. An application for flexible accreditation for ELISA analysis in general is pending on the outcome of the real-time PCR accreditation process. The aim is to finalize this work by the end of 2013	

Mission to Norway from 3 to 12 October 2011 regarding application of EEA legislation related to bovine identification, traceability and labelling of beef products		
(Reference) Recommendation	Information provided by the Norwegian authorities	ESA Assessment
(4) Norway should ensure that it is only possible to order ear tags for one year's use as laid down in Article 1(5) of Regulation (EC) No 911/2004.	NFSA have started the work with changing the validation system in the database, so that it is not possible to order ear tags exceeding one year`s use.  Unfortunately Norway has not been able to change this within the time frame we stated in the original plan for corrective action. Within autumn 2013 we will ensure that it is not possible to order ear tags for more than one year`s use. Norway has changed the validation system, so that it is only possible to order ear tags for one year's use. From17.04.2013, it was not possible to order ear tags exceeding one year`s use.	Action taken
(7) Norway should ensure that all movements of bovine animals are reflected in the central database, including movements to summer grazing areas and auctions, as laid down in Article 7(1) of Regulation (EC) No 1760/2000.	As of this date, there is no possibility to register movements of animals to summer grazing and auctions, in the central database. Norway will work towards finding a way to define these areas. In the original plan of corrective measures, we have scheduled that we will solve the problem with registration of movement of animals to summer grazing and auctions within 2013. It is not realistic to achieve this within the estimated time aspect, and we will aim to find a solution within 2015. In July 2013, the Ministry of Agriculture an Food(LMD), issued a formal letter to NFSA, concerning solutions for a new identification number	In progress

Mission to Norway from 3 to 12 October 2011 regarding application of EEA legislation related to bovine identification, traceability and labelling of beef products		
(Reference) Recommendation	Information provided by the Norwegian authorities	ESA Assessment
	for holdings. The aim is to find a solution which makes it possible to identify places like summer grazing areas and auction markets etc. NFSA aims to present the results from this working group by July 2014. However there is not yet determined an exact date for this report to be published.	

Mission to Norway from 26 April to 7 May 2010 regarding the application of EEA legislation related to fish health		
(Reference) Recommendation	Information provided by the Norwegian authorities	ESA Assessment
(3) The national registers for authorised aquaculture production business and of authorised processing establishments should include all relevant information as set out in Article 6 and Annex II to Council Directive 2006/88/EC.	The national register for processing establishments is now in process for updating in Norway, in consistency with the requirements laid down in article 6 of Directive 2006/88/EC and Annex II to the Directive. This updating process is planned to be finished this year. The national register for authorised production business production has been established and is maintained by the Directorate of Fisheries. An updating process to include all information required as laid down in Article 6 of Directive 2006/88/EC and Part I and II of Annex II to the Directive has to be carried out in a cooperation between The Directorate of Fisheries and the Norwegian Food Safety Authority. The time aspect of a revision of the national register for authorised aquaculture production business has to be decided later. A national register of aquaculture licences in Norway is available here: http://www.fiskeridir.no/fiskeridir/akvakultur/registre The process of updating the register to include information required as laid down in Article 6 of Directive 2006/88/EC and Part I and II of Annex II to the Directive is planned to be activated this year .	Action taken

Mission to Norway from 20 to 24 February 2006 regarding the application of EEA legislation concerning protective measures against Scrapie[4]		
Recommendation	Information provided by the Norwegian authorities	ESA Assessment
With regard to education programmes, full compliance with Regulation (EC) No 999/2001, as amended, and in particular Article 10 thereof, could not be	In recent years, training specifically addressing TSE has not been organized. Generally, there has been a rising awareness of TSE as the history of BSE has developed and the first indigenous case of Scrapie emerged in 1981 and a national control program became operational in 1997. Fact sheets and general information have been readily available for all interest	Action taken

[4] Recommendation carried over from previous general follow up mission to Norway in 2010

Mission to Norway from 20 to 24 February 2006 regarding the application of EEA legislation concerning protective measures against Scrapie[4]		
Recommendation	Information provided by the Norwegian authorities	ESA Assessment
ensured since, *inter alia*, some of those required to participate in education programmes had not done so.	parties for several years. In April 2013, NFSA also issued a reminder/brochure concerning Scrapie, providing information on clinical signs, notification requirements and results. The brochure was distributed to members of The Norwegian Association of Sheep and Goat Farmers. In December 2012, NFSA published a new guide for the movement of caprine and ovine animals, TSE classification (class I – IV) and breeding cooperation directed at NFSA staff as well as other stakeholders. The guide informs a.o. about TSE requirements when moving animals between holdings and counties. Furthermore, official veterinarians have a general obligation to inform farmers and others that handle animals about diseases, animal welfare, feeding, husbandry etc., and give regularly presentations on topics of current interest at farmers' associations meetings and the like. In the annual letter of assignment regarding the national monitoring and control programmes, the mandatory notification of TSE is something local NFSA offices are asked to communicate to farmers and other stakeholders.	

3.2 Food of animal origin

In the period from July 2009 to December 2012, the Authority has completed 5 missions in relation to food of animal origin. Out of a total of 61 recommendations issued in relation to these missions, 11 were identified to be addressed during the general follow-up mission in October 2013. Action is still required for 4 recommendations where the Authority has already initiated infringement procedures concerning 3 of these recommendations.

Mission to Norway from 11 to 20 June 2012 regarding application of EEA legislation related to control of Salmonella and other specified food-borne zoonotic agents		
(Reference) Recommendation	Information provided by the Norwegian authorities	ESA Assessment
(1) Norway should ensure compliance with Article 4(2)(c) of Regulation (EC) No 882/2004 concerning access to suitably qualified and experienced staff so that official controls and control duties can be carried out efficiently and effectively.	A training course on HACCP-principles for officials at DO was carried out 2011. National supervision project for DOs on HACCP is accomplished in 2012, objective on improvement of competence by food business operators and officials. HACCP has been a topic at the regularly training program for officials in meat inspection in spring 2012. Experiences from ROs' internal audits of their DOs carried out in 2012 are foreseen to be discussed at professional forum for fresh meat at meeting in November 2012. Planned to be ensured in MATS.	Action taken

Mission to Norway from 11 to 20 June 2012 regarding application of EEA legislation related to control of Salmonella and other specified food-borne zoonotic agents		
(Reference) Recommendation	Information provided by the Norwegian authorities	ESA Assessment
	Experiences from ROs' internal audits of their DOs carried out in 2012 has been discussed at the professional forum for fresh meat in November 2012.	
(2) Norway should ensure that enforcement measures and sanctions are used in compliance with Articles 54 and 55 of Regulation (EC) No 882/2004, in particular considering the operator's past record with regard to non-compliance.	Guideline on enforcement measures. Instructed to be a running issue at meetings in all professional forum. ROs' internal audits of their DOs. Please cf. pt. 1. Enforcement measures will be included in a planned general instruction on meat inspection, as well as for the guidance of supervision of slaughtering hygiene. NFSA has updated guideline on enforcement measures and sanctions concerning the subjects of fines and transferring of cases to the police. NFSA has also added check points to remember for each sanction and practical advice for the use of internal computer system – MATS in these cases. NFSA is planning to elaborate this guideline concerning the subject of changing of owners of establishments this year. A preliminary proposal for guidance on surveillance of slaughtering hygiene has been made. In this first stage the proposal is focusing on slaughtering of small ruminants, but is foreseen to cover other animals as well. (See also see text in recommendation 9)	Action taken
(3) Norway should ensure that efficient and effective coordination and cooperation between the NFSA and municipal authorities is assured in accordance with Article 4(3) of Regulation (EC) No 882/2004.	NFSA will conduct another survey monitoring the cooperation between the District Offices and the Municipal Medical Officers. The results will be discussed with the Norwegian Board of Health Supervision to clarify if the cooperation could be a topic for the County Medical Officers' supervision of the Municipalities. The NFSA initiated a meeting with the Norwegian Board of Health Supervision and The Norwegian Directorate of Health to discuss the matter. The Norwegian Directorate of Health decided to address the County Governors, who employ the County Medical Officers, and ordered the matter to be a topic for their supervision of the Municipal Medical Officers. The Norwegian Directorate of Health has also been instrumental in clarifying to some Municipal Medical Officers, that signing a cooperation agreement is not a union-matter. The turnover of Municipal Medical Officers in the outskirts is high, so their relations with NFSA District Offices may fluctuate a lot. The outbreak manual and agreement is to be found here: http://www.fhi.no/eway/default.aspx?pid=239&trg=List_6212&Main_6157=6263:0:25,6562&MainContent_6263=6464:0:25,6930&List_6212=6218:0:25,6938:1:0:	Action taken

Mission to Norway from 11 to 20 June 2012 regarding application of EEA legislation related to control of Salmonella and other specified food-borne zoonotic agents		
(Reference) Recommendation	Information provided by the Norwegian authorities	ESA Assessment
	0:::0:0 NFSA has submitted update concerning signed agreements with Municipal Medical Officers and material concerning participation of these officers in exercise activities	
(4) The competent authorities should ensure that national reference laboratories act in accordance with Article 33(2) of Regulation (EC) No 882/2004. In particular the national reference laboratories shall coordinate, for their area of competence, the activities of official laboratories responsible for the analysis of samples, where appropriate, organize comparative tests between the official national laboratories and ensure an appropriate follow-up of such comparative testing, ensure the dissemination to the competent authorities and official national laboratories of information that the Community reference laboratory supplies, provide scientific and technical assistance to the competent authorities.	NFSA is in a tendering process, and private laboratories will be designated as official laboratories in September 2012. NFSA will invite the laboratories that are analysing official samples to a meeting with NRL. The coordination of activities of the official laboratories and NRL will be on the agenda for this meeting. (c) NFSA will together with NRL give information to the official laboatories concerning comparative tests (d) NFSA will set up a plan on how to ensure the dissemination of information from EU-RL to NRL and further on to NFSA and the official laboratories. (e) NFSA will inform the official laboratories that are designated to inform NRL about positive results from official samples so that these results may be included in the control plans. Due to intern delay, the tendering process will not finish until December 2012. Meetings with NRL and official laboratories will take place in January and February 2013. Due to delay in the tendering process, official laboratories were appointed in February 2013. NRL and the official laboratories have established contact. The meeting between the NRL and the official laboratories will take place November 8, 2013. The information mentioned in c, d and e will be on the agenda for this meeting.	Action still required
(5) Norway should ensure that data on the occurrence of zoonoses and zoonotic agents are collected, analysed and published within the effective and continuous cooperation based on free exchange of general information and, where necessary, of specific data between the NFSA and the NVI as required in Article 3(3) of Directive 2003/99/EC.	To aggregate information of relevant zoonotic agents the DO may ask the FBO in their district to provide an overview (own check laboratory results) of which zoonotic agents that are isolated from their food products. The DO may send this information further to the central level of NFSA and to the relevant NRL. NFSA has established a network group on sampling and analysis, and this network will make a guideline for the DO on this subject. The report on zoonoses: "Norway – Trends and sources of zoonoses and zoonotic agents in humans, foodstuffs, animals and feedingstuffs – including information on foodborne outbreaks, antimicrobial resistance in zoonotic agents and some pathogenic microbiological agents in 2012" was sent	Action taken

Mission to Norway from 11 to 20 June 2012 regarding application of EEA legislation related to control of Salmonella and other specified food-borne zoonotic agents		
(Reference) Recommendation	Information provided by the Norwegian authorities	ESA Assessment
	electronically to the EU Commission and to EFSA before the time limit of June 3, 2013.	
(6) Norway should ensure that the reporting system within the frame of Article 9 of Directive 2003/99/EC collect relevant and comparable data, in particular for zoonotic agents not included in the active surveillance, as required in Article 6 of the same Directive.	Improvement of the collection of data concerning positive laboratory results of Listeria, Campylobacter, E. coli. NRL and the official laboratories have established contact. The meeting between the NRL and the official laboratories will take place November 8, 2013. Information about positive laboratory results of Listeria, Campylobacter and E.coli will be given in this meeting. The official labs and NRL have communicated concerning specific samples, mainly verification of isolates, and comparative tests. Many official labs participated when NVI gave a seminar on Listeria. See also answers to recommendation no 4.	In progress
(7) Norway should ensure that sampling carried out by the competent authorities in the context of the *Salmonella* national control plans are in conformity with the requirements laid down at Point 1(iii) of the Annex to Commission Regulation (EC) No 584/2008 for breeding turkeys.	The Norwegian surveillance and control program (NOK) sets out the monitoring and control procedures for turkey breeders that NFSA must follow to control the flock prevalence of all salmonella species. According to NOK 2012 the NFSA should carry out sampling twice a year with a reasonable time in between. It was pointed out ESA`s draft report a discrepancy between the above mentioned procedure and procedure set out in Point (iii) of the Annex to Commission Regulation (EC) 854/2008. Sampling of turkey breeders should take place between 30 and 45 weeks of age. However our official instruction on sampling frequency (twice a year) and a reasonable time in between occurs most probably during the week 30 and 45. We are aware of the fact that sampling is not quite in accordance with provisions of the regulation. The official instructions concerning sampling of turkey breeders have been amended. Thus, according to NOK 2013 the sampling by the competent authority shall include sampling when the adult breeding turkeys are between 30 and 45 weeks of age	Action taken
(8) The Norwegian competent authorities should ensure that food business operators comply with the general hygiene provisions as laid down in	First of all we refer to the overall description of our risk based control in chapter 4 of the Multi-Annual National Control Plan (2012-2014). The requirement to have a risk based control is further taken care of by our long term plan for control (2012-2016). Each section in the Head office in the Department of control is meant	Action taken

Mission to Norway from 11 to 20 June 2012 regarding application of EEA legislation related to control of Salmonella and other specified food-borne zoonotic agents		
(Reference) Recommendation	Information provided by the Norwegian authorities	ESA Assessment
Annex II to Regulation (EC) No 852/2004.	to have risk as the base for determining the frequency of the area in focus. How far each section at the head office has come in detailing this, varies. In addition, we have a risk assessment of our efficacy goals as the base of our priorities as well as our analysis of certain areas which also will include risk assessments. Our data system, MATS, will also be used to support a systematic use of the risk assessments down to the level of the food business operator. This is not yet put into place.	
(9) The competent authority should ensure that the official controls in respect of products of animal origin are carried out in line with the provisions laid down in Article 4 of Regulation (EC) No 854/2004.	Lay-out and design in the slaughterhouses (i.e. decontamination sites for the staff) possible issue at the regularly training program for officials in meat inspection. Stressed importance of ROs/DOs following-up non-compliance in visited slaughterhouses at meeting 29. March 2011 in professional forum for fresh meat, and derogations at food businesses taken care of by ROs/DOs. Issue at directing meeting with relevant RO. A proposal for a system on superior supervision is planned by HO. Sampling and sampling procedures, as well as official controls to verify food business operators compliance with *i.a.* requirements for a functioning HACCP system, were issues at the 3-days training course held 11 – 13 June 2013 at Trondheim. Microbiological criteria, slaughtering hygiene and sampling were main themes. Attendants were 70 NFSA officials mainly from the DO and RO levels, most of whom working in meat inspection at slaughterhouses or with surveillance of meat production. As a following-up of the serious E. coli incident of 2006 in Norway, a national surveillance project on slaughtering hygiene on small ruminants was carried out in 2012. In this context a matrix of claim points with accompanying deepening/ guidance was drawn up. The fourth claim point of this matrix is on unclean zones in slaughterhouses and work routines. Cf. A proposal for guidance on handling of Salmonella in slaughterhouses and fresh meat establishments (red meat) is prepared. A preliminary proposal for guidance on surveillance of slaughtering hygiene has been made. In this first stage the proposal is focusing on slaughtering of small ruminants, but is foreseen to cover other animals as well. The new guideline on the official supervision of hygiene during the slaughtering process is a direct follow-up of the *E. coli* incident in Norway in 2006 and	Action taken

Mission to Norway from 11 to 20 June 2012 regarding application of EEA legislation related to control of Salmonella and other specified food-borne zoonotic agents		
(Reference) Recommendation	Information provided by the Norwegian authorities	ESA Assessment
	the recommendations to the Ministry from NFSA on dealing with VTEC in small ruminants, including a report from the Norwegian Scientific Committee for Food Safety of 2012 on *Assessment of possibly hygienic gains by more strict demands on slaughtering of small ruminants*, and a report from a national supervision project on slaughtering hygiene of small ruminants carried out in 2012. A draft proposal of the guideline was presented for the ROs at a meeting of the national professional forum for fresh meat 10. September 2012. Please see the first attachment. At present we are receiving feedback from the DOs/ROs and the further process is described in the attached schedule. A proposal for guidance on handling of Salmonella in slaughterhouses and fresh meat establishments (red meat) has been made and is currently awaiting the head of Section for Animal Products approval. If the guide line is approved by the head of Section for Animal Products it has to be approved by the head of Department of control before it is finally approved in our quality system as a guide line. This proposal for guidance has been widely distributed and discussed with our inspectors dealing with meat control. When the guide line is finally approved the inspectors will be informed through the Regional offices by the Section for Animal Products.	
(11) Norway should ensure that the use of fishmeal in ruminant feedingstuffs is prohibited in line with the provisions laid down in Article 7(1) of Regulation (EC) No 999/2001.	*See NFSA comments, addressing the same issue, to recommendation 13 from the mission to Norway in October 2010 on feed hygiene* *(to be found in chapter 3.4 of this Country profile)*	Action still required In relation to this recommendation, the Authority has already started a formal procedure with Norway. Please note that follow-up of any corrective actions proposed concerning this recommendation will be monitored in a separate case and the status will be updated in this country profile when that case is closed.

Mission to Norway from 17 to 26 January 2011 regarding application of EEA legislation related to the safety of food of animal origin, in particular meat, milk and their products		
(Reference) Recommendation	Information provided by the Norwegian authorities	ESA Assessment
(2) The competent authority should ensure that all districts offices are prepared to operate the contingency plans for food and feed in accordance with Article 4(2)(f) of Regulation (EC) No 882/2004. The competent authorities should also prepare a contingency plan outlining all action to be taken where samples test positive to Trichinella in accordance with Article 7 of Regulation (EC) No 2075/2005.	In July 9th 2013 the NFSA published a revised contingency plan for food- and waterborne outbreaks. It also covers possible incidences of Trichinella. One of the chapters in the revised contingency plan describes actions to take in the incidence of Trichinella findings. This new chapter will be on the agenda in our next meeting in the national professional forum for fresh meat with participants from all region offices. NFSA contingency plan is published here: http://www.mattilsynet.no/om_mattilsynet/administrativ_beredskapsplan.125	Action taken
(9) The competent authorities should notify the Authority of national measures and derogations in place as required by Article 10 (5) of Regulation (EC) No 853/2004 and Article 7 of Regulation (EC) No 2074/2005.	The legal basis for random sale of raw milk for consumption by farmers, is given in § 21 of FOR-2008-12-22-1624: *Forskrift om særlige hygieneregler for næringsmidler av animalsk opprinnelse (animalie-hygieneforskriften)*. As far as we can see notifications are given by case number 2008/9002/N and 2008/9008/N in the TRIS-system. In addition the implementing regulations on the hygiene package (where these national measures are established) are notified by Form1 18 June 2010. The NFSA has started the process of looking into if, and possibly how, any national measures on wood used in direct contact with cheese by maturation, could be implemented.	Action still required In relation to this recommendation, the Authority has already started a formal procedure with Norway. Please note that follow-up of any corrective actions proposed concerning this recommendation will be monitored in a separate case and the status will be updated in this country profile when that case is closed.
(15) The competent authority should ensure that, concerning potable water, the frequency of audit monitoring in food processing establishments is in line with the requirements of Article 7 of Council Directive 98/83/EC.	HO will ask DO to inform the company that water sampling should be based on the amount of water according to the following principle: 1 person = 73 m3 of water pr year. HO will also ask DO to oversee that sampling is performed.	In progress Please note that follow-up concerning this recommendation will be monitored in a separate case related to the follow up of the Authority mission in March 2013 regarding Evaluation of

Mission to Norway from 17 to 26 January 2011 regarding application of EEA legislation related to the safety of food of animal origin, in particular meat, milk and their products		
(Reference) Recommendation	Information provided by the Norwegian authorities	ESA Assessment
		Control Systems for the Quality of Water Used and Produced by the Food Industry.

Mission to Norway from 29 August to 9 September 2011 regarding application of EEA legislation related to fishery products		
(Reference) Recommendation	Information provided by the Norwegian authorities	ESA Assessment
(1) The competent authority should ensure that control activities are co-ordinated according to Article 4(2) of Regulation (EC) No 882/2004.	The NFSA will continue its work within the frame of our standard operating procedures for official controls and for good risk management practices. The risk classification system in MATS is still under development. National priorities for control activities will be laid down in the budget disposal letter (BDS) to the regional offices. All control activity is basically risk based. The NFSA has the current system incorporated in MATS for food- and feedstuff and drinking water (example attached). However it is not updated and the technical solution is not yet finished. The current plan for start the technical development is scheduled during the year 2014. The guidelines for frequency of the controls in different risk category are also planned to be formed during 2014. The correction of the current risk categorization of the establishments will be conducted by the end of 2014.	In progress
(6) Norway should, if traditional production methods are used, adopt national measures according to Article 10 of Regulation (EC) No 853/2004 and notify them to the Authority.	NFSA has started to review the use of traditional production methods, cf. Article 10 of Regulation (EC) No 853/2004, and the aim is to finish this work within 2012. If these methods cannot be preserved in accordance with the hygiene regulations, NFSA will notify the use of traditional production methods to the Authority accordingly.	Action still required In relation to this recommendation, the Authority has already started a formal procedure with Norway. Please note that follow-up of any corrective actions proposed concerning this recommendation will be monitored in a separate case and the status will be updated in this country profile when that case is closed.

Mission to Norway from 14 to 23 November 2011 regarding the application of EEA legislation related to the safety of food of animal origin, in particular farmed and wild game meat		
(Reference) Recommendation	Information provided by the Norwegian authorities	ESA Assessment
(8) Norway should ensure that the requirements listed in Articles 5 and 7 of Directive 98/83/EC are fulfilled.	Establishment of procedures to verify that water has drinking water quality	In progress Please note that follow-up concerning this recommendation will be monitored in a separate case related to the follow up of the Authority mission in March 2013 regarding Evaluation of Control Systems for the Quality of Water Used and Produced by the Food Industry.

3.3 Imports of animals and food of animal origin

In the period from July 2009 to December 2012, the Authority has completed 3 missions in relation to imports of animals and food of animal origin. No recommendations were issued in relation to two missions that concerned approval of border inspection posts (joint mission with the Food and Veterinary Office in November 2010 and a mission in February 2012 for re-approval of a border inspection post). Out of a total of 11 recommendations issued in relation to the third mission, 7 were identified to be addressed during the general follow-up mission in October 2013.

Mission to Norway from 18 to 26 May 2011 regarding application of EEA legislation related to controls on kitchen waste from vessels in international traffic, import controls on non-commercial pets and on personal luggage and mail		
(Reference) Recommendation	Information provided by the Norwegian authorities	ESA Assessment
(2) Norway should ensure full compliance with Article 3 of Regulation (EC) No 882/2004, in particular by ensuring that official controls are carried out regularly and on a risk basis.	The NFSA will start to ensure that all designated points of entry of catering waste will be mapped. The NFSA will take the initiative to coordinate this work with the environmental authorities. The Norwegian Environment Agency is in process of changing Capital 20 on Waste planes in ports/ pollution regulation, the changes will include a requirement that every district in Norway should have a list of ports in the municipality. NFSA's controls on by-products in general and therefore, ports is carried out in collaboration with regional environmental authority (stated in BDS) and therefore current and future list over ports will be available to inspectors. http://www.miljodirektoratet.no/no/Horinger/Foreslar	Action taken

Mission to Norway from 18 to 26 May 2011 regarding application of EEA legislation related to controls on kitchen waste from vessels in international traffic, import controls on non-commercial pets and on personal luggage and mail		
(Reference) Recommendation	Information provided by the Norwegian authorities	ESA Assessment
	-a-endre-forurensningsforskriftens-kapittel-20-om-avfallsplaner-i-havner-2003491/ Cooperation in inspection and control is also a permanent theme on meeting's agenda of NFSA with the Norwegian Environment Agency.	
(3) The competent authorities should ensure full compliance with Articles 4(2)(c) and 6 of Regulation (EC) No 882/2004, in particular by providing sufficient training with regard to restricted products of animal origin to staff carrying out controls at entry points and official controls on catering waste from means of transport operating internationally.	*Concerning food of animal origin* The head office of the NFSA has started preparing, and will provide guidelines/ instruction manual to Customs. This instruction will inform Customs of the legal requirements, and give a description of how to carry out controls on personal consignments of meat and dairy products. Furthermore, targeted actions at another two airports are being planned. These actions will be carried out at two larger airports, Sola (Stavanger) and Flesland (Bergen) this autumn. Prior to this, border veterinarians from BIP Oslo Airport and local Customs at Gardermoen will provide training and transfer of experience to one or two inspectors from the NFSA`s district offices in question. Thereafter, the inspectors will brief local Customs at Sola and Flesland airport. At these airports, passengers in transfer/ transit luggage (from outside Schengen) will to a greater extent be brought into focus. The NFSA will in this way initiate education and arrange/coordinate an organised training programme. The responsible sections at the head office of the NFSA will apply for financial resources in order to arrange a seminar for inspectors involved in controls of both non-commercial import of pets as well as personal consignments of animal origin. The sections are considering whether to also integrate the control with catering waste from means of transport operating internationally. Thereafter it will be considered whether these seminars should be arranged at a regular basis. The responsible sections will cooperate on the administration of these seminars, where the participants may exchange experiences, and hereby contribute to improved interaction. The central Customs has expressed interest for participation of their local officers at these seminars. The central Customs will include the information concerning the requirements for private consignments of meat and dairy products for personal consumption, as laid down in Regulation (EC) No 745/2004, in the future training programme for customs officers *Concerning catering waste* All parts involved in the handling of catering waste should have more Information and knowledge about the legislation involved in the handling of catering	Action taken

Mission to Norway from 18 to 26 May 2011 regarding application of EEA legislation related to controls on kitchen waste from vessels in international traffic, import controls on non-commercial pets and on personal luggage and mail		
(Reference) Recommendation	Information provided by the Norwegian authorities	ESA Assessment
	waste, from the origin of the waste and until it is out of the scope of the legislation. NFSA will take the initiative to a training course with participation of all involved authorities and services. For internal appropriate training The NFSA will use the existing ABP network model (monthly telephone meetings) specific to inform about this shortcomings and provide information to enhance the competence of staff working in this area NFSA carried out training course for new BIP inspectors in 2011 focus on requirements for control of CW was one of the themes . CW will also be considerd in other BIP inspectors courses in the future. This issue will be taken up in our next meeting with the Norwegian Environment agency. The net work model is replaced by the By-product and feed forum. CW requirements for control and shortcomings encountered by inspectors where always a theme addressed in all Forums executed in 2011, 2012, 2013. Prior to targeted actions, carried out at the airports of Stavanger and Bergen in 2011, one day of training was arranged at Oslo Airport for inspectors involved at both airports. In 2012, NFSA and Central Customs Authorities arranged a seminar for control personnel from both agencies, concerning the control of POAO and pets (and one hour catering waste for NFSA only). Program, list of participants and presentations on POAO are enclosed (POAO Rec. No 3) The guideline for Customs has been written and submitted to Customs authorities. They have until 6 January to comment the guideline.	
(4) The competent authorities should ensure full compliance with Article 4(3) of Regulation (EC) No 882/2004 with regard to efficient and effective coordination between and within competent authorities involved in official controls on incoming non-commercial pets, controls on personal consignments	*Concerning pets* Local agreements outline responsibilities. We will see to it that it specifies a maximum stay for pets in cages under Customs' control before the pet owner must chose return to country of origin, transport to one of the quarantine stations or euthanasia. If no choice is made, the NFSA will decide on euthanasia according to our procedures. We will also specify responsibilities for cleaning and disinfection. *Concerning food of animal origin* The central levels at Customs and NFSA have recently (14 June 2011) completed a meeting. Among other	Action taken

Mission to Norway from 18 to 26 May 2011 regarding application of EEA legislation related to controls on kitchen waste from vessels in international traffic, import controls on non-commercial pets and on personal luggage and mail		
(Reference) Recommendation	Information provided by the Norwegian authorities	ESA Assessment
of products of animal origin and controls on catering waste disposal from means of transport operating internationally.	factors, the meeting focused on the control of personal consignments, including making improvements to the cooperation between the authorities involved. The NFSA has completed a draft concerning agreement on co-operation and information exchange between the local districts offices (NFSA) and the local Customs. This draft was discussed at the meeting. An attachment to this agreement points out the local units, and will contribute to better cooperation locally between the authorities The NFSA will make progress and improve the information to the district offices involved (including the district offices without BIPs) regarding the regulation on personal consignments of products of animal origin. The premise for uniform information to all officers involved in the control is an agreement between central levels of Customs and the NFSA concerning to what extent the different authorities should be involved in controls, including whether or not having the title to seize and destroy illegal products. Both authorities agree on this, and it will improve the communication internal and external. When training of officers/inspectors involved in official controls are completed and demonstrative procedures are provided to officers involved in controls (see below), the NFSA will go through with an internal audit programme. *Concerning catering waste* A collaboration between NFSA and KLIF in the by product area was established prior to the ESA mission on by-products September 2010. A clarification of responsibilities for more efficient and effective coordination and cooperation between the two authorities was initiated in several by products areas. This work has resulted in a letter that will be distributed to the regional level in both authorities. Both governments must ensure that information from the central level should be communicated more uniform and parallel to the regional units. This cooperation will be expanded and a new meeting will be held in August. In this meeting we will discuss how we can improve the handling of catering waste. The environmental authorities participated in the preparation of the PMQ document as well as they were active during this mission, this gives a common perception of future work. *General comments* Collaboration and cooperation between the two authorities is in steady development through meetings and action control. The Norwegian Environment	

Mission to Norway from 18 to 26 May 2011 regarding application of EEA legislation related to controls on kitchen waste from vessels in international traffic, import controls on non-commercial pets and on personal luggage and mail		
(Reference) Recommendation	Information provided by the Norwegian authorities	ESA Assessment
	Agency carried out in 2011 and 2012 a control action on waste in ports. Their "action note" included information on by product regulation requirements for CW. District inspectors as well as personnel from NFSA head office participated in the control action. The agency informed the NFSA on their next action in 2012 The NFSA and the Customs have in 2012 concluded on central and regional agreements. The regional agreements states that local meetings between the agencies shall be held as needed. Since 2012, the NFSA makes a yearly plan for joint control actions with the Customs (initiated in 2013). These are mainly concerning pets, POAO from third countries and plants, depending on which border control post is being involved. The plans are based on summaries from yearly meetings with the regional offices at the NFSA, and the letters to the Customs are being referred to in the letter of budget disposal for the regions. The control plans for 2013 and 2014 are enclosed in POAO Rec. No 4. The internal audit will not be arranged until the guideline has been finalized and distributed to control personnel in both agencies.	
(8) Norway should ensure full compliance with Articles 41 and 42 of Regulation (EC) No 882/2004, in particular by including in the MANCP a description of the organisation of control systems applied to movement of non-commercial pets and control on catering waste, including the coordination between the different services of competent authorities responsible for official controls in these sectors.	The NFSA will update the MANCP at this point at the next revision of the plan. First we need to have full overview over the sites where catering waste could be unloaded, and provide guidelines for the inspections. NFSA Head office will also inform the regions to take the initiative to a coordination of controls together with other competent authorities The follow up of ESA recommendation in general and therefore control of CW is always a priority which is addressed in the BDS of all regions. Control of CW was priority of regions in 2011, 2012 Cooperation of controls with other authorities which is for this mater the Norwegian Environment Agency, is stated in the BDS of all regions for the year 2012. This in addition to the fact that CW has always been on the agenda of the By-products and feed Forum and where the head office advice to regions have always been the strengthening of cooperation with the Environment Agency for practical resolution of problems on a regional level.	In progress
(9) Norway should ensure full compliance with Articles 3(1) and 3(2) of Regulation (EC)	NFSA has worked out a draft of a letter to Oslo Airport Gardermoen. The letter will state the liability at law for all designated points of entry and international passenger transport operators to draw the attention of	Action taken

Mission to Norway from 18 to 26 May 2011 regarding application of EEA legislation related to controls on kitchen waste from vessels in international traffic, import controls on non-commercial pets and on personal luggage and mail		
(Reference) Recommendation	Information provided by the Norwegian authorities	ESA Assessment
No 745/2004, in particular by ensuring that at all designated points of entry, the animal health conditions for imports of products of animal origin are brought to the attention of travelers arriving from third countries and that international passenger transport operators should draw the attention of passengers to the animal health conditions for imports of products of animal origin.	passengers to the animal health conditions for imports of products of animal origin. The letter will emphasize that the posters are placed partly hidden behind another sign, and that the posters location does not fulfil the legal requirements. NFSA has experienced an accommodating attitude from the airline companies concerning communication about restrictions due to the FMD in Bulgaria. We see this as an opening to introduce a continuing cooperation concerning the information of passengers about the overall risks to animal health conditions for imports of products of animal origin from outside the EU. We plan to start with the airline companies in international traffic. The Norwegian Air Shuttle ASA has incorporated a text concerning POAO in their in-flight magazine on regular basis. We have sent a similar request to SAS Airlines, but they have not responded to our recent request. We will continue to approach them in this matter.	
(10) The competent authorities should ensure full compliance with Article 4(2) of Regulation (EC) No 745/2004, in particular by ensuring that all personal consignments identified as being in breach of the rules are seized and destroyed.	*See also comments under Recommendation No 5* Guidelines will be adjusted to the needs of the postal services, with the request that non-compliant consignments are forwarded to the nearest NFSA district office, or otherwise registered, seized and destroyed in coordination with the NFSA. The guideline for control with postal services has been drafted but not yet completed, mainly due to gaps between the Regulation (EC) No 745/2004 and the Regulation (EC) No 206/2009. However, since 2011 the Customs at the post terminal have taken care that all personal consignments identified as being in breach of the rules are seized and destroyed by incineration. Moreover, the BIP Oslo Port reports that the Customs since 2011 have been far more aware of such consignments in their control of mail, and they are now frequently in contact with the BIP with questions concerning consignments sent by mail. The NFSA wants to perform our control activities in line with current legislation in EU, but Norway has not implemented Regulation (EC) no 206/2009. However, when performing controls, NFSA looks to the requirements in the new regulation. Still, when actions are to be taken, we must use Regulation (EC) 745/2004. Consequently, we are "in between" regulations. This is due to that Norway cannot implement Regulation 206/2009 on simplified procedure. We await joint implementation together with Iceland.	Action taken

Mission to Norway from 18 to 26 May 2011 regarding application of EEA legislation related to controls on kitchen waste from vessels in international traffic, import controls on non-commercial pets and on personal luggage and mail		
(Reference) Recommendation	Information provided by the Norwegian authorities	ESA Assessment
	Awaiting the new regulations also delays our work with guidelines for both Customs and Postal Service. Work is in progress, but the delay is also due to the fact that NFSA and Customs in our communication have not yet succeeded to agree on how to perform sufficient controls at the border. A draft guideline is sent to Customs, and asked for a reply at January 6th at the latest. We have also decided that we want the Customs to make the first decision concerning the consignments arriving in postal packages. Therefore, we have chosen to incorporate control of postal packages in the guideline for the customs, emphasizing in the guideline that we anticipate that the postal service entrusts all consignments of animal origin to the customs for further judgment.	
(11) Norway should ensure full compliance with Article 7 of Regulation (EC) No 1774/2002 by providing adequate arrangements to guarantee the collection and transportation of Category 1 material in accordance with Annex II to that Regulation.	In order to establish adequate arrangements for collection, labelling and transport of catering waste in accordance with Article 7, it is required to have a good interaction with the environmental authorities and those who have been delegated authority, or is providing services in the area. NFSA head office is working on a plan for this and will propose a working group consisting of the parties involved, like KLIF/County governor, port authorities (Norske Havner), airp (Avinor), transporters (Avfall Norge). KLIF has confirmed that we in a joint meeting should look at the possible risks associated with system boundaries, authority limits, gray zones, parallel / chained regulation, and different definitions of the same material (or materials with similar properties). A proposal from NFSA for cooperation when receiving waste / materials from ships in ports, are sent to the person responsible for the inspection for a statement. NFSA has outlined a plan, however, it is not yet discussed with the Norwegian Environmental Agency	In progress

3.4 Feeding stuffs and animal nutrition

In the period from July 2009 to December 2012, the Authority has completed 1 mission in relation to feeding stuffs and animal nutrition. Out of a total of 14 recommendations issued in relation to this mission, 13 are considered closed and concerning 1 recommendation the Authority has initiated infringement procedures.

Mission to Norway from 11 to 22 October 2010 regarding the application of EEA legislation related to feed hygiene		
(Reference) Recommendation	Information provided by the Norwegian authorities	ESA Assessment
(13) The competent authorities should ensure that feed mills authorised for incorporating fishmeal in non-ruminant feed and producing ruminant feed, do so in physically separate facilities for such activities as laid down in Annex IV Point 2(B)(c)(ii) of Regulation (EC) 999/2001.	It is correct that we, under special conditions, allow production of feed with fish meal, for non ruminants, in the same facilities as feed for ruminants is produced. The conditions incorporate a special approval, with an approval procedure as there are a number of criteria to be fulfilled in order to avoid cross-contamination. That, combined with sample taking and analyzing, is deemed to be sufficient in order to fulfill the objective, namely to avoid fish meal in feed for ruminants. Another aspect is that, as informed before, Norwegian fish meal, from raw material and through the production process have no possibility of contamination as regards TSE.	Action still required In relation to this recommendation, the Authority has already started a formal procedure with Norway. Please note that follow-up of any corrective actions proposed concerning this recommendation will be monitored in a separate case and the status will be updated in this country profile when that case is closed.

3.5 Transmissible spongiform encephalopathies (TSE)

In the period from July 2009 to December 2012, the Authority has completed 1 mission in relation to TSEs. Sixteen recommendations were issued in relation to these missions and follow up for certain recommendations was done during the Authority missions on ABPs in September 2010 and mission on feed safety in October 2010.

3.6 Animal by-products (ABP)

In the period from July 2009 to December 2012, the Authority has completed 1 mission in relation to animal by-products. Out of a total of 14 recommendations issued in relation to this mission, 13 are considered closed and concerning 1 recommendation the Authority has initiated infringement procedures.

Mission to Norway from 6 to 17 September 2010 regarding the application of EEA legislation related to animal by-products not intended for human consumption		
(Reference) Recommendation	Information provided by the Norwegian authorities	ESA Assessment
(1) Norway should ensure that its national legislation is in line with the EEA Agreement.	Norway aims to ensure that national legislation is in line with the EEA-Agreement. The transitional measures for biogas and composting plants laid down in Regulations (EC) No 809/2003 and 810/2003 will be removed from Regulation 27 October 2007 No 1254 concerning animal by-products not intended for human consumption § 2 as soon as possible. The Norwegian Food Safety Authority sees now that it is most realistic that such an amendment is adopted in the revision of the national regulation which implements the	Action still required In relation to this recommendation, the Authority has already started a formal procedure with Norway. Please note that

Mission to Norway from 6 to 17 September 2010 regarding the application of EEA legislation related to animal by-products not intended for human consumption		
(Reference) Recommendation	Information provided by the Norwegian authorities	ESA Assessment
	impending Regulation (EC) No. 1069/2009.	follow-up of any corrective actions proposed concerning this recommendation will be monitored in a separate case and the status will be updated in this country profile when that case is closed.

3.7 Veterinary medicines and residues

In the period from July 2009 to December 2012, the Authority has completed 1 mission in relation to veterinary medicines and residues. Eight recommendations were issued in relation to this mission of which all have been closed.

3.8 Foodstuffs, food hygiene, imports of food of plant origin, and pesticides

In the period from July 2009 to December 2012, the Authority has completed 1 mission in relation to import of food hygiene/import of food of plant origin and 1 mission related to food contact materials. Out of a total of 21 recommendations issued in relation to these missions, 20 were identified to be addressed during the general follow-up mission in October 2013. Concerning 1 recommendation the Authority has initiated infringement procedures.

Mission to Norway from 5 to 9 March 2013 regarding application of EEA legislation related to food contact materials		
(Reference) Recommendation	Information provided by the Norwegian authorities	ESA Assessment
(1) The competent authorities should ensure that the provisions concerning soothers in Directive 93/11/EC is made part of its legal order.	The NFSA will in cooperation with other competent authorities consider how the provisions concerning soothers in Directive 93/11/EC can be made part of the legal order. The competent Authority responsible for making the provisions concerning soothers in Directive 93/11/EC a part of the legal order is the Norwegian Environment Agency. The Norwegian Food Safety Authority informed the NEA about the legal status. The Norwegian Environmental Agency has received the information and will implement the remaining provisions as soon as possible. The Royal Ministry of Health and Care Services has provided additional information in a letter to ESA, dated 26 August 2013.	Action still required In relation to this recommendation, the Authority has already started a formal procedure with Norway. Please note that follow-up of any corrective actions proposed concerning this recommendation will be monitored in a separate case and the status will

Mission to Norway from 5 to 9 March 2013 regarding application of EEA legislation related to food contact materials		
(Reference) Recommendation	Information provided by the Norwegian authorities	ESA Assessment
		be updated in this country profile when that case is closed.
(2) The competent authorities should take measures to harmonise the official controls on food contact materials throughout the country and ensure that official controls in this area are included in the scope of internal or external audits as foreseen in Articles 4(3), 4(4) and 4(5) of Regulation (EC) No 882/2004.	The guideline "retningslinje" on official controls on FCM is soon ready to be published in NFSA's quality system ("Kvalitetssystemet") and thus be available to the inspectors of NFSA. The guideline will be published before the end of 2013. On 26 and 27 September 2012, the Head office arranged a two-day course for inspectors in NFSA. The topic was hygiene and use of FCM in food establishments. 45 inspectors and advisers from district level and region level participated. This is a tool for a harmonized approach. Our guidance on internet has been improved. http://www.mattilsynet.no/mat_og_vann/produksjon_av_mat/matkontaktmaterialer/ NFSA is assessing the possibilities for having an "expert team" responsible for controls at FCM establishments, as producers and importers. See also point 3 and 4. NFSA has appointed region Buskerud, Vestfold and Telemark to have a coordinating role in this area and to have extended knowledge on FCM.	Action taken
(3) The competent authorities should ensure that all personnel carrying out official controls on food contact materials receive appropriate training and are kept updated in this area as required by Article 6 of Regulation (EC) No 882/2004.	One region held a “theme-day” on FCM on 25th of April, where participants from 4 other regions also were present. Around 50 persons participated. Agenda was enclosed in previous answer. The guideline on info in the supply chain and the PIM guideline will be made available for the inspectors when the work within the EU is finished. NFSA is considering prioritizing more courses for inspectors in 2013/2014. Due to courses that will be held inspectors will improve their skills in taking risk based decisions in this field. Furthermore the NFSA participate in Nordic meetings, last held by NFSA in May 2012. Discussions in these meetings contribute the Head office to give better support to the inspectors. NFSA held a two day course in May 2013. 22 inspectors and advisers from our three levels participated . Due to courses that are held inspectors will improve their skills in taking risk based decisions in this field.	Action taken

Mission to Norway from 5 to 9 March 2013 regarding application of EEA legislation related to food contact materials		
(Reference) Recommendation	Information provided by the Norwegian authorities	ESA Assessment
(4) Norway should ensure that official controls are carried out to enforce compliance with Regulation (EC) No 1935/2004 in line with Article 24 of that Regulation, in particular the competent authorities should decide on the appropriate frequency of regular official controls on all stages of production, import and use of food contact materials on the basis of risk and ensure the quality and consistency the official controls in line with the requirements of Article 3 and 4 of Regulation (EC) No 882/2004.	In our "Budsjett Disponeringsskriv BDS" for 2013-2015 for our regions, a plan for controls on FCM is set. Controls on Declarations of Compliance (DoC) at food establishments are in the line for 2013. There will be a national control project in 2014 with focus on controls at importers and producers of FCM. The planning and necessary training will take place in 2013. NFSA are working on BDS for 2014-2016. FCM is mentioned in chapter 2,4,9 The NFSA has mapped the risk in several areas we administer. This is used in the overall prioritizing in the NFSA. The FCM-area has this year been mapped and been put in a level which is considered to be of significant risk. There will be a nordic control project in 2014 with focus on controls at importers and producers of FCM. The planning will take place in 2013. Training will take place in 2014. We had an initial meeting in March this year. Norway is leading the project.	Action taken
(5) The competent authorities should establish procedures to verify the effectiveness of the official controls carried out and procedures to ensure that corrective action is taken when needed in line with Article 8(3) of Regulation (EC) No 882/2004. Furthermore, the competent authorities should ensure that the documented procedures are in place in line with the requirements of Article 8(1) of Regulation (EC) No 882/2004.	NFSA are looking at the possibilities to better verify the effectiveness of official controls carried out. NFSA has the possibility to document the condition at establishments in various areas. We are now in process to evaluate our internal control systems which is estimated to be finished during the spring 2014. We are also in process to change indicators in the scoreboard in order to find more suitable indicators for management of controls. Finally we are in early stage in our strategy process where we already has pointed that we need better knowledge to verify the effectiveness of legislation and different control methods. The time aspect for the two last process is not yet scheduled. Established routines for evaluating the efficiency of controls are as follow: 1 - The annual report ("Arsrapport"), where the NFSA evaluate the status on our efficacy goals. 2 - We have developed indicators on scoreboard ("måltavle") on main priorities and the totality which will give us an impression to what extend the establishments respect the regulation and how sanctions are being applied, and the variation between the regions regarding this. These indicators were developed in 2012. 3 - National control projects are evaluated and analyzed. Based on these results follow-up is suggested. So far we have had lack of routines on the	Action taken

Mission to Norway from 5 to 9 March 2013 regarding application of EEA legislation related to food contact materials		
(Reference) Recommendation	Information provided by the Norwegian authorities	ESA Assessment
	follow-ups, but this year it will be in focus. More indirectly will following systems also have an influence on effectiveness of controls by using control methods and sanctions more conscious and in that way effects the establishments: The yearly meetings ("styringssamtaler") between management on head office and each og the region offices are held in autumn and this year we had following themes: • NFSAs strategy process • What is promoting or inhibiting the effective working process and methods • Uniform controls between the regions • Data quality og controls in MATS These themes were thoroughly discussed and based on analyses made from scoreboard ("måltavle"). Audits system is established both for overall and region level. There will be about 1-2 audits on overall level and each region has 1-3 audits pr. year, totally 8-10 audits pr. year. The central part of the most of the audits is if the inspectors is using the sanctions as described in guidelines which is in our quality system. If they are not used correctly the founding is reported in portal for improvement ("forbedringsportal"). This portal will document deviation and it is place where corrective measures shall be followed up on.	
(6) The competent authorities should ensure that the implementation of traceability of food contact materials in the establishments using them is in line with the requirements laid down in Article 17 of Regulation (EC) No 1935/2004.	In the control with importers and producers of FCM in 2014 traceability will be looked at. In the Nordic project on control with importers and producers of FCM in 2014, the main focus will be on DoC. But at national level, we will also look at traceability to some extent. We want to check if the establishments have control over from whom they by their raw materials/products and to whom they sell their products. Generally, traceability is an important requirement and will be looked at in future inspections in the FCM area.	Action taken
(7) The competent authorities should ensure that official controls are carried out to verify that declarations of compliance for food contact materials comply with the requirements set out in Article 16 of Regulation (EC) No	Understanding of DoC has been a topic in training courses (i.e. "fagdag"18-19 October 2010), and it will continue to be in focus in further training. Last in the mentioned course in May this year. DoC will be a control point in future controls in the area. In our data system MATS, it is in the check point template ("kravpunktmal") for controls with producers and importers of FCM.	Action taken

Mission to Norway from 5 to 9 March 2013 regarding application of EEA legislation related to food contact materials		
(Reference) Recommendation	Information provided by the Norwegian authorities	ESA Assessment
1935/2004, Article 15 of Regulation (EC) No 10/2011 and Article 2a of Council Directive 84/500/EEC.	DoC will be in focus in the Nordic control project on FCM in 2013-2014. Some of the goals are enhanced knowledge through training and harmonized approach in the Nordic countries. Through the Nordic work we will also make a check-list for guidance regarding DoC.	
(8) The competent authorities should ensure that producers of food contact materials implement Good Manufacturing Practice as required by Commission Regulation (EC) No 2023/2006 and Article 3 of Regulation (EC) No 1935/2004. The competent authorities should further ensure that official controls include the assessment of the Good Manufacturing Practice as required by Article 10(2)(d) of Regulation (EC) No 882/2004.	This will be a control point in controls with producers of FCM. It is in the check point template ("kravpunktmal") for controls with producers and importers of FCM. This is a check point template with all the check points connected to the legislation on FCM. The inspectors can choose which check point they want to look at in the specific control. At head office, we have the possibility to make some of the check points mandatory.	Action taken
(9) In order to enforce compliance with Regulation (EC) No 1935/2004 in line with Article 24(1) of that Regulation, the competent authorities should ensure that official controls include sampling of food contact materials to verify compliance with relevant legislation.	In 2012 two analysis-projects on FCM: - Nitrosamines in rubber teats - Bisphenol A in different products In 2013, NFSA has founded an analysis project at The Norwegian Institute of Public Health. They have analyzed content of Bisphenol A in some types of food. There will be an analysis project for 2014, but topic is not yet fully decided on. Some analysis on phtalates will be done in the connection with the Nordic control project. The aim is to have one analysis project each year. NFSA also take analysis in according to Regulation (EU) 284/2011.	Action taken

Mission to Norway from 30 January to 8 February 2012 regarding application of EEA legislation related to official controls on food hygiene and import controls of food of non-animal origin		
(Reference) Recommendation	Information provided by the Norwegian authorities	ESA Assessment
(1) Norway should ensure that the competent authorities have access to a sufficient number of	We interpret this recommendation to especially cover the points referred to in the recommendation 3 and refer to the answer under that recommendation.	Action taken

Mission to Norway from 30 January to 8 February 2012 regarding application of EEA legislation related to official controls on food hygiene and import controls of food of non-animal origin		
(Reference) Recommendation	Information provided by the Norwegian authorities	ESA Assessment
suitably qualified and experienced staff so that official controls and control duties can be carried out efficiently and effectively, in conformity with the requirements laid down in Article 4 (2) (c) of Regulation (EC) No 882/2004.	The regional director's responsibility is to ensure the provision of sufficient resources for statutory checks based on the existing budgetary allocation system at the NFSA within their own region framework. If the Regional Director believes sufficient resources are not allocated within the regional framework, the situation must be reported as an addition resource requirement to the CEO.	
(2) Norway should ensure efficient and effective coordination between different units of the competent authority as required by with Article 4 (5) of Regulation (EC) No 882/2004.	We understand from the draft report that this recommendation refers in particular to your observations on the import control and inconsistencies concerning the reports of the 669 samples. The NFSA is now controlling the data in order to avoid such inconsistencies. We understand from the draft report that this point refers to our import control. The NFSA's head office will make it a routine to evaluate the frequency of sampling of the different products during quarterly reporting of the results. The NFSA's internal guidelines for onward transportations of sampled consignments will be evaluated. The need for official sealing of consignments that are allowed for onward-transport pending results of import control to secure better control, will also be evaluated. The NFSA will increase focus on control/follow-up (on a random basis and after suspicion) when the NFSA after import control gives order of destruction of non-conform products. The DPEs will aim at avoiding errors during reporting of samples and the central level must follow-up if information is lacking. **The following text addresses recommendation 2, 8 and 10** <u>Consistency of official control at all levels and in a consistent manner</u> The inspection in 2012 showed that the frequency of sampling was too low for some of the commodities listed in Annex I to Regulation (EC) No. 669/2009. In order to increase the sampling frequency, the head office of the NFSA has made a form that can by used by the three DPEs to select consignments for physical control. However, this form is rarely used by the DPEs. This is due to the fact that very few commodities arrive at more than one DPE. In 2013, noodles from China and tea from China are the only commodities that arrive at more than one DPE. Noodles from China arrive at both Oslo and Borg while tea from China arrives at both Oslo and Gardermoen. The sampling frequencies for these two commodities have in general been above the set level. Thus, the form for selection of	Action taken

Mission to Norway from 30 January to 8 February 2012 regarding application of EEA legislation related to official controls on food hygiene and import controls of food of non-animal origin		
(Reference) Recommendation	Information provided by the Norwegian authorities	ESA Assessment
	consignments for physical control is of little practical use for the DPEs. The head office will therefore not require that the DPEs use this form. The three DPEs share a common form for reporting of results (see enclosed excel form below on the distribution of commodities to the three DPEs). Thus, when the head office reports the results to the Commission (and ESA), we get an overview of the number of samples taken for each commodity (done four times per year). In case the sampling frequency is too low, internal routines have been developed to deal with this. <u>Frequency of physical and identity checks of consignments of commodities comprised by Regulation (EC) No. 669/2009.</u> In order to ensure sufficient sampling and analysis of commodities listed in annex I to Regulation (EC) No. 669/2009, section for import and export checks the sampling frequency when reporting the results to the Commission and ESA (four times per year). If the sampling frequency is too low for any of the commodities listed in annex I, this information is forwarded to the relevant regional office. The regional office will then inform the relevant DPE that the sampling frequency is too low for certain commodities. The regional office has a role as a coordinator for the DPEs. Other measures applied to increase the frequency of physical control, are that the DPEs are required to perform a physical control of the first consignment of a new commodity on Annex I that arrives at the DPE. <u>Onward transportation of consignments pending results of physical control</u> In order to ensure that consignments that are transported to their place of destination pending results of physical control are under the control of the NFSA, the internal routines/internal instructions on onward transportation have been updated (last updated in March 2013). Requirements for authorization of onward transportation are the same for all DPEs. For onward transportation, the DPEs must cooperate with the district office responsible for the consignee. The consignment must be accompanied by a copy of the CED (part I filled in by the importer and part II partly filled in by the NFSA). The DPE and the district office responsible for the consignee must ensure that the consignment remains under the control of the NFSA and cannot be tampered with in any manner by e.g. sealing of the consignment. The head office of the NFSA has not made detailed routines on how the DPEs shall ensure that the consignments remain under the control of the NFSA pending results from physical control. This decision is taken by the DPEs since the possibilities for e.g. sealing of consignments differ between different commodities. The consignment must	

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(Reference) Recommendation	Information provided by the Norwegian authorities	ESA Assessment
	be stored at the premises of the consignee/importer (or a customs bonded storage), and cannot be split and transported to its final recipients before the laboratory analysis is finished. The internal instruction is now again on internal hearing in the NFSA (October 2013). Requirements for authorization of onward transportation have been specified further (including requirements for onward transportation to other member states). Information on onward transportation to other member states is based on an updated version of the Questions and answers paper to Regulation (EC) no. 669/2009 (see link below). http://ec.europa.eu/food/food/controls/increased_checks/docs/QandA_paper_en.pdf The internal instruction has been updated further to include that in order to authorize onward transportation, the DPEs are required to inform the relevant district office in writing. The district office is then required to inform the DPE that they have received the message, and to ensure that the consignee has routines to prevent that the consignment is released for free circulation before they have received the final CED. The importance of verifying that consignments that have been onward transported to the importer/consignee are not split and released for sale before the laboratory analysis is finished, has on several occasions been discussed at meetings between the head office, the regional office and the DPEs	
(3) Norway should ensure that the NFSA staff receive relevant training and being kept up-to-date in their competencies in particular regarding assessment of HACCP plans in line with the requirements laid down in Article 6 of Regulation (EC) No 882/200	The NFSA at the local level will continue to train its inspectors on how to conduct controls with HACCP. The Head office will make an overview of the number of training courses taken, the content and duration of these courses and who participated. The Head office will then evaluate and give recommendations to the relevant levels to ensure that the inspectors are appropriately trained. During September 2012, the Head office will conduct a seminar with the aim to strengthen the coordination in assessments of HACCP plans in line with the requirements. As to the training and qualification staff, the ESA emphasizes the competences as to the control/revision of HACCP in the food businesses. In 2007 the NFSA introduced a web-based learning program on HACCP. The Head office also organized national training courses in 2007 and 2008. In 2012 the NFSA has a national project which focuses on HACCP in larger hotel and restaurant kitchens, other larger kitchens and other food businesses including producers approved under Regulation (EC)	Action taken

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(Reference) Recommendation	Information provided by the Norwegian authorities	ESA Assessment
	No. 853/2004, but excluding fish products. This project aims to control around thousand food business operators. In that connection around hundred inspectors were gathered in November 2011 for a two days course on HACCP. The training of the inspectors on how to conduct controls with the HACCP is, however, mainly the responsibility and priority of each unit on the district level. There are training courses on HACCP on the district level. An overview of training courses has been provided. The final report findings will be used to implement corrective actions. There has also been held courses in the topic concerning the Regulation 2073/2005. In addition the district level has been trained in how to conduct sampling. All together approximately 150 attendants. This coming September the training will be repeated.	
(4) The competent authority should take action when non-compliances have been identified to ensure that the food business operator remedies the situation. When deciding which action to take, the competent authority shall take into account the nature of the non-compliance and the food business operators' past record with regard to non compliances as required by Article 54 of Regulation (EC) No 882/2004.	We understand from the draft report that this point refers to our import control and RASFF. A new steering document for RASFF has been worked out by the Head office in 2012 after implementation of Regulation (EU) No. 16/2011. The demand for rapid action is more clearly pointed out in this new version. The importance on rapid action in RASFF cases, has also been discussed in the management in the Department of control at NFSA's Head office. The need for improvement has later been addressed to the regional and local leaders. Further, the RASFF Contact Point focuses on rapid action when contributing to national or regional arrangements for food and feed inspectors. The RASFF Contact Point has also emphasized rapid action in its standard presentation about RASFF that can be held by Actions taken to improve the efficiency of RASFF in Norway • A new internal instruction for RASFF was made by section for import and export in 2012 after the implementation of Regulation (EC) no. 16/2011. The requirement for rapid action is described in detail in this document. • Problems with late feedback from the district offices to RASFF- notifications have been discussed by the management of the department of control (section leaders). The information has also been forwarded to leaders at the regional- and district offices. • Whenever the RASFF contact point contributes to internal meetings/seminars, the importance of rapid action to RASFF notifications is always stressed. • RASFF contact point has made a general presentation on RASFF that can be held by regional and local leaders.	Action taken

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(Reference) Recommendation	Information provided by the Norwegian authorities	ESA Assessment
	These measures have indeed improved the situation. The time for feedback from the district offices has been reduced.	
(5) Norway should ensure that official controls are carried out regularly, on a risk basis and with appropriate frequency in accordance with Article 3 of Regulation (EC) No 882/2004	The NFSA will continue to have a risk assessment of our efficacy goals as the base of our priorities as well as our analysis of certain areas which also will include risk assessments. For the long term, our data system, MATS, will also be used to support a systematic use of the"risk assessments down to the level of the food business operator. As in our answer to the Pre-Mission Questionnaire, we refer to the overall description of our risk based control in chapter 4 of the Multi-Annual National Control Plan (2012-2014). The requirement to have a risk based control is further taken care of by our long term plan for control (2012-2016). Each section in the Head office in the Department of control is meant to have risk as the base for determining the frequency of the area in focus. How far each section at the head office has come in detailing this, varies. In addition, we have a risk assessment of our efficacy goals as the base of our priorities as well as our analysis of certain areas which also will include risk assessments. Our data system, MATS, will also be used to support a systematic use of the risk assessments down to the level of the food business operator. This is not yet put into place.	Action taken
(6) Norway should ensure that establishments fulfill the general hygiene requirements of Annex II to Regulation (EC) No 852/2004	The NFSA is arranging a two day seminar in September 2012 concerning general hygiene requirements, focusing on HACCP. The participants will be the regional offices. In addition to this seminar there will be 4 - 5 meetings a year on the regional level on the same topic. There is therefore an expectation that the regional offices will ensure that all inspectors will get sufficient training. See also comments to recommendation 3	Action taken
(7) Norway should ensure that HACCP based systems are in line with the requirements laid down in Article 5 of Regulation (EC) No 852/2004	The training and communication referred to under recommendations 3 and 6 above, will contribute to a better understanding of HACCP within the NFSA. The communication around the HACCP project and the actual controls to a great number of FBOs, will to a great extent increase the awareness of businesses to the HACCP requirements and also the general hygiene requirements. Kravpunktlistene in MATS regarding the Regulation 852/2004 will within medio November be updated with a spesifc kravpunkt regarding art 5. of the Regulation in question. This kravpnkt will be submitted to ESA as soon as it is implemented in MATS.	Action taken

Mission to Norway from 30 January to 8 February 2012 regarding application of EEA legislation related to official controls on food hygiene and import controls of food of non-animal origin		
(Reference) Recommendation	Information provided by the Norwegian authorities	ESA Assessment
	See also comments to recommendation 3	
(8) The competent authorities should ensure the consistency of official controls at all levels and in a consistent manner in conformity with the requirements laid down in Article 4(4) of Regulation (EC) No 882/2004.	We understand that this recommendation refers to the import control. After the ESA mission, the NFSA has considered making a new system for the recording of consignments falling under the scope of Regulation (EC) No. 669/2009 arriving at the three DPEs. A document shared by the DPEs could help to predefine the frequency and when consignments should be sampled in a random way. DPE Borg Port has very few consignments falling under No. 669/2009 {only 5 consignments of noodles for second quarter of 2012). It is the DPE Oslo Airport and DPE Oslo Port that get the majority of the imports under the scope of No. 669/2009. However, it is very rare that it is the same type of products that is imported via DPE Oslo Port and DPE Oslo Airport. Commodities with short shelf-life as certain fresh fruits and vegetables are usually imported via the airport and other commodities with longer shelf-life will normally be imported via Oslo Port. It is therefore not considered as problematic that the DPEs have local routines for picking out consignments for control as long as which consignments being sampled are random and not predictable for the importers. The NFSA Head office will make an evaluation of the routines and how they are followed in cooperation with the regional office (RK OA0) and the DPEs. The Head office will continue to arrange meetings and workshops. The routines for securing random and unpredictable picking of consignments for physical control will be evaluated in cooperation with the regional and the local levels. The evaluation mentioned above, will take place before 1 December 2012. As described in our letter to ESA dated 29.11.2012: To ensure the sampling frequency is achieved, the three DPEs now share a sample form for types of goods which arrive at more than one DPE. Please see Attachment 1Skjema for utvelgelse til fysisk kontroll.xlsx This way the DPEs have an overall overview and are able to maintain the correct sampling frequency.	Action taken
(9) Norway should ensure that the designated points of entry/import have available unloading equipment as appropriate in line with in the minimum requirements in Article 4 of Regulation (EC) No 669/2009.	The designated points of entry performs control and sampling of consignments under the Regulation (EC) No 669/2009. For consignments of certain products packed in big bags, it is difficult to achieve representative sampling at DPE Oslo Port. Due to restricted space for unloading, the sampling is only done from the top of the bags/units. NFSA agrees that the sampling of big bags of certain products at this DPE is not optimal. NFSA is now evaluating the contract at	In progress

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(Reference) Recommendation	Information provided by the Norwegian authorities	ESA Assessment
	DPE Oslo Port, since it expires in 2014. The facilities will be evaluated as a part of this process. Available unloading equipment at the DPEs: In DPE Oslo Port sampling of big bags are not done in a representative manner due to the lack of space available. Samples are taken, but we are only able to sample big bags lying on top of the container (if several big bags are stored on top of each other). Other import control activities and sampling are being performed at the DPE, the problem only consist for goods in big bags as it is not possible to unload these. NFSA see this deviation in a broader context. Since ESA performed its inspection in 2012, NFSA at central, regional and local level has had a meeting with the port authorities. The meeting took place based on the fact that NFSA the rental agreement for the facilities in Oslo Port expires in two years, and the port authorities are planning a major expansion and modernization of the port area within 2017. According to their preliminary plans, the building and physical facilities BIP/DPE will seize to exist. NFSA are in process of considering possible consequences.	
(10) Norway should ensure that the frequency of physical and identity checks of consignments of food of non animal origin meet the requirements in Annex I to Regulation (EC) No 669/2009. The competent authorities should ensure that where authorization to allow onward transportation is given the consignment remain under their continuous control and cannot be tampered with in any manner pending the results of the physical checks, in line with the requirements laid down in Article 8 (2) (b) of Regulation (EC) No 669/2009.	The NFSA's Head office has made it a routine to evaluate the frequency of sampling of the different products during quarterly reporting of the results. We then send this data to the regional office. The regional office has a role as a coordinator for the DPEs and will follow up if there is need for improvement of sample frequencies. The NFSA's internal guidelines for onward transportations of sampled consignments will be evaluated. The need for official sealing of consignments that are allowed for onward-transport pending results of import control to secure better control, will also be evaluated. The NFSA will increase focus on control/follow-up (on a random basis and after suspicion) when the NFSA after import control gives order of destruction of non-conform products. The NFSA will look into its practice concerning onward-transportation and suggest solutions by 1. December 2012. The NFSA believes the actions referred to under recommendation 2, also covers this recommendation. See recommendation 2. As described in our letter to ESA dated 29.11.2013: A network group for import has worked out a proposition to common routines for official sealing and keeping consignments under control. These routines will be incorporated in our steering document together with the guidelines presented in Working Group meeting on Regulation (EC) No 669/2009 - 12 November 2012.	Action taken

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(Reference) Recommendation	Information provided by the Norwegian authorities	ESA Assessment
(11) Norway should ensure that consignments that do not comply with the food or feed law are placed under official detention in line with the requirements laid down in Article 19 of Regulation (EC) No 882/2004	The NFSA understands that this point refers to the area of import control. The NFSA will increase focus on control/follow-up (on a random basis and after suspicion) when the NFSA after import control gives an order of destruction of non-conform products that has been transported onward pending the results. DPE Oslo Port has already had a standard form when non-conform consignments should be destructed by the FBO after import control. This document should secure traceability of products and it has now also been taken into use by the other DPEs. NFSA agrees with ESA on the importance of controlling that measures as return, re-exportation or destruction are in fact carried out by the FBOs. The DPEs at Oslo port and Oslo airport use a common form when non-conform consignments are destructed. This document ensures traceability as the lot number, quantity and type of commodity is specified in the form. The documentation accompanies the sealed consignment to the destruction facilities. After the destruction, the DPE will stamp and sign the documents presented by the importer. DPE Borg uses the destruction facilities right next to the DPE when destruction of non-conform consignments takes place. Personnel from the DPE attend the destruction. In addition, a specific form is used to document that destruction has taken place. The local customs office receives information from the NFSA concerning consignments that have been destructed through the CED.	Action taken

3.9 Animal welfare

In the period from July 2009 to December 2012, the Authority has completed 2 missions in relation to Animal health. Out of a total of 31 recommendations issued in relation to these missions, 14 were identified to be addressed during the general follow-up mission in October 2013 and another 7 recommendations are in progress where deadlines indicated by Norway for corrective actions had not passed at the time of the general follow up mission. Concerning 1 recommendation action is still required.

Mission to Norway from 22 to 31 October 2012 regarding application of EEA legislation related to animal welfare during transport and for laying hens on farms		
(Reference) Recommendation	Information provided by the Norwegian authorities	ESA Assessment
(1) The competent authorities should ensure that transports of reindeer that fall within the scope of Regulation (EC) No 1/2005, as laid down in Article 1(2) of the	Tying animals by the legs is as far as we consider not forbidden for the transports described in article 1 point 2 of Regulation (EC) No 1/2005, because only articles 3 and 27 applies to these transports. Tying reindeer by the legs is not allowed for other types of transport. Guidance to the public and the regional and district offices to ensure a correct understanding, will be given	Action taken

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(Reference) Recommendation	Information provided by the Norwegian authorities	ESA Assessment
Regulation, comply with the prohibition on tying animals by the legs in point 1.11 of Chapter III of Annex I to the Regulation.	as soon as possible. The head office arranged a meeting with the regional offices in March, on which we planned to bring this up as a subject. Unfortunately there was no time to do this because of other urgent matters. The next meeting is set up in June, and this issue will be at the agenda at that meeting. This issue was mentioned at the contact-meeting with the regional offices in June	
(4) The competent authorities should ensure that adequate official controls at the place of departure or during transport to ensure that the operator remedies the situation are carried out in line with Article 54(1) of Regulation (EC) No 882/2004 and Article 26 of Regulation (EC) No 1/2005.	NFSA will get back to this recommendation at a later stage	In progress
(5) The competent authorities should establish rules on penalties applicable to infringements of the provisions of Regulation (EC) No 1/2005 and shall take all measures necessary to ensure that they are implemented; those provisions shall also be notified to the Authority as required by Article 25 of the above mentioned Regulation.	NFSA`s internal guideline on administrative reactions concerning infringements ("Virkemiddelbruk ved tilsyn"), is due to be revised this year, but it might not be accessible for inspectors before early 2014.	In progress
(6) The competent authorities should encourage the development of guides to good practice as laid down in Article 29 of Regulation (EC) No 1/2005.	NFSA will contact cooperative organisations dealing with the livestock industry, such as Animalia (Norwegian Meat and Poultry Research Centre), and encourage them to develop guides to good practice regarding compliance with the requirements in Regulation (EC) No 1/2005. At the moment we are working with a document prepared by Animalia, regarding fitness of transport for swine. We will encourage the cooperative organizations to continue to develop guides to good practice in general, and also guides regarding fitness for transport for other species.	Action taken

Mission to Norway from 22 to 31 October 2012 regarding application of EEA legislation related to animal welfare during transport and for laying hens on farms		
(Reference) Recommendation	Information provided by the Norwegian authorities	ESA Assessment
(7) The competent authorities should submit to the Authority the annual report for the year 2011 on the inspections of animals, means of transport and accompanying documents as required by Article 27(2) of Regulation (EC) No 1/2005 and on the inspections of production sites on which certain animals are kept for farming purposes as required by Article 8 of Decision 2006/778.	We are still working on the reports, as explained during the inspection. Solving the mentioned problems has high priority. The design of the reports in our electronic system (Jasper) is almost finished with regard to the report on production sites on which animals are kept for farming purposes (Decision 2006/778). Regarding the report on transport of animals, there is still some testing to be done before we can consider the work to be finished. We hope we are able to deliver both reports within 2013. The numerical part of the reports on animal holdings for the years 2011 and 2012 have been sent to the Authority in November 2013. The reporting on production sites on which animals are kept for farming purposes has been forwarded to the Ministry of Agriculture and Food (LMD). LMD is responsible for sending to ESA. Regarding the report on animal transport, there is still some testing to be done before we can consider the work to be finished.	In progress
(8) The competent authorities should ensure that companies with roll on roll off vessels are authorised as transporters and that transporters are not operating without a valid transporter authorisation as required by Article 6(1) of Regulation (EC) No 1/2005.	In Norway we do not consider the companies with roll on roll of vessels to be transporters as described in Article 6 of Regulation 1/2005, and they have therefore not been authorised. In our understanding, the transporters owning the vehicles are responsible for the animals during the journey, including the period at the vessels. As long as these transporters are authorised, we consider the requirement regarding authorised transporters to be fulfilled. NFSA does not consider the companies with roll-on-roll-off vessels to be transporters as described in Article 6 of Regulation 1/2005. ESA has argued that the requirements in the Regulation, Annex I, chapter II, point 3 (additional provisions for transport on roll-on-roll-off vessels) is to be interpreted as a requirement for approval of these companies. We do not agree with this. For comparison, there is also requirements regarding control posts and assembly centres, and the duties of the personnel at such places. Nevertheless we do not consider the companies operating these places to be transporters. We have also had a dialogue with the competent authorities in Sweden, Finland and Denmark. Neither of them consider companies with roll-on-roll-off vessels to be transporters on condition that the animals are followed by a driver/authorised transporter who has access to the animals during the crossing.	Action still required Taking account of the current lack of overview of the situation in other Member States in this respect, the Authority does not foresee any further follow-up of this issue at this time. This does not, however, preclude further follow-up of this issue in the future.

Mission to Norway from 22 to 31 October 2012 regarding application of EEA legislation related to animal welfare during transport and for laying hens on farms		
(Reference) Recommendation	Information provided by the Norwegian authorities	ESA Assessment
(9) The competent authorities should ensure that authorisation is granted to transporters only where the applicants have demonstrated that they have appropriate staff, equipment and that they have operational procedures at their disposal to enable them to comply with Article 10(1) of Regulation (EC) No 1/2005.	We will consider to change the authorisation process in a way that secures that the applicants must declare that they actually do have appropriate staff and equipment, and also must describe their operational procedures in a written formula , to get an authorisation. We will also consider to implement routines that ensures that the district offices carry out inspections to verify the information within a relatively short period of time after the authorisation is given. We are currently working on describing the need of changes in MATS, and drawing up a new text in order to illustrate in a better way what kind of documentation is necessary for applicants to authorisation for long journeys. Some of the changes will be delivered in September this year. We are also working on revising the written guidance and instructions to the district offices regarding the authorisation process. This work is in progress, and we estimate that it will be finished within 2013 Upgraded written guidance has been made and copies are provided to ESA. The special issues mentioned in the report from ESA is highlighted with yellow color in this copy. We have also revised the document with “technical support” on the process in MATS. These issues are mentioned here as well. Copies of instructions have been made available to ESA where the special issues mentioned in the report from ESA is highlighted with yellow color. There is still some changes to be done in MATS. This work is in progress.	In progress
(10) The competent authorities should ensure that changes to the information and documents referred to in Article 10(1) or, for long journeys, in Article 11(1) are notified by the transporters as required by Article 6(2) of Regulation (EC) No 1/2005.	The authorisation documents for transporters are accompanied by a separate letter describing the decision. We will change the routines to make sure that information regarding the duty to notify to the NFSA any changes in relation to the information and documents referred to in article 10 (1), and for long journeys, Article 11 (1), are properly described in these letters. We will also consider alternative enforcement measures, eg fixed amounts of fines, for such infringements. Please see the point above. Instructions on routines to inform the applicants about the duty to notify to the NFSA about changes will be included in the updated guidance to the district offices.	In progress

Mission to Norway from 22 to 31 October 2012 regarding application of EEA legislation related to animal welfare during transport and for laying hens on farms		
(Reference) Recommendation	Information provided by the Norwegian authorities	ESA Assessment
	This work is in progress, and we estimate that it will be finished within 2013. Please see also point 9	
(11) The competent authorities should ensure that contingency plans in the event of emergencies are submitted by the transporters authorised for long journeys as required by Article 11(1)(b)(iv) of Regulation (EC) No 1/2005.	The head office will bring this up as an issue at the regular meetings with the regional offices, to make sure that the routines regarding the authorisation of transporters are improved. The head office arranged a meeting with the regional offices in March, on which we planned to bring this up as a subject. Unfortunately there was no time to do this because of other urgent matters. The next meeting is set up in June, and this issue will be at the agenda at that meeting. We are also planning to give guidance regarding the content of the contingency plans, and what we expect them to include, within 2013 This issue was discussed at the contact-meeting with the regional offices in June. The regular meetings with the regional offices (fagforum) is an important part of the system for guiding and instructing the Regions. The Regions bring information from these meetings to the District offices. This issue has been discussed at the meeting in June this year. The contingency plans are also mentioned in the upgraded written guidance referred to above (point (9)).	In progress
(12) The competent authorities should ensure that the vehicles carrying out long journeys are approved and have valid certificates of approval as required by Articles 7 and 18 of Regulation (EC) No 1/2005.	We will bring this up as an issue at the regular meetings with the regional offices, for them to inform the district offices about the findings and to consider an increased frequency of inspections and suitable enforcement measures to ensure compliance with the legislation. The head office arranged a meeting with the regional offices in March, on which we planned to bring this up as a subject. Unfortunately there was no time to do this because of other urgent matters. The next meeting is set up in June, and this issue will be at the agenda at that meeting. This issue was discussed at the contact-meeting with the regional offices in June. The regular meetings with the regional offices (fagforum) is an important part of the system for guiding and instructing the Regions. The Regions bring information from these meetings to the District offices. This issue has been discussed at the meeting in June this year.	In progress
(13) The competent authorities should ensure fulfilment of the	We will bring this up as an issue at the regular meetings with the regional offices, for them to inform the district offices about the findings and to consider an	Action taken

Mission to Norway from 22 to 31 October 2012 regarding application of EEA legislation related to animal welfare during transport and for laying hens on farms		
(Reference) Recommendation	Information provided by the Norwegian authorities	ESA Assessment
requirements laid down in Chapter II of Annex I to Regulation (EC) No 1/2005, in particular related to flooring surface minimizing the leakage of urine or faeces (Point 1.1(h), and suitable equipment for loading and unloading (Point 2.2) and in Chapter III of the same Annex related to safety barriers to prevent animals falling escaping during loading and unloading operations (Point 1.4 (b)).	increased frequency of inspections and suitable enforcement measures to ensure compliance with the legislation. The head office arranged a meeting with the regional offices in March, on which we planned to bring this up as a subject. Unfortunately there was no time to do this because of other urgent matters. The next meeting is set up in June, and this issue will be at the agenda at that meeting. This issue was discussed at the contact-meeting with the regional offices in June. The checklists for means of transports (filled in by the NPRA, the Norwegian Public Roads Administration) have been revised and supplemented to ensure proper attention to the mentioned issues.	
(14) The competent authorities should ensure that official controls are carried out at all stages of transport of animals in conformity with the requirements laid down in Articles 15(1) and 27(1) of Regulation (EC) No 1/2005.	This will be taken into consideration, and we will discuss the opportunities to increase the frequency of inspections at other places than place of arrival (both roadside checks and inspections at place of departure). One opportunity to increase the frequency of roadside checks is to do this in cooperation with the NPRA. Deadline provided 2015 This issue was discussed at the contact-meeting with the regional offices in June. Several suggestions came up at the meeting, and we will continue to work on this matter.	In progress
(15) The competent authorities should ensure that their staff is duly trained and equipped to check data recorded by the recording equipment for road transport as provided for by Regulation (EEC) No 3821/85 and the navigation system as required by Article 16 of Regulation (EC) No 1/2005.	This will be taken into consideration, and we will discuss possible solutions together with the NPRA, which is the competent body regarding the recording equipment for road transport in Norway. Deadline provided 2015	In progress
(16) The competent authorities should ensure that all means of transport for ovine animals are cleaned and disinfected immediately after every animal transport as	We will bring this up as an issue at the regular meetings with the regional offices, for them to inform the district offices about the findings and to consider an increased frequency of inspections and suitable enforcement measures to ensure compliance with the legislation.	Action taken

Mission to Norway from 22 to 31 October 2012 regarding application of EEA legislation related to animal welfare during transport and for laying hens on farms		
(Reference) Recommendation	Information provided by the Norwegian authorities	ESA Assessment
required by Article 8(c)(1)(a) of Directive 91/68/EC.	The head office arranged a meeting with the regional offices in March, on which we planned to bring this up as a subject. Unfortunately there was no time to do this because of other urgent matters. The next meeting is set up in June, and this issue will be at the agenda at that meeting. This issue was discussed at the contact-meeting with the regional offices in June.	
(17) The competent authorities should ensure that the documentation in the means of transport states the expected duration of the intended journey as required by Article 4(e) of Regulation (EC) No 1/2005.	The legislation requires that the documentation include information on the expected duration of the journey. The head office will bring this up as an issue both with the cooperative organisations and with the regional offices, to make sure that the relevant changes in the documents are made and that the district offices focus at this at inspections. The head office will bring this up as an issue at the planned meeting with the regional offices in June. The cooperative organizations have been informed on this matter. Deadline provided 2014	In progress
(18) The competent authorities should ensure that animals are transported in accordance with the requirements laid down in Articles 3, 6(3) and 8(1) as well as Chapter I of Annex I to Regulation (EC) No 1/2005.	We will bring this up as an issue at the regular meetings with the regional offices, for them to inform the district offices about the findings and to consider an increased frequency of inspections and suitable enforcement measures to ensure compliance with the legislation. The head office arranged a meeting with the regional offices in March, on which we planned to bring this up as a subject. Unfortunately there was no time to do this because of other urgent matters. The next meeting is set up in June, and this issue will be at the agenda at that meeting. The cooperative organisations have been informed about the findings, and about our expectations on action from the industry to improve the conditions, at our annual meeting held in April This issue was discussed at the contact-meeting with the regional offices in June. The regular meetings with the regional offices (fagforum) is an important part of the system for guiding and instructing the Regions. The Regions bring information from these meetings to the District offices. This issue has been discussed at the meeting in June this year.	In progress
(19) The competent authorities should ensure that injured/diseased animals are transported to	We will bring this up as an issue at the regular meetings with the regional offices, for them to inform the district offices about the findings and to consider an increased frequency of inspections and suitable	In progress

Mission to Norway from 22 to 31 October 2012 regarding application of EEA legislation related to animal welfare during transport and for laying hens on farms		
(Reference) Recommendation	Information provided by the Norwegian authorities	ESA Assessment
the slaughterhouse only when authorised by the competent authority of the place of departure as required by Article 12 of Council Directive 93/119/EC.	enforcement measures to ensure compliance with the legislation. The head office arranged a meeting with the regional offices in March, on which we planned to bring this up as a subject. Unfortunately there was no time to do this because of other urgent matters. The next meeting is set up in June, and this issue will be at the agenda at that meeting. The cooperative organisations have been informed about the findings, and about our expectations on action from the industry to improve the conditions, at our annual meeting held in April This issue was discussed at the contact-meeting with the regional offices in June. The regular meetings with the regional offices (fagforum) is an important part of the system for guiding and instructing the Regions. The Regions bring information from these meetings to the District offices. This issue has been discussed at the meeting in June this year.	
(20) The competent authorities should ensure that transport practices are in conformity with the requirements set down in Point 1.12(d) and (e) of Chapter III of Annex I to Regulation (EC) No 1/2005 concerning separation of sexually mature males from females and animals with horns from animals without horns.	We will bring this up as an issue at the regular meetings with the regional offices, for them to inform the district offices about the findings and to consider an increased frequency of inspections and suitable enforcement measures to ensure compliance with the legislation. The head office arranged a meeting with the regional offices in March, on which we planned to bring this up as a subject. Unfortunately there was no time to do this because of other urgent matters. The next meeting is set up in June, and this issue will be at the agenda at that meeting. The cooperative organisations have been informed about the findings, and about our expectations on action from the industry to improve the conditions, at our annual meeting held in April This issue was discussed at the contact-meeting with the regional offices in June.	Action taken
(21) The competent authorities should ensure that, when the total amount of journey time exceed the eight hours, the relevant requirements related to long journeys as set out in Articles 11, 15 and 18 of Regulation (EC) No 1/2005, as well as Chapter VI of Annex I to the Regulation are complied with.	The head office is currently working on drawing up a letter to the regional offices, both to clarify the requirements and to give instructions regarding the follow up at these premises. This issue will also be brought up at contact meetings with the cooperative organisations. Clarification of the requirements and instructions to the Region Offices on how to follow up these issues has been distributed from the Head office in march. This issue has also been at the agenda at our annual meeting with the cooperative organizations (held in April). Deadline provided 2013. A letter has been sent to the	In progress

Mission to Norway from 22 to 31 October 2012 regarding application of EEA legislation related to animal welfare during transport and for laying hens on farms		
(Reference) Recommendation	Information provided by the Norwegian authorities	ESA Assessment
	region offices where this issue is highlighted.	
(23) The competent authorities should ensure that inspections to monitor compliance with the provisions of Directive 1999/74/EC are carried out in accordance with Article 8 of the same Directive.	See point 25 (below). In connection with the changes in the database we will instruct the regional offices to make sure that the relevant measurements are carried out, and that the information registered at the holdings in MATS are updated. Deadline provided 2014	In progress
(25) The competent authorities should ensure that the information on the establishment concerning maximum capacity corresponds to Point 1 of the Annex to Directive 2002/4/EC and that the distinguishing number is composed of a digit indicating the farming method in accordance with point 2.1 followed by the code of the Member State according to point 2.2 of the above mentioned Annex.	NFSA will update the information regarding maximum capacity on laying hens farms, and we will consider changes in the database to be able to allocate distinguishing number in accordance with point 2.1 of the Annex to Directive 2002/4/EC Deadline provided 2014	In progress

Mission to Norway from 7 to 11 September 2009 concerning the application of EEA legislation related to animal welfare on farms		
(Reference) Recommendation	Information provided by the Norwegian authorities	ESA Assessment
(7.4) Compliance with Article 7(1) of Directive 91/630/EEC and with Article 7 of Directive 91/629/EEC could not be ensured since inspections carried out under the responsibility of the competent authority in order to check that the provisions of this Directive and its Annex are being complied with did not cover each year a statistically representative sample of the different rearing systems used in Norway.	Letter to the Region Offices underlining the importance of a statistically representative sample of the different rearing systems used in Norway are to be inspected every year. We will use reports in MATS to check this. We have an ongoing project making reports. We will make reports that include different rearing systems , and the scope of the different inspections. MATS is not totally completed, and we have to have an continuing development of the system when the MATS system is completed. We are at the very end of the work with designing the reports. There are still some testing to be done before we can see the reports as statistically safe to ensure compliance with articles mentioned.	Action taken

4 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY FROM RECENT AUTHORITY MISSIONS

The following tables give a brief summary of findings from recent Authority missions to Norway that were not included in the scope for follow up for the Authority general review mission to Norway in October 2013. All Authority mission reports are available on the Authority website (www.eftasurv.int).

Mission to Norway from 2 to 11 September 2013 concerning the application of EEA legislation related to primary products – food of non animal origin
The objective of the mission was to verify that official controls related to Primary products – Food of non-animal origin were carried out in compliance with the European Economic Area legislation. During the mission several establishments were visited and meetings were organized with the relevant districts and regional offices of the Norwegian Food Safety Authority (NFSA). The mission team found that officers carrying out and planning/organizing official controls were in general competent and fulfilling their tasks in a satisfactory manner. Establishments visited were, in most cases, found to be well organised and managed and fulfilled the hygienic criteria. A system is in place to organize official controls in accordance with risk assessments. However some shortcomings were identified, the main ones listed here: • A company producing sprouts was not registered and was found to be in breach with the general hygienic provisions as laid down in Annex 1 to the Regulation (EC) No 852/2004 on the hygiene of foodstuffs; • A consignment of seeds intended for sprouting entered the country without being accompanied with certificate as required in Commission Regulation (EU) No 211/2013 on certification requirements for imports into the Union of sprouts and seeds intended for the production of sprouts; • Guidelines concerning official controls were lacking, these are currently under construction; • System of risk categorisation used by the NFSA is still at an early stage of development; • Limited attention was paid to verify if samples taken by the producer according to Regulation (EC) 2073/2005 on microbiological criteria for foodstuffs were actually in line with that regulation; • The National Reference Laboratory (NRL) for Salmonella and E.coli was not organizing comparative tests for the relevant official laboratories. 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.

Mission to Norway from 11 to 18 June 2013 concerning the application of EEA legislation related to pure bred bovine animals and intra community trade with semen and embryo of bovines
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

Mission to Norway from 11 to 18 June 2013 concerning the application of EEA legislation related to pure bred bovine animals and intra community trade with semen and embryo of bovines

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.

Mission to Norway from 15 to 19 April 2013 concerning the application of EEA legislation related to Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy (BSE) epidemio-surveillance

The objective of the mission was to verify that official controls related to Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy (BSE) epidemio-surveillance were carried out in compliance with the European Economic Area (EEA) legislation.

Previous related mission on Transmissible Spongiform Encephalopathy's (TSEs) and the feed ban was carried out 31 August to 4 September 2009. Follow up on some of the recommendations from that mission was observed during missions to Norway on animal by-products in September 2010 and mission on feed safety in October 2010. The main outstanding issue is that in Norway the production of ruminant feed may take place in facilities not physically separate from facilities that also produce feed for non-ruminant species containing fishmeal, as long as the two different productions are separated in time. Furthermore, a contamination of the ruminant feed of up to 0,15% of fishmeal is tolerated in Norway. At present, Norway therefore does not fully respect the prohibition of feeding animal protein to ruminants as required by Article 7 of Regulation (EC) No 999/2001.

The current Norwegian monitoring programme for BSE is based on a specific adaptation to Regulation (EC) No 999/2001, allowing Norway to test a random sample of 10,000 healthy slaughtered cattle over 30 months of age per year. Norway has applied for a revision of its annual monitoring programme for BSE.

The shortcomings identified on this mission by the Authority should be fully addressed by Norway and the Norwegian competent authorities. The main needs for improvement were identified in the following

Mission to Norway from 15 to 19 April 2013 concerning the application of EEA legislation related to Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy (BSE) epidemio-surveillance

areas:

- The use of the domestic animal database as a tool to implement BSE control measures can be improved and registration of events in the database was seen not always done within the required time limit.
- Active BSE surveillance is not fully satisfactory as not all required animals in the relevant sub-populations of bovines are sampled and tested for BSE.
- It is not fully ensured that relevant NFSA staff and other stakeholders such as veterinary practitioners, slaughterhouse personnel and animal breeders, keepers and handlers have been given training in the clinical signs relating to BSE.
- Organization and procedures to verify the effectiveness of official controls related to BSE monitoring and the feed ban are not fully in place.
- The competent authority does not regularly verify the competence of the laboratory carrying out official controls related to the feed ban.

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

Mission to Norway from 4 to 13 March 2013 concerning the application of EEA legislation related the evaluation of control systems for the quality of water used and produced by the food industry

The objective of the mission was to verify that official controls related to the quality of water used and produced by the food industry were carried out in compliance with the European Economic Area ("EEA") legislation.

In comparison to the previous mission on quality of water, carried out in November 2007, some improvements were observed although several shortcomings were identified during this mission. Some of these shortcomings were pointed out in the 2007 mission or have been noted during more recent missions to Norway.

The shortcomings identified by the Authority should be fully addressed by Norway and the competent authorities. The main needs for improvement were identified in the following areas:

- the transposition of all requirements laid down in EEA legislation into the national Norwegian legal order, in particular in relation to the minimum frequency of audit monitoring;
- the regular monitoring of the quality of water intended for human consumption in Norway and establishment of appropriate monitoring programmes, by the competent authority, for all water intended for human consumption;
- the fulfilment of relevant requirements related to food-production undertakings to guarantee that water used is potable water;
- the coordination and organization of comparative tests between the official laboratories and the National Reference Laboratory for E.coli;
- the supply of all relevant information concerning potable water to the public and the Authority;

The report includes a number of recommendations addressed to Norway and the competent authorities, aimed at rectifying the identified shortcomings and enhancing the control systems already in place.

Mission to Norway from 21 to 30 January 2013 concerning the application of EEA legislation related to import/transit control systems and border inspection posts

The obligations related to import controls laid down in the European Economic Area (EEA) Agreement are applicable to Norway as regards all products of animal origin and live animals. On the mission six border inspection posts (BIPs) (out of 17 approved BIPs) were visited by the mission team.

The objective of the mission was to verify that official controls related to import/transit control systems and BIPs were carried out in compliance with the EEA legislation.

The mission team found improvements since the last mission carried out in 2009 and that the BIP facilities and veterinary import procedures in general are in line with the EEA agreement and that Norwegian Food Safety Authority (NFSA)remains the competent authority. Evidence was seen of cooperation and coordination between the NFSA and the Customs. Extensive training had been provided to staff in BIPs by the NFSA, however limited training had been provided regarding the use of the TRACES (Trade Control and Expert System) database. In addition, the NFSA had not initiated training of Customs officials in interpretation of Common Veterinary Entry Documents (CVEDs). Official controls are generally carried out in accordance with documented procedures, and instructions for staff had been updated and contained all relevant legislation in BIPs visited. There is not yet a harmonised system of supervision of BIPs in place in line with Article 8 (3) of Regulation (EC) No 882/2004, nevertheless most BIPs visited had implemented systems of verification of official controls including reporting and follow-up. A system of audits of the import control system and the BIPs as required by Article 4 (6) of the same regulation has been launched in 2012 aiming at covering all BIPs in Norway within a 3 to 5 year cycle.

The majority of consignments checked had been correctly pre-notified before arrival. However, it was noted that systematic checks of available cargo manifests or other sources of information was not done in all BIPs visited in order to ensure that all consignments are identified and presented for veterinary control in a BIP. Veterinary checks for identified consignments are generally carried out correctly. TRACES is used correctly for all checked consignments with only minor shortcomings noted. A monitoring plan was developed centrally and samples were taken at a risk basis by the BIPs. The six BIP facilities visited generally complied with the current approval categories.

The main problem noted was that the current customs procedure, which allows customs warehousing until the customs clearance, does not require veterinary checks before the transfer of consignments from the entry point to the warehouse. In addition, the current customs procedure allows transit of products of animal origin without veterinary checks carried out in a BIP. This is not in line with Article 3(4) of Directive 97/78/EC for consignments in transit and warehouse consignments.

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.

ANNEX 1 – ACRONYMS, ABBREVIATIONS AND SPECIAL TERMS

ACRONYM	DESCRIPTION
ABP	Animal By-Products
ACP	NFSA administrative contingency plan
ADNS	Animal Diseases Notification System
BIOFORSK	The Norwegian Institute for Agricultural and Environmental Research
BIP	Border Inspection Post
BSE	Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy
CCA	Central Competent Authority
CDCC	NFSA central disease control centre
CRL	Community Reference Laboratory
CVED	Common veterinary entry document for products of animal origin and for live animals
DTU	Technical University of Denmark
EA	European Co-operation for Accreditation
EC	European Community
EEA	European Economic Area
EEA Agreement	Agreement on the European Economic Area
EEC	European Economic Community
EFSA	European Food Safety Authority
EFTA	European Free Trade Association
EMEO	Working group of officers in EEA Medicine Agencies.
ESA	EFTA Surveillance Authority
EU	European Union
EURL	European Union Reference Laboratories
FBO	Food Business Operator
FCM	Food Contact Material
FHI	The Norwegian Institute of Public Health
HACCP	Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Points
HI	The Norwegian Institute of Marin Research
Husdyrregister	The Norwegian domestic animal database
IAF	International Accreditation Forum
ILAC	International Laboratory Accreditation
ISO/IEC	International Standards Organisation
LBM	Live Bivalve Molluscs
LDCC	Local disease control centres
LED	Listed exotic diseases
MANCP	Multi Annual National Control Plan
MATS	NFSA electronic operating system for official control
MBM	Meat and bone meal
MLA	EA multilateral agreements on accreditation

ACRONYM	DESCRIPTION
MRL	Maximum Residue Limit
NCE	Norwegian Customs and Excise Directorate
NFSA	The Norwegian Food Safety Authority / *Mattilsynet*
NIFES	The National Institute of Nutrition and Seafood Research
NIPH	National Institute of Nutrition and Seafood Research
NMBU	The Norwegian University of Life Sciences
NOMA	The Norwegian Medicines Agency
NPPO	National Plant Protection Organisation
NPRA	Vehicle Licensing Office
NRCP	National Residue Control Plan
NRL	National Reference Laboratory
NVI	The Norwegian Veterinary Institute
NMKL	Nordic Committee on Food Analysis
OFI	Official fish inspector
OIE	World organisation for animal health
OV	Official Veterinarian
POAO	Products of animal origin
RASFF	Rapid Alert System for Food and Feed
SOP	Standard operational procedure
SRM	Specified Risk Material
TAIEX	Technical Assistance and Information Exchange instrument
TRACES	TRACES Trade Control and Expert System
TSE	Transmissible Spongiform Encephalopathy
TVINN	Custom electronic database
VKM	The Norwegian Scientific Committee for Food Safety
VMP	Veterinary Medicinal products