



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government



Single integrated national control plan for the United Kingdom January 2007 to March 2011:

Progress in 2010 towards implementation - report for the European Commission

Note

Whilst care has been taken to ensure that the web links contained in this report are correct at the time of publication and submission to the European Commission, changes may occur.

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Enquires will then be forwarded either within the FSA or to other Government Departments as appropriate.

Executive summary

2010 ANNUAL REPORT - IMPLEMENTATION OF THE SINGLE INTEGRATED NATIONAL CONTROL PLAN FOR THE UNITED KINGDOM (JANUARY 2007 – MARCH 2011)

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

1. Overall Effectiveness of Controls

- 89.4% of registered food establishments inspected for food hygiene achieved a satisfactory standard of compliance with food hygiene law, equivalent to the top three tiers of the National Food Hygiene Rating Scheme in England, Wales and Northern Ireland and the 'Pass' standard in Scotland;
- This represents an increase of 3.4% on the last reported figures for 2008-09;
- 2% of meat premises gave cause for concern at their most recent audit (at August 2011), compared with 9% in October 2009.
- There were no major outbreaks of exotic animal diseases in the United Kingdom (UK). Animal Health (AH) investigated significant numbers of reports of notifiable diseases in 2010 with negative results in most cases. The exception was Equine Infectious Anaemia (EIA) which was confirmed three times and, after further investigations successfully controlled.
- The *Salmonella* National Control Programmes for the control of *Salmonella* in poultry continued to be implemented in 2010. A reduction in the contribution of *Salmonella* to the overall burden of food-borne zoonoses has been observed in the UK, especially for *Salmonella Enteritidis*, where a significant decreasing trend in laboratory reports of infection in humans has been reported in recent years.
- Overall the compliance rate during inspections for both welfare on-farm and during transport was 96%. No serious non-compliances were found during inspections of welfare at slaughter on farms.

2. Key data on controls

2.1 Significant developments in relation to main priorities and risk assessment criteria

- The main priorities in relation to official controls and the main risk assessment criteria remained the same in 2010;
- Interventions at higher risk category establishments continue to be prioritised.

2.2 Main trends in intensity and type of controls

Feed and food sectors

- Local authorities (LAs) carried out 557,262 on-site interventions at food establishments, a 5.8% increase on the last reported figures for 2008-09;
- 186,050 formal enforcement actions were carried out, an overall rise of 9.7% from 2008-09, but with a notable increase in the number of prosecutions, closures/ prohibitions and Hygiene Improvement Notices, likely to be due to better targeted enforcement.

Animal health and welfare sectors

- The planned official control programmes in the animal health and welfare sectors were successfully completed. In the plant health sector measures were taken, including recruitment of new inspectors, to ensure inspection targets would be met in future. Delivery agents carried out approximately 129,126 compliance inspections.
- The number of non-compliances associated with aquatic animal trade issues showed a fall of 23% in 2010 as compared with 2009. This was a result of new legislative requirements introduced in 2009 becoming more familiar across industry, and also reflects the advice and guidance Fish Health Inspectorate has given to businesses in order to facilitate effective compliance.
- Animal welfare trends were similar to those recorded in 2009 with an overall welfare on-farm and during transport compliance rate of 96%.

3. **Trend analysis of non-compliance**

3.1 Statement of overall trends in compliance

- Based on collected data, overall level of compliance in all sectors was satisfactory.

3.2 Main types of non-compliance

- Food hygiene and safety;
- Record-keeping/ documentation irregularities;
- Animal Welfare;
- Animal by-products.

3.3 Underlying causes

- Ignorance of the law;
- Criminal and non-criminal negligence.

4. Enforcement: Action taken in cases of non-compliance

4.1 Businesses closed

- Food Businesses – 88 suspensions or revocations of licences; 246 emergency prohibition notices; 91 prohibition orders; 923 voluntary closures;
- 15 meat establishments, subject to veterinary audit, were refused approval, of which eight have upgraded their establishments and obtained conditional or full approval and one is operating under appeal.

4.2 Fines imposed

- 88 financial penalty notices for incomplete compliance with the requirements of the *Salmonella* National Control Programme in laying chicken flocks producing eggs for human consumption.

4.3 Prosecutions

Feed and food sectors

- 405 food hygiene prosecutions and 90 food standards prosecutions by local authorities.

Animal health and welfare sectors

- 43 Home Office cautions issued and 82 convictions achieved (local authorities, DARD and CEFAS).

4.4 Other enforcement actions

Animal health and welfare sectors

- 10,507 oral advice; 4,260 written advice; 1,911 oral warnings; 2,205 formal/written warnings; 288 enforcement/statutory notices.

5. National Systems of Audits

5.1 National systems of audits

- The FSA audited 77 Local Authorities (LAs)/ Department of Agriculture and Rural Development (DARD) Units and carried out 125 audits of official controls at approved meat establishments.
- Two full audits (England & Wales) and five follow up audits (one in Scotland) and four in Northern Ireland covering animal health in general.

5.2 Main results

Feed and food sector

- Individual audit reports are published on the FSA website at food.gov.uk/enforcement/auditandmonitoring/auditreports;
- 540 recommendations arising from audits of LAs/DARD units, most arising from HACCP audits;

- 37 recommendations arising from audits of official controls at approved meat establishments, most concerning the supervision and assessment of official veterinarians.

Animal health sector

- 65 recommendations were made. The audit in England identified some areas of non-compliance; in Wales, Scotland, and Northern Ireland the audit results were satisfactory.

5.3 Main actions taken

- All recommendations accepted by relevant authorities and corrective action agreed. Good practice disseminated through update meetings and training courses;
- Implementation Steering Group oversees implementation of audit recommendations. Management has been proactive in responding to audit recommendations and monitoring their implementation.
- Animal health sector - 34 recommendations in Northern Ireland and 6 recommendations in Scotland were implemented during 2010. For the remaining recommendations action plans are in progress; follow up of these recommendations will be completed in 2011.

6. Resources

6.1 Significant developments in the allocation of

i. Funding for programmes

- Food Standards Agency (FSA) grants for additional sampling of imported food up to a total of £947,000 for 2010-11 made available to local and port health authorities, to support additional sampling of imported food.

ii. Staff

- No significant developments.

6.2 Significant changes in the Laboratories Networks/ National Reference Laboratories (NRLs)

- New NRLs were appointed for non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs and echinococcus.

7. Actions taken to improve performance of control activities

7.1 Proposed changes to Multi-Annual National Control Plan (MANCP)

- No proposed changes other than updates.

7.2 Legislation

- No specific legislation was introduced.

7.3 Organisation

- The Meat Hygiene Service (MHS) merged into the FSA, creating a single food safety body.
- Policy responsibility for nutrition, food composition and labelling in England and nutrition (including nutrition labelling) in Wales was transferred to other government departments; these remain the FSA's responsibility in Scotland and Northern Ireland.
- Defra is now responsible for non-EEA¹⁸ Natural Mineral Water recognition applications made in England. The FSA retains responsibility for applications made in Scotland, Wales or Northern Ireland.

7.4 Procedures

- Revised audit processes to incorporate “reality checks” and enhance pre-audit intelligence.
- FSA Operations and AH introduced a system to report findings of welfare problems found in broiler chickens at slaughter to allow targeting of farms with higher than average findings.
- AH introduced a Field Skills Assessment procedure. The aim was to provide assurance of the quality of field work undertaken. Welfare was included as core field skill in national audit of staff competence.

7.5 Information systems

- Implementation of the Local Authority Enforcement Monitoring System (LAEMS) has made compilation of data easier and has increased accuracy and timeliness.
- UK Food Surveillance System being rolled out.
- Further development of food fraud database.

7.6 Training

- Exercises held to improve Food Alert system. Incidents handling workshops for local authorities.
- Imported food controls for enforcement practitioners.
- Expert witness training for Veterinary Laboratories Agency (VLA) staff.
- Enforcement training for AH field officers – The Enforcement Journey – Field to Court covering legal fundamentals, powers and duties, Police and Criminal Evidence Act (PACE) awareness¹⁹, statement writing and expert witness rules.

¹⁸ non-European Economic Area

¹⁹ legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/1984/60/contents

- Exotic diseases controls for new AH veterinary staff.
- Training day for Veterinary Investigation Officers and AH staff on the requirements of the new *Salmonella* National Control Programme in turkeys.
- Animal health and welfare (including horse welfare) for LAs.
- Training events for inspections procedures for the Meat Chicken Directive.
- Training to prepare inspectors for the ban on conventional cages for laying hens and for assessing compliance with the requirements of enriched cages.
- Better Training for Safer Food (BTSF) – UK Fish Health Inspectors attended the health of aquaculture animals (fish and shellfish) courses.

8. Actions taken to improve the performance of Food Business Operators

8.1 Training programmes

- Hazard Analysis Critical Control Point (HACCP) training rolled out to slaughterhouse staff.
- Foreign language training in FSA in Wales (Chinese, Mandarin and Turkish).
- The National Bee Unit (NBU) carried out 519 talks and 278 practical demonstrations for beekeepers covering honeybee disease recognition, integrated pest management and good husbandry.

8.2 Safety, quality and information campaigns

- Food Hygiene Rating/ Information Schemes introduced to provide customers with user-friendly information on hygiene standards in restaurants, cafes and shops, giving businesses incentives to improve standards; UK wide campaign 'Poor hygiene is bad for your business' to raise awareness and increase usage of tools (e.g. Safer Food, Better Business – SFBB, Safe Catering and CookSafe) to help businesses comply with food law and achieve a higher rating.
- The FSA continued to provide significant support to small food businesses and local authorities via the SFBB programme.
- ADAS²⁰ on behalf of Defra ran a series of welfare awareness campaigns²¹ for farmers throughout the UK to promote animal welfare and good stockmanship.
- DARD organised information campaigns to publicise the forthcoming ban on the conventional laying hen cages.
- *Crimestoppers*²² initiative - Cefas' Fish Health Inspectorate in partnership with *Crimestoppers* and a number of influential industry organisations to gather intelligence that can be used to target aquatic related crime e.g. smuggling of fish into Great Britain.

²⁰ archive.defra.gov.uk/foodfarm/farmanimal/welfare/advice/adas0910.htm

²¹ Details in table 6.32, Chapter 6

²² defra.gov.uk/aahm/guidance/crimestoppers/

8.3 Guides to good practice

- New guidance on:
 - import provisions for certain feed and food of non-animal origin.
 - feed labelling and record-keeping for farmers.
 - UK Guide to the National Control Programme for *Salmonella* in turkey flocks.
 - changes to aquatic health certification requirements for trade in live fish.

Chapter 1 – Introduction

Background

- 1.1 The UK Single Integrated National Control Plan (NCP) (January 2007 to March 2011) was prepared jointly by the FSA, the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra), the Scottish Government Rural and Environment Directorate (SG RED), the Welsh Assembly Government, Department for Rural Affairs (RA) and DARD. The Plan satisfies the requirements of European Community (EC) Regulation 882/2004 on official controls,²³ and:
- describes the roles and responsibilities of the competent authorities and associated bodies responsible for official feed and food, animal health and animal welfare, and plant health controls;
 - outlines how these authorities meet the requirements of Regulation 882/2004;
 - provides an overview of how these authorities and other bodies work together to safeguard public and animal health and
 - sets out the strategic objectives, and planned control activities.
- 1.2 The latest version of the NCP is published on the FSA website at: food.gov.uk/multimedia/pdfs/uknationalcontrolplan.pdf
- 1.3 Regulation 882/2004 also requires Member States to produce annual reports on the implementation of their NCP. This is the fourth report and covers the period 1 January to 31 December 2010. It has been prepared jointly by the FSA, Defra and its agencies, the Health and Safety Executive's Chemicals Regulation Directorate (CRD), the Scottish Government Rural and Environment Directorate (SG RED), the Welsh Government RA and DARD.

Purpose of this report

- 1.3. The purpose of the report is to update the Commission on progress towards implementing the NCP. This is achieved by assessing the effectiveness of the control arrangements and control systems set out in the NCP. This, in turn, is

²³ Regulation (EC) No 882/2004 of the European Parliament and of the Council on official controls performed to ensure the verification of compliance with feed and food law, animal health and welfare rules. Official Journal L191, 28.5.2004, 1-52.

based on the results of official controls and associated activities, and on the findings of audits of the competent authorities. It also reports on developments and improvements as a consequence of the findings.

- 1.4 The report is being submitted to the Commission and will be used by the Food and Veterinary Office (FVO) to inform future audits in the UK. Additionally, this Report and similar reports prepared by other Member States will be included in the Commission report to the Council and European Parliament on the overall operation of official controls.

Scope and content of this report

- 1.5 The scope of this report is consistent with that of the NCP and covers control systems in the UK in respect of feed and food law, animal health and animal welfare rules, and plant health rules under Directive 2000/29/EC.²⁴
- 1.6 The Commission has developed guidance on the content of annual reports on implementation of national control plans, and this has been taken into account.²⁵
- 1.7 It should be noted that in the UK much of the data on official controls and associated activities is collected on a financial year (April to March) rather than a calendar year basis. Additionally, responsibility for many of the control activities covered is de-centralised and the collection, validation and analysis of data at the centre are major exercises, given the number of authorities involved. As a result, analysis of data for the financial year 2010/11 is not always possible. Where this is the case, data for the 2009/10 period has been reported and has been indicated where appropriate.
- 1.8 This fourth report:
- outlines the progress that has been made towards achieving the objectives of the NCP;
 - describes changes to the regulatory landscape;
 - outlines the improvements that have been made to ensure that the competent authorities and other bodies involved in official controls work together to safeguard public, animal and plant health;
 - provides an analysis of the performance of the competent authorities and control bodies and

²⁴ Council Directive 2000/29/EC on protective measures against the introduction into the Community of organisms harmful to plants or plant products and against their spread within the Community. Official Journal L 169, 10.7.2000, 1-112.

²⁵ Commission Decision on guidelines to assist Member States in preparing the annual report on the single integrated multi-annual national control plan provided for in Regulation (EC) No 882/2004 of the European Parliament and of the Council (notified under document number C(2008) 3756). Official Journal L 214, 9.8.2008, 56-65.

- summarises the official controls that have been undertaken and their outcome (including the level of compliance by business operator) and provides information on the actions taken to address non-compliance with the requirements of feed and food law, animal health and welfare rules and plant health law.

Chapter 2 - The United Kingdom National Control Plan: What was achieved in 2010

Overall objectives

2.1 The overall objectives of the National Control Plan (NCP) are to:

1. ensure the effective implementation of relevant Community law;
2. ensure that the United Kingdom (UK) enforces feed law and food law and monitors and verifies that relevant requirements are met, and that systems of official controls and other appropriate surveillance and monitoring activities, covering all stages of production, processing and distribution of feed and food, are maintained;
3. ensure that the UK has an effective system of official controls for monitoring and verifying compliance with animal health and welfare rules; and
4. ensure that the UK has an effective system of official controls for monitoring and verifying compliance with plant health law under Council Directive 2000/29/EC²⁶.

2.2 The arrangements set out in the NCP 2007-2011 for delivering a comprehensive and integrated system of official controls to monitor and verify compliance with feed and food law, animal health and welfare rules and plant health law were maintained throughout 2010. This was achieved by working across central Government and in partnership with our enforcement stakeholders and their representative and professional bodies to take a flexible and proportionate, risk-based approach aimed at protecting public, animal and plant health and consumer interests without imposing unnecessary burdens on the authorities that are responsible for undertaking official controls or on those that are subject to these controls.

2.3 The extent to which planned activities for 2010 in the various sectors, including the animal health and animal welfare sectors, were achieved is described in more detail in chapters 4-6.

²⁶ Council Directive 2000/29/EC on protective measures against the introduction into the Community of organisms harmful to plants or plant products and against their spread within the Community. Official Journal L169, 10.7.2000 1-112

Specific objectives

Feed and food sectors

- 2.4 For the feed and food sectors, the specific objectives of the NCP are to:
- limit and monitor risks to consumers from chemical and radiological contamination;
 - reduce foodborne illness;
 - make it easier for consumers to make informed choices; and
 - protect consumers from food fraud and illegal practices.
- 2.5 These objectives link closely to key targets in the current Strategic or Business Plans for the Government Departments and Agencies that have responsibility at central level for official feed and food controls.
- 2.6 Achievement of these objectives is as follows:
- Local authorities (LAs) carried out 557,262 on-site interventions at food establishments in 2010-11, a 5.8% increase on the last reported figures for 2008-09.
 - 88.9% of registered food establishments inspected for food hygiene in 2010-11 were “broadly compliant” or at a higher standard of compliance with food hygiene law, equivalent to the top three tiers of the National Food Hygiene Rating scheme in England, Wales and Northern Ireland and the ‘Pass’ standard in Scotland. This represents a small increase on the previous year. 48.1% of businesses were in the top tier.
 - 186,050 formal enforcement actions were carried out in 2010-11, a 9.7% increase on 2008-09, with notable increases in the numbers of prosecutions (+22%), closures/ prohibitions (+27%) and Hygiene Improvement Notices (+13%). This increase in the use of formal enforcement actions continues a recent trend, and suggests that LAs are taking effective action to deal with serious and persistent non-compliance.
 - In October 2009, 9% of the 1,063 approved and operational meat premises in Great Britain had audit scores meeting the criteria for cause for concern. This figure reduced to 2% by August 2011.
 - 82% of approved meat premises in Great Britain are achieving adequate or good scores for hygienic production, environmental hygiene / pre-requisites and

HACCP (Hazard Analysis Critical Control Point) in August 2011, compared with 64% in October 2009. As of March 2010, 73% of approved meat premises in Northern Ireland achieved an equivalent standard.

- An extensive audit programme has been completed. Individual LA reports and action plans have been published. Good practice has been disseminated via the reports and FSA Regional Team meetings with Local Authorities and via the Local Government Regulation website.
- Local and port health authorities have continued to apply official controls effectively on imported food, contributing to strategic objectives to ensure imported food is safe to eat by applying risk-based, targeted checks at ports and through LA monitoring of imports throughout the food chain.
- There was a considerable increase during the year in the amount of information on the National Food Fraud Database. Information is gathered from various sources and the intelligence used to assist existing LA investigations and initiate new ones.
- A voluntary Food Hygiene Rating Scheme (Food Hygiene Information Scheme in Scotland) has been introduced. The rating given to each business reflects the findings of LA inspections and the level of compliance with food hygiene requirements.
- The Food Standards Agency (FSA) provided enforcement mechanisms for Commission Regulations governing food contact materials (the Materials and Articles in Contact with Food Regulations 2010) for all four national administrations.
- The Agency continued to monitor food contact material chemical migration as part of a 4 year rolling surveillance programme. In 2010, it focussed on metal migration from packaging, such as aluminium. The results of the survey are to be published in 2011. A survey of photoinitiators and hydrocarbons from inks on paper and board food packaging was initiated.
- New enforcement powers were provided in respect of mycotoxins in general and aflatoxin contamination, (the Contaminants in Food Regulations 2010 for all four national administrations). The FSA continued to monitor mycotoxins as part of the four year rolling surveillance programme in 2010.
- Declarations were issued under Article 35 of the Official Feed and Food Controls Regulations 2009 for Commission Regulations (EC) 1151/2009, 1152/2009, 258/2010 and Decision (EC) 2009/835.

2.7 Further general performance data can be found in the [Annual Report of the FSA for 2009-10](#), the [Meat Hygiene Service \(MHS\) Annual Report for 2009-10](#), the [Chief Scientist of the FSA's report for 2009-10](#), the [UK Local Authority Food Law](#)

[Enforcement Report 1 April 2009-31 March 2010](#), [Operations Group Performance Update April 2010 – January 2011](#) and the [FSA Meat Operational Delivery Annual Report 2010-11](#).

- 2.8 The other competent authorities responsible for official feed and food controls such as the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra) including its agency the Veterinary Medicines Directorate (VMD) and the Chemicals Regulation Directorate (CRD) of the Health and Safety Executive, the Scottish Government Rural and Environment Directorate (SG RED), the Welsh Assembly Government's Department for Rural Affairs (RA), and the Department of Agriculture and Rural Development for Northern Ireland (DARD) have also made progress on meeting their objectives (which are also referred to in the NCP) and there is more detail on how they have performed later in this report. In the case of the Defra and its agencies, this progress is outlined in their annual reports, available at archive.defra.gov.uk/corporate/about/reports/documents/resource-accounts2009-2010.pdf

Animal health and animal welfare sectors

- 2.9 The specific objectives for the UK NCP in these sectors are to:
- protect public and animal health;
 - promote the welfare of animals; and
 - protect the interests of the wider economy, environment and society by preventing, controlling and eradicating diseases, and to encourage international trade.
- 2.10 These link closely to the Animal Health and Welfare (AHW) Strategy for Great Britain and that for Northern Ireland.^{27, 28}
- 2.11 Although there were no major outbreaks of exotic diseases during 2010, work continued across a wide range of risk based projects to improve disease prevention and emergency preparedness. Key activities during 2010 included:
- A Food and Veterinary Office (FVO) mission to the UK was conducted in September 2010, in order to evaluate the animal health controls in relation to aquatic animals. The mission programme included an audit of the competent authorities, the official services and a number of fish and shellfish farming businesses covering the range of aquaculture activities undertaken in England, Scotland and Northern Ireland. The FVO mission report (ref No. DG (SANCO) 2010-8409)²⁹ concluded that the UK has established and implemented a satisfactory regulatory framework for aquatic animal health controls and there were no recommendations for improvement.

²⁷ Strategy for Great Britain is available at: defra.gov.uk/foodfarm/policy/animalhealth/index.htm

²⁸ Strategy for Northern Ireland is available at: dardni.gov.uk/animal-health-and-welfare-strategy.pdf

²⁹ ec.europa.eu/food/fvo/act_getPDF.cfm?PDF_ID=8705

- The UK implemented the Meat Chicken Directive (2007/43/EC)^{30 31} through the Welfare of Farmed Animals Regulations³². Animal Health (AH) ran a pilot study in 2009/2010 to contribute to the evidence for setting the Trigger Intervention points of conditions measured at slaughter as an indicator of on-farm welfare. From 30 June AH and FSA Operations implemented the trigger system for all eligible flocks resulting in all trigger reports generated being assessed for further action. The same trigger report system was in use for 2010 across the UK. DARD produced a draft Welfare Code of Recommendation - Meat Chickens and Breeding Chickens in 2010³³.
 - In January 2010 Equine Infectious Anaemia (EIA) was confirmed in two horses in the south of England, and in two horses in September 2010 at two separate, unrelated locations (north of England and the south-west of England). All three incidents of EIA were not considered to be related, and the disease was most likely to have originated abroad. Following confirmation each infected horse was immediately humanely put down. Surveillance undertaken at all three locations did not detect any further cases of EIA and premises restrictions have subsequently been lifted.
 - The *Salmonella* National Control Programmes (NCPs) for the control of *Salmonella* in specified animal populations continued to be implemented in 2010 in breeding chickens (in place since 2007), laying chickens (since 2008), broiler chickens (since 2009) and breeding/fattening turkeys (since 2010). The prevalence results for 2010 indicate that the levels of the regulated *Salmonella* serovars are well below the EU designated targets: 0.06% for breeding chicken flocks, 0.25% for laying chicken flocks, 0.03% for broiler flocks, 0% for breeding turkey flocks and 0.13% for fattening turkey flocks. Substantial progress continues to be made in controlling *Salmonella* in the UK poultry sectors. A reducing contribution of *Salmonella* to the overall burden of food-borne zoonoses has been observed in the UK, especially for *S. Enteritidis*, where a significant decreasing trend in laboratory reports of infection in humans has been reported in recent years.
- 2.12 In Wales the main focus during the year continued to be the Tuberculosis (TB) Eradication Programme³⁴ which includes comprehensive measures to eradicate bovine TB in both cattle and wildlife.
- 2.13 The Scottish Government entered Phase III of the large scale sheep electronic identification (EID)³⁵ research pilot to build on the practical lessons learnt in

³⁰ defra.gov.uk/food-farm/animals/welfare/on-farm/poultry-welfare/

³¹ archive.defra.gov.uk/foodfarm/farmanimal/welfare/onfarm/meatchks-require.htm

³² WOFAR legislation amendments available at: England: [Welfare of Farmed Animals \(England\) \(Amendment\) Regulations 2010 legislation.gov.uk/ukdsi/2010/9780111503546/contents](http://WelfareofFarmedAnimals(England)(Amendment)Regulations2010/legislation.gov.uk/ukdsi/2010/9780111503546/contents)
Scotland: [The Welfare of Farmed Animals \(Scotland\) Regulations 2010 legislation.data.gov.uk/sdsi/2010/9780111010228/data.htm?wrap=true](http://TheWelfareofFarmedAnimals(Scotland)Regulations2010/legislation.data.gov.uk/sdsi/2010/9780111010228/data.htm?wrap=true)
Wales: [The Welfare of Farmed Animals \(Wales\) \(Amendment\) Regulations 2010 legislation.gov.uk/wsi/2010/2713/contents/made](http://TheWelfareofFarmedAnimals(Wales)(Amendment)Regulations2010/legislation.gov.uk/wsi/2010/2713/contents/made)

³³ dardni.gov.uk/index/publications/pubs-dard-animal-health/pubs-ahw-code-meat-chickens.htm

³⁴ wales.gov.uk/topics/environmentcountryside/ahw/disease/bovinetuberculosis/bovinetberadication/?lang=en

³⁵ scotland.gov.uk/Topics/farmingrural/Agriculture/animal-welfare/IDtraceability/identification

phase I & II of the project and to look at the long term benefits of EID, particularly focussing on the use of a new centralised individual animal database. The emerging findings will continue to inform Government and Industry on the best way to ensure continued improvement of traceability.

- 2.14 The All-Island AHW Strategy involving DARD and the Republic of Ireland was formally agreed at the Agriculture North South Ministerial Council Sectoral meeting in Hillsborough on 31 March 2010. This will enhance North-South co-operation on animal health and welfare issues and has the potential to help reduce and prevent the spread of animal disease and facilitate trade. The ultimate objective of the Strategy is the development of policies which facilitate free movement of animals on the island. Further details can be found on the DARD website at:
dardni.gov.uk/index/publications/pubs-dard-animal-health/pubs-ahw-all-island-ahw-strategy.htm.

Plant health sector

- 2.15 The Plant Health Service is responsible for ensuring that the UK has an effective system of official controls for monitoring and verifying compliance with plant health law under Council Directive 2000/29/EC. Resource constraints, as noted by the FVO, continue to be addressed.
- 2.16 Action continued against on-going disease threats. Additional staff have been recruited for inspection work at key points of entry. The control programme for *Phytophthora ramorum* and *P. kernoviae*, which began operation on 1st April 2009, continued but was subject to review given the spread to Japanese larch. Increasing incidence of findings of *Phytophthora ramorum* in Japanese larch, necessitated the felling of thousands of larch trees, covering 2600 hectares in the south-west of England and in Wales. The oak processionary moth outbreak in oak trees in south-west London was added to by other outbreaks, which were eradicated. The first findings of *Phytophthora lateralis*, in *Chaemacyparis lawsoniana* were reported in Scotland.

Chapter 3 - the Regulatory landscape: what has changed?

Overview

- 3.1 Changes were made to policy responsibilities of Government departments and agencies, which allowed the Food Standards Agency (FSA) to strengthen its core remit covering food safety policy and enforcement. The main body responsible for local government co-ordination was rebranded and two new National Reference Laboratories (NRLs) were appointed.

Competent authorities

Organisational changes at central Government level

FSA

- 3.2 The former Meat Hygiene Service (MHS), previously responsible for the delivery of official controls in slaughterhouses, cutting plants and game handling establishments in Great Britain became part of FSA Operations Group from 1 April 2010.
- 3.3 Whilst the FSA's leading role on food and feed safety, hygiene and food standards (including food safety aspects of labelling and enforcement) remains unaltered, other changes to its remit took place in 2010, following a Government review.
- 3.4 In August 2010, responsibility for food labelling and food composition policy in England (not relating to food safety) transferred to the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra). In September 2010, responsibility for food nutrition policy in England transferred to the Department of Health. The remit of the Agency in Scotland and Northern Ireland remains unchanged, encompassing food and feed safety, labelling, composition, nutrition and dietary health. In Wales all food labelling and composition remains with the FSA, but responsibility for food nutrition policy transferred to the Welsh Assembly Government (now the Welsh Government) on 1 October 2010.

Defra

- 3.5 On 29 June 2010 the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs announced that Animal Health and the Veterinary Laboratories Agency would merge on 1 April 2011 to create the Animal Health and Veterinary Laboratories

Agency³⁶ (AHVLA). AHVLA will work across Great Britain on behalf of Defra, the Welsh Government, and the Scottish Government.

- 3.6 The merger will bring together the majority of animal health and veterinary expertise within one organisation, increasing the resilience of AHVLA operations, including the emergency response capability for animal disease and world class science. The merger will enable more efficient ways of working and reduce costs.
- 3.7 Defra is now responsible for non-European Economic Area (non-EEA) Natural Mineral Water (NMW) recognition applications made in England. The FSA retains responsibility for applications made in Scotland, Wales or Northern Ireland.
- 3.8 The current division of responsibility for official feed, food, animal health and animal welfare controls is summarised in Figures 1 to 3 at the end of this chapter.

Organisational changes in Local Government

- 3.9 LACORS (the Local Authorities Coordinators of Regulatory Services), the local government central body responsible for overseeing [local authority \(LA\) regulatory and related services in the UK](#), became Local Government Regulation (LGR) in July 2010. LGR has since ceased to exist, but some of its core functions are now being undertaken by the Regulatory Support Unit of the Local Government Group. LGR aimed to:
- offer clarity to councils as to what they can offer;
 - deliver better value for money;
 - consolidate and ensure efficiency savings and
 - develop a stronger position with more direction and the ability to exert more influence on government departments.

NRLs

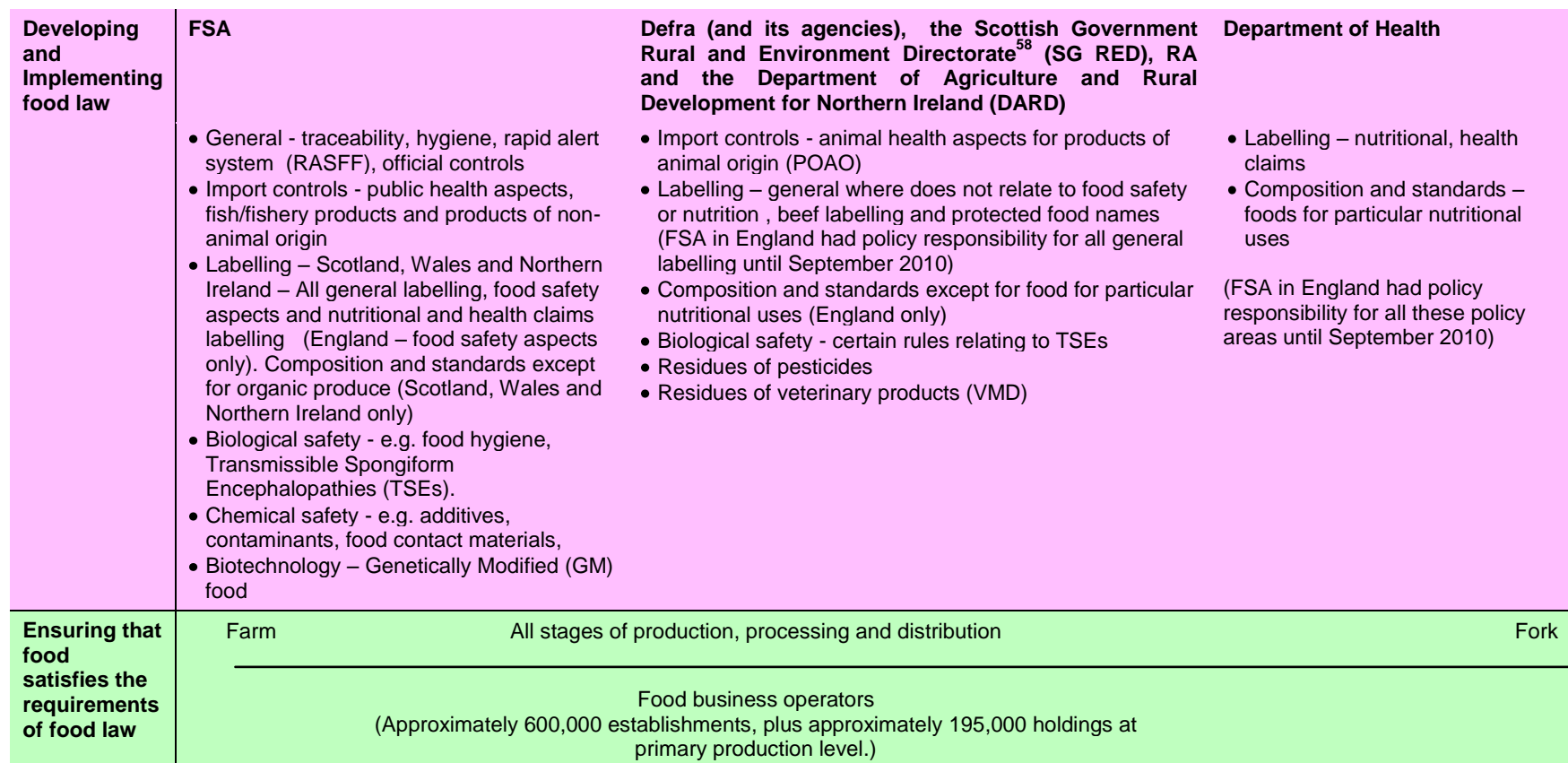
- 3.10 New NRLs have been designated for the provision of certain analytical services. Details are given in Table 3.1 below.

³⁶ defra.gov.uk/ahvla/

Table 3.1: New NRLs appointed in 2010

Analytical activity	Competent authority responsible for appointing the NRL	NRL
Non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs (Group b2E)	Veterinary Medicines Directorate (VMD)	LGC Queens Road Teddington Middlesex TW11 0LY
Echinococcus	FSA	Veterinary Laboratories Agency (VLA), Addlestone, Weybridge, Surrey KT15 3NB

Figure 1 - Division of responsibility for official food controls in 2010 – chart (from previous report – updated to show changes)



⁵⁸ Scottish Government Rural Directorate until 1 April 2010.

Figure 2 - Division of responsibility for official feed controls - at a glance

Developing and Implementing feed law	FSA <ul style="list-style-type: none">• General - traceability, rapid alert system (RASFF), official controls• Import controls• Labelling• Composition and standards• Biological safety - e.g. feed hygiene• Chemical safety - prohibited and undesirable substances• Biotechnology - GM feed				Defra (and its agencies), CRD, the SG RED, RA and DARD <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Animal by-products - feed ban, <i>Salmonellas</i> etc.• Medicated feed• Chemical safety - specified feed additives	
Ensuring that feed satisfies the requirements of feed law	<div><div>Farm</div><div>All stages of production, processing and distribution</div><div>Feed business operators (Approximately 140,000 business in the UK - this includes farms.)</div><div>Feed trough</div></div>					
Official controls in respect of feed law	Central level			Local level		
	VMD <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Medicated feed• Specified feed additives• Veterinary medicine drug residue surveillance	SGRPID <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Primary production feed hygiene controls on behalf of the FSA	Animal Health <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Animal protein in feed ban	DARD <ul style="list-style-type: none">• All feed law controls in Northern Ireland	LAs in England and Wales <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Official controls and enforcement of the main body of feed law, including imported feed (all feed law not enforced by Defra and its Agencies)	LAs in Scotland <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Official controls and enforcement of the main body of feed law, including imported feed (all feed law not enforced by Defra and its Agencies)

Figure 3 - Division of responsibility for official animal health and welfare controls

Policy and Development and implementation of animal health and animal welfare legislation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Defra • SG RED • Welsh Assembly Government, Department for Rural Affairs (RA) • DARD 					
Official controls (Delivery landscape)	Defra Executive Agencies <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Animal Health (including local veterinary inspectors) • Rural Payments Agency (including the British Cattle Movement Service) • Veterinary Laboratories Agency • VMD • Food and Environment Research Agency (FERA) - Bee Health Unit • Centre for Environment, Fisheries and Aquaculture Science (Cefas) Fish Health Inspectorate (FHI) 	Devolved Administrations <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SG RED (Scottish Government Field Officers and Marine Scotland Science) • RA (Rural Payments Wales) • DARD (Veterinary Service Grants and Subsidies Division and Fish Health Inspectorate) 	Other Government Departments <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • FSA (Meat Hygiene Service until 31.3.10) • Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs (HMRC)/United Kingdom Border Agency 	Local Government <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • LAs in Great Britain • Port health authorities • LGR (LACORS until July 2010) - co-ordination role 	Non-departmental Public Bodies <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Environment Agency • Meat and Livestock Commission 	Other bodies <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals

Chapter 4 - Working together to safeguard public, animal and plant health, to protect consumers, and to promote animal welfare: what improvements have we made?

Overview

- 4.1 The National Control Plan (NCP) outlines the main mechanisms in place for facilitating co-ordination and co-operation, on a day-to-day basis and dealing with emergencies, between the competent authorities and other bodies that are responsible for undertaking official controls. It also outlines the mechanisms for competent authorities to assist and co-operate with the European Commission and with other Member States, where issues are identified that may have a potential impact across the Community.
- 4.2 A number of improvements and new procedures were put in place during 2010 and these are reported below.

Co-ordination and Co-operation in the Feed and Food sectors

Local Government Regulation (LGR) Regional and National Liaison Groups for Feed and Food

- 4.3 LGR and the FSA continued working together in 2010-11 and maintained a system of 9 Regional Liaison Groups in England to provide a strategic forum for representatives from Local Food Liaison Groups in the regions. These meetings provided an opportunity for authorities to raise issues or concerns with the Food Standards Agency (FSA) and provide informal feedback on official control activity. There were separate meetings for each of Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland.
- 4.4 Local Authorities (LAs) in England and Wales participated in Food Liaison Group Meetings where co-ordination of activities across the regions was discussed. Animal Health Dairy Hygiene (AHDH) and FSA representatives also attended Food Liaison Group Meetings, in order to facilitate communications between local authorities, Animal Health (AH) and the FSA.
- 4.5 LAs, AH and the FSA in Scotland participated in Food and Feed Liaison Group Meetings, as appropriate. These facilitated communications and the sharing and promotion of good practice.

FSA Support Mechanisms

Regional Presence in England

- 4.6 FSA Regional Teams cover all nine English regions to help maintain links with local authorities and ensure an effective dialogue on enforcement issues. During 2010-11 the FSA organised technical training events. Over 500 LA officers attended this series of events. Regional Co-ordinators attended relevant local Food Liaison Group (FLG) meetings and hosted Regional meetings for FLG Chairs to help ensure delivery of key Agency priorities. During 2010-11 priority has been give to: LA adoption of the National Food Hygiene Rating Scheme; Imported Food Controls; and raising the profile of feed import controls.

Local Authority Enforcement Monitoring System (LAEMS)

- 4.7 LAs reported that implementation of the LAEMS has led to easier compilation of data returns compared with previous manual procedures. Returns are increasingly on time and the data more accurate, with outcomes reported against a comprehensive set of Food Business Operator (FBO) compliance indicators.

Food safety partnership initiative

4.8 Food Hygiene Rating/ Information Scheme

- A key element of the FSA's strategic objective of safer food for the nation is the introduction of the *Food Hygiene Rating Scheme* (FHRS) in partnership with local authorities in England, Wales and Northern Ireland and the further roll out of the *Food Hygiene Information Scheme* (FHIS) in partnership with local authorities in Scotland.

The schemes provide consumers with information on hygiene standards in restaurants and food shops that is easy to use and understand. They harness consumer choice to incentivise businesses to improve standards. The rating given to each business reflects the findings of LA inspections and specifically the level of compliance with the legislative requirements for food hygiene.

Businesses are given stickers showing their rating and encouraged to display these at their premises in places where they can easily be seen. Ratings are published online at: food.gov.uk/ratings.

The FHRS was launched in November 2010 and since then momentum has gathered. All local authorities in Wales now operate the scheme as well as around 40% of authorities in England, and around 65% in Northern Ireland. In addition, around another 20% of those in England and 25% in Northern Ireland are preparing to launch it. The aim is that it will be operating across

all authorities in England, Wales and Northern Ireland in time for the London 2012 Olympics & Paralympic Games.

This momentum is set to continue following a partnership agreement between the FSA and the company that provides services to around 120 local authorities running local 'scores on the' doors' schemes. This agreement aims to facilitate migration of these authorities to the FHRS. The FSA is also working to encourage and support as many as possible of the other 40 or so authorities running other independent local schemes or no scheme to adopt the FHRS.

The FHIS was launched in March 2009 in Scotland and 20 of the 32 authorities are already operating the scheme. On the basis of current LA forecasts, it is anticipated that over 75% will be operating the scheme by April 2012.

More information about the schemes is available at:
food.gov.uk/safereating/hyg/hygieneratings/

Publicity and information

- 4.9 A UK wide campaign targeting food businesses that fell within the scope of the Food Hygiene Rating/ Information Scheme 'Poor hygiene is bad for your business' ran from 25 January – 5 March:- to raise awareness and increase usage of tools (e.g. Safer Food, Better Business - SFBB) and to help businesses comply with food law and achieve a higher rating.
- 4.10 The aim of the campaign was to:
- raise awareness of existing tools (e.g. SFBB) that the Agency has available to help businesses comply with food law, thereby assisting the business in increasing their chance of getting a higher rating when the scheme is introduced; and
 - increase use of these tools.
- 4.11 The campaign incorporated various forms of advertising and leaflets to be distributed via local authorities.
- 4.12 The FSA in Scotland produces a 'Monthly Enforcement Report' summarising issues of interest to the Scottish enforcement community.

Meat Hygiene

- 4.13 A co-ordinated Lead Veterinarian (LV) visits programme is in place in England, Scotland and Wales to provide assurance and assess performance with regard to particular risks or areas of concern. During 2010, the following assessments were completed:

- application of managing attendance policy.
 - follow-up of issues raised during the 2009 Food and Veterinary Office (FVO) Hygiene Mission.
 - implementation of changes to the supervision of Specified Risk Material (SRM) controls, introduced in 2009 and 2010.
- 4.14 An animal welfare survey was commissioned in May 2010 to provide assurance that:
- Food Business Operators were taking active steps to comply with legal requirements and achieve the necessary standards;
 - Official Veterinarians (OVs) and frontline teams were functioning effectively, and that appropriate monitoring and enforcement was being undertaken in the event of FBO non-compliance.
- 4.15 This survey was completed for all red and white meat premises in England, Scotland and Wales.
- 4.16 Improved arrangements for FBO audits were introduced in April (with further changes planned during 2011).
- 4.17 A system to record checks on the accuracy of post-mortem inspection was launched in April 2010 in England, Scotland and Wales. This provided important feedback to field staff and their managers and a high level of consumer assurance. These ongoing performance checks built on previous baseline surveys, carried out for the major food species in 2008 and 2009, and are also expected to assist in measuring the impact of agreed policies on the delivery of official control duties in the future.
- 4.18 Following successful trials, an improved system of recording contamination at post-mortem inspection was rolled out nationwide to all red meat slaughterhouses in November 2010.

“Cause for Concern”

- 4.19 In October 2009, the former Meat Hygiene Service (MHS) launched a “cause for concern” initiative, following consultation with the meat industry. The aim of the initiative was to assist the minority of approved meat plants under veterinary control that needed to improve levels of compliance. In February 2010 the “cause for concern” initiative was adopted in Northern Ireland.
- 4.20 Premises were identified as a cause for concern based on analysis of trends in compliance, and in particular the most recent audit scores for hygienic production, environmental hygiene requirements and Hazard Analysis Critical Control point (HACCP) compliance. “Cause for concern”, as a measure, did not introduce new requirements but focused on specific audit findings. The factors chosen were ones that were controllable by the business.

- 4.21 This initiative has had a positive impact on business compliance. 68% of businesses featured on the list since October 2009 have demonstrated sustained improvement (i.e. remaining out of cause for concern for three or more audits), and 93% are not identified as “cause for concern” at August 2011. No plant had its approval revoked as a result of this initiative. In Northern Ireland only one premise was identified as a “cause for concern” premises.
- 4.22 The audits were completed by OV's using a detailed framework built around an evidence-based assessment. The business could appeal if not satisfied with the outcome. Between 1 April 2010 and 31 March 2011 a total of 2,625 audits of approved meat premises in Great Britain were completed. Seven businesses have appealed the audit findings (less than 0.3%) But none of the appeals was triggered by listing as a “cause for concern” business. In Northern Ireland there were 149 audits in 2009/10 and 177 in 2010/11. One appeal was triggered there by listing as a “cause for concern” business.

Food Surveillance

- 4.23 The UK Food Surveillance System (UKFSS) is established in Scotland and Northern Ireland and continued to be rolled out across England and Wales. UKFSS is a real-time database for recording the results of analysis of official feed and food control samples taken by LAs, Port Health Authorities (PHAs) and the Department of Agriculture and Rural Development for Northern Ireland (DARD). In 2010 steps were taken to link UKFSS with the Health Protection Agency (HPA) and Public Health Wales laboratories. In 2010 UKFSS coverage was extended to include feed sampling analysis by DARD and the Agri-Food Biosciences Institute for Northern Ireland (AFBI) laboratory. In 2010, 100 local authorities were using the system, representing 44% of local authorities able to access the system.

Stakeholder groups

- 4.24 The FSA has a range of stakeholder groups, including those specific to devolved administrations. The groups continued to meet during 2010 and the discussions between them helped to
- achieve greater co-operation and co-ordination;
 - achieve better targeting of official controls in areas of greatest risk; and
 - reduce unnecessary burdens to business.
- 4.25 They helped ensure the Agency has a greater understanding of the practical implications of Regulations and provided a forum for collaborative activity to support business compliance.
- 4.26 In England, Wales and Northern Ireland, LAs responsible for shellfish harvesting areas are required (under the Food Law Code of Practice) to establish and maintain Shellfish Liaison Groups (SLGs) which must meet regularly. Formal

meetings with local industry are held annually or biannually to discuss classification issues and the harvesting of molluscan shellfish. The FSA is a member of all SLGs, and actively encourages informal dialogue with LAs and industry representatives. FSA in Northern Ireland participated in an annual cross-border shellfish meeting with Republic of Ireland competent authorities. In Scotland, all LAs with an interest in fish and shellfish are members of the Scottish Fish Hygiene Working Group, which is a sub-group of the Scottish Food Enforcement Liaison Committee (SFELC). Formal meetings with industry and other regulators took place quarterly through the Scottish Government Shellfish Forum.

- 4.27 Animal Health Dairy Hygiene (AHDH), which carries out official controls in England and Wales, attended Food Liaison Group Meetings in order to facilitate better communication between the local authorities and Animal Health (AH). LAs in Scotland and the Scottish Government Rural Payments and Inspections Directorate (SGRPID), who both undertake primary production food and feed hygiene inspections, participated in the regular Primary Production Enforcement Working Group in order to facilitate communication. In Northern Ireland the work of the Egg and Milk Sub-group, where LAs and DARD QAB discuss activities at approved establishments including dairy, continued.
- 4.28 Measures to encourage co-operation by the central competent authorities and local and port health authorities involved in carrying out import controls continued. The central competent authorities for imported food including the FSA, the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra), the UK Border Agency (UKBA) and AH, met on a quarterly basis to review the effectiveness of official controls. These central authorities and local and port health representatives met twice yearly in the Imported Food Working Group to discuss changes to legislation, best practice and issues of concern. Minutes of the meetings are published at:
food.gov.uk/foodindustry/imports/agency_work/ifwg/.
- 4.29 Central competent authorities responsible for feed law enforcement and representatives of regional inspectorates continued to meet via the Animal Feed Law Enforcement Liaison Group (AFLELG) and its sub groups, including the National Animal Feed Ports Panel (NAFPP). Recommendations from the 2009 FVO Mission on official control of animal feed were discussed. Minutes of the meeting can be found at: food.gov.uk/enforcement/enfcomm/aflelg/. In Scotland, LAs and AMIs met during 2010 via the Scottish Food Enforcement Liaison Committee (SFELC) Sub-Committee.

Training for Enforcement Officers

- 4.30 The following training was provided:

- LA Enforcement Officers – General – The following categories of training have been provided: evidence gathering and interviewing skills; investigative skills; audit of food safety and processes; working with ethnic food

businesses; HACCP assessment; food factory inspection; vacuum and modified atmosphere packing; application of good hygienic practice and HACCP principles in the making of speciality cheeses; feed safety requirements; animal feed sampling; import controls on feed of non-animal origin; feed safety management systems; evaluation of food safety management systems.

- FSA Scotland provided training covering a seizure and detention refresher course; dairy products; report writing; Food Hygiene Information Scheme consistency of enforcement; primary production; imported food sampling; contaminants sampling; imported feed and food standards.
- FSA Wales provided training covering Safer Food, Better Business (SFBB) and FSA Northern Ireland provided meat refresher training.
- Details of the training provided in 2009-10 are at food.gov.uk/enforcement/enforcetrainfund/officertraining/enforcertraining and for 2010-11 at food.gov.uk/enforcement/enforcetrainfund/officertraining/enforcertraining.
- Incidents Training - Incident handling workshops have ensured that local authorities understand FSA's incident protocols and procedures. For the future tools such as e-learning will be used to communicate incident response messages to stakeholders. E-learning was available on food allergens, vacuum packing and sampling.
- Imported Food - Imported Food Controls training material, including an online official Fish Inspectors course, was updated. FSA Northern Ireland provided imported food training for inland District Council Officers.
- Food Contact Materials - A pilot training course on food contact materials was arranged in November for East of England Trading Standards Officers. Training addressed migration test conditions, overall and specific migration testing, method performance guidelines and declarations of compliance.
- Animal Feed - The following training was provided:
 - Feed Safety Management Systems – 7 courses attended by 75 officers;
 - Imported Feed Controls – 3 courses attended by 20 officers. The feed safety management courses were attended by officers from both local authorities, DARD in Northern Ireland, the AML, Animal Health and two officers from another member state.

Guidance for Enforcement Officers

4.31 The following guidance was published:

- Imported Food - Guidance for enforcement officers in all four national administrations was provided on increased levels of official controls of certain feed and food of non-animal origin of known or emerging risk.
- Food Hygiene Rating Scheme - Guidance for local authorities on implementation and operation – the ‘Brand standard’⁵⁹. The purpose of the guidance is to ensure consistency in implementation and operation of the FHRs by local authorities (similar guidance has been produced for the Food Hygiene Information Scheme). The guidance will be kept under review, revised and updated as necessary to reflect the experience of local authorities and any feedback from businesses and consumers.
- The Manual for Official Controls (MOC) of FSA Operations (Great Britain) and DARD Veterinary Public Health Unit (VS-VPHU) (Northern Ireland) were updated following changes in legislation, policy and feedback from operations staff.
- “Cause for concern” – Approved Meat Premises Guidance was issued in August and updated in November on monitoring approved meat premises identified as a “cause for concern.” The guidance is available as part of the Manuals for Official Controls for Great Britain and Northern Ireland.
- Visits to cutting plants - Instructions and an aide memoire for carrying out unannounced visits to cutting plants were introduced in November. These visits are carried out by authorised officers, with support and direction from the LV.
- National enforcement priorities for feed authorities - This can be found at: food.gov.uk/multimedia/pdfs/enforcement/enfe10008.pdf
Parallel letters were issued in Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland. The aim of this guidance is to assist local authorities in better targeting official control activities on animal feed and is based on intelligence gathered by the FSA during 2009 including:
 - feed incidents notified using the European Commission’s Rapid Alert System for Food and Feed (RASFF) and UK on-farm feed incidents;
 - sampling data submitted to the FSA by local authorities; and
 - recommendations by the FVO.

Enforcement priorities have been set out in three short chapters, to help identify priorities relating to: ports of entry; feed compounders and other feed business operators to which Annex II of Regulation (EC) 1831/2003 on feed hygiene apply; primary production. All priorities relate to activities which

⁵⁹ food.gov.uk/enforcement/enfcomm/fhrssteeringgroup/hygieneratingsguidance/

could, if not properly controlled, compromise animal feed safety and public health.

- Primary Production Guidance – Guidance was issued for enforcement officers in Scotland, responsible for carrying out food and feed primary production inspections.
- Food Standards Training Manual – Guidance was issued for enforcement officers in Scotland, responsible for food standards enforcement.
- FSA Website – The FSA website was updated to include new guidance, developments and interested parties' letters. For example a new section on mycotoxins was published in February: food.gov.uk/safereating/chemsafe/mycotoxins and a section on imported food food.gov.uk/foodindustry/imports was maintained and updated.

Grants

4.32 The following financial support was provided:

- Sampling and analysis of imported foods - The Imported Food Sampling Group co-ordinated additional food sampling activities and grants up to a total of £947,000 were made available for that purpose to local and port health authorities. Additional sampling included irradiated Asian noodle-type meals and food supplements, as requested by the Commission.⁶⁰ This funding was additional to that provided by local authorities. The report for 2009/10 is at: <http://www.food.gov.uk/multimedia/pdfs/importsamplesgrants10.pdf>.

The results for 2010/2011 are currently being analysed and will be published in due course at the following link:

food.gov.uk/foodindustry/imports/enforce_authorities/samplingandsurveillance

- Monitoring of chemical migration - Grants were made available to the local authorities to carry out additional monitoring of chemical migration from food contact materials and imports from third countries.
- Food Hygiene Rating Scheme – The FSA provided grant funding to support those LAs in England, Wales and Northern Ireland adopting the Food Hygiene Rating Scheme (see paragraph 26 below). 90 local authorities received grants totalling £491,000 to undertake a range of 'start up' activities identified as critical to its successful launch and implementation.
- Food Hygiene Information Scheme – FSA in Scotland provided grant funding to support local authorities in Scotland adopting the Food Hygiene

⁶⁰ Report from the Commission on food irradiation for the year 2005. Official Journal C 122, 2.6.2007, 3-12

Information Scheme A total of 23 local authorities received grants totalling £135,352 to undertake a range of 'start up' activities identified as being critical to the successful launch and implementation of the scheme.

- Primary Production (Scotland) - £270,000 was provided to LAs and SGRPID to carry out primary production enforcement inspections during 2010/11. A further £4,000 was made available for training.
- Animal Feed - Approximately £110,000 was made available for analysis of feed to detect contaminants such as heavy metals, mycotoxins and dioxins. The results will be published during 2011.

Training for Food Businesses

4.33 The following was provided in 2010:

- HACCP - Training in HACCP compliance and enforcement was delivered to operational staff working in slaughterhouses across the UK. The programme included a compulsory e-learning pre-course module covering HACCP basics and a full day workshop covering legal requirements and scenarios dealing with compliance and effective enforcement.
- SFBB - The primary aim is to allow managers of small businesses to develop food safety management procedures with proportionate record keeping. A secondary aim is to provide a training resource to demonstrate how to prepare and handle food safely in a safe environment.

The FSA continued to provide SFBB and associated training to small and medium sized food businesses. The scheme was launched in 2005 to assist business compliance with Regulation (EC) 853/2004 on the hygiene of foodstuffs. A grant-scheme FSA-funded support programme in England and Wales has proved highly successful.

- FSA in Wales – Welsh local authorities provided the following training for food businesses: Meat Training Council events for butchers; Bengali/ Urdu workshops; Health Protection Solutions; CIEH Level 2 training; Chinese/ Mandarin and Turkish language training; Nursing homes training.

Newsletters were published on: Food Safety Management related projects; Cantonese Translation and Delivery; legal requirements and practical help; Turkish translation and delivery; childminder events.

Guidance for Food Businesses

4.34 The following was provided:

- Imported Food – The FSA has produced guidance for Feed and Food Business Operators on the import provisions for feed and food of non-animal origin of known or emerging risk in all four national administrations.
- Feed Guidance - The FSA has published information and guidance to assist feed business operators to comply with labelling and other requirements required by the new Regulation (EC) 767/2009 on the Marketing and Use of Feed. A copy of the guidance can be found at:
food.gov.uk/multimedia/pdfs/ecfeedregsmarketingguidance.pdf.

Guidance on record-keeping for farmers in England is at food.gov.uk/multimedia/pdfs/afrecordkeepingrequirements.pdf. Similar guidance on record-keeping in Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland has been published.
- FSA in Northern Ireland – FSA in Northern Ireland issued guidance for food business operators on charging for meat hygiene controls and a guide to the law on home slaughter.

Defra and Agencies and Health and Safety Executive's Chemicals Regulation Directorate (CRD)

Border Inspection Posts (BIPs)

- 4.35 Animal Health, Defra & the FSA attended the Association of Port Health Authorities BIP committee meetings to discuss policy developments for imported food and feed of animal origin.
- 4.36 A new version of the BIP manual was issued in August which incorporated recent changes to legislation. The BIP manual can be found at archive.defra.gov.uk/foodfarm/animaltrade/imports/bips/pdf/bipmanual.pdf
- 4.37 BIPs were kept up to date with changes to import controls via OVS (Official Veterinary Surgeons) Notes. Defra and the FSA issued 66 OVS Notes in 2010. They can be found at archive.defra.gov.uk/foodfarm/animaltrade/imports/ovsnotes/
- 4.38 Guidance was provided for HMRC) and UKBA staff describing enforcement of controls on personal imports of Products of Animal Origin (POAO).
- 4.39 BIP update training was organised by AH every six months. Topics included cascade training from the Better Training for Safer Food courses organised by the Commission. Training for Animal Health staff on imports of live animals took place at the meetings of portal staff.

Organic Standards

- 4.40 Defra ensures compliance with organic standards and approves organic control bodies. It confirms each year that these bodies have effective mechanisms in place.
- 4.41 Defra relies on the United Kingdom Accreditation Service (UKAS) to assess organic control body compliance with legal requirements, including accreditation to EN45011. UKAS is the sole body responsible for undertaking accreditation work.
- 4.42 In order to ensure joined-up control procedures, regular communication involving those involved in the control system was maintained. Defra and UKAS met quarterly to discuss UKAS assessment of control bodies and policy developments. The control bodies regularly met Defra at meetings of the United Kingdom Organic Certification Group. There was regular contact involving Defra, UKAS and the organic control bodies via stakeholder and other ad hoc meetings.

Beef Labelling – England and Wales

- 4.43 The Rural Payments Agency (RPA) maintained a beef labelling spreadsheet, containing details of approved licensed premises. The RPA Inspectorate have 'read only' access and use the spreadsheet as a Management Tool to ensure that assigned premises have been visited.
- 4.44 RPA inspections are risk based and the spreadsheet incorporates a traffic light system for identifying low, medium and high risk plants. This ensures that premises that default consistently are targeted early in the tranche year. High-risk premises that subsequently achieved a satisfactory outcome were flagged Purple indicating a 'Potential' risk, and reducing the number of inspections.
- 4.45 RPA has moved towards completion of 'electronic report forms' to speed up processes. The Inspectorate have been fully trained and are aware of procedures. The inspection report form continued to be updated as and when required, and latest versions are e-mailed to the Inspectorate as necessary. Latest versions can be installed electronically and with minimal disruption.

Beef Labelling – Scotland

- 4.46 Scottish Government officials met quarterly with the RPA and the other Administrations to discuss beef labelling controls, including cases of non-compliance. During initial inspections of abattoirs and cutting plants, guidance was given to operators for both the compulsory and voluntary beef labelling schemes. Follow up inspections were done where beef labelling problems had been identified both on compulsory and voluntary level. Regular briefings were held with inspectors and policy personnel to discuss guidelines and inspection reports.

Pesticide Residues Monitoring

- 4.47 CRD met with control bodies to ensure that they were aware of any changes to the requirements and to discuss contract management matters. The food production and supply industry was asked to provide information on their own pesticide residues monitoring programmes, and CRD met with industry groups representing various sectors of the supply chain to update them on developments.

Veterinary Residues Surveillance

- 4.48 A planning meeting for the 2011 National Residue Control Plan (NRCP) was held in September, attended by representatives of the National Reference Laboratories (NRLs), major contractors, the FSA, the Veterinary Residues Committee and the Veterinary Medicines Directorate (VMD). Four meetings of the independent Veterinary Residues Committee, attended by officials from the Department of Agriculture and Rural Development and the FSA were held during 2010. The Committee reviewed progress on the UK NRCP. Papers and minutes of the meetings are published at vmd.defra.gov.uk/vrc/. Meetings with individual contractors were undertaken during the year.

Inspection of Feed Business Operators

- 4.49 The Head of the VMD Inspection and Investigation Team is a member of AFLELG and its sub-group NAFPP. AFLELG includes representatives from central and local government with responsibility for enforcing feed legislation. The Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) and details of AFLELG and NAFPP can be found at food.gov.uk/enforcement/enfcomm/aflelg/
- 4.50 Inspectors took part in regional meetings with LA Feed Enforcement Officers and carried out joint inspections.
- 4.51 The MOU between VMD and LACORS remained in place during 2010. The document aims to promote efficient enforcement of Regulation (EC) 1831/2003 in Great Britain, and to ensure that enforcement is carried out in a manner which minimises duplication of official controls by local authorities and the VMD. A similar MOU between VMD and AH was drafted during 2010.

Co-ordination and Co-operation in the Animal Health and Welfare Sectors

Animal health and welfare sector co-ordination

England

- 4.52 In England the partnership between LGR⁶¹ (formerly LACORS), local authorities and Defra continued during 2010. The revised Framework⁶² (covering England and Wales), introduced in April 2009, was further amended in December 2010. The new Framework no longer specifies national minimum standards but highlights the national priority activities that should be considered by local authorities, in planning the delivery of animal health and welfare services. These are priorities that are deemed to provide a measure of national protection against the incursion and spread of disease across LA boundaries. The Framework details other priority areas for consideration by LAs in planning local service delivery. The Framework encourages an enhanced universal approach to animal health work and performance assessment, enabling authorities to understand the key national priorities of contingency planning, risk assessment, intelligence sharing and changing the behaviour of non-compliant businesses. At the same time, there is sufficient flexibility to allow authorities to respond to local needs, whether this is bovine tuberculosis (TB), poultry disease or supporting isolated rural areas.

Wales

- 4.53 LAs in Wales continued to work closely with the Office of the Chief Veterinary Officer Wales and Farm Development Division. The national priorities set in 2008 (Sheep Scab and the TB Eradication programme) continued as part of the Framework during 2010 with improvements made in the consistency of enforcement and recording of breaches.
- 4.54 Welsh Assembly Government officials worked with Welsh LAs to improve the targeting of inspections and prevent duplicate inspections. The Welsh Assembly Government shares its inspection lists and findings with LAs across Wales to avoid the same farms being visited by Rural Inspectorate Wales (RIW). 'Link' officers in LAs and the RIW, appointed in 2009, met bi-monthly to discuss inspection lists, enforcement issues and best practice.

⁶¹

lacors.gov.uk/lacors/static.aspx?N=0&Ne=0+2000+3000+4000+5000+6000+7000+8000+9000+10000+11000&groupid=1

⁶² lacors.gov.uk/lacors/upload/25860.pdf

- 4.55 The work of a Red Tape Review stakeholder group continued, to encourage AH inspectors to record inspection results on the Animal Health & Welfare Management & Enforcement System (AMES), thereby improving co-operation and sharing of information. To avoid visiting holdings already inspected by another statutory body, organisations such as the Environment Agency (EA) and Farm Assured Schemes have requested AMES “view only” access.

Scotland

- 4.56 In Scotland a Framework Agreement (including recording enforcement activities on AMES) was drawn up and was piloted in 2010 by five LAs with a view to rolling out to other LAs.

Bee Health Co-ordination

- 4.57 There were regular meetings of policy, laboratory and inspection staff. There were six meetings of the Healthy Bees Plan’s Project Management Board (PMB) which includes bee stakeholders and officials from the Food and Environment Research Agency (Fera) and the Welsh Assembly Government. There were ten meetings of PMB working groups, which comprise members from Government and bee stakeholders. The Scottish Government attend these meetings as observers and are actively engaged. The Healthy Bees Plan is aimed at protecting and improving the health of honeybees in England and Wales. Details are available at:
fera.defra.gov.uk/plants/beeHealth/documents/healthyBeePlan.pdf
- 4.58 In Scotland, close working relationships have developed between the Scottish Government and bee stakeholders. A 10 year Honey Bee Health Strategy was published in June which is aimed at securing a sustainable and healthy population of honey bees in Scotland. Strong links have been developed between the Scottish Government and Fera’s National Bee Unit (NBU) where expertise, knowledge and information will be shared. The Scottish Government has also signed up to BeeBase, the NBU’s website and database. BeeBase is designed for beekeepers and supports Defra, the Welsh Assembly Government Scotland’s Bee Health Programmes and the Healthy Bees Plan.
- 4.59 In Northern Ireland, DARD and the AFBI met regularly with beekeeping associations to discuss a range of bee health issues. There was regular contact between Inspectors in Northern Ireland and in the Republic of Ireland to maintain communication links and to share information on bee health matters relevant to the border areas.
- 4.60 During 2010 DARD produced the Northern Ireland Strategy for the Sustainability of the Honey Bee⁶³ (published in February 2011), the aim of which is to achieve a sustainable and healthy population of honey bees, for both pollination and honey production in the north of Ireland, through strengthened partnership working by

⁶³ dardni.gov.uk/index/fisheries-farming-and-food/bees-and-bee-health/strategy-for-the-sustainability-of-the-honey-bee.htm

Government and Stakeholders. The strategy is supported by the Ulster Beekeepers Association⁶⁴ and the Institute of Northern Ireland Beekeepers⁶⁵.

Aquatic Animal Health Co-ordination

- 4.61 Defra and the Scottish Government worked closely with respective official service providers to ensure the effective delivery of aquatic animal health controls. The official services in England and Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland continued to hold an annual meeting of the Fish Health Inspectorates in order to share good practice and ensure that standards of inspection are equivalent across the administrations.
- 4.62 There were several meetings of the National Bacterial Kidney Disease (BKD) Group comprising representatives of the competent authorities, the official services, and stakeholder organisations tasked with the development of a national BKD control policy. A new UK wide policy on the control of BKD was introduced in February 2011.
- 4.63 The Fish Health Inspectorates continued to work in partnership with other delivery agencies, to ensure the enforcement of statutory requirements in respect of movements of live aquatic animals. For example the Fish Health Inspectorate (FHI) in England and Wales continued to work closely with the EA to investigate illegal movements of live fish, and with the Gangmasters Licensing Authority, the Marine Management Organisation and others to investigate non-compliance in the shellfish industry.

Training Initiatives

- 4.64 Training events were held for AH Inspectors covering implementation of the Meat Chicken Directive⁶⁶ and to prepare for the ban on conventional cages for laying hens.
- 4.65 Training was provided for new veterinary staff on exotic disease controls. The course included descriptions of notifiable animal diseases and latest developments in their detection and control. The training prepared field veterinarians in their role as first responders, in the event of the introduction or emergence of a notifiable disease. Delegates were shown animals displaying several of the most significant diseases.
- 4.66 Regular meetings and training events were held by LAs on a regional and national basis e.g. an update seminar for LA officers on animal health and welfare provided by Local Government Regulation. A number of LAs received training on horse welfare, offered by animal charities such as World Horse Welfare.

⁶⁴ ubka.org

⁶⁵ inibeekeepers.com

⁶⁶ EU Council Directive (2007/43/EC)

- 4.67 Expert witness training and UKAS accreditation have reduced the number of occasions when VLA evidence has been questioned by the courts.
- 4.68 During 2010 enforcement training was provided for AH field officers – The Enforcement Journey – Field to Court covering legal fundamentals, powers, duties, Police and Criminal Evidence Act (PACE) awareness⁶⁷, statement writing and expert witness rules.
- 4.69 The new *Salmonella* National Control Programme in turkeys was implemented in the UK in January 2010. A training day for Veterinary Investigation Officers and other Animal Health veterinary staff on the requirements of the programme was held at the start of the year. In addition, guidance was produced for enforcement officers, producers and food business operators.⁶⁸

Northern Ireland

- 4.70 In Northern Ireland two animal welfare training events were held in June for veterinary officers and technical staff. The training included a review of animal welfare inspection procedures on farm, and the link between on farm procedures and European Union (EU) reporting requirements under Decision 2006/778/EC. In addition, DARD provided training on inspection procedures for the Meat Chicken Directive, enriched layer cages and interpretation of the Welfare of Farmed Animals Regulations.

Training Initiatives - Bee Health

- 4.71 The NBU and its Bee Inspectors together with the Scottish Government were pro-active in promoting better husbandry techniques, disease recognition and control with the beekeeping industry. The NBU gave 519 talks (compared with 510 in 2009) and 278 practical demonstrations (322 in 2009). These covered Disease Recognition, Integrated Pest Management and good husbandry. In Scotland inspectors gave talks to local beekeeping associations, which proved to be a useful mechanism for disseminating information. Under the apiculture programme, one full-time Apiculture Specialist is funded by the Scottish Government to deliver advisory, training and education programmes for Scottish beekeepers covering all aspects of Integrated Pest Management and good husbandry.

Training Initiatives - Aquatic Animal Health

- 4.72 UK representatives attended training courses on animal health prevention and control of aquaculture animals for fish and shellfish organised through the European Commission's *Better Training for Safer Food* programme.
- 4.73 The FHI continued to attend trade conferences and stakeholder events, to disseminate good practice and to offer guidance on legislative compliance.

⁶⁷ legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/1984/60/contents

⁶⁸ archive.defra.gov.uk/foodfarm/farmanimal/diseases/atoz/zoonoses/documents/ncp-uk-guidance.pdf

Guidance was published on changes to health certification requirements in respect of trade in live fish, to ensure continuation of trade without disruption resulting from irregular documentation. Significant effort has been invested by the FHI and partner organisations in publication of the *Crimestoppers*⁶⁹ initiative through articles in the press, leaflets and posters.

Emergency and Contingency Planning

Animal health and welfare sectors

- 4.74 For the purposes of exotic animal disease control, Great Britain is considered to be a single epidemiological unit or zone. A co-ordinated disease control approach will therefore be adopted in the event of an outbreak of an exotic notifiable animal disease. AH⁷⁰ has responsibility for delivering the operational response to a disease outbreak and provides input to the English, Scottish and Welsh Contingency plans for an outbreak of Exotic Disease of Animals which are produced by each Government in Great Britain.
- 4.75 In November, Exercise Silver Birch⁷¹ took place to test the response to an outbreak of exotic animal disease. Over 600 participants took part including Ministers, the Defra Management Board, CVOs and senior officials from the Devolved Administrations, as well as international observers, operational partners and stakeholders. The outcome was positive; however, the government will examine any lessons to be learned and ensure they are acted on to maintain and further improve the current high state of preparedness. In addition, each AH Office carried out or participated in at least one local exercise as part of a nationally co-ordinated local and regional exercise programme to examine disease scenarios, test local contingency plans and engage with local operational partners and industry representatives.

England

- 4.76 The Defra Contingency Plan was deployed twice during 2010, on both occasions to respond to cases of EIA in the North East and South West of England. A number of cases of suspect notifiable disease were investigated.
- 4.77 Defra's Contingency Plan⁷² for Exotic Notifiable Diseases of Animals was reviewed and updated in July 2011 to reflect lessons learned from previous disease outbreaks and Exercise Silver Birch⁷³.

⁶⁹ defra.gov.uk/aahm/guidance/crimestoppers/

⁷⁰ Animal Health and Veterinary Laboratories Agency (AHVLA) from 1st April 2011

⁷¹ defra.gov.uk/animalhealth/about/publications/news-documents/silver-birch-evaluation-report.pdf

⁷² defra.gov.uk/foodfarm/farmanimal/diseases/control/contingency-plan.htm

⁷³ animalhealth.defra.gov.uk/about/publications/disease_exercises/exercisesilverbirchbrief.pdf

Scotland

- 4.78 The Scottish Government did not need to deploy its generic Contingency Framework plan during 2010. However, Scottish Government participated in the Silver Birch exercise, which allowed the Scottish Government Generic Contingency Framework plan and Communications Strategy to be tested.

Wales

- 4.79 The Welsh Assembly Government, following an annual review, republished its contingency plans in April. The Welsh Assembly Government Framework Response Plan for Exotic Animal Diseases and the Welsh Assembly Government Overview of Emergency Preparedness for Exotic Animal Diseases complement the plans for Great Britain produced by Defra and incorporated lessons learned from dealing with outbreaks.
- 4.80 The two AH offices in Wales ran exercises aimed at testing the operational response to various exotic animal diseases, including African Horse Sickness. The exercises included policy input from the Welsh Assembly Government and representation from partner organisations such as the Police and LAs. During Exercise Silver Birch, a Local Disease Control Centre was set up in the Carmarthen office and the Welsh Assembly Government response was led from the Emergency Co-ordination Centre Wales. Both deployments were a very successful element of the exercise.

Northern Ireland

- 4.81 DARD Veterinary Service (VS) published the Overview of Emergency Preparedness Plan for Epizootic Disease in April 2010⁷⁴. This plan describes VS peacetime contingency planning function and supports the Generic Contingency Plan.
- 4.82 DARD also tested their contingency plan at operational and tactical level. The operational exercise tested the capability of the Local Epizootic Disease Control Centre to respond to an outbreak of Avian Influenza. The tactical exercise focused on communication. In addition, field exercises were carried out in conjunction with the Northern Ireland Fire and Rescue Service. Lessons learned have been incorporated into amended response protocols.

Bee Health

- 4.83 A surveillance programme for exotic pests was completed in identified 'at risk' apiaries. In Scotland, the current contingency plan is under review to ensure that the lessons learned during the disease outbreaks of the previous two years are incorporated and that the plan is fit for purpose.

⁷⁴ dardni.gov.uk/index/animal-health/cped.htm

Aquatic Animal Health

- 4.84 The Aquatic Animal Health Directive 2006/88/EC⁷⁵ requires publication of contingency plans for exotic aquatic animal diseases. Contingency plans for the control of exotic disease outbreaks in Great Britain have been subject to annual review and the relevant operational manuals were finalised. An aquatic contingency planning tabletop exercise was completed involving Defra, Devolved Administrations and the delivery agencies. Further contingency exercises on the control of exotic disease outbreaks are planned for the future.
- 4.85 In Scotland a substantial review of the contingency plan for *Gyrodactylus salaris*⁷⁶ was undertaken, in response to recent legislative and organisational changes, as well as a desk exercise to test elements of the plan. Generic contingency plans for dealing with exotic, non-exotic and emerging diseases, in accordance with 2006/88/EC, were subject to further development.
- 4.86 In Northern Ireland all contingency plans for non-exotic diseases were reviewed and updated. A contingency plan was developed for the emerging disease OsHV1- μ var and work is continuing, in conjunction with the Marine Institute in the Republic of Ireland and the Foyle Carlingford and Irish Lights Commission (a cross-border body), on development of a cross border contingency plan for *Gyrodactylus salaris*.

Plant Health

- 4.87 Control authorities meet twice each year to discuss matters of mutual interest and ensure a common approach to pest and disease problems. The programme to update Standard Operating Procedures in England and Wales continued. Fera issued several pest notices and updated fact sheets, all of which are available on its website.

Plant Health Contingency Plans

- 4.88 A contingency plan for an outbreak of *Anoplophora chinensis* in England and Wales is being developed. Contingency arrangements in the event of the arrival of the Epitrix potato flea beetle were developed and discussed with industry sectors likely to be affected.
- 4.89 Officials from the Welsh Assembly Government, Forestry Commission Wales (FCW), and Fera Plant Health and Seeds Inspectorate participated in a desktop exercise in November. This confirmed that the existing plan was well drafted and comprehensive, and identified issues relating to its operation. The key outcome was to ensure that all the agencies involved were aware of their roles with regard to ownership and operation of the plan. A number of other areas for minor

⁷⁵ eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=OJ:L:2006:328:0014:0056:en:PDF

⁷⁶ scotland.gov.uk/Uploads/Documents/GsConplan.pdf

improvement were identified and have been developed. The group will meet at least once a year to repeat the simulation process.

Working across the EU

Food

- 4.90 The FSA is the designated liaison body for the purposes of Article 35 of Regulation (EC) No 882/2004 and, as such, is responsible for assisting and co-ordinating communication between competent authorities and the transmission and receipt of requests for assistance. In 2010 the major categories dealt with were: labelling irregularities (43), physical contamination (28), microbiological contamination (4). In each case, details of the complaint were forwarded to the relevant authority, further investigation undertaken where appropriate and reports provided for the originating authority. Enforcement action was taken where necessary and all cases logged on the FSA Incidents Database.

Feed

- 4.91 No requests for assistance from other member states were received. A request for assistance regarding a pet food labelling issue was received.

Chapter 5 - Raising standards and sharing good practice: what was achieved in 2010?

Background

- 5.1 The National Control Plan (NCP) describes how the performance of the competent authorities responsible for official controls is assessed, through audit and other mechanisms, to verify the provision of an effective and consistent service. The NCP highlights where audit systems have been established and where systems are still under development. Where systems are in place, details of the audits that took place during the year are reported. Progress in establishing arrangements for the audit of remaining authorities is reported, and in addition, information provided in respect of audits by the Food and Veterinary Office (FVO) of the European Commission.

Feed and food sectors

Official Controls for which the Food Standards Agency (FSA) is responsible

Annual Reporting - LAEMS

- 5.2 The FSA published data for the period April 2010 - March 2011 gathered by the Local Authority Enforcement Monitoring System (LAEMS). The data and details of Local Authority (LA) enforcement activity, including audit data, were reported in November 2011 to the FSA Board. Primary analyses show that:
- LAs carried out a total of 557,262 interventions at food establishments, a 5.8% increase on the last reported figures for 2008-09.
 - Interventions at higher risk category establishments continue to be prioritised.
 - 89.4% of establishments inspected for food hygiene were at a level equivalent to the top three tiers of the national food hygiene rating scheme.
 - 186,058 formal enforcement actions were carried out, an overall rise of 9.7% on 2008-09 but with a notable increase in the number of prosecutions, closures/prohibitions and Hygiene Improvement Notices.

- Food establishment compliance levels as a whole increased, compared with 2008/09 levels.
- 5.3 The joint working group, with LAs and Local Government Regulation (LGR), reviewed the LAEMS data, to inform future enforcement approaches. The Framework Agreement between the FSA and local authorities was updated and can be found at: food.gov.uk/enforcement/enforcework/frameagree/

LA Audit - Local and Port Health Authorities

- 5.4 Arrangements for the assessment of LA feed and food law regulatory services by the FSA have been in place since April 2001. Authorities are audited against 'the Standard' as contained in the *Framework Agreement on Local Authority Food Law Enforcement*⁷⁷, which sets out the minimum standards of performance expected across the range of feed and food law.
- 5.5 The audit scheme is implemented on a UK basis, with the FSA in England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland co-ordinating their own audit programmes. Details of the 2010 programmes are given in Table 5.1.
- 5.6 Individual audit reports and related LA action plans are published on the FSA website. Audit programme summary reports are compiled, where appropriate, and published. These identify wider policy issues and trends, for consideration by central competent authorities, local authorities and representative groups. All reports can be found at:
food.gov.uk/enforcement/auditandmonitoring/auditreports/
- 5.7 Recommendations from audit programmes were accepted by the appropriate authorities and corrective action agreed. Follow-up audit verification checks ensure that the agreed actions are prioritised and remedial action taken within an acceptable timescale.
- 5.8 One of the key aims of the audit process is to identify and disseminate good practice. Good practice is published on the [LACORS \(now Regulatory Support Unit \(RSU\)\) website](#) and disseminated by way of FSA regional updates, seminars and training courses.
- 5.9 The FSA continued to develop audit policy and to implement revised audit processes to:

⁷⁷ food.gov.uk/enforcement/enforcework/frameagree/

- Incorporate ‘reality checks’ at food establishments, as a routine component of audits of competent authorities. These are verification visits to higher risk food establishments for the purpose of establishing the effectiveness of LA assessment of food business compliance with Food Safety Management systems requirements, and to assess the accuracy of LA inspection records.
- Enhance pre-audit intelligence, data gathering and analysis (e.g. through analysis of the enriched monitoring data now provided through LAEMS).
- Use such data to enhance risk-based audit scoping and the selection of competent authorities for audit; and to improve audit effectiveness.
- Achieve a greater focus on outcomes from the delivery of official controls in food establishments.
- Support and encourage improved monitoring and effective peer review at a local level (‘internal audit’) to complement and inform the ‘external’ audits⁷⁸.

⁷⁸ food.gov.uk/enforcement/auditandmonitoring/auditscheme/iaaudittoolkit/

Table 5.1 - FSA Audit of Competent Authorities ('local authorities'): January – December 2010

Programme	Dates	No. of authorities/ Department of Agriculture and Rural Development for Northern Ireland (DARD) Units	No. of establishment 'reality checks'	Final report(s) issued/published/due	No. of new recommendations
ENGLAND					
Audit of Service Delivery and Food Business Compliance	Jan - March	2	2	Final reports published: food.gov.uk/enforcement/auditandmonitoring/auditreportsl/	39
Audit of Hazard Analysis Critical Control Point (HACCP) compliance in Food Business Establishments	Jan - June	25	25	Final reports, including programme summary report published: food.gov.uk/enforcement/auditandmonitoring/auditreportsl/	303
Audit of Imported Food and Feed	Sept - Dec	13	13	Individual LA reports published. Summary report due to be published (June 2011).	140
Follow-up audits	When due	16	-	Updated LA action plans are published on the FSA website against the original individual LA audit report.	-
SCOTLAND					
Follow Up Audits	March	1	2	Final reports published: food.gov.uk/enforcement/auditandmonitoring/auditreportsl/	0
Assessment of Regulation (EC) No. 852/2004 on the Hygiene of Foodstuffs in Food Business Establishments	May-December	7	14	Final reports published: food.gov.uk/enforcement/auditandmonitoring/auditreportsl/	12

Programme	Dates	No. of authorities/ Department of Agriculture and Rural Development for Northern Ireland (DARD) Units	No. of establishment 'reality checks'	Final report(s) issued/published/due	No. of new recommendations
WALES					
Focused audit of LA official controls in approved establishments	Jan - March	5	10	Individual final reports and a summary report (of the full programme of 10 audits)published: food.gov.uk/enforcement/auditandmonitoring/auditreports/auditfocus/approvedestablishmentswales/	16
Focused audit of LA assessment of Regulation (EC) No 852/2004 in food business establishments	Nov – Dec	3	11	Individual final reports published: food.gov.uk/multimedia/pdfs/enforcement/torfaenaudit2010.pdf food.gov.uk/multimedia/pdfs/enforcement/swanseaaudit2010.pdf food.gov.uk/multimedia/pdfs/enforcement/blanaugwentaudit2010.pdf	16
NORTHERN IRELAND					
Pilot audit, in conjunction with the Food Safety Authority of Ireland, of compliance with the requirements of Article 18 of Regulation (EC) No. 178/2002 with respect to traceability by Food Business Operator (FBO)	March – July 2010	4	5	Individual LA reports issued. Summary report to be issued.	0

Programme	Dates	No. of authorities/ Department of Agriculture and Rural Development for Northern Ireland (DARD) Units	No. of establishment 'reality checks'	Final report(s) issued/published/due	No. of new recommendations
Review and Evaluation of the Northern Ireland Chief Environmental Health Officers Group Scheme for Auditing of Food Safety Controls by District Councils	December 2010	-	-	Summary report issued May 2011.	9
Audit of DARD Veterinary Service (VS) internal audit function responsible for carrying audits of DARD VS-Veterinary Public Health Unit	December 2010	1	1	Final report issued March 2011	5

FSA Internal Audit - Meat Hygiene Controls

- 5.10 Following the merger of the Meat Hygiene Service (MHS) and the FSA on 1 April 2010, audit of Meat Hygiene Controls is now the responsibility of the FSA Internal Audit Team.
- 5.11 Veterinary Auditors routinely audit approved establishments, to assess the effectiveness of arrangements to ensure FBO compliance with legislative requirements.
- 5.12 Instructions and guidance for FSA personnel working in approved establishments are included in the Manual for Official Controls and various policy/procedural documents which, together, provide the standard against which FSA teams are assessed.
- 5.13 During 2010, six audits were undertaken. One high level report is issued for each audit, including prioritised recommendations and agreed timescales for implementation. An overall audit opinion is given based on Auditor assessment. Three levels of audit opinion are used: substantial, limited and poor.

5.14 The current status of audits planned for the year and progress in implementing recommendations are reported monthly to the FSA Chief Executive and quarterly to the FSA Audit Committee. The Audit Committee is made up of five non-executive members of the FSA Board.

5.15 At an operational level, the Audit Implementation Steering Group (AISG) oversees implementation of audit recommendations and monitors progress. The Group meets once a month. Members of the Group include senior operations managers and representatives from meat hygiene policy and internal audit. Overall management were more proactive than in previous years in responding to audit recommendations and monitoring their implementation during the year.

Audit Findings

5.16 Audits in 2010 involved visits to 125 approved meat establishments. The table below gives the audit opinion and number of recommendations:

Table 5.2 - Meat Hygiene Audits 2010

Audit	Audit Assurance Opinion	No of establishments	No of recommendations
Supervision and Assessment of Official Veterinarians in their role as establishment team leaders	Limited ⁸⁷	25	8
Management of Contracts for the supply of Official Veterinarians and Meat Hygiene Inspectors	Limited	-	7
Changes to supervision of BSE and Animal Identification controls Step 4 Phase 1	Limited	20	4
Changes to supervision of BSE and Animal Identification controls Step 4 Phase 2	Substantial ⁸⁸	30	7
Business Agreements	Limited	26	6
Compliance Strategy for GB meat hygiene controls	Substantial	24	5

Designated Official Laboratories

5.17 All official control laboratories are required to be accredited and audited by the United Kingdom Accreditation Service (UKAS). Serious non-compliances are reported to the FSA.

⁸⁷ "Limited" means that there is some risk that objectives may not be fully achieved and some improvements are required to enhance the adequacy and / or effectiveness of the risk management, control and governance.

⁸⁸ "Substantial" means that there is a sound system of internal control designed to achieve the system objectives (any weaknesses observed during the audit are not judged significant enough, individually or collectively, to impede the achievement of business objectives).

Table 5.3: Progress towards establishing audit arrangements for authorities undertaking controls on behalf of the FSA

Competent authority	Control activity	Progress
FSA	Shellfish	All official control laboratories are required to be accredited to ISO 17025 standards by UKAS. UKAS undertakes regular formal audits of accredited laboratories. In addition all UK official control laboratories for microbiological analysis are required to obtain satisfactory scores in a three times per year programme of proficiency tests organised by the Centre for Environment, Fisheries and Aquaculture Science (Cefas) as NRL in collaboration with the UK Health Protection Agency (HPA). Poor performance is followed up by formal audit inspections by the NRL.
FSA	Eggs	There were no audits in 2010 but in the coming year an in-depth review of the delivery of official controls for egg hygiene in the UK will be undertaken and subsequent routine audit of this area will be included in the annual audit plan on a risk basis.
Animal Health Dairy Hygiene (AHDH)	Dairy	Audits were undertaken in 2007 and 2009 and official controls for dairy hygiene in the UK were subject to an in-depth review in 2010. The recommendations made by the review are now being implemented and will be assessed in future annual audit plans.
FSA	Approval and inspection of food irradiation facilities	There is one facility authorised to irradiate food in the UK. This is inspected by FSA officials against the provisions of its approval at a frequency which is proportionate to the amount of food treated. The facility was last inspected in December 2006 and has not irradiated any food since that inspection. It is therefore considered a low risk and no date has currently been set for the next inspection. This will be kept under review and revised if the volumes of food being irradiated increase.

Control bodies

- 5.18 In England and Wales, a statutory programme of sampling and testing of raw cows' drinking milk is carried out on behalf of the FSA by Eclipse Scientific Ltd. Each year sites are audited by UKAS. The 2010 audit was satisfactory.

Animal Health and Welfare sectors

Official Controls for which the Agriculture/Rural Affairs Departments and Agencies and the Health and Safety Executive's Chemicals Regulation Directorate (CRD) are responsible

5.19 In those areas where the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra) and the Agriculture/Rural Affairs Departments in the Devolved Administrations are responsible for legislation, an established system is in place for the inspection of Border Inspection Posts (BIPs) by Animal Health (AH – now part of the Animal Health and Veterinary Laboratories Agency (AHVLA)) and DARD Veterinary Service (VS). Details of inspections undertaken in 2010 are provided in paragraph 5.21.

Veterinary Medicines Residues Monitoring

Veterinary Residues Surveillance

5.20 Planned audit activity on the Veterinary Medicines Directorate (VMD) in 2010 did not take place owing to other pressures. Certain elements of the work, for which the VMD is responsible, are sub-contracted - for example to LGC Ltd (Official Laboratory) who were audited in July 2010. For these inspections VMD include independent auditors in the audit team.

Border Inspection posts (BIP)

5.21 AH was responsible for the evaluation of BIP facilities, documentation and procedures in Great Britain in 2010. In Northern Ireland, the VS undertook these functions. Arrangements and guidance for carrying out inspections were provided to AH Officers and lead Veterinary Officers via AH's Operations manual and update training provided at two meetings in 2010. There were 31 visits to assess BIP facilities and 27 visits to assess BIP procedures. Eleven assessments of facilities and procedures were undertaken at live animal BIPs. All BIPs were inspected at least once in 2010. These visits identified some minor deficiencies in the controls, structure and facilities. In most cases, action to correct these deficiencies has been taken or is underway. However one BIP was delisted as it no longer met the requirements (Manston Product BIP – since listed again but for live animals). Animal Health inspections also cover some public health aspects of import controls, such as training of personnel and sampling.

CRD

5.22 CRD commissions independent internal audits on the effectiveness of:

- risk management;
- control; and
- governance processes.

- 5.23 During 2010 an internal audit of sampling by official inspectors was underway and was completed in April 2011.
- 5.24 An audit plan is set each year. It is signed off and monitored by the Health and Safety Executive (HSE) Internal Audit Committee. Documented audit procedures are in place. Reports are produced and agreed with management for all audits. The outcome of each audit is also reported to the Audit Committee. All audits are followed up as a matter of routine and progress in implementing recommendations monitored and reported to the Audit Committee.

Beef Labelling Controls – Northern Ireland

- 5.25 Apart from management checks of inspection staff, there was no official audit of DARD Quality Assurance Branch Meat Team during the year.

Organic Produce

- 5.26 Defra Internal Audit is developing an audit strategy for its official control functions, which includes oversight of the system for certifying organic produce. The strategy will ensure that all official control functions delegated to local authorities are reviewed by way of a programme of risk-based audits, at least once every five years.

Protected Names

- 5.27 Defra Internal Audit noted that current procedures for the audit of protected food names were compliant with most of the market requirements of Regulation (EC) 882/2004. It was agreed that work to improve the transparency and scrutiny of the audit process, which was in hand, should be completed.
- 5.28 The European Court of Auditors has looked at Defra compliance with control measures in the European Union (EU) Regulations regarding protected names and has not proposed any follow-up action following receipt of Defra's reply to their questionnaire.

Control Bodies

- 5.29 Defra and its agencies employ control bodies: for the collection of samples for residue monitoring and surveillance programmes; to certify organic produce, to verify protected food names; and to verify claims under the 'Beef Labelling Scheme'. Arrangements are in place through contracts or Service Level Agreements to ensure conditions and standards of performance are met. Details of audits/ inspections are given in Table 5.4.

Table 5.4: Summary of audits/inspections of control bodies designated by Defra and HSE to carry out feed and food control activities during 2010

Control body	Control tasks	Progress
LGC Ltd, AFBI, Food and Environment Research Agency (Fera), Eurofins and Science and Advice for Scottish Agriculture (SASA)	Official laboratories	All the laboratories are audited by the independent accredited body UKAS.
Fera, Rural Payments Agency (RPA)	Official sample collection agencies	HSE internal audit reported on these bodies in April 2011. No shortcomings in sampling procedures were identified. Follow-up action is being taken on the minor points identified.
Mintel International Group Ltd	Independent sample collection agency	Audit requirements will be explored as part of the process of reviewing the contract for this work.
Approved private organic control bodies ⁸⁹	Control and certification of organic production (as required by Council Regulation 834/2007) ⁹⁰	UKAS visited all organic control bodies operating in the UK in 2010 to verify compliance with standard EN45011 and to assess their compliance with the control requirements of Council Regulation 834/2007 and Commission Regulation 889/2008. No serious issues were found in the operation of the control bodies' audit/ inspection arrangements.
Private Inspection Body	Ensuring that producers using the protected name are complying with the registered specification for the product in question.	<p>Private inspection bodies are independently accredited and audited by UKAS against European Standard EN 45011 or ISO 65. UKAS maintains a record of those private inspection bodies which have the required accreditation. However, UKAS has no specific audit programme with respect to those bodies. This is something which Defra are discussing with UKAS.</p> <p>Defra are planning to publish more information on their protected food name web pages relating to the inspection process and the respective responsibilities of the UK control bodies and their contact details.</p>

⁸⁹ A list of these bodies is available at archive.defra.gov.uk/foodfarm/growing/organic/standards/certbodies/approved.htm.

⁹⁰ Regulation (EC) No 834/2007 of the European parliament and of the Council on organic production and labelling of organic products and repealing Regulation (EEC) No 2092/91. Official Journal L 189, 20.7.2007, 1-23.

Control body	Control tasks	Progress
National Britannia Certification (Ltd) ⁹¹ was approved in 2010 as an Independent Control Body for the approved industry control programmes the Lion Code Scheme and the Laid in Britain Scheme (the laying chicken sector).	Audit operator testing and take official samples as required by the sector-specific <i>Salmonella</i> National Control Programme for the designated industry assurance schemes and approved industry control programmes. Provision of monthly reports on official sampling visits carried out and participation in monthly stakeholder meetings in 2010 with Animal Health, Defra and the Devolved Administrations.	Overall, the approved industry control bodies for the layer sector completed 1,079 official sampling visits during 2010 – 99.5% of all required visits. The four outstanding visits were completed in January 2011.
SAI Global Assurance Services Ltd ⁹² were approved as the Independent Control Body for the Quality British Turkeys Assurance Scheme in the turkey sector	Audit operator testing and take official samples as required by the sector-specific <i>Salmonella</i> National Control Programme for the designated industry assurance schemes and approved industry control programmes. Provision of monthly reports on official sampling visits carried out and participation in monthly stakeholder meetings in 2010 with Animal Health, Defra and the Devolved Administrations.	The approved industry control body took official samples from 143 turkey flocks (134 fattening flocks and 9 breeding flocks) during 2010.

⁹¹ ukas.org/CertificationBodies/schedules/PROD/0129Product%20Certification_010.pdf

⁹² saiglobal.com/Assurance/Food/LivestockPoultry/AssuredBritishTurkey.htm

FVO audits undertaken in 2010

Table 5.5: Summary of FVO audits in 2010 to assess the effectiveness of official feed and food controls in the UK

Control activities	Report/UK response
Health rules of animal by-products (ABP) (2010-8802)	Report: ec.europa.eu/food/fvo/last5_en.cfm?reptoshow=3&co_id=GB UK response: ec.europa.eu/food/fvo/ap/ap_gb_2010-8802.pdf
Food of non animal origin – import controls (2010-8819)	Report: ec.europa.eu/food/fvo/last5_en.cfm?reptoshow=1&co_id=GB UK response: ec.europa.eu/food/fvo/ap/ap_gb_2010-8819.pdf
Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy (BSE) (2010-8344)	Report: ec.europa.eu/food/fvo/last5_en.cfm?reptoshow=5&co_id=GB UK response: ec.europa.eu/food/fvo/ap/ap_gb_2010-8344.pdf
General Follow-Up – Post General Audit Review (2010-8371)	The final report has not yet been published. The audit followed up a series of actions identified over the years in successive FVO audits. Amongst other things, the competent authority was asked to provide information relating to how non-compliance was followed up in the food chain with small operatives and non-retail sources. The improvement of the turnaround time between chemical analysis and follow up of results was also identified as an action point. The CA had introduced a new system of reporting and following up results with faster turnaround time for commodities of higher risk of residues.

5.30 The recommendations made during these audits have been undertaken or are being addressed, as discussed with the FVO.

Animal Health and Welfare Sectors

England

5.31 The review of the Defra assurance framework for official controls was completed in July 2010. The purpose of the review was to clarify the current position across members of the Defra network and other delivery partners regarding compliance with Regulation 882/2004 audit requirements. The main findings of the audit were as follows:

- some progress had been made in developing audit arrangements between LAs and AH;
- audit arrangements for bee health (on which controls are undertaken by Fera) and aquatic animal health (undertaken by Cefas) need to be more in accord with the requirements of Article 4(6) of Regulation 882/2004;
- the FSA and the RPA, the other major bodies responsible for delivering animal health official controls, have audit arrangements in place.

5.32 The recommendations from this audit will be followed up during 2011.

Scotland

5.33 Further to last year's update, Internal Audit Division (IAD) carried out a follow-up review of its initial scoping study and the agreed Action Plan. The Scottish Government Official Feed and Food Controls (OFFC) Co-ordinating Unit has turned around what was a complex, disjointed area of control, into one that now has a sound framework, with much clearer lines of communication and accountability with other control bodies and official controls partners.

5.34 Of the eight agreed recommendations stemming from the Action Plan, with the exception of one which was superseded by events and one that had been partially implemented, all have now been implemented fully. The partially implemented recommendation related to a need to amend and finalise the existing draft of the Scottish Government/LA framework document, once the current pilot exercise across six LAs has been completed. It is hoped that this pilot will be completed by the summer of 2011.

5.35 With regard to the Scottish Government five year audit strategy, IAD has started, but have yet to finalise a review of four discrete areas where the Scottish Government has operational, policy and/or official control responsibility.

Wales

5.36 The Welsh Assembly Government audit strategy covers the period up to 2011. The strategy is reviewed annually, based on a risk assessment undertaken in accordance with the Welsh Assembly Government Risk Management Framework.

5.37 Within the 2009/10 audit plan the Corporate Governance and Assurance Division of the Welsh Assembly Government carried out one audit on Welsh Assembly Government Responsibilities over Animal Health & Welfare Elements of Regulation (EC) 882/2004. Two minor recommendations were made. The overall opinion was full assurance that controls were operating satisfactorily.

5.38 During 2010 a three year audit strategy was put in place to cover the years 2011-14. The Strategy outlines, at a high level, how audits will be planned, executed and reported.

Northern Ireland

5.39 During 2010, DARD Internal Audit Branch (IAB) continued with implementation of the audit strategy covering arrangements for animal health and welfare controls for which DARD are responsible. DARD IAB has completed audit work in the following areas:

- Fisheries Inspectorate - of the 21 recommendations made, 18 have now been implemented.
- VS Controls - of the 15 recommendations made, 12 have now been effectively implemented, 2 are on-going and one has been closed.
- Animal and Public Health Information System (APHIS)⁹³ - audit commenced in 2009, with the final report being issued on 26 January 2010 with a limited opinion. This limitation was due to a weakness discovered where various tests and their details (type of test, date due, date finished, status, herd number, animal number etc) which had been carried out in relation to the UK MANCP, could not be viewed on APHIS. Management have provided assurance that corrective action to address this weakness is being incorporated into a new system, currently been developed.
- Contingency Arrangements - A total of 3 recommendations were made and a satisfactory opinion was given. All recommendations have been implemented.

Control Bodies

5.40 In the area of animal health most control bodies employed by Defra and its agencies are either:

- private laboratories undertaking diagnostic analysis in relation to animal health controls; or
- commercial carrier companies undertaking the basic checks required to ensure that animals entering the UK under the Pet Travel Scheme (PETS)⁹⁴ comply with the law.

5.41 Arrangements are in place through contracts or Service Level Agreements between the competent authority and the controls bodies to ensure conditions and standards of performance are met. Details of audits/inspections of control bodies during 2010 are given in Table 5.6.

⁹³ eservices.ruralni.gov.uk/online-services/secure/aphis.asp

⁹⁴ Details of PETS, approved commercial transport carrier companies, routes and countries are available at: defra.gov.uk/wildlife-pets/pets/travel/pets/index.htm

Table 5.6: Audits/inspections of control bodies in relation to animal health controls during 2010

Control body	Control tasks	Progress
Orchid Cellmark Ltd ⁹⁵	Scrapie genotyping service under contract to Defra in support of the Great Britain Voluntary Scrapie Flocks Scheme and the Compulsory Scrapie Flocks Scheme ⁹⁶ , and separately to DARD for the Northern Ireland Scrapie Plan ⁹⁷	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> April 2010 - ISO 17025:2005 audit by UKAS: a surveillance assessment of Cellmark's entire scope of accreditation and management systems. Several improvement actions were raised and satisfactorily completed, none of which related directly to the scrapie genotyping service. September 2010 - ISO 9001: 2008 audit by SGS UK Ltd⁹⁸ at which visit Cellmark was also assessed for ISO14001:2004 certification (Environmental Management Systems). Minor non-conformities were raised and satisfactorily addressed. Overall UKAS and SGS adjudged the systems in place at Cellmark to manage conformity with the required standards for testing to be effective, efficient and robust and continued accreditation/certification was recommended and granted following the audits. Throughout 2010 Cellmark participated in Defra's proficiency testing scheme where the Veterinary Laboratories Agency submitted blind samples of known genotypes every month, up to October 2010. All proficiency samples were genotyped correctly. The process of submitting blind samples monthly has been reviewed and the most cost effective, proportionate approach will be taken in 2011. <p>No major issues were identified in 2010.</p>
Private laboratories authorised to undertake work in respect of the Animal By-Products Regulations 2011 ⁹⁹ , the Control of Salmonella in Poultry Order 2007 ¹⁰⁰ , the Control of Salmonella in Broiler Flocks Order 2009 ¹⁰¹ ,	Laboratory examination of samples for the detection of <i>Salmonella</i> , <i>Enterobacteriaceae</i> , <i>Clostridium perfringens</i> and <i>Mycoplasma</i> .	During 2010, most laboratories complied with the test samples Quality Assurance requirements. Under the Quality Assurance scheme where laboratories suffer two or more failures they are required to be inspected. No inspections were required in 2010. All laboratories involved in testing for <i>Salmonella</i> under the requirements of the <i>Salmonella</i>

⁹⁵ The most recent issue of the schedule of accreditation to ISO 17025:2005 is available on the UKAS website at ukas.org (testing laboratory no.2045)

⁹⁶ Information on the CSFS is available at animalhealth.defra.gov.uk/managing-disease/notifiable-disease/scrapie/national-scrapie-plan/compulsory-scrapie-flocks-scheme.htm

⁹⁷ Information on the Northern Ireland Scrapie plan is available at: dardni.gov.uk/index/animal-health/animal-diseases/bse/scrapie-introduction/northern-ireland-scrapie-plan.htm

⁹⁸ Information about SGS is available at: quality-register.co.uk/bodies/body38.htm

⁹⁹ The Animal By-Products (England) Regulations 2011 (SI 2011/881)

¹⁰⁰ The Control of Salmonella in Poultry (England) Order 2007 (SI 2007/2574) and equivalent legislation in the Devolved Administrations

¹⁰¹ The control of Salmonella in Broilers (England) Order 2009 (SI 2009/260) and equivalent legislation in the Devolved Administrations

Control body	Control tasks	Progress
the Control of Salmonella in Turkey Flocks Order ¹⁰² and the Poultry Health Scheme ¹⁰³ .		National Control programmes were accredited to ISO 17025 by UKAS.
PETS - Commercial Transport carrier companies ¹⁰⁴ approved by Defra to bring dogs, cats or ferrets to the UK	Basic checks of pet passports (including microchips)	During 2010, 93,443 animals entered the UK under PETS. Animal Health carried out spot checks/inspections on approximately 5-10% of those animals. This surveillance is carried out randomly at entry points throughout a 24 hour period. Where any non-compliance was found, the carrier was informed and the animal was either re-exported or placed in quarantine depending on the circumstances. No carriers were suspended or had their agreements terminated during the year.

FVO missions

5.42 As part of the FVO general audit of the UK one specific mission took place to verify that official controls take place in accordance with the UK MANCP and in compliance with Community law in the relevant animal health - see Table 5.7. The report of this mission is published on the Commission website, together with the UK response plan (web-links are given below).

Table 5.7: Information about FVO audit in relation to animal health and welfare controls during 2010

Control activities and reference	Report/UK response
Animal health - aquaculture animals (MR 2010/8409)	Report: ec.europa.eu/food/fvo/act_getPDF.cfm?PDF_ID=8705 UK response plan ec.europa.eu/food/fvo/ap/ap_gb_2010-8409.pdf

European Court of Auditors audit of the organic controls system

5.43 The European Court of Auditors (ECA) audited the organic control system in 2010. This formed part of a wider audit of EU organic control procedures. This involved the ECA selecting a number of Member States and auditing the organic control systems in these countries to see how EU organic control measures were being implemented and applied. The UK was the first Member State that the ECA visited in relation to this exercise.

¹⁰² The Control of Salmonella in Turkey (England) Order 2009 (SI 2009/3271) giving effect to Commission Regulation (EC) No 584/2008 implementing Regulation (EC) No 2160/2003 of the European Parliament and of the Council as regards a Community target for the reduction of the prevalence of *Salmonella* Enteritidis and *Salmonella* Typhimurium in turkeys. Official Journal L 162, 21.06.2008 P3 – 7

¹⁰³ businesslink.gov.uk/bdotg/action/detail?itemId=1082280459&type=RESOURCES

¹⁰⁴ Details of PETS, approved commercial transport carrier companies, routes and countries are available at: defra.gov.uk/wildlife-pets/pets/travel/pets/index.htm

5.44 It is unlikely that the overall findings will be published until later this year.

Chapter 6 – Implementation of Official Controls in 2010

Background

- 6.1 The Food Standards Agency (FSA), the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra) and its agencies, the Agriculture/Rural Affairs Departments in the Devolved Administrations and the Health and Safety Executive (HSE) have continued to work together to ensure that the system of official controls operates effectively. The National Control Plan (NCP) sets out the planned control activities of the various competent authorities involved for the period of the Plan and this Chapter provides information on the implementation of these control activities and reports on the results.

Overview

- 6.2 Currently available results of official controls for 2010 indicate that the overall level of compliance of business operators in all sectors was satisfactory.

Official controls in the feed sector

- 6.3 In line with FSA priorities for 2009, enforcement authorities have worked on improving the accuracy of information on the number of feed business operators. For the first time a single register of feed business operators was compiled during October 2010. Data returns for 2009/10 show an increase in the number of Feed Business Operators (FeBOs) reported: from 140,000 in 2009 to 185,000 during 2010. A breakdown by major feed sectors is listed below - see Table 6.1. The major increase in numbers of FeBOs reported has been primary producers. The FSA and the Veterinary Medicines Directorate (VMD) have published lists of the feed businesses approved in accordance with Article 19 of Regulation (EC) 1831/2003 on feed hygiene. These lists have been sent to the Commission and can be accessed at the link below. For more information, see food.gov.uk/multimedia/pdfs/ukfeedapproved.pdf.

Table 6.1 – Registered and approved feed businesses – 2009-2010 (only main categories listed)

Type of feed business	Number of businesses
Primary producers/ Livestock farms	166,663
Manufacturers and packers	1,476
Food businesses placing co-products into the feed chain	813
Importers	122
Distributors/transporters	1,344

Local Authority (LA) and Department of Agriculture and Rural Development for Northern Ireland (DARD) controls

- 6.4 LAs and DARD report statistical information on their annual control activities to the FSA. The data collected includes the number of inspections, re-visits, advisory visits, and sampling visits, also on the number of samples and analyses. This is set out in Table 6.2 below.

Table 6.2 Types of control intervention – 2009-10

Type of feed business	Number of businesses
No. of inspections	18,288
No. of revisits	365
No of FeBOs given advice	8,316
No of sampling visits	1,582
Total Number of Samples	3,841

- 6.5 These figures indicate an increase in the level of enforcement activity compared with calendar year 2008. Reasons for this include the increasing priority given to feed law enforcement in light of the introduction of the feed hygiene requirement, which came fully into effect in 2008, and increased levels of reporting. However, it is recognised that that levels of control undertaken by individual local authorities vary considerably, an issue which will be addressed as part of the FSA's programme of audits planned on feed controls during 2011/12.

LA and DARD action on non-compliances

- 6.6 LAs and DARD reported the following use of formal enforcement activity during 2009/10.
- 6.7 In general terms, there was a good level of compliance by feed business operators with feed law, for which the FSA acts as the central competent authority. LAs issued 1,272 warning letters (of which 677 were to livestock

farmers) for non-compliance identified for the first time and which did not present an immediate threat to feed safety.

6.8 During 2009/10, LAs/DARD issued 56 improvement notices (33 were livestock farms), one emergency prohibition order, one prohibition notice and five cautions. Seven prosecutions were initiated, of which three were pet food retailers.

6.9 During 2009/10 competent authorities sampled a wide range of feedstuffs. The results of analysis are summarised below.

Table 6.3 Results of sampling analysis of feedstuffs

Substances	No of analyses	% satisfactory
Constituents	8,418	91.9
Undesirable Substances	8,988	96.8
Feed Additives	1,955	92.5
Total analyses	19,361	94.0

New Legislation/ Guidance

6.10 The UK introduced enforcement and other provisions to implement Regulation (EC) 767/2009 on the Marketing and Use of Feed, and guidance for feed business operators (see Chapter 5).

Veterinary Medicines Directorate (VMD) controls

Inspections process

6.11 The VMD carries out inspection of feed business operator premises on a risk-based frequency of between 2 and 4 years for compliant businesses. The inspection interval may be reduced depending on the number and nature of the non-compliances noted. At the conclusion of an inspection, instances of compliance and non-compliance are brought to the attention of the feed business operators in a written report. Where appropriate, advice is given and enforcement measures taken.

Inspection of Feed Business Operators (FeBOs)

Table 6.4: Summary of official controls undertaken by VMD in 2010

	Commercial Feed Mills	On-Farm Mixers	Distributors
Number of Approved premises at 31/12/10	141	630	374
Inspections Carried Out			
Approval (new)	4	37	37
Scheduled	76	192 ¹⁰⁵	76
Special/Follow Up	7	11	3
Other	3	0	1

6.12 The official controls carried out by the VMD inspectors included physical inspection of premises and equipment, and the taking and analysis of feed samples.

6.13 Samples were taken from all categories of manufacturers and a wide range of products, both feedstuffs and pre-mixtures, and were tested for the presence of a range of VMPs and SFAs. A number of samples were taken as part of coccidiostat residue investigations and tested for residues of those substances.

Tables 6.5 and 6.6 Samples taken as part of coccidiostat residue investigations

Total number of samples: 91

Total No. of samples tested for declared level of active ingredient: 85	
No. of these within permitted tolerance levels	66
No. outside tolerance	17
No. not analysed	2

Total No. of these samples tested for unintended carryover: 6	
No. of these found to be contaminated	1

Compliance by operators and of products

6.14 Of 283 FeBO premises inspected (Scheduled/Approval), 130 were found to be fully compliant.

- For Commercial Feed Compounders the main areas of non-compliance were (in descending order): hygiene/tidiness/pest control issues, labelling

¹⁰⁵ The number of scheduled inspections of on-farm mixers includes 49 visits where no inspection was actually carried out due to the premises being inaccessible to the inspector as a result of the visit being unannounced (to comply with an FVO recommendation). Unannounced inspections were trialled for 6 months but were then stopped due to inspectors being unable to carry out inspections in nearly 40% of the visits made.

issues, MFS (Medicated Foodstuffs) prescriptions and Hazard Analysis Critical Control Point (HACCP) issues.

- For On-farm Manufacturers incorporating veterinary medicinal products/specified feed additives into feedstuffs for feeding to their own livestock, the main non-compliances observed were (in descending order): hygiene/tidiness/pest control issues, quality control issues (including homogeneity testing, carryover testing and sample retention), HACCP plans and MFS prescription issues.
- For Distributors the main areas of non-compliance were HACCP/Documented procedure issues and MFS Prescription issues.

6.15 There was a good level of compliance with legal requirements by manufacturers and distributors of specified feed additives, pre-mixtures and medicated feedstuffs in 2010. The non-compliances observed were generally minor and did not warrant more formal action being taken. However, two Improvement Notices were served. Both were on on-farm mixers. One failed to carry out appropriate quality checks, the other failed to record the batch numbers of VMPs used and to retain samples of feed manufactured. No seizure notices were served on feed business operators in 2010.

6.16 Improvement and seizure notices are published on the VMD website – vmd.defra.gov.uk/public/enforcement_notices.aspx.

Protein in animal feed controls

1) Background

6.17 Compliance with the transmissible spongiform encephalopathy (TSE)-related livestock feed controls in Great Britain is monitored by AHVLA through the National Feed Audit (NFA)¹⁰⁶. In Northern Ireland, these controls are carried out by DARD. The inspection programme is risk-based in accordance with Regulation (EC) No. 882/2004. The risk assessment establishes the level of visits needed to audit feed production and handling standards throughout the feed supply chain. Feed samples are tested for prohibited animal proteins at the AHVLA (the National Reference Laboratory (NRL) for animal proteins in feedstuffs) using the microscopic analysis test (MAT) and other methods as appropriate. The programme also covers investigation of any potential breaches of the ban, and the taking of appropriate protection and enforcement action. The results of the feed survey in 2010 indicated a high level of compliance with the controls.

2) Inspection programme in 2010

¹⁰⁶ Further information on the NFA is available at:
archive.defra.gov.uk/foodfarm/farmanimal/diseases/atoz/bse/statistics/nfa.htm.

6.18 A summary of the inspection and sampling programme, including breaches and enforcement action, is provided for Great Britain in tables 6.7, 6.8 and 6.9 below.

Table 6.7 Summary of 2010 inspection programme for controls of animal protein in animal feed in Great Britain

Stage	Number of inspections comprising checks on the presence of processed animal proteins	Number of breaches not based on laboratory testing but, for example, on documentary checks
Import of feed materials	16	0
Storage of feed materials	37	0
Feed mills	576	1
Home mixers/mobile mixers	202	0
Intermediaries of feedingstuffs	25	0
Means of transport	28	0
Farms keeping non-ruminants	92	0
Farms keeping ruminants	572	0
Farms keeping both ruminants and non ruminants	1,142	1
Total	2,690	2

Procedural breaches included the following:

1. March 2010 – inadequate separation of sheep feed from dog food kept in a store bin at a small livestock farm/ animal rescue centre (see Table 6.9 below for further information).
2. October 2010 –fishmeal bags at a feed mill were not labelled adequately.

Table 6.8: Summary of 2010 sampling programme for controls of animal protein in animal feed in Great Britain

Premises	Number of samples collected by Animal Health (AH) tested for processed animal proteins			Number of non-compliant samples					
				Presence of processed animal protein from terrestrial animals			Presence of processed animal protein from fish		
	Feed materials	Compound feedingstuffs		Feed materials	Compound feedingstuffs		Feed materials	Compound feedingstuffs	
		For ruminants	For non-ruminants		For ruminants	For non-ruminants		For ruminants	For non-ruminants
At import	327	23	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Feed mills	794	1,176	378	1	0	0	0	0	0
Intermediaries/ storage	382	17	6	0	0	1	0	0	0
Means of transport	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Home mixers/ mobile mixers	73	172	141	0	0	0	0	0	0
On farm	298	1,902	866	0	1	0	0	0	0
Fats & vegetable oils	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total	1,881	3,290	1,391	1	1	1	0	0	0

Table 6.9: Summary of prohibited processed animal proteins found in samples of feedingstuffs intended for farmed animals

	Month of sampling	Type degree and origin of contamination	Sanctions (or other measures) applied
1. Livestock Farm	March	Terrestrial animal, fish bone and muscle fibres and bovine, ovine, porcine & avian DNA were detected in feed. Origin – dog food	Movement restrictions were applied to ruminants during the investigation. Following a veterinary risk assessment all ruminants which had access to contaminated feed were killed and destroyed without compensation.
2. Store	April	Terrestrial animal bone, muscle & feather were detected in feed. Origin - incorporation of feather meal in a protein meal for export to a third country with no bilateral agreement.	Batches at port awaiting export were returned to manufacturing site. The business was notified in writing of the legislative requirements relating to exports to third countries.
3. Blender of Food Factory Vegetable (FFV) oil from several sources including 'flash fryers' of chicken/ fish	August	Muscle fibres were detected in sample of blended FFV oil destined for spray-coating ruminant feed pellets.	Restrictions were applied requiring FFV oil from 'flash frying' sources to be sent only for use in non-ruminant feed. Further guidance will be issued to the feed industry.

Animal protein in feed - summary of the effectiveness of controls, non-compliance and enforcement in Great Britain

6.19 The TSE feed ban controls continued to remain effective. Enforcement of rare incidents of non-compliance varied depending on the severity and implications of the incident. The Lead Veterinary Officer for the National Feed Audit programme, which is carried out in Great Britain to monitor compliance with BSE-related livestock feed controls, ensured that risk assessments on feed businesses were carried out, and monitored the performance of the programme through audits,

Actions taken to improve the performance of feed business operators

6.20 Compliance with the TSE feed ban was very high. Any issues were raised with feed industry representatives through contact with trade bodies such as Agricultural Industries Confederation (AIC) and the Feed Fat Sector. [Guidance on the TSE feed ban](#) was available on the Defra website.

3) Inspection programme for Northern Ireland in 2010

6.21 A summary of the 2010 inspection programme for Northern Ireland is provided in Tables 6.10 and 6.11.

Tables 6.10 and 6.11: Summary of 2010 sampling programme for controls of animal protein in animal feed in Northern Ireland

Type of premises	Number of processed animal protein inspections
Merchant	44
Feed mill	113
Farm	19
Haulier	1
Total	177

Stage	Number of samples tested for the presence of processed animal proteins	Positive
Import/ Mill store	112	0
Feed mill	105	0
Home Mixer	15	0
Intermediaries	10	0
Total	242	0

Official Controls in the Food Sector

Competent authorities

- 6.22 Responsibility for monitoring and verifying compliance with and enforcement of food law is shared. For the most part, responsibility lies with local and port health authorities. For the remaining controls, responsibility is divided between central Government Departments and their agencies (see Figure 1 in Chapter 3). Details of the control activities of these authorities during 2009/10 are outlined in the following paragraphs.

Local and port health authority controls

- 6.23 The introduction in 2008/09 of FSA Local Authority Enforcement Monitoring System (LAEMS) for reporting local authority (LA) official controls activity has allowed automatic data transfer from LAs to the Agency. This provides a more accurate and enhanced database, better analysis opportunities and more robust baselines from which to track trends. In addition to quantitative information on LA official control activities and actions, LAEMS collects data on the levels of compliance with food law, as assessed by LA food officers during routine inspections, and food law enforcement officer staffing levels. (Data for the year April 2010 to March 2011 will not be available until late 2011). Data is available for the financial year April 2009 to March 2010. Primary analysis is given in Chapter 5.
- 6.24 The joint working group with LAs and the Local Authorities Co-ordinators of Regulatory Services) LACORS (now RSU) continued its work to consider the LAEMS data, and to inform future enforcement approaches and delivery.

Food Hygiene and Standards Enforcement

- 6.25 The following charts summarise information for enforcement actions in respect of food hygiene:

Table 6.12: Enforcement actions 2010/11 – Food Hygiene

	Voluntary closure	Seizure, detention and surrender of food	Suspension/ revocation or approval or notice	Emergency prohibition notice	Prohibition order	Simple caution ¹⁰⁷	Improvement notice	Remedial action & detention notices	Written warnings	Prosecutions concluded
England	693	220	87	214	76	354	5,078	62	126,501	348
Northern Ireland	11	61	0	2	0	15	90	1	5,139	10
Scotland	126	24	0	27	14	0	1,208	10	16,874	20
Wales	85	36	1	3	1	22	648	4	13,526	27
UK	915	341	88	246	91	391	7,024	77	162,040	405

Table 6.13: Comparisons of enforcement actions between 2008/09 and 2010/11 – Food Hygiene

	Voluntary closure	Seizure, detention and surrender of food	Suspension/ revocation or approval or notice	Emergency prohibition notice	Prohibition order	Simple caution ¹⁰⁶	Improvement notice	Remedial action & detention notices	Written warnings	Prosecutions concluded
2010-11	915	341	88	246	91	391	7,024	77	162,040	405
2009-10	749	325	36	303	141	264	7,276	68	145,181	349
2008-09	608	377	19	235	82	346	6,082	31	147,805	305
% change 2010-11 vs 2008-09	34%	-11%	78%	4%	10%	12%	13%	60%	9%	25%

Table 6.14 Enforcement actions 2010/11 – Food Standards

	Voluntary closure	Seizure, detention and surrender of food	Simple caution ¹⁰⁶	Written warnings	Prosecutions concluded
England	4	57	81	9,489	69
Northern Ireland	0	11	6	965	6
Scotland	4	5	0	2,419	3
Wales	0	6	120	1,183	12
UK	8	79	207	14,056	90

Table 6.15 Comparisons of enforcement actions between 2008/09 and 2010/11 – Food Standards

	Voluntary closure	Seizure, detention and surrender of food	Simple caution ¹⁰⁷	Written warnings	Prosecutions concluded
2010-11	8	79	207	14,056	90
2009-10	7	85	181	10,745	118
2008-09	1	73	214	8,744	83

¹⁰⁷ 'Simple cautions' do not apply in Scotland

- 6.26 The higher levels of enforcement actions in 2010-11 compared with the 2008-09 figures included in the 2009 annual report appear to reflect greater concentration by LAs on non-compliant establishments and better use of the enforcement tools available to them.

Tackling Food Fraud

- 6.27 In 2010 further progress was made in developing the National Food Fraud Database. The Database generates intelligence using information gathered from various sources and assists existing LA investigations as well as initiating new investigations. The amount of information submitted by LAs has increased considerably. In 2010, 890 records were created on the Food Fraud Database, a figure comparable to that for 2009 and more than twice that for 2008. Availability of a significantly larger data set has enabled production of improved intelligence, enabling the FSA to provide greater assistance with local authority investigations.

Import controls

Food

- 6.28 Local and port health authorities have continued to apply official controls effectively on imported food, contributing to the strategic objective of ensuring that imported food is safe to eat.
- 6.29 The FSA provided grants to enforcement authorities for sampling and analysis of imported food for the years 2009/2010 and 2010/2011 (i.e. year ending March). The summary report and key findings for 2009/2010 are available at the link below:
food.gov.uk/foodindustry/imports/enforce_authorities/samplingandsurveillance/
- 6.30 Results for 2010/2011 are currently being analysed and will be published in due course at the following link:
food.gov.uk/foodindustry/imports/enforce_authorities/samplingandsurveillance/

Local and Port Health Authority controls – Imported Food

- 6.31 In 2010, local and port health authorities undertook official controls on food imported from third countries to check compliance with European Union (EU) food law requirements, and applied EU safeguard measures. The results of these official controls are held at local level. Results of non-compliant products are submitted to the Commission as Rapid Alert System for Feed and Food (RASFF) notifications. Results of controls under Regulation (EC) 669/2009 are sent to the Commission quarterly.

Imported food – Sampling activities

Table 6.16: Results of EU Safeguard Measures on Various Imported Foods

Decision / Regulation	Country	Product	Hazard	Number of consignments	Number testing satisfactory	Number testing unsatisfactory
2007/642/EC	Albania	Fishery products (certain species)	Histamine	0	0	0
2008/630/EC as amended by 2010/387/EU	Bangladesh	Crustaceans	Certain pharmacologically active substances	51	48	3
601/2008	Gabon	Fishery products	Heavy metals / sulphites	0	0	0
2006/236/EC as amended by 2008/660/EC (repealed 17.4.2010)	Indonesia	Fishery products (wild caught)	Heavy metals	0	0	0
2010/220/EU (from April 2010)	Indonesia	Farmed fishery products	Certain pharmacologically active substances	59	59	0
2009/727/EC (repealed July 2010)	India	Crustaceans	Nitrofurans	1	1	0
2010/381/EU (from July 2010)	India	Aquaculture fishery products	Certain pharmacologically active substances	54	51	3
2008/352/EC replaced by 258/2010 from March 2010	India	Guar Gum	Pentachlorophenol & dioxins	22	22	0

6.32 In general there is a good level of compliance with safeguard measures. For farmed fishery products from Indonesia there were no failures.

6.33 Food samples were tested for Polycyclic Aromatic Hydrocarbons (PAHs) (185 samples) and Dioxins/Polychlorinated Biphenyls (PCBs) (45 samples) as part of the 2010 imported food testing coordinated programme.

6.34 Live animals and products of animal origin (POAO) imported from third countries were subject to veterinary checks at the point of origin into the UK at Border Inspection Posts. In 2010 14,401 consignments of live animals were checked, and 62,460 consignments of products of animal origin received documentary and identity checks with physical checks being carried out in accordance with the percentages laid down in Decision 1994/360. Data on these checks and information on any samples taken were recorded on the Trade Control and

Expert System (TRACES). During the year additional samples were taken under the requirements of Commission safeguard measures on imports of fish and fishery products, but this additional work did not affect the level of controls undertaken in other areas. 694 consignments were rejected: of which 250 were re-exported, 3 were used for another purpose and 441 were destroyed. Where the results of the checks revealed a public health risk, a RASFF alert was issued. Where checks on POAO revealed excess residues, serious infringements or repeated infringements additional checks were carried out on the next 10 consignments.

6.35 Additional controls and prohibitions on imported food were implemented, and the FSA issued guidance on the application of the controls to enforcement practitioners at points of entry for the following new and amended measures introduced in 2010 –

- Additional controls on certain feed and food listed in Annex I of Regulation (EC) 669/2009 as amended.
- Additional controls on aquaculture fishery products from India and Indonesia due to certain pharmacologically active substances.
- Replacement measures on guar gum from India.
- Amendment measures on crustaceans from Bangladesh.
- Extension of period of suspension of certain bivalve molluscs from Peru due to hepatitis A.

6.36 Actions to ensure the effective operation of official controls included the following:

- The Imported Food Control Resource Pack was updated and a major review initiated (completed February 2011).
- Training on imported food controls continued to be provided for enforcement practitioners.
- The dedicated imported food web pages were updated.
- The database on Guidance and Regulatory Advice on Import Legislation (GRAIL) was maintained.

Mycotoxins in Food

6.37 The FSA provided effective enforcement mechanisms for Commission Regulations governing mycotoxins in food i.e. the Contaminants in Food Regulations 2010 for all four national administrations (legislation.gov.uk/ukxi/2010/2228/contents/made) and for Commission Regulation (EC) No 1152/2009 governing aflatoxin contamination of certain foods from certain third countries and reporting of data to the Commission on the import of such foods - a Declaration under Article 35 of the Official Feed and Food Controls Regulations 2009)

(food.gov.uk/foodindustry/imports/). These provide a legal basis in UK for enforcement of such Commission legislation.

- 6.38 The FSA provided expert advice and coordination on mycotoxin contamination incidents and continued to monitor for mycotoxins as part of the rolling surveillance programme. It focussed on a range of mycotoxins in baby foods and foods for infants and young children, patulin in apple juices and ergot alkaloids in cereal products. The results of the survey are due to be published in 2011. Results from the survey from the previous year investigating mycotoxins in a range of cereal-based products were published in 2010 (FSIS 04/2010¹⁰⁸).
- 6.39 The FSA undertook sampling and analysis for mycotoxins as part of its National Coordinated Risk-Based Food and Feed Sampling Programme. It continued to fund a project to assess oat agronomy practices that may affect the amount of the mycotoxins T2 and HT2 that occur in oats in the UK. This is intended to help inform discussions on limit setting at EU expert working group and help establish best practice for managing such occurrences.

Local and Port Health Authority Controls

- 6.40 Official controls for aflatoxins, as prescribed in Commission Regulation (EC) No. 1152/2009, were carried out by competent authorities e.g. Port Health Authorities at the Designated Points of Introduction. Information was collated, recorded and reported to the Commission quarterly. Official controls on consignments were carried out under Commission Decision 2008/47/EC concerning pre-export checks of peanuts from the USA.
- 6.41 Unplanned official controls were carried out on food lots to check compliance with maximum levels laid down in Commission Regulation (EC) 1881/2006, e.g. following suspicion of non-compliance as detected from informal sampling.
- 6.42 Official control samples for mycotoxins were taken as part of the National Coordinated Risk-Based Food and Feed Sampling Programme. Such information on official controls was used to gather intelligence on potential high risk commodities, reinforce existing official controls and help to formulate the high risk list of food of non-animal origin under Commission Regulation (EC) 669/2009 (which came into force in January 2010) as regards contamination by mycotoxins.

Results

- 6.43 Controls on mycotoxins in food resulted in 111 RASFF notifications in 2010, the majority of which were border rejections and so affected products did not reach the market. There were 79 RASFFs in 2009, 136 in 2008, 127 in 2007. A large proportion (70) of RASFFs notified in 2010 were for spices, in particular from India. This is likely to be due, in part, to increased controls on these foods carried out under Commission Regulation (EC) No 669/2009. 28 UK RASFFs were

¹⁰⁸ food.gov.uk/science/surveillance/fisbranch2010/mycotoxins

notified relating to mycotoxins in nuts and nut products from other third countries, some of which are subject to special EU import controls. Instances of non-compliance included cereals, in particular rice from Pakistan and maize based products from Africa.

- 6.44 Over 250 official control samples were taken as part of the FSA funded National Coordinated Risk-Based Food and Feed Sampling Programme. Samples taken included nut and nut products, herbs and spices, oil seeds and cereals. All samples were found to be compliant for mycotoxins.

Table 6.17: Results of official controls in the UK regarding aflatoxins in imported foods carried out in accordance with Commission Regulation (EC) No 1152/2009, in 2010.

Foodstuffs including processed and compound thereof originating or consigned from certain countries	Number of consignments			
	Imported	Subject to sampling and analysis	Non-compliant for mycotoxins	Non-compliant for insufficient documentation
Brazil – Brazil nuts in-shell	0	N/A	N/A	N/A
China – Groundnuts	741	153	7	0
Egypt – Groundnuts	0	N/A	N/A	N/A
Iran – Pistachios	5	0	0	1
Turkey – Dried figs	136	25	0	0
Turkey – Hazelnuts	493	57	3	0
Turkey – Pistachios	62	9	0	0
Turkey – Mixtures of figs, hazelnuts and pistachios	98	16	1	0
USA – Almonds (subject to VASP)	624	37	1	2
USA – Almonds (not subject to VASP)	2	1	0	1
Totals	2161	298	12	4

- 6.45 No product subject to the Regulation was imported from Brazil or Egypt in 2010. Overall the level of non-compliance is low and similar to 2009.

Imports of POAO

Reports

- 6.46 Commission Regulation 206/2009 requires details of checks for illegal personal imports of POAO to be sent to the Commission. This was done on 3 March. The Annual Review of Controls on Imports of Animal Products, which will be laid before Parliament in September 2011, recognises the continued joint efforts made during the year across Government Departments to combat the risk of major diseases entering Great Britain through illegal imports from third countries. It concludes that much has been achieved in raising public awareness and in assessing the risks.

Publicity campaigns for travellers

- 6.47 Defra, UKBA, and the FSA have jointly helped raise awareness of the rules governing personal imports. This included TV programmes and TV adverts on minority ethnic channels. Around 65,000 UKBA leaflets have been made available in various languages summarising the rules on personal imports.

Food Contact Materials

- 6.48 The FSA has provided effective enforcement mechanisms for Regulations (EC) 1935/2004, 2023/2006 and 450/2009 i.e. The Materials and Articles in Contact with Food (England) Regulations 2010, with similar legislation for Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland.
(<http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukxi/2010/2225/contents/made>)
- 6.49 The FSA has provided expert advice and coordination on chemical migration from food contact materials incidents and continued to monitor chemical migration as part of a 4 year rolling surveillance programme to monitor for migration from packaging into foods. In 2010 the focus was on metal migration from packaging, such as aluminium. Results of the survey are to be published in 2011. A survey commenced in July 2010 to study the migration of selected ink components such as photoinitiators and plasticisers from printed cartonboard materials into foodstuffs and work will be undertaken to determine the occurrence of mineral hydrocarbons in printed cartonboard packaging materials.
- 6.50 The FSA continued to fund a project to establish screening test procedures capable of measuring the extent of set-off of a wide range of ink components to the food contact surface of packaging. This work will help inform a risk management strategy to ensure compliance with Regulation 1935/2004.
- 6.51 Funding was provided for sampling of food contact materials under the Local Authorities Imported Food & Feed Sampling Programme. In 2009/10 21 samples of ceramics (lead and cadmium migration and compliance with Council Directive 84/500/EEC) and 231 samples of jar gaskets (phthalates and compliance with Directive 2007/19/EC) were sampled. All ceramics were compliant: 49 of the 231 samples tested for Phthalates were found to be non-compliant.
- 6.52 The FSA investigated the migration of primary aromatic amines (PAAs), from nylon kitchen utensils to check for compliance with Commission Directive 2002/72/EC. Of the 107 samples tested, 35 were found to be non-compliant. As a consequence 27 RASFFs were raised in 2009. The remainder of the non-compliances were reported via RASFF in 2010 when the survey concluded.
- 6.53 In 2010 20 RASFFs were issued for food contact materials.

Table 6.18: RASFFs for food contact materials

Number of RASFFs	Issued for	Result of	Relevant legislation
17	Primary Aromatic Amines (PAA)	6 – FSA funded surveillance, 11 – LA testing	Directive 2002/72/EC
1	Corrosion of metal packaging	Incident report	Regulation (EC) 1935/2004
1	Formaldehyde migration	LA testing	Directive 2002/72/EC
1	Phthalates from jar gaskets	LA testing	Directive 2007/19/EC

6.54 The FSA issued a new updated version of its ‘Explanatory Note: Legislation Controlling Contaminants in Food and Food Irradiation’ - <http://www.food.gov.uk/foodindustry/guidancenotes/foodguid/legcontamfood>.

Meat hygiene

Current Performance - Meat

- 6.55 In the last few years, there has been a focus on ensuring consistency of delivery of official controls in approved meat premises across the UK, through the development, provision, monitoring, analysis and evaluation of performance management information at establishment, cluster, business area and national level. Key Performance Indicators are now in use at various levels within the operational structure.
- 6.56 A performance dashboard has been developed which focuses on the key deliverables. At the highest level, it presents the overall national picture but can be drilled down further to provide performance within each Business Area and cluster to determine local performance relative to the national picture.
- 6.57 Food business operator compliance and enforcement activity for food and feed controls is provided in the performance report presented to the FSA Board in March 2011 - <http://www.food.gov.uk/multimedia/pdfs/board/fsa110310.pdf>.
- 6.58 An initiative for handling premises identified as a cause for concern, introduced in October 2009, based on analysis of trends in compliance, and in particular the most recent audit scores in relation to hygienic production, environmental hygiene / pre-requisites and HACCP and has had a positive impact on food business operator compliance in approved meat premises.
- 6.59 At the time of launch, the cause for concern process was implemented in 67 approved meat premises in Great Britain. By August 2011 the number of premises identified as a cause for concern had reduced to 9 from a total of 142 that had featured on the list since October 2009 and none of the plants. By

August 2011 only one out of three premises that had been identified as a cause for concern since October 2009 remained as such.

- 6.60 82% of approved operational meat premises in Great Britain now achieve adequate or good scores for hygienic production, environmental hygiene/ pre-requisites and HACCP at August 2011, compared with 64% in October 2009. As of March 2010, 73% of approved premises in Northern Ireland achieved an equivalent standard.
- 6.61 New IT systems for inputting ante- and post-mortem inspection results for pigs and poultry were rolled out nationally in July to November, following extensive pilots. These systems provide improved reporting and pave the way for collaborative data exchange with online food business operator systems.

Approval of Meat Establishments

- 6.62 The FSA is responsible for the approval of fresh meat premises in the UK subject to veterinary audit. The FSA has re-approved meat establishments that were licensed under previous legislation, and certain catering butchers and game handling establishments that were previously exempt from approval. The approvals programme has, in the majority of cases, prompted operators to implement necessary improvements to gain approval.
- 6.63 The re-approval programme was completed in Northern Ireland and Scotland in 2009 and in Wales during the first quarter of 2010. As indicated in the previous annual report, in England 11 previously unlicensed catering butchers that required approval to operate as cutting plants remained outstanding for approval as at 31 March 2010. Of these, five have been granted conditional or full approval, one was refused approval due to non-compliance with the relevant requirements of the Food Hygiene Regulations, while the remaining five establishments are operating under approval exemption criteria pending re-application for approval.
- 6.64 A total of 15 meat establishments subject to veterinary audit were refused approval in 2010. All the establishments were either previously licensed (operating prior to January 2006) or previously unlicensed catering butchers. Of these establishments, three were poultry slaughterhouses, one was a red meat slaughterhouse and 11 were cutting plants. Of these, eight subsequently upgraded their establishments and obtained conditional or full approval and one establishment is currently operating under appeal pending the determination of the case in a Magistrates' Court. The remaining six establishments have ceased operating.

Enforcement Measures taken against Meat Premises

- 6.65 The FSA Operations Group (the Meat Hygiene Service (MHS) until 1 April 2010) is responsible for official controls in approved meat establishments subject to veterinary audit. This service is provided on behalf of the FSA in Northern Ireland

- by DARD's VS-VPFU. LAs are responsible for enforcing these controls other than at approved meat establishments. Inspection data is collected on the results of ante- and post-mortem checks and audit data in relation to animal by-products (including Specified Risk Material (SRM), application and implementation of HACCP etc.
- 6.66 During 2010, 1755 Written Advice Notices (282 establishments), 142 Hygiene Improvement Notices (44 establishments), 86 Remedial Action Notices (40 establishments) and 121 Recommendations for Prosecution (55 establishments) were served by the Meat Hygiene Service/ FSA in slaughterhouses/ game handling establishments and cutting plants in general.
- 6.67 Overall, the number of notices served in 2010 is slightly lower than the number served in 2009, but not significantly so. The level of enforcement activity remains consistent across all meat establishments.
- 6.68 92 Corrective Action Requests, one Remedial Action Notice and nine Hygiene Improvement Notices were issued to FBOs in Northern Ireland. There were 70 recorded instances of informal enforcement. Four carcasses (two incidents) despatched to Northern Ireland from Great Britain were not tested for Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy (BSE).

Hygiene Controls at Milk Production Holdings (in UK) and Liquid Milk-Processing Establishments (in Northern Ireland)

- 6.69 In accordance with a Service Level Agreement (SLA) between the FSA and Animal Health Dairy Hygiene (AHDH), official controls on milk production holdings in England and Wales were carried out by AHDH on behalf of the FSA. Under the Agreement, AHDH employs trained staff at milk production holdings. The service provided includes advice and other work connected with milk hygiene matters in general. In addition, AHDH are responsible for maintaining a list of food business operators and their premises and inspection records using the Dairy Hygiene Inspections Recording Database, owned and maintained by the FSA. In Scotland, official controls on milk production holdings are carried out by local authorities. Following a review of on farm dairy hygiene controls across the UK, proposals to reduce the frequency of inspections in England, Wales and Northern Ireland were issued for public consultation in 2010. The proposals, due to be implemented during 2011, would reduce the frequency of official inspections on dairy production holdings by recognising, where applicable, the hygiene aspects of the results of audits carried out by the Assured Dairy Farm assurance scheme.
- 6.70 All planned inspections were achieved. No unplanned inspections were carried out. The number of primary inspections carried out in 2010 was 10,062. 1895 secondary inspections took place due to non compliances found at primary inspection. This meant that 18.8% of premises required a second visit, on which the vast majority of cases were satisfactorily resolved.

6.71 Instances of non-compliant dairy inspections in the main related to milking operations and equipment cleanliness. The number of inspections and the extent to which problems are resolved after secondary inspection indicates that the controls are effective.

Table 6.19: Summary of Hygiene Controls on Milk Production Holdings in the UK and Liquid Milk Processing Establishments in Northern Ireland in 2010

	Primary inspections	Secondary inspections	Formal enforcement actions
Milk production holdings			
AHDH	10,062	1,895	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 76 Hygiene Improvement Notices* • 9 successful prosecutions
LAs in Scotland	424	63	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 271 guidance letters • 114 warning letters • 2 Hygiene Improvement Notices*
DARD Quality Assurance Branch (QAB) – Milk Production Holdings	3,550	1,257	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 274 warning letters • 586 confirmatory (guidance) letters
DARD QAB – Liquid Milk Processing Establishments	7	13	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 16 confirmatory (guidance) letters

* These are issued if, at a further secondary inspection, the major non compliances have not been rectified. Failure to comply with the Hygiene Improvement Notice would result in the case being referred to the FSA for investigation with a view to prosecution.

Hygiene Controls at Egg Production Units – England and Wales

6.72 These controls are carried out, on behalf of the FSA, by Animal Health (AH) Egg Marketing Inspectors in England and Wales. The SLA with AH included a request to inspect 583 production sites in 2010, constituting just over one third of the 1558 registered egg production sites.

6.73 81% of producers were judged to be fully compliant with legislative requirements. No major or critical non-compliances were found and it was not necessary to take formal enforcement actions or issue formal notices.

6.74 This suggests that control priorities are effective, that resources are appropriate and that the overall level of compliance with legislative requirements is good.

Hygiene Controls at Egg Production Plants – Scotland

6.75 In 2010 319 egg production sites were registered in Scotland, of which 167 had 350 or more hens. 30 sites were formally inspected. No non compliances were found. Recommendations concerning best practice were provided where this was considered desirable.

Hygiene Controls at Egg Production Plants – Northern Ireland

Table 6.20: Summary of hygiene controls at egg production holdings and egg packing establishments in Northern Ireland in 2010

	Primary inspections	Secondary inspections	Formal enforcement actions
240 Egg production sites, housing 3.8 million laying hens			
DARD QAB – Egg production sites	27	15	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2 warning letters • 9 confirmatory (guidance) letters
40 Egg packing establishments			
DARD QAB – Egg Packing establishments	34	14	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 15 confirmatory (guidance) letters

Hygiene Controls at other Primary Producers

- 6.76 In England, Wales and Scotland the frequency of food and feed inspection at primary production level differs: feed – one, two or five yearly risk rating and food – 2% (low risk) and 25% (high risk) based on local knowledge and membership of an assurance scheme.
- 6.77 Recognising that rationalisation of on-farm inspection would be in line with the “better regulation” principles, the Agency is currently running a pilot in Scotland to integrate food and feed hygiene inspections under a single risk-rating regime for primary production food law. The collection of data from both local authorities and SGRPID has been underway since autumn 2008 using the Scottish Primary Production Official Controls System (SPPOCS) database. Evaluation is ongoing and the first report is due in autumn 2011.
- 6.78 In Northern Ireland DARD QAB undertakes on-farm controls on behalf of the FSA. A total of 1200 inspections were carried out in 2010. A summary report is given to the FBO after each inspection. No warning or confirmatory (guidance) letters were issued.

Monitoring of Bivalve Molluscs and Classification and Monitoring of UK Shellfish Harvesting Areas

- 6.79 In accordance with the SLA between the FSA (as the competent authority) and the Centre for Environment, Fisheries and Aquaculture Science (Cefas), monitoring of live bivalve molluscs is carried out in England and Wales to determine the presence of marine biotoxins. Water quality is monitored for the presence of toxin producing plankton in production and relaying areas. Cefas carry out microbiological monitoring and classification of shellfish harvesting

areas, sanitary surveys, and the inspection and approval of shellfish purification plants.

- 6.80 In 2010 in England and Wales ten shellfish production areas included in the official biotoxin monitoring programme in England and Wales exceeded the statutory limits for Diarrhetic shellfish poisoning (DSP) and two shellfish production areas exceeded the statutory limits for Paralytic shellfish poisoning (PSP). In total, twelve shellfish production areas were closed due to toxin levels in flesh samples – closures lasted between 3 and 12 weeks.
- 6.81 In Scotland a full biotoxin, phytoplankton, and hygiene monitoring programme was carried out across classified areas. The Agency manages this programme through a dedicated Shellfish Unit. Details of this programme and the results are available at food.gov.uk/scotland/safetyhygienescot/shellmonitorscot/.
- 6.82 An early biotoxin re-testing protocol operates which allows harvesters to apply for sites to be re-opened early, should certain conditions be met. The FSA has published 'End-product testing for shellfish toxins – information for shellfish harvesters, growers and processors'. This provides food business operators with the information they need to ensure appropriate implementation of end-product testing (EPT) for marine biotoxins in bivalve molluscs.
- 6.83 In Northern Ireland a full biotoxin, phytoplankton and microbiological monitoring programme was carried out across classified areas. Two shellfish beds were closed during 2010 due to toxin exceedances in official control flesh samples. The two beds exceeded the statutory limits for DSP. Additional flesh samples were lifted from the closed beds, which tested negative for DSP. On receipt of two consecutive negative sample results, FSA in Northern Ireland informed the relevant District Council and they lifted the temporary closure notice.

Food irradiation

- 6.84 The FSA is responsible for the licensing and inspection of one food irradiation facility in the UK. No food was irradiated during 2010, and the facility was not inspected.
- 6.85 Data on the results of checks for irradiated food at the product marketing stage for 2010 was sent to the Commission in 2011 as required by Directive 1999/2/EC¹⁰⁹. This showed that:
- 408 food samples were analysed. 14 (3.4% were found to be irradiated and either incorrectly labelled or not irradiated at an approved facility;
 - non-compliant products included dried herbs, spices, vegetable seasonings and yeast products;

¹⁰⁹ Directive 1999/2/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council on the approximation of the laws of the Member States concerning foods and food ingredients treated with ionising radiation. Official Journal L 66, 13.3.1999, 16-23

- there is no evidence that the food was irradiated at facilities within the EU and it is likely that they mostly originated from third countries.

Protected Food Names

6.86 Private and public inspection bodies carried out inspections to ensure that producers complied with the registered specification for protected food names. There were a few instances of non compliance. In some cases those producers were allowed a short period of time within which to make the necessary changes in order to comply with the registered specification. In other cases the non-compliance has led the producers to request an amendment to the registered specification.

Organic Products

6.87 The main performance indicators are:

- i) The number of operators inspected (all organic operators must be inspected at least once a year).
- ii) The number of announced and unannounced inspections undertaken.
- iii) An overview of the irregularities detected by each control body and whether these have been followed up effectively.
- iv) Control Body compliance with Standard EN45011.
- v) Control Body compliance with Regulation (EC) 834/2007 and Regulation (EC) 889/2008.

6.88 All organic operators were inspected by the organic control bodies at least once during the year. Control bodies undertook announced and unannounced inspections and some operators received more than one inspection (in most cases additional inspections followed earlier inspections or as a result of a risk analysis).

6.89 There were 7,645 announced visits to registered organic operators and a further 167 unannounced inspections. Of the 4,598 reported infringements of organic standards, 4,596 were classed as irregularities and 2 as manifest infringements. This resulted in 89 penalties being applied by the organic certification bodies. 74 penalties were applied to the lot or production run (meaning that indications referring to the organic production method were removed from the entire lot or production run affected by the irregularity concerned) and 15 penalties were applied on the operator (meaning that the operator concerned was prohibited from marketing products with indications referring to the organic production method for an agreed period). There were, however, no major incidents of mis-selling of non-organic or contaminated produce as certified organic produce in 2010.

- 6.90 The return for the 2010 calendar year is in the process of being completed but the results show that the organic control system is working effectively with no major concerns about the competence of the organic inspection bodies.

Beef Labelling – England and Wales

Compliance by operators and products

- 6.91 In England and Wales, the Rural Payments Agency (RPA) achieved its planned official controls on traceability and labelling in accordance with the NCP for 2010. A total of 672 inspections were carried out. Of these, 45 involved plants located in Wales. Where non-compliance was found, plants were revisited as a “follow-up” inspection until a satisfactory outcome was achieved. Of these initial inspections, 409 were satisfactory and 263 unsatisfactory, resulting in a follow-up inspection to ensure that corrective action had been taken.
- 6.92 The type and number of non-compliances identified were:
- Lack of full traceability – 210
 - Carcases/boxes/cuts/trays/dolavs/quarters received and not labelled – 48
 - Carcases/boxes/cuts/trays/dolavs/quarters prepared for dispatch and not labelled – 226
 - Approved labelling check unsatisfactory – 46
 - Mince not labelled correctly – 91
- 6.93 In 2010, the overall level of compliance was approximately 60.9% (63% in 2009). It should be noted that 76 new premises required a visit.

Overall effectiveness of controls

- 6.94 Although the level of non-compliance is superficially high, the type of non-compliance observed in most cases was not a ‘severe’ deficiency, and e.g. simply involved the omission of the word ‘in’ after the wording ‘slaughtered’ and ‘cut’. The follow-up visit found that corrective action had been taken and compliance was achieved.
- 6.95 The most important parts of the inspection is the advice given to the operator and the recommendations to achieve compliance. The Scheme Management Unit, where inspection results are entered in a computerised spreadsheet, inform the operator by letter within 8 weeks of the inspection of the deficiencies observed. RPA considers that these actions taken together ensure effective control.

Beef Labelling – Scotland

- 6.96 Enforcement inspections, mainly unannounced, were undertaken at least once annually at cutting plants and abattoirs. Follow up inspections were undertaken

within 10 days of the initial inspection. The Scottish Government achieved its planned official controls for 2010.

- 6.97 Overall 39 Beef Labelling Scheme inspections took place at licensed abattoirs and cutting plants in 2010. 12 non-compliances were found at 8 operators. 5 non-compliance letters were issued to 4 operators and the remainder were rectified at the follow up visit. All of the non-compliances were for failing to show compulsory indicators.
- 6.98 The overall result of the inspections made as part of the Beef Labelling Schemes in Scotland has found that the level of risk is mainly low. A minimal number of operators fall into the medium to high risk category and these operators are visited on a more frequent basis. On most occasions if minor problems are found on any part of the Beef Labelling Scheme, remedial action can take place without a non-compliance letter being issued.

Beef Labelling – Northern Ireland

- 6.99 DARD QAB Technical Inspectors carried out 126 beef labelling inspections during 2010 and achieved its planned official controls.
- 6.100 Unscheduled (follow-up) inspections were undertaken where non-compliance was found. In abattoirs and cutting plants 15 instances of non-compliance were found in 10 out of 40 premises inspected, resulting in six verbal warnings, eight follow-up inspections, six warning letters, and one Enforcement Notice - which was subsequently withdrawn when traceability was proved from other off-label documentation. Non-compliances related to labels with incomplete or inaccurate information and inaccurate company records.

Recognition of non-EEA natural mineral water sources

- 6.101 There were no recognitions, or applications for recognition, of non-EEA NMW in 2010. Neither Defra nor the FSA in any of the devolved administrations has been notified of any non-compliances.

Pesticide Residues

- 6.102 HSE Chemicals Regulation Directorate (CRD) is responsible for the monitoring of pesticide residues in food and drink. A timetable for sample collection and analysis was provided to official control bodies by CRD at the start of the year. Contracts and SLAs laid down the required standards of performance. CRD monitored performance against targets and found it satisfactory. When levels above the Maximum Residue Level (MRL) were found as part of the national monitoring programme, CRD wrote to the supplier of the produce. CRD conducted a screening risk assessment on all the residues found. Consumer risk assessments are carried out for both short-term (peak) and long-term intakes. When a residue level could lead to intakes above the Acute Reference Dose (ARfD) for any group of consumers then a detailed risk assessment was

produced and when appropriate a draft RASFF notification was submitted to the FSA.

6.103 All planned official controls were achieved. There were no unplanned official controls. The results of the 2010 monitoring programme will be used to inform future monitoring. Results have been published online at pesticides.gov.uk/prc.asp?id=2937.

6.104 Results to date suggest that the largest percentage of non-compliances were found in the fruit and vegetable sector, in particular speciality vegetables. This sector of the programme has been designed to include a wider range of commodities than the other sectors (animal products, cereal products and groceries). Fruit and vegetables also receive proportionally more financial resources. No changes to overall control priorities and resource allocation were identified as a result of the official controls.

6.105 Results for 2009 are at pesticides.gov.uk/prc.asp?id=2791.

6.106 The following is a list of RASFF notifications prepared by HSE during this period.

Table 6.21: RASFF notifications prepared by HSE

PRC Sample ID	Food	Type of FBO: Import Point (I) Wholesaler (W) Main Retailer (MR) Small Retailer (SR) Packhouse (PH)	Country of Origin	Pesticide Detected	Residue Detected (mg/kg)	MRL (mg/kg) ¹¹⁰	Rapid Alert number	Action taken: Official Letter (O) RASFF (R) Unapproved Use (U) Follow up by Compliance (E)
Chilli Peppers								
0255/2010	Chillies	W	Zimbabwe	monocrotophos	1.9	0.01*	2010.0307	O/R
Grapes								
0271/2010	Thompson seedless grapes	W	India	Carbendazim	0.4	0.3	2010.1267	O/R
2536/2010	Thompson green seedless grapes	MR	Chile	Imidacloprid	1.6	1	2010.1358	O/R
Okra								
3411/2010	Okra	MR	Jordan	Oxamyl	0.4	0.01	2011.0207	O/R
Speciality Vegetables								
1501/2010	Turia	W	Ghana	Dimethoate (total)	0.3	0.02*	2010.0847	O/R
0140/2010	Eddoes	W	Costa Rica	Carbendazim	1.8	0.1*	2010.1268	O/R
1647/2010	Eddoes	W	Columbia	Carbendazim	2.1	0.1	2011.0249	O/R
1554/2010	Tarot	W	Brazil	Carbendazim	1.8	0.1	2011.0250	O/R
Yams								
0316/2010	Small white yams	W	Brazil	Carbendazim	0.2	0.1*	2010.1271	O/R
0487/2010	Yams	W	Brazil	Carbendazim	0.2	0.1*	2010.1269	O/R
2975/2010	Baby yams	SR	Brazil	Carbendazim	1	0.1*	2010.1270	O/R
3703/2010	Yams	MR	Brazil	Carbendazim	0.2	0.1*	2011.0035	O/R
1693/2010	Puna yams	W	Ghana	Carbendazim	0.2	0.1*	2011.0031	O/R
3663/2010	Yams	SR	Ghana	Carbendazim	0.3	0.1*	2011.0034	O/R
4329/2010	Yams	W	Ghana	Carbendazim	0.3	0.1*	2011.0039	O/R
3914/2010	Yams	MR	Brazil	Carbendazim	0.5	0.1*	2011.0037	O/R
1701/2010	Yams	W	Brazil	Carbendazim	0.5	0.1*	2011.0032	O/R

¹¹⁰ * **Maximum Residue Levels set at the Limit of Determination (LOD MRL):** These MRLs are set at a default level, i.e. at the limit of determination, where analytical methods can reasonably detect the presence of the pesticide. Either insufficient trials data are available on which to set a maximum residue level or there may be no use of the pesticide on that crop in the EU. However they may be permitted elsewhere.

† The MRL is for the sum of dimethoate and omethoate expressed as dimethoate. The result given here is the sum of these two residues.

PRC Sample ID	Food	Type of FBO: Import Point (I) Wholesaler (W) Main Retailer (MR) Small Retailer (SR) Packhouse (PH)	Country of Origin	Pesticide Detected	Residue Detected (mg/kg)	MRL (mg/kg) ¹¹⁰	Rapid Alert number	Action taken: Official Letter (O) RASFF (R) Unapproved Use (U) Follow up by Compliance (E)
3784/2010	Baby yams	SR	Jordan	Carbendazim	4	0.1*	2011.0036	O/R
3584/2010	Yams	SR	Ghana	Tebuconazole	0.5	0.05*	2011.0033	O/R

Veterinary Residues Surveillance

Official controls carried out – results of both planned and additional activities

6.107 The VMD is responsible for the national veterinary drug residue surveillance programme. The UK National Residues Control Plan (NRCP) was agreed in time for the start of 2010. Samples were allocated to Northern Ireland on the basis of their production. All information in relation to sampling was captured on the VMD database. Key Performance indicators were defined in SLAs with the appropriate competent authorities. Performance was monitored via the VMD database.

6.108 Results for the NRCP are provided to the Commission via the EU database at webgate.ec.europa.eu/residues/SancoResidues/. The results are categorised in relation to point of sampling.

6.109 Non- Compliance Categories:

Unauthorised substances – investigations into non-compliant samples found no evidence of the mis-use/abuse of hormonal growth promoters, beta-agonists or Annex IV substances.

Authorised veterinary medicines – A summary of results is provided in the table below.

Table 6.22: Non-compliant residues confirmed for antibiotics, anthelmintics and NSAIDs

What tested	Tested for	No. of inspections or samples	Non-compliant residues found
Calves	Antibiotic residues	285	7
Honey	Oxytetracycline ¹¹¹	123	2
Sheep	Anthelmintics	1,409	1
Milk	Anthelmintics ¹¹²	315	6
Cattle	Ibuprofen ¹¹³	518	3
Horses	Phenylbutazone	100	5

Environmental Contaminants and Insecticides – A summary of results is provided in the table below.

Table 6.23: Non-compliant residues confirmed for heavy metals and dyes

What tested	Tested for	No. of inspections or samples	Non-compliant residues found
Cattle	Heavy metals	57	5
Goats	Heavy metals	7	1
Trout	Dyes	101	2

- Further target samples for trout also confirmed non-compliant for leucomalachite green; the stock within these ponds were destroyed.

Actions to ensure effectiveness

6.110 Following an outbreak of European Foul brood 4,000 bee hives in North East Scotland were treated with oxytetracycline. As a result additional samples were tested for oxytetracycline. Two out of 21 samples were confirmed as non-compliant and both of these were below the provisional MRL recommended to the Commission by the Committee for Medicinal Products for Veterinary Use (CVMP). After liaising with the Scottish Government Rural Payments and Inspections Directorate (SGRPID) and the FSA it was agreed that the honey could enter the food chain.

Main performance indicators on controls and results

6.111 SLAs are in place with all of the VMD contractors and these contain performance indicators. All performance indicators for 2010 have been met.

¹¹¹ Oxytetracycline - The incidences in honey where residues of oxytetracycline were found were due to treatment of bee hives in Scotland following an outbreak of European Foul Brood.

¹¹² Anthelmintics –it was not clear from the product data sheets that the product should not be administered to cows producing milk for human consumption, the Summary of Product Characteristics has now been amended to reflect this.

¹¹³ NSAIDS – residues of ibuprofen were confirmed in samples from cattle, due to cross contamination by the sampling officer.

Feed and food incidents in 2010

6.112 In 2010 the FSA investigated 1,505 incidents. Eight of these related directly to animal feed.

6.113 The major categories were:

- environmental contamination – 23%
- microbiological contamination – 18%
- natural chemical contamination (mycotoxins, algal toxins and others) – 15%
- on-farm incidents – 8%
- physical contamination – 8%

6.114 Notifications of incidents were received from a variety of sources, including Government departments and a wide range of businesses. The top three reporters of incidents to the FSA were LAs (376), border inspection posts (233) and fire services (223).

6.115 The FSA issued 49 alerts (excluding updates) and 21 information notices to LAs (all were published on food.gov.uk). 270 notifications were sent to the European Commission, via RASFF.

Emerging risks

6.116 The FSA Emerging Risk programme aims to provide a co-ordinated approach to the collation and analysis of intelligence relating to food safety. The analyses will be used to predict new and re-emerging risks to food safety and to build knowledge of new technologies and novel foods.

Official controls in the animal health sector

Competent authorities

6.117 In Great Britain, AH is responsible for official controls in the animal health sector. Enforcement is mainly the responsibility of LAs. In Northern Ireland official controls role are undertaken by DARD.

6.118 AH staff investigated significant numbers of reports of notifiable disease in 2010 (table 6.25) with negative results in most cases. The exception was Equine Infectious Anaemia (EIA) which was confirmed three times and after further investigations successfully controlled. Tuberculosis (TB) control in England and Wales remained the largest area of work for AH. Significant activity also took place to regulate Animal By-Products, control salmonella and in animal welfare.

Control activities in 2010

Great Britain

6.119 Under Section 80 of the Animal Health Act 1981 (as amended)¹¹⁴ Defra is required to produce an annual report to Parliament covering England and Wales on the enforcement actions of the LAs¹¹⁵ and the compensation paid for animals slaughtered to prevent the spread of animal disease. The 2010 report¹¹⁶ is available at:

animalhealth.defra.gov.uk/about/publications/corporate/expenditure-prosecutions-report.pdf.

6.120 A separate report is produced by the Scottish Government, and is available at:

scotland.gov.uk/Topics/Agriculture/animal-welfare/Diseases/GenControls/Enforcement

¹¹⁴ Animal Health Act 1981, c 22.

¹¹⁵ details on legal proceedings which have resulted in criminal convictions under animal health and welfare related legislation

¹¹⁶ 'Return of expenditure incurred and prosecutions taken under the Animal Health Act 1981 and incidences of diseases in imported animals for the year 2010'

Table 6.24: Details of the AH inspections/investigations in Great Britain carried out during 2010

WORK PROGRAMME	Number of Investigations or Inspections	Confirmed Cases or Non-Compliances	Action Taken or Compliance Achieved
Animal By-Products	There are currently 2,698 approved premises in GB. AH completed 5,184 inspections out of the 5,274 (98.3%) scheduled	4 operators were found non-compliant during 329 inspections at the premises that receive international catering waste	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 3 have been re-inspected and were compliant 1 was resolved within a couple of weeks.
		353 inspections recorded Minor unsatisfactory results	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 338 resolved at initial visit, by letter or at a subsequent follow-up visit.
		3 inspections recorded Serious Major unsatisfactory results	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1 resolved within the initial visit 1 resolved at subsequent follow-up inspection 1 visited outside the target time due to arranging a joint visit with Trading Standards. When completed the non-compliance was regarded to Major
		56 inspections recorded Major unsatisfactory results (handling of SRM, structure, operation or record keeping or tracing was not to the required standard)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 49 resolved within target at a subsequent follow-up inspection or the plants are no longer operating
Artificial Insemination (Bulls and Boars)	Porcine Centres – 60 routine statutory inspections Bovine Centres – 36 routine statutory inspections Bovine embryos – 52 routine inspections	-	-
Bovine TB (bTB) * England	59,853 surveillance herd tests completed	bTB was confirmed in 2,506 herds with 95 incidents remaining unclassified pending culture results	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 32,799 animals were slaughtered TB was confirmed in 11,543 of the suspect cases. <p>All tracing action was completed within an average of 23 days for 269,894 animals traced from breakdowns, where bTB had been confirmed between January and December 2010. At the end of 2010 2,489 herds were under restriction due to the zero tolerance policy.¹¹⁷</p>
		4,718 new incidents recorded	Movement restrictions were served within the 2 working day target for 1,969 out of

¹¹⁷ Animal Health operates a zero tolerance policy on overdue tests, where herds not tested by the due date are automatically restricted until the tests are completed. The VETNET IT management and support system, automatically identifies herds with overdue tests and generates reports that are used to issue herd restriction notices and notify Local Authorities.

			2,008 (98.1%) herds that were not already under restrictions.
		1,379 slaughterhouse cases reported	Movement restrictions were served within the 2 working day target for 952 out of 964 (98.8%) herds of origin that
	All high risk cattle movements are centrally monitored to ensure that cattle are subject to a pre-movement TB test.	91% of all consignments of cattle eligible for a pre-movement test in 2010 were compliant. AH undertook a random and targeted check of non-compliant holdings. 1,140* of the non-compliant movements were investigated	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Herd owners were issued with official warnings and advisory letters. 10 non-compliant cases were referred to the LA for further action.
Bovine TB (bTB) ¹¹⁸ Wales	AH completed 12,240 (98.5%) tests under the Health Check Wales		
BSE (cattle)	48 (100%) inspections of reported cases carried out no later than the following day	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 447 out of 455 (98.2%) offspring & cohort animals 531 out of 550 (96.5%) active surveillance cases 	Movement restrictions served and passports seized within 5 working days
Salmonella	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Adult breeding flocks - 1,349 flocks routine official control samples 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No (0) adult breeding chicken flocks were confirmed as infected with <i>S. Typhimurium</i> or <i>S. Enteritidis</i> during 2010. One flock was confirmed positive for monophasic <i>S. Typhimurium</i> 4,5,12:i:- 	Although monophasic strains were outside the requirements of the legislation at the time, mandatory slaughter was carried out in the flock detected positive for <i>S. Typhimurium</i> 4,5,12:i:- under the Animal Health Act.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Adult laying flocks - 1,429 flocks routine official control samples 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9 adult laying flocks were confirmed as infected with <i>S. Typhimurium</i> or <i>S. Enteritidis</i>. 2 flocks were positive for monophasic <i>S. Typhimurium</i> strains. 	Eggs from positive flocks were diverted to heat treatment or destroyed according to the legislative requirements. Suspect official sampling, enhanced cleansing and disinfection of premises and expert advisory visits were carried out on positive premises. 88 financial penalty notices for incomplete compliance were served during 2010.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Broiler flocks - 128 routine official control samples 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 7 broiler flocks were identified with <i>S. Typhimurium</i>. 3 flocks were positive for monophasic <i>S. Typhimurium</i> strains. No flocks were detected positive for <i>S. Enteritidis</i>. 	Additional risk based official sampling, enhanced cleansing and disinfection of premises and expert advisory visits were carried out on positive premises.

¹¹⁸ A lot of manual checking is carried out by the PRMT Unit on the holdings selected and a good percentage are found to be compliant, by checking CTS, AMLS, Vetnet etc, without the need to send a letter to the farmer for more information

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Breeding and fattening turkey flocks - 328 routine official control samples. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 4 fattening turkey flocks were positive for <i>S. Typhimurium</i>. No flocks were detected positive for <i>S. Enteritidis</i>. • No (0) adult breeding turkey flocks were detected positive for <i>S. Enteritidis</i> or <i>S. Typhimurium</i>. 	Additional risk based official sampling, enhanced cleansing and disinfection of premises and expert advisory visits were carried out on positive premises.
Scrapie (sheep or goats)	36 suspect cases investigated	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 5 were negative • 8 were classical (1 admitted (four flocks in total) to the Compulsory Scrapie Flocks Scheme (CSFS¹¹⁹)) • 19 were atypical • 2 inconclusive (1 unconfirmed, 1 passive recovered) 	<p>Of the 19 flocks in the CSFS:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2,191 animals were blood sampled • 1,006 animals were culled.

¹¹⁹ Statutory EU controls on flocks and herds with confirmed cases of Scrapie are implemented through the Compulsory Scrapie Flocks Scheme

Table 6.25: Details of AH Exotic Notifiable Disease Investigations during 2010 in Great Britain

Disease	Negative investigations	Confirmed investigations
Anthrax	2	0
Aujeszky's Disease	4	0
Notifiable Avian Disease	21	0
Bluetongue	32	0
Porcine Brucellosis	24	0
Equine Infectious Anaemia	4	3
Foot and Mouth Disease	13	0
Glanders	5	0
Rabies	7	0
Bat Rabies	3	0
Swine Fever	4	0
Vesicular Stomatitis	0	0

Northern Ireland

6.121 During 2010 DARD Veterinary Service (VS) enforcement actions led to 11 herd keepers having cattle slaughtered, or carcasses disposed of, without payment, due to animals or carcasses being unidentified or due to identity queries, i.e. suspected tampered tags. The figure has reduced significantly since 2008 and 2009 (71 and 32 herd keepers respectively) suggesting that enforcement activities and associated media coverage are influencing herd keeper compliance. A summary of investigations opened, closed and passed to the Public Prosecution Service (PPS) is provided in Tables 6.26 a, b & c.

6.122 With regard to Salmonella controls¹²⁰ DARD Veterinary Service carried out 201 routine official control samples in adult breeding flocks; 137 routine official control samples in adult laying flocks; 32 routine official control samples in broiler flocks; and 25 routine official control samples in breeding and fattening turkey flocks. No flocks were detected positive for *Salmonella Typhimurium* or *Salmonella Enteritidis* during 2010. For adult laying flocks - 31 enforcement notices were issued for incomplete compliance at record checks and additional risk-based visits organised as necessary. For broiler flocks - 4 enforcement notices were issued for incomplete compliance at record checks and additional risk-based visits organised.

¹²⁰ Under Regulation 2160/2003

Table 6.26 a: Progress Summary of DARD VS enforcement investigations opened and still on-going in 2010

Work Programme	Under investigation	Interview arranged	File being prepared	File passed to Public Prosecution Service	Total
Animal By-Products	1	1	2	7	11
Aujeszky's Disease			1	2	3
Biosecurity	1				1
Brucellosis	4	1		6	11
Identification, Registration & Movement	11	1	6	16	34
Trade of Animals & Animal Products	1		1		2
Transmissible Spongiform Encephalopathies				2	2
Tuberculosis	1		1	3	5
Veterinary Public Health & Food Safety	3		1	3	7
Welfare of Animals	5	2		9	16
Total investigations	27	5	12	48	92

Table 6.26 b: Progress Summary of DARD VS enforcement investigations closed in 2010

Work Programme	Cases dropped	Compliance achieved	Warning Letters issued	Herds with animals slaughtered/ carcasses destroyed	MC29 Withdrawn	Formal Caution delivered	Convicted in Court	Acquittal in court	Referred to other Agency	TOTAL
Animal By-Products	3	2	4				6			15
Aujeszky's Disease	1		1							2
Brucellosis	3	4	2			1	3		2	15
Identification, Registration & Movement	14		10	11	1		9		6	51
Trade of Animals & Animal Products	1		2				2			5
Transmissible Spongiform Encephalopathies	1	1	1				2			5
Tuberculosis	3	1	1				2		1	8
Veterinary Public Health & Food Safety	1		1				4			6
Welfare of Animals	10	1	26				16	1	1	55
TOTAL OFFENCES INVESTIGATED	37	9	48	11	1	1	44	1	10	162

UK Cattle identification and registration

6.123 In accordance with Regulation 1082/2003¹²¹ there is an annual programme of Cattle Identification Inspections in the United Kingdom for which Defra and the Agriculture/Rural Affairs Departments in the devolved administrations are responsible. Defra shares responsibility for cattle identification and registration with the RPA and LAs (in England), the Welsh Assembly Government Rural Inspectorate Team, Scottish Government and DARD officials. The programme runs from 1 May to 30 June. All inspections were completed on time and the report was submitted to the Commission by 31 August. The report can be accessed at:

defra.gov.uk/food-farm/animals/movements/cattle/

6.124 During the inspection year 2009/2010 212 holdings were placed under temporary whole herd restrictions and 30 animals across 2 holdings were destroyed as part of sanctions imposed under EC Regulation 494/98¹²². The annual report to the Commission for 2010 shows that, of the 10% of inspected holdings:

- the vast majority (89%) were fully compliant;
- a further 6.5% had only one breach, and
- only 4% of holdings had more than one breach.

6.125 Only 2 holdings were subject to official sanctions for non-compliance.

6.126 These figures indicate strong compliance with Cattle Identification legislation and are an improvement on previous years.

UK Sheep and goat identification and movement reporting

6.127 In Great Britain, Defra and the Agriculture/Rural Affairs Departments in the Devolved Administrations are the competent authorities for sheep and goat identification and movement reporting. In Northern Ireland, this role is carried out by DARD. In accordance with Regulation 1505/2006¹²³, there is an annual programme of sheep and goat identification inspections in Great Britain and Northern Ireland. The programme runs from 1 January to 31 December. All inspections were completed on time and the report will be submitted to the Commission by 31 August 2011. The report will be available at:

defra.gov.uk/food-farm/animals/movements/sheep/

Bee health controls

6.128 Details of the bee health inspection programmes are available on the National Bee Unit (NBU)'s BeeBase website (nationalbeeunit.com). The website also

¹²¹ eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/site/en/oj/2003/l_156/l_15620030625en00090012.pdf

¹²² europa.eu/smartapi/cgi/sga_doc?smartapi!celexapi!prod!CELEXnumdoc&lg=EN&numdoc=31998R0494&model=g_uichett

¹²³ eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=OJ:L:2006:280:0003:0006:EN:PDF

includes interactive maps showing infected apiaries. A summary of the NBU inspections carried out in 2010 is provided in Table 6.27.

6.129 The stipulated number of honey samples under the National Surveillance Scheme, as directed under the Sampling plan for 2008, were collected to the required deadlines. Approximately 80 samples were collected under Council Directive 96/23/EC. Key performance indicators were met.

Table 6.27: Summary of the bee health control inspections carried out in England and Wales in 2010

Disease	Status	England	Wales
Total Foul Brood Disease	Although the number of inspections was lower than last year, the level remains high compared to recent years.	28,871 colonies in 5,943 apiaries were inspected	4,877 colonies in 1,126 apiaries were inspected
American Foul Brood disease (AFB)	Control of AFB is very effective and disease incidence in recent years is at its lowest levels since controls began.	31 cases were confirmed in 21 apiaries, 0.11 % of colonies inspected	13 cases were confirmed in 2 apiaries, 0.06% of colonies inspected
European Foul Brood Disease (EFB)	EFB is widespread in England and Wales, and there are ongoing research projects, which aim to better understand the disease and develop effective control methods for beekeepers. The overall incidence of EFB has been in decline since 2000 apart from an increase in 2007/8.	434 cases were confirmed in 194 apiaries, 1.5% of colonies inspected	11 cases were confirmed in 6 apiaries, 0.23% of colonies inspected
Exotic pests	The NBU has continued searching to identify the exotic pests <i>Aethina tumida</i> (Small Hive Beetle) and <i>Tropilaelaps</i> mites. 110 beekeeper voluntary suspect samples were submitted. Neither pest has been confirmed to be present in the U.K. Surveillance programmes and use of at risk apiaries and sentinel hives will continue.	1,940 colonies in 511 apiaries were specifically examined - none were positive	466 colonies in 124 apiaries were specifically examined - none were positive

Scotland

6.130 Science and Advice for Scottish Agriculture (SASA) provides a diagnostic service to beekeepers to confirm the presence of Varroa or notifiable bee pests or disease. SG Bee Inspectors continued to carry out inspections during 2010 following the outbreak of foulbroods in 2009. A summary of the inspections carried out in 2010 is provided in Table 6.28.

Table 6.28: Summary of bee health control inspections carried out in Scotland in 2010

Disease	Outcome of Inspection
EFB	71 colonies tested positive from 26 apiaries
AFB	11 colonies tested positive from 8 apiaries

6.131 Twenty-two honey samples (all with satisfactory analysis) were collected in Scotland under the National Surveillance Scheme (NSS) during 2010.

Northern Ireland

Table 6.29: Summary of bee health control inspections carried out in Northern Ireland in 2010

Disease/ pest	Outcome of Inspection
American Foul Brood disease	12 Apiaries with 15 colonies were confirmed to have the disease. These along with the hive contents were subsequently destroyed and burnt. A total of 96 potential disease samples were submitted for test.
European Foul Brood disease	No confirmed incidents of the disease.
Exotic Pests	Surveys ongoing for the exotic pests <i>Aethina tumida</i> (Small Hive Beetle) and <i>Tropilaelaps</i> mite using coriboard traps and samples of hive debris. At risk apiaries in close proximity to ports and those importing were targeted.
Pyrethroid resistant varroa mites	Sampling continues for Pyrethroid resistant varroa mites a small sample of mites were suspect but no positive cases were recorded.

6.132 One honey sample submitted for residue analysis and tested negative.

Aquatic animal health controls

England and Wales

6.133 In 2010 the planned official control programme on aquatic animal health was successfully completed and met the objectives and targets set out in the Memorandum of Understanding between Defra and Cefas on the provision of a

dedicated Fish Health Inspectorate (FHI) responsible for the delivery and enforcement of legislation on aquatic animal health. The successful completion of the official control programme supports the maintenance of approved zone status for a number of serious diseases of fish and shellfish and contributes to the protection of our high aquatic animal health status.

- 6.134 There were no outbreaks of exotic diseases of aquatic animals in 2010. Outbreaks of non-exotic notifiable diseases, including those detected in imported fish, were dealt with by the official service in a prompt and efficient manner, reducing the potential for the spread of disease and so protecting the health of wild and farmed aquatic animals. There was a fall in the number of unplanned control activities in 2010 with a decline in disease outbreaks. However there were 12 outbreaks of Koi Herpesvirus (KHV) disease in managed fisheries which were controlled through the application of movement restrictions on live fish. The unplanned control activities made no impact on planned control activities.
- 6.135 A milestone was achieved in the eradication of a non-exotic disease spring viraemia of carp (SVC) which was managed through national disease control measures under Article 43 of Council Directive 2006/88/EC. Following the completion of a successful control and eradication programme that was initiated in 2004, the whole of the UK was recognised as free from SVC in Commission Decision of 7 December 2010 amending Commission Decision 2010/221/EU approving national measures for limiting the impact of certain diseases in aquaculture animals and wild aquatic animals in accordance with Article 43 of Council Directive 2006/88/EC. This represents a significant achievement in improving the overall aquatic animal health status of the UK. However for the third year in succession SVC was detected in imported fish. Whilst the outbreak was contained imported fish continue to represent a serious threat to our newly achieved status for this disease.
- 6.136 Following the emergence of a virulent pathogen of an important cultivated species of oyster the Pacific oyster *Crassostrea gigas* in France the European Commission published Commission Regulation 175/2010 implementing Council Directive 2006/88/EC as regards measures to control increased mortality in oysters of the species *Crassostrea gigas* in connection with the detection of Ostreid herpesvirus 1 μ var (OsHV-1 μ var). This regulation was implemented to afford protection to member states against ingress of the disease through movements of live oysters for relaying and on-growing. The UK submitted a surveillance programme for OsHV-1 μ var under article 43 of Council Directive 2006/88/EC. There was one outbreak of OsHV-1 μ var in England in 2010 at a shellfish farm in Whitstable, Kent. This outbreak was controlled through the application of restrictions on movements of live shellfish from the farm.
- 6.137 The overall trend across the aquatic animal health sector is towards better compliance with legislative requirements. The number of non-compliances associated with trade issues showed a fall of 23% in 2010 as compared with the previous year. This was probably as a result of new legislative requirements introduced in 2009 becoming more familiar across industry, and also reflects the

advice and guidance given by the FHI to businesses in order to facilitate effective compliance.

6.138 The number of attempted illegal imports of live fish into the UK remains low, and continues to be addressed through improved interactions with trade organisations and other stakeholder groups as well as initiatives to improve intelligence gathering such as Crimestoppers¹²⁴.

6.139 The overall level of compliance with statutory requirements by the aquaculture industry and associated sectors has remained good. The investment made by the FHI in the provision of advice and guidance to industry on compliance with aquatic animal health legislation in earlier years, combined with regular inspections, and prompt action on failures to comply has resulted in a clear improvement on overall compliance with legislative requirements by the aquaculture sector.

Table 6.30: Details of non-compliances found in aquatic animal health in England and Wales during 2010

Category of non-compliances	Number	Enforcement actions
Trade: Import / Export	196	67 - enforcement notices 124 - written warnings 5 - consignments destroyed 2 - formal warnings 1 - prosecution
Failing to comply with conditions of Authorisation	15	12 - enforcement notices 3 - written warnings
Obstruction	2	1 - formal warning

6.140 During 2010 the FHI has continued to work in order to build upon successful working relationships that have already been established with businesses, stakeholders and in particular partner agencies (both statutory and non-statutory). The primary aim is to work with others in order to secure regulatory compliance. The preferred option is to seek the support and co-operation of those whose activities are being regulated in order to encourage greater voluntary compliance and to reduce the burden on business. To this end and where appropriate advice and assistance is offered in preference to pursuing formal measures.

6.141 However, the FHI remain determined to identify and target those individuals who intentionally and illegally contravene regulations. There is now an increasing volume of intelligence to suggest that organised crime groups now view the illegal importation of live fish into the UK as a very lucrative business opportunity with relatively low associated risks. Working together with partner agencies the

¹²⁴ defra.gov.uk/aahm/guidance/crimestoppers

FHI has pursued an intelligence led proactive approach in support of existing and emerging threats to our fish and shellfish health.

6.142 The most serious case investigated by the FHI during the past year involved the attempted smuggling of live fish. In February 2010 officers engaged in a joint operation by the UK Border Agency and the FHI at the Port of Dover identified and intercepted a lorry containing live fish without appropriate health certification. This was a very professional smuggling operation designed to minimise the risk of being detected. In total fish with a commercial value of over £250k were seized. In relation to this particular case two men were later charged with offences contrary to Regulation 11(1) of the Animal & Animal Products (Import & Export) Regulations 2006 and Regulation 17(1) of the Aquatic Animal Health (England and Wales) Regulations 2009.

Scotland

6.143 In relation to the Infectious Salmon Anaemia outbreak in Shetland during 2009, the affected farms within the protection and surveillance zones completed the agreed fallow period and restocked. A testing programme, aimed at regaining disease freedom, has commenced and is ongoing.

Table 6.31: Details of non-compliances found in aquatic animal health in Scotland during 2010

Category of non-compliances	Number	Enforcement actions
Trade irregularities (import/export)	8	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 3 Regulation 14(3) notices issued, imposing restrictions over imported stock until the irregularity was resolved 5 incidents of minor issues in health certificates. Advice given to resolve the issue
Enhanced inspection in accordance with the Aquaculture and Fisheries (Scotland) Act 2007	9	Recommendations made
Failing to report mortalities	1	Diagnostic investigation conducted. The operator was given a verbal reminder to comply with the regulations
Failing to comply with authorisation conditions	3	Warning letter informing of obligations in line with first stage of the FHI enforcement policy

Northern Ireland

6.144 Aquaculture activities in Northern Ireland are tightly controlled by means of a Fish Culture Licence issued by DARD under the Fisheries Act (Northern Ireland) 1966 and a Fish Health Authorisation issued under the Aquatic Animal Health Regulations (NI) 2009. Compliance is high in this sector due to the official controls imposed and regular inspection visits. There were two warning letters issued in 2010 in respect of unlicensed relaying of mussel seed within Northern

Ireland. No further action was required. There were no warnings issued in respect of aquatic animal health.

6.145 DARD maintains regular contact with the UK administrations and the Marine Institute in the Republic of Ireland regarding fish movements, potential disease risks and preventative measures to be taken to reduce risk and possible spread of disease.

6.146 The disease OsHV-1 μ var which causes mortalities in Pacific oysters emerged in Northern Ireland, mortalities were recorded in Lough Foyle and Carlingford Lough. Programmes for early detection were introduced throughout the UK and measures introduced to control spread of the disease.

Official controls in the animal welfare sector

Competent authorities

6.147 Responsibility for animal welfare controls on-farm, at slaughter and during transport lies with Defra in England and with Scottish Government, Welsh Assembly Government and DARD in the Devolved Administrations. Details of the control activities of these authorities during 2010 are outlined below.

Control activities in 2010

6.148 Animal welfare controls in 2010 were primarily the responsibility of AH and LAs in Great Britain and DARD in Northern Ireland. However Defra, the Scottish Government and Welsh Assembly Government have delegated the responsibility for animal welfare implementation in slaughterhouses to the FSA Operations team. Welfare at slaughter and killing outside slaughterhouses and during disease control situations is monitored by AH. All welfare inspections where a non-compliance is disclosed, result in a letter being sent explaining what the problem is and advising how to resolve it. Revisits are carried out at a suitable interval following a risk assessment to monitor progress. When necessary, improvement notices are served under the appropriate legislation. In severe cases a report including a witness statement will be submitted so that a prosecution can be considered. During 2010 AH provided 128 witness statements to the enforcement bodies (LAs/Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals) in support of legal action.

Great Britain

On-farm animal welfare¹²⁵

6.149 In 2010 the level of non-compliance (4%) for category assessments on farms in England, Scotland and Wales as similar to that recorded in previous year. The main non-compliances were the same as last year and related to:

- failure to keep any records or adequate records of medicinal treatments.
- failure to complete accurate and complete records of any deaths of animals.
- sick animals had not received the necessary care or attention to treat their illness/ injury.
- staff did not have the necessary skills and competence to provide adequate livestock care.
- animals were located in accommodation where there were sharp edges or objects sticking out which may harm or injure the animals.
- animals were being fed either too infrequently or inappropriate feed.

6.150 The on-farm inspection programme was successfully delivered overall. It was refined in 2010 to include the implementation of the Meat Chicken Directive (2007/43/EC). Defra, the Scottish Government and the Welsh Assembly Government issued public consultation documents on proposals for amending the requirements for beak-trimming of laying hens and continued to provide Codes of recommendation on the keeping of farmed animals¹²⁶.

6.151 The powers under the Animal Welfare Act 2006 (Animal Health and Welfare (Scotland) Act 2006 in Scotland) continued to be used where appropriate to remove animals at risk of suffering or euthanize animals in extremis. Improvement notices (care notices in Scotland) were also successfully used to require owners and or keepers of animals to provide an adequate standard of care as required by the relevant Act. During 2010 the Animal Welfare Act 1972 was in force in Northern Ireland. This did not give DARD the powers described above for 2010, however, work was commenced to develop a new draft Animal Welfare Act in Northern Ireland to confer such powers in future reporting years.

6.152 ADAS¹²⁷, on behalf of Defra, organised a series of awareness campaigns on topics of welfare concern which included a series of Meat Chicken meetings to promote farmers' understanding of topical welfare issues and the implementation of new legislation. Details of the specific campaigns which took place during 2010 are provided in Table 6.32. The UK's administrations continued to contribute to an increased awareness and better understanding of many of the key welfare issues including specific communications on the main areas of non-compliance. A meeting on the new meat chicken directive 2007/43/EC was organised by the Poultry Association of Northern Ireland with assistance from DARD. DARD also

¹²⁵ General information is available at: animalhealth.defra.gov.uk/keeping-animals/caring/onfarmwelfare.html

¹²⁶ animalhealth.defra.gov.uk/keeping-animals/caring/onfarmwelfare.html

¹²⁷ Information on ADAS is available at: adas.co.uk/

communicated the requirements of the new legislation to the industry in writing. DARD organised information campaigns to publicise the forthcoming ban on the use of conventional laying hen cages.

Table 6.32: Summary of animal welfare advice provided by ADAS during 2010

Advice provided by ADAS in 2010	
Poultry	<p><u>Broiler Directive Workshops</u></p> <p>A series of 6 regional workshops plus specific workshops at integrated companies were held around the country in March and April 2010. The objective was to provide information to conventionally reared meat chicken keepers on the requirements of the new EU Broiler Directive which set minimum welfare standards. The locations were chosen to target as many keepers within the English broiler industry as possible and the workshops were completed well in advance of the regulations coming into force date of 30 June 2010.</p>
Sheep	<p><u>Rearing more lambs – better welfare and improved returns</u></p> <p>20 workshops were held throughout England in November 2009 and January 2010. The meetings focussed on the period from 8 weeks before lambing to 6 weeks post lambing and consisted of a series of talks from husbandry specialists on nutrition, good husbandry and disease control.</p>
Pigs	<p><u>Tail biting workshops for pig producers in England</u></p> <p>These meetings focussed on improving the welfare of growing and finishing pigs by reducing the incidence of tail biting and by reducing the need for producers to tail dock. 10 interactive workshops were held around England in February and March 2010, and included presentations on related topics such as the BPEX-sponsored Bristol University intervention study on tail biting. Producers were able to draw on practical conclusions to help solve any problems on their own farms.</p>

6.153 Defra publishes statistics for public access in relation to high-level on-farm welfare inspections in Great Britain¹²⁸. At a more detailed level, AH completed a total of 7,471 enterprise inspections at 2,751 farm visits on 2,099 farms during 2010. All complaints and allegations of poor welfare on specific farms were immediately assessed by a veterinary officer and treated as a matter of urgency. 735 out of the 746 complaint inspections (98.5%) were carried out within 24 hours of receipt of the complaint. The results of inspection visits were classified into four score categories - A to D. The A and B scored inspections reflect compliance with the legislation and did not require any further statutory action. In 2010 the level of compliance on farms was similar to that recorded in previous years and overall approximately 96% of category assessments were compliant with European and Domestic legislation. Details of C and D scored inspections during 2010 are provided in Table 6.33.

6.154 DARD completed 845 inspections with an overall farm compliance rate of 83.9%. Inspections by DARD revealed 7% of farmers categorised as those serious

¹²⁸ defra.gov.uk/statistics/foodfarm/landuselivestock/welfare

enough for formal action through prosecution (category C as per Commission Decision 2006/778/EC)¹²⁹.

Table 6.33: Details of C & D scores from animal welfare inspections in Great Britain during 2010

Type of inspections	Number
A score of C is recorded when there is a non-compliance with the welfare legislation, welfare potentially or actually compromised but no unnecessary pain, suffering or distress identified	Across 7,471 enterprise inspections, non compliance with the legislation and potential compromise of animal welfare was found in 2,259 categories out of a total of 70,208 assessments. This resulted in an overall C score for 881 enterprises, for which 376 advisory letters instructing the farmer on action to take to resolve the problems were issued.
A score of D is recorded when unnecessary suffering was disclosed at any AH welfare inspection.	Across 7,471 enterprise inspections, results show that unnecessary suffering was disclosed in 593 categories out of a total of 70,208 assessments. This resulted in an overall D score for 286 enterprises. The majority of infringements related to inadequate animal care, lack of inspection of livestock and inadequate staffing. In 2010, the national average number of days taken to resolve D scores in Great Britain was 11.6 days against a target of less than 21 average days.

6.155 The UK implemented the Meat Chicken Directive (2007/43/EC)¹³⁰ through the Welfare of Farmed Animals Regulations¹³¹. AH ran a pilot study in 2009/2010 to contribute to the evidence to set the Trigger Intervention points of conditions measured at slaughter as an indicator of on-farm welfare. The pilot also tested the end-to-end processes for delivery. From 30 June AH and FSA Operations implemented the trigger system for all eligible flocks resulting in all trigger reports generated being assessed for further action. The same trigger report system was in use for 2010 across all of the UK. DARD produced a draft Welfare Code of Recommendation - Meat Chickens and Breeding Chickens in 2010¹³².

6.156 The ban on the routine beak trimming of laying hens, which was due to come into force on 1 January 2011, was removed by amendments to the permitted procedures/mutilations regulations. These Regulations limit the method of routine beak trimming for laying hens to the use of infra-red technology only¹³³.

¹²⁹

eurlex.europa.eu/smartapi/cgi/sga_doc?smartapi!celexplus!prod!DocNumber&type_doc=Decision&an_doc=2006&nu_doc=778&lg=en

¹³⁰ defra.gov.uk/food-farm/animals/welfare/on-farm/poultry-welfare/ and

archive.defra.gov.uk/foodfarm/farmanimal/welfare/onfarm/meatchks-require.htm

¹³¹ WOFAR legislation amendments available at:

England: [Welfare of Farmed Animals \(England\) \(Amendment\) Regulations 2010](#)

Scotland: legislation.data.gov.uk/sdsi/2010/9780111010228/data.htm?wrap=true

Wales: [The Welfare of Farmed Animals \(Wales\) \(Amendment\) Regulations 2010](#)

¹³² dardni.gov.uk/index/publications/pubs-dard-animal-health/pubs-ahw-code-meat-chickens.htm

¹³³ Mutilations legislation amendments available at: England: [the Mutilations \(Permitted Procedures\) \(England\) \(Amendment\) Regulations 2010](#) Scotland: legislation.gov.uk/sdsi/2010/9780111010211/contents Wales: legislation.gov.uk/wsi/2010/2712/introduction/made

Animal welfare during transport¹³⁴

6.157 An Annual Report on the Protection of Animals during Transport¹³⁵ is produced and submitted to the Commission by 30 June each year¹³⁶.

6.158 Inspections are carried out in the UK on a risk basis and in response to intelligence received. Inspection programmes are planned by AH and LAs through local liaison. Findings are kept under review and local action taken as appropriate where any major deficiencies are detected.

6.159 During 2010 AH successfully authorised large numbers of transporters as required by Regulation 1/2005 and took action against transporters when they either failed to comply with the Regulation or when they failed to comply with the terms of their authorisation. On a number of occasions incidents were reported to other Member States *via* the appropriate contact point for the relevant Member State. AH approved 983 applications for transporter authorisations under the Welfare in Transport Regulations (WIT) in 2010. Of these two were refused and two were issued conditionally. DARD issued 137, of which 6 were conditional.

6.160 The total of 655 journey logs were approved by AH, of which 524 new journeys and 131 repeat journeys were approved for the transportation of livestock and unregistered equines. A further 16 were rejected due to either unrealistic journey times or inadequate rest periods. DARD approved 14 journey logs per month during 2010.

6.161 The bulk of routine checks of animals and means of transport are carried out by LA inspectors. During 2010 there were 123,271 vehicles inspected, some of which were transporting animals at the time of inspection (these inspections also include documentary checks) and 5,144 non-compliances were found. In addition there were 7,025 documentary only checks with 351 non-compliances found. Enforcement action taken included:

- 1,110 oral warnings;
- 359 written warnings;
- 171 statutory notices;
- 1 Home Office caution; and
- 10 prosecutions.

¹³⁴ General information available at: animalhealth.defra.gov.uk/keeping-animals/caring/onfarmwelfare.html

¹³⁵ As required by Regulation (EC) 1/2005

¹³⁶ ec.europa.eu/food/animal/welfare/transport/inspections_reports_reg_1_2005_en.htm

- 6.162 AH at the port of Dover checked 121 out of a total of 432 vehicles (28%) transporting fattening and production cattle and sheep. 57 notices were served under the WIT regulations in 2010 in GB. DARD and LAs inspected 3,540 vehicles in Northern Ireland in 2010 of which 98% were compliant. All infringements were detected at a level of 2% across departure, destination and market inspections. 93% of infringements were detected at the point of departure but this reflected the higher number of inspections (3,296) carried out by DARD at the point of departure compared with other locations (such as on road, at destination, at transfer and staging points etc). Of the 73 that failed, one-third were for document infringements. 78% of all infringements in Northern Ireland related to equidae.
- 6.163 AH introduced changes to the Transporter and Journey approvals process to include the provision of a Contingency Plan on application.
- 6.164 One particularly serious welfare issue detected from welfare surveillance monitoring by VLA, Defra and on-farm monitoring by AH revealed welfare risks to heifers transported long distances during late pregnancy. Details were communicated to both transporters¹³⁷ and vets¹³⁸ including those from other Member States, as well as reminding them of the legal requirements with respect to transporting pregnant cattle. Communications were also sent to Member State contact points during 2010 regarding potential contraventions of EC/1/2005 on this issue.

Animal welfare at slaughter or killing¹³⁹

- 6.165 Defra and the Scottish Government and the Welsh Assembly Government have delegated the responsibility for animal welfare implementation in slaughterhouses to the FSA. When animals are killed on farms or at knackers' yards, AH and LAs may monitor welfare. Where possible, Veterinary Officers monitor slaughter during visits to farms and, in particular, they may make risk-based visits to knackers' yards and to seasonal poultry slaughterers in the period immediately before Christmas. AH also followed up reports and allegations of poor practice and, when necessary, conducted investigations with a view to provide advice for prosecution.
- 6.166 In 2010, welfare standards during slaughter or killing outside licensed slaughterhouses were similar to those reported in previous years with very few reported problems. All but 8 of the 79 inspections during 66 visits in 2010 were undertaken during the pre-Christmas peak period. No serious non-compliance was found. There were 135 applications for a slaughterman's licence, and 132 issued following an assessment of competence.

¹³⁷ vla.defra.gov.uk/news/docs/new_cust_info1110.pdf

¹³⁸ veterinaryrecord.bmj.com/content/167/20/796.full

¹³⁹ General information available at: animalhealth.defra.gov.uk/keeping-animals/caring/welfareatslaughter.html

Welfare forensic pathology and advice

6.167 During 2010 the Veterinary Laboratories Agency (VLA) received 98 welfare forensic submissions, of which approximately 60% were whole/part carcasses, the remainder of the samples ranged from wool samples in suspect sheep scab cases to faeces samples for endoparasite monitoring. This was similar to 2009 (105 submissions). VLA worked with AH and LAs to provide witness statements for serious non-compliances detected, most of which were accepted by the courts without requiring attendance as expert witnesses. VLA produced summary welfare surveillance reports for communication of welfare-related (mostly on-farm) cases dealt with in 2010.

Official controls in the plant health sector

Great Britain

6.168 In England and Wales in 2010-11, 88,000 imported consignments were subject to documentary and identity checks, and 16,000 of these were subject to physical checks. 900 non-regulated consignments were inspected. Around 1 million tonnes of produce was imported by 989 registered importers. 929 producers registered for plant passporting were subject to 2,185 inspections of their premises. 69 outbreaks of quarantine pests were recorded and tackled by PHSI in association with producers. 28 of these were outbreaks of *Bemisia tabaci* and 13 were of *Tuta absoluta*.

6.169 Under the Phytophthora programme, 20,460 inspections of commercial premises were made with 0.16% of plants found to be infected. 20 new outbreak sites were identified. 4,357 inspections of parks, gardens and woodland were carried out, with positive findings in 7.8% of cases. 46 new outbreak sites were identified. 97.5 hectares of Rhododendron was cleared and 2615 hectares of Japanese larch.

6.170 In Scotland, there were 159 import inspections during 2010. General quarantine surveillance totalled 4,890 inspections of which 2,559 were for *P ramorum/kernoviae*. During the growing season 11,897 hectares of seed potatoes were inspected twice and 1784 hectares of ware potatoes once. In addition, 69,004 tonnes of seed potatoes tubers and 9,056 tonnes of ware potatoes were inspected. For *Diabrotica virgifera*, 36 inspections were carried out.

6.171 In 2010, the Forestry Commission maintained an inspection regime of wood and wood products imported into Great Britain from third countries in accordance with Community legislative requirements and also carried out a range of surveys in accordance with Community provisions. A total of 4,148 inspections of imports of wood and wood products, including 2,800 inspections of wood packaging material associated with goods of various commodities, were carried out.

- 6.172 Inspections of controlled timber were supplemented by specific surveys in relation to various species.
- 6.173 Also in 2010 the Forestry Commission performed 35 inspections of sawn timber and wood packaging material imported directly via a limited trade from Portugal and submitted 18 samples to Forest Research for analysis to check for the presence of Pine Wood Nematode (*Bursaphelenchus xylophilus*). All samples proved negative for the presence of the forestry pest.
- 6.174 At the end of 2010 the Forestry Commission dealt with Great Britain's first outbreak of *Phytophthora lateralis* (Root Disease of Lawson's Cypress) which was confirmed on 6 mature Lawson's Cypress at Balloch Castle Country Park, Scotland. This is a highly virulent disease and c. 80 dead or dying Lawson's cypress were identified in the Park, most probably all due to *P. lateralis*. Another concern was the finding of *P. ramorum* on a Rhododendron in the Park, with several other symptomatic rhododendrons being observed during site studies.
- 6.175 Forest Research scientists had also confirmed *P. ramorum* in one of the Lawson's cypress (only the second record on this species). *P. ramorum* and *P. lateralis* are very closely related and there is a history of *Phytophthora* species hybridising to produce a new species (e.g. *P. Alni* which is seriously impacting riparian alder in some parts of the country). The Forestry Commission are working with the Country Park and the neighbouring National Park authorities to trace the source of this outbreak, and to contain and if possible eradicate it. An Outbreak Management Team consisting of all interested parties has been formed to manage the outbreak.
- 6.176 617 interceptions were reported to the FVO. These included documentary problems, particularly in respect of the failure to include additional declarations in phytosanitary certificates. 56 cases of non-compliance with phytosanitary requirements were recorded by the Forestry Commission in respect of wood and wood products, including imports of goods with associated wood packaging material which accounted for 41 of them. Overall, the level of compliance was considered to be high.
- 6.177 Various new legislation was passed in 2010, principally to implement EU Directives and Decisions.

Northern Ireland

- 6.178 In 2010, 1,669 general plant health inspections and 13 third country import inspections were carried out in Northern Ireland. In addition specific surveys were carried out. A summary of the results is provided in Table 6.34 below.

Table 6.34: Specific plant health surveys carried out in Northern Ireland during 2010

Plant pest /disease	Number of inspections
Citrus Longhorn Beetle	45
Colorado Beetle	527
<i>Diabrotica virgifera</i>	10
Fireblight	452
<i>Liriomyza bryoniae</i> / <i>Bemisia tabaci</i>	35
<i>Phytophthora ramorum</i> / <i>kernoviae</i>	936
Rhizomania	11
Ring Rot / Brown rot	32

Annexe - Abbreviations

AFB	American Foul Brood Disease
AFBI	Agri-Food Biosciences Institute for Northern Ireland
AFLELG	Animal Feed Law Enforcement Liaison Group
AH	Animal Health (from 1 April 2011 AH merged with the Veterinary Laboratories Agency to form the Animal Health and Veterinary Laboratories Agency)
AHDH	Animal Health Dairy Hygiene
AHVLA	Animal Health and Veterinary Laboratories Agency
AHW	Animal Health and Welfare
AIC	Agricultural Industries Confederation
AI SG	Audit Implementation Steering Group
AMES	Animal Health and Welfare Management and Enforcement System
AMI	Animal Medicines Inspectorate
APHIS	Animal and Public Health Information System
BTSF	Better Training for Safer Food
BIP	Border Inspection Post
BKD	Bacterial Kidney Disease
BSE	Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy
BTB	Bovine Tuberculosis
Cefas	Centre for Environment, Fisheries and Aquaculture Science
CRD	Health and Safety Executive's Chemicals Regulation Directorate
CSFS	Compulsory Scrapie Flocks Scheme
CVMP	Committee for Medicinal Products for Veterinary Use
CVO	Chief Veterinary Officer
DARD	Department of Agriculture and Rural Development for Northern Ireland
Defra	Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs
DPE	Designated Port of Entry
DSP	Diarrhetic Shellfish Poisoning
EA	Environment Agency
EC	European Community
ECA	European Court of Auditors
EEA	European Economic Area
EEC	European Economic Community
EFB	European Foul Brood Disease
EIA	Equine Infectious Anaemia
EID	Electronic Identification
EU	European Union

FBO	Food Business Operator
FCW	Forestry Commission Wales
FeBO	Feed Business Operator
Fera	Food and Environment Research Agency
FFV	Food Factory Vegetable
FHI	Fish Health Inspectorate
FHIS	Food Hygiene Information Scheme
FHRS	Food Hygiene Rating Scheme
FLG	Food Liaison Group
FSA	Food Standards Agency
FVO	Food and Veterinary Office
GM	Genetically modified
HACCP	Hazard Analysis Critical Control Point
HMRC	Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs
HPA	Health Protection Agency
HSE	Health and Safety Executive
IAB	DARD Internal Audit Branch
IAD	Scottish Government Internal Audit Division
ISO	International Standardisation Organisation
KHV	Koi Herpesvirus
LA	Local Authority
LACORS	Local Authorities Co-ordinators of Regulatory Services
LAEMS	Local Authority Enforcement Monitoring System
LGR	Local Government Regulation
LGS	Local Government Services
LV	Lead Veterinarian
MANCP	Multi-Annual National Control Plan
MAT	Microscopic Analysis Test
MFS	Medicated Foodstuffs
MHS	Meat Hygiene Service
MOU	Memorandum of Understanding
MRL	Maximum Residue Level
NAFPP	National Animal Feed Ports Panel
NBU	National Bee Unit
NCP	National Control Plan
NRCP	National Residue Control Plan
NRL	National Reference Laboratory
NSAIDs	Non-Steroidal Anti-Inflammatory Drugs
OFFC	Official Feed and Food Controls
OsHV-1 μ var	Ostreid Herpesvirus-1 μ var
OV	Official Veterinarian
OVS	Official Veterinary Surgeons

PACE	Police and Criminal Evidence Act
PCB	Polychlorinated Biphenyl
PETS	Pet Travel Scheme
PHA	Port Health Authority
PMB	Project Management Board
POAO	Products of Animal Origin
PPS	Public Prosecution Service (Northern Ireland)
PSP	Paralytic shellfish poisoning
QAB	Quality Assurance Branch
RA	Welsh Government, Department for Rural Affairs (previously the Welsh Assembly Government, Department for Rural Affairs)
RASFF	Rapid Alert System for Feed and Food
RIW	Rural Inspectorate Wales
RPA	Rural Payments Agency
SASA	Science and Advice for Scottish Agriculture
SFBB	Safer Food Better Business
SFELC	Scottish Food Enforcement Liaison Committee
SG RED	Scottish Government Rural and Environment Directorate
SGRPID	Scottish Government Rural Payments and Inspections Directorate
SPPOCS	Scottish Primary Production Official Controls System
SI	Statutory Instrument
SLA	Service Level Agreement
SRM	Specified Risk Material
SVC	Spring Viraemia of Carp
TB	Tuberculosis
TRACES	Trade Control and Expert System
TSE	Transmissible Spongiform Encephalopathy
UK	United Kingdom
UKAS	United Kingdom Accreditation Service
UKBA	United Kingdom Border Agency
VLA	Veterinary Laboratories Agency (from 1 April 2011 the VLA merged with Animal Health to form the Animal Health and Veterinary Laboratories Agency)
VMD	Veterinary Medicines Directorate
VS	DARD Veterinary Service
VS-VPHU	DARD Veterinary Service – Veterinary Public Health Unit
WIT	Welfare in Transport