

EU and national statutory and non-statutory residue monitoring plans for animal products

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20 minutes



Scope of presentation

- Statutory monitoring plans:
 - EU Member State National Residue Control Plans (NRCPs)
 - Checks on products of animal origin coming from third countries (“Vet Checks”).
- Non-statutory /retail monitoring of residues
- Further sources of information



EU National Residue Control Plans (NRCPs)

- Meets EU legislative requirements (Council Directive 96/23/EC)
- All EU countries operate similar schemes.
- Focused on home production- targeted sampling at the primary point of production.
- Funded through charge on industry.
- Countries exporting to the EU must have equivalent measures.



Aims of the NRCP

- To detect use of illegal substances as set out in Group A of Annex I, Council Directive 96/23/EC.
- To ensure that medicines are used in accordance with their authorisation and residues are below the MRL.
- Identify causes of residues in foods.



Council Directive 96/23/EC

- Sets out sampling requirements for live animals and animal products.
- National sampling plans and results must be provided to the Commission.
- Compliant results must be within the Maximum Residues Limits (MRL) set in Council Regulation 2377/90.
- Non-compliant results must be investigated.



Commission Decision 98/179

- Sets out rules on official sampling;
 - Sample must be targeted, based on criteria provided;
 - “Suspect samples” should be taken from farm of origin when routine sample(s) analysed under Council Directive 96/23 are non-compliant.
 - Sampling must be unforeseen and unexpected by producers/processing plants.



Targeted sampling on farm

Farms can be chosen using local knowledge or any other relevant information such as:

- type of fattening system
- breed and sex of animals



Targeted sampling at the abattoir

Animals/carcases are selected on the basis of following criteria:

- sex, age, species
- knowledge of the producer
- indication of the use of veterinary medicines
- use of veterinary medicines in particular farming system



Types of “suspect sampling”

- further samples are taken during an investigation visit to the farm of origin of a non-compliant sample;
- samples are taken from an animal detained in an abattoir owing to suspicion about treatment administered to an animal.



What action do we take on non-compliant samples?

Action is taken where residues of:

- Authorised substances are above the MRL;
- Unauthorised substances are detected/confirmed

Action can include:

- Advice to the farmer;
- Stop animals being slaughtered;
- Prosecute in serious cases.



Non-statutory /retail monitoring of residues (1)

- Various systems used in each EU MS
- In the UK:
 - Focuses mainly on imported raw meat, fish and honey;
 - Plan drawn up using the expertise of the Veterinary Residues Committee;
 - Samples obtained from retail outlets and by Port Health Officials at Border Inspection Posts (BIPs)



Non-statutory /retail monitoring of residues (2)

In the UK:

- Laboratory (CSL) operates to internationally accepted standards (ISO17025, Commission Decision 2002/657/EC) and participates in routine proficiency testing;
- Positive samples are followed up through retailer where purchased;
- Where positives (non-compliant) residues are found in imports, CVO contacts exporting country.



Non-statutory /retail monitoring of residues (3)

In the UK:

- Details also passed to the Foods Standards Agency who decide whether to alert the European Commission in the case of imports;
- For serious cases (e.g. presence of unauthorised banned substance) the Commission will issue a Rapid Alert (RASSF) to all Member States;
- Can help plan future surveillance of imported produce and whether there are implications of national surveillance programme.



The UK Veterinary Residues Committee

- Independent expert committee advising the Chief Executives of the Competent Authority (Veterinary Medicines Directorate) and the Food Standards Agency on **all** residue issues;
 - Meets four times a year;
 - Produces Annual Report explaining non-compliant results;
 - Open and transparent. Agendas, meeting papers and minutes all placed on their website:

<http://www.vet-residues-committee.gov.uk/>



Annual Report on Surveillance for
Veterinary Residues in Food
in the UK 2007



Checks on Products of Animal Origin (POAO) coming from third countries (1)

- Products from third countries are subject to checks to protect the health of citizens and animals inside the Community - the “Vet Checks” Directive
- Council Directive [97/78/EC](#) of 18 December 1997 lays down the principles governing the organisation of veterinary checks on products entering the Community from third countries
- Supplemented by [Regulation \(EC\) No 882/2004](#) on official controls carried out on food and feed

<http://europa.eu/scadplus/leg/en/lvb/l12059b.htm#AMENDINGACT>



Checks on Products of Animal Origin (POAO) coming from third countries (2)

- A Product of Animal Origin (POAO) is a product that is derived from animals such as meat, fish and honey and also includes products that may have come into contact with animals such as hay and straw.
- A full list of controlled products can be found in Commission Decision [2007/275/EC](#).
- Products containing POAO (composite products) may also be covered such as a meat pizza. Finished products such as cake and chocolate are not covered.



Checks on Products of Animal Origin (POAO) coming from third countries (3)

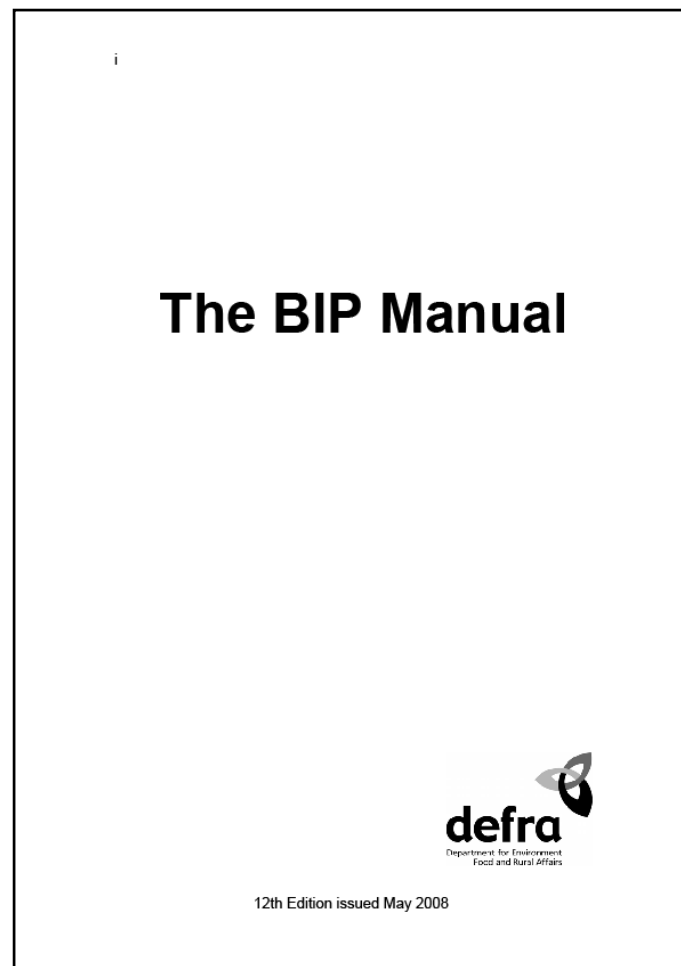
- Checks are carried out at a Border Inspection Post (BIP).
- The BIP is a designated part of the port and is sometimes referred to as a designated point of entry into the Community
- [Commission Decision 2001/881/EC](#) : List of approved Border Inspection Posts (BIPs)
- Latest consolidated list of border inspection posts agreed for veterinary checks on animals and animal products from third countries:



The image shows a small, low-resolution thumbnail of a table from Commission Decision 2001/881/EC. The table lists various border inspection posts (BIPs) across different EU member states, including their names, locations, and the types of goods they inspect. The text is too small to read clearly, but it appears to be a multi-column list.

Checks on Products of Animal Origin (POAO) coming from third countries (4)

- In the UK, the operation of scheme is described in the “BIP manual” including
 - **Identity checks**
 - **Physical checks**
 - **National Monitoring Plan**
 - **Rejection procedures**



<http://www.defra.gov.uk/animalh/int-trde/imports/bips/pdf/bipmanual.pdf>



Further sources of information

Europa website

Activities of the EU: Summaries of legislation:

Section on Veterinary and zootechnical checks:
live animals and products from third countries

<http://europa.eu/scadplus/leg/en/lvb/l12059b.htm>

