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FINAL COUNTRY PROFILE OF ITALY
ON FOOD AND FEED SAFETY, ANIMAL HEALTH, ANIMAL WELFARE
AND PLANT HEALTH

Valid as of May 2008

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INTRODUCTION

This country profile has been drawn up by the Food and Veterinary Office (FVO), a directorate of the Directorate-General for Health and Consumers of the European Commission.

The aim is to present in summary form the latest information available to the FVO on how control systems for food and feed safety, animal health, animal welfare and plant health are organised in Italy.

The information in the country profile has been compiled from:

- recent written submissions and background documentation from the Italian authorities detailing how control systems are organised;
- the results of missions to Italy carried out in recent years by inspection teams from the Food and Veterinary Office and, in particular, a general review mission in Italy in November 2007 to evaluate the full range of control systems for food and feed safety, animal health, animal welfare and plant health.

The country profile is presented in three parts:

- Part 1 describes the overall organisation of the Italian authorities and the respective responsibilities of the relevant ministries in relation to the different components of the control system. A chart is used to help the reader better understand the inter-relationships between the responsibilities of the different bodies.
- Part 2 gives a more detailed description of the main responsibilities for each of the eleven separate systems that form the complete range of control systems in Italy covering the whole chain of plant, animal and food production. As in Part 1, organisation charts are used to help the reader.
- Part 3 contains an overview of the missions carried out by the Food and Veterinary Office to Italy since 1999 and, for each control system, gives an assessment of progress on specific recommendations reviewed in the general review mission of November 2007. Part 3.12 also provides an overview of more recent inspections which had not been finalised at the time of the general review mission.

The country profile will be updated at regular intervals based on the results of future FVO missions and other relevant information received by the Commission from the Italian authorities.

Acronyms are used extensively throughout this report for the sake of brevity. A list of acronyms, abbreviations special terms and websites (where applicable) is given in Annex I to the country profile as a guide for the reader.

1. COMPETENT AUTHORITIES AND OVERALL DISTRIBUTION OF RESPONSIBILITIES

Constitutional framework

The Italian Constitution allocates certain exclusive competences to the State (including international relations, import controls and international disease protection) and defines the areas where competence is shared between the State and the Regions. In the latter case, the State does not have exclusive legislative competence (but transposes EU Directives for the whole territory until overtaken by laws adopted in individual regions). All administrative tasks in these areas have been devolved to the Regions, including in the areas of health and food safety.

The 19 Regions and two autonomous Provinces have responsibility, within their territories, for planning, co-ordination, guidance, authorisation, and verification of controls. (For the purpose of the country profile, references to "regions" should be read as including the two autonomous Provinces).

Relations between the State and Regions are managed through the State-Region Conference (established by Decree of the President of the Council of Ministers of 12 October 1983). The State-Region Conference has a permanent Inter Regional Committee on Food Safety (currently chaired by Tuscany). This committee is assisted by technical working groups. The Ministry of Health (MH) participates in these fora.

In relation to areas of exclusive competence, the State-Region Conference may be invited to give "conditional opinions": The State may accept or reject these opinions, giving reasons (Legislative Decree 281 of 1997). In the case of shared competences, the State-Region Conference adopts co-decisions (Article 8 of Law 131 of 5 June 2003). This includes implementation arrangements for EU Regulations.

The Constitution guarantees the uniform application of shared competences by the Regions. The State has a range of instruments to monitor this, including the setting of *Livelli Essenziali Assistenza* (LEA-minimum service level) under Decree of the President of the Council of Ministers of 29 November 2001. Performance by the Regions, as measured by LEA impacts on the level of State funding provided to the Region (3% of budget). Up to 2007, the LEA indicators had not been applied to animal health and food safety. In 2007, the scope of the LEA indicators was extended, on a trial basis, to include these two sectors (13 information flow and 4 activity indicators). The LEA Committee is to review results for 2007 and to consider enhancing the animal health and food safety components of LEA from 2008 onwards.

Ministries/other Responsible Bodies

In Italy most of the competencies for animal health, food and feed safety and animal welfare are assigned at national level to the Department for Veterinary Public Health Nutrition and Food Safety (DVPHNFS) of MH.

The Ministry of Agriculture Foodstuff and Forestry Policies (MIPAAF) is responsible for plant health and for the controls on quality of food, feed, plant protection products and fertilisers.

The operational implementation of controls is handled at local level by 195 Local Health Units (AUSL).

The central authority retains responsibility for national co-ordination, guidance, monitoring, supervision and inspection. The sectoral offices of the DVPHNFS may carry out inspections directly (mainly in relation to specific problems and the approval of establishments for export to third countries), or through a dedicated body of the Carabinieri. In parallel to these inspections the DVPHNFS (office IX) began to carry out audits of regional control systems in 2003. In addition to the audit activity by Office IX, certain sectoral offices also undertake supervision visits.

Cross Ministry co-ordination on risk assessment

A joint (MH+MIPAAF) Decree of 26 July 2007, implementing Regulation (EC) 178/2002 as regards risk assessment (published in the official journal on 4 October 2007) established a Strategic Steering Committee for risk assessment (comprising representatives of Ministries of Health and Agriculture, the regions and the laboratories). This committee sets intervention priorities and adopts work programmes. Further implementing provisions are envisaged.

The Steering committee has the support of the National Committee for Food Safety, which is a technical consultative body established to deliver scientific opinions.

The National Secretariat for risk assessment in the food chain is located in the DVPHNFS (see below).

The work of these bodies provides planning input to the multi-annual national control plan (MANCP).

Ministry of Health - Department for Veterinary Public Health, Nutrition and Food Safety (DVPHNFS)

The Department for Veterinary Public Health, Nutrition and Food Safety was established by Order number 202 of 1 October 2005, as amended by law Number 244 of 30 November 2005. This Department was split up into two General Directorates and a Secretariat in March 2006 (in line with Presidential Decree number 129 of 28 March 2003 and Ministerial Decree of 14 December 2006, published in the official journal on 13 February 2007).

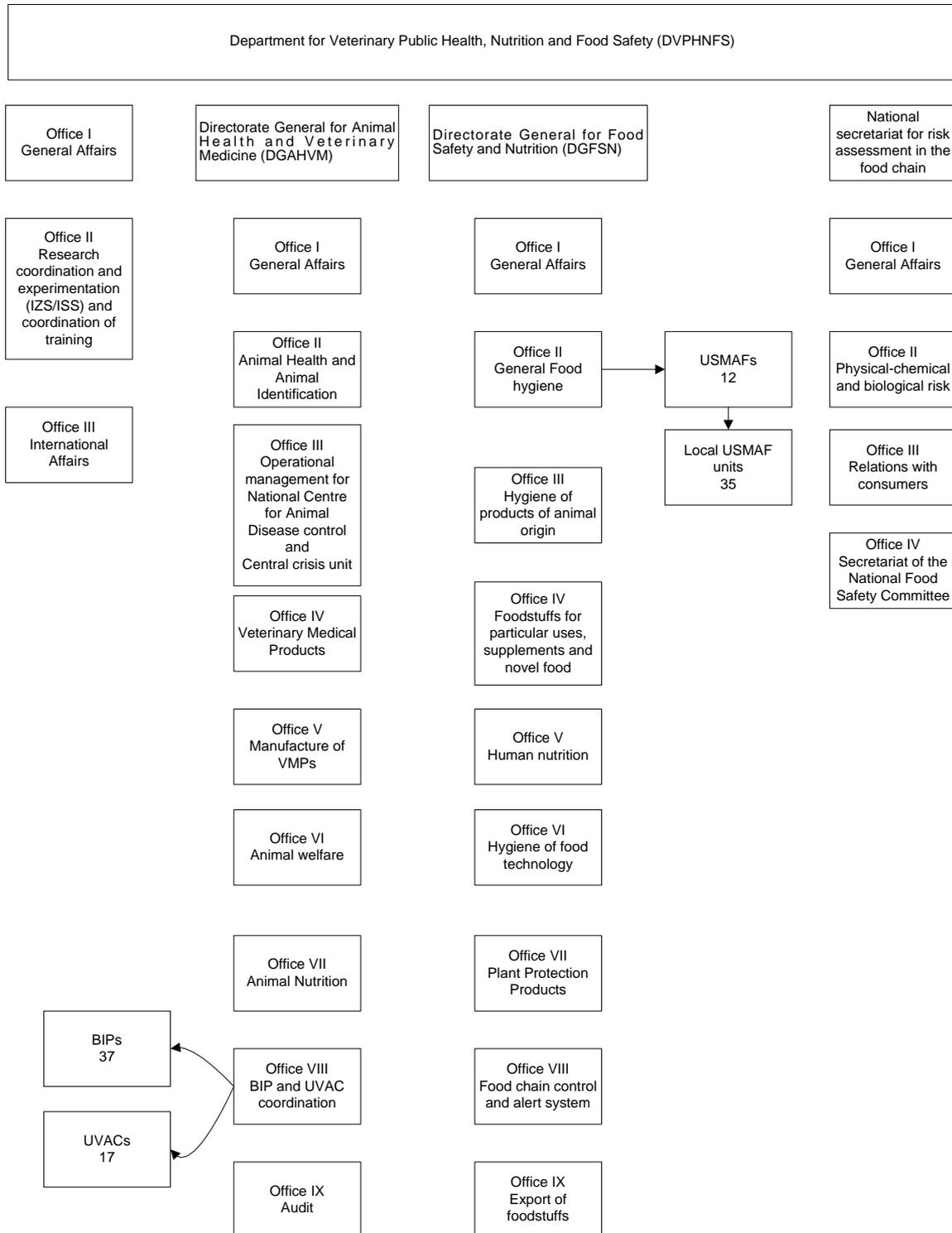
There was a major increase of staff of the DVPHNFS in July 2006 with the recruitment of 40 new veterinarians and 20 technical/administrative staff, bringing the total staff of the Department to 276 (see Annex II on staff resources).

A crisis unit was established in MH to handle all outbreaks, including co-ordination at national level (Legislative Decree 202 of 1 October 2005). In July 2007 a new Conference of heads of services in MH and the Regions was created (based on political agreement) to improve co-ordination, responsiveness to FVO recommendations and information exchange at technical level in the fields of food safety and animal health. The Conference, which meets at least once every two months, has priorities to:

- ensure closer co-operation to provide effective support to the work of the National Committee for Food Safety
- establish operational standards for the functioning of the three levels (State, Region, Local) and for internal and external audit

- develop information systems at all levels to facilitate the management of the MANCP
- develop an integrated food safety laboratory network

The following organisation chart provides an overview of DVPHNFS:



The National Secretariat for risk assessment in the food chain

Presidential Decree 189/2006 established the National Secretariat for risk assessment in the food chain, which supports the work of the Strategic Steering Committee for risk assessment and the National Committee for Food Safety. The role of the Secretariat is to undertake preliminary investigation and to coordinate the risk assessment processes. The secretariat is the contact point for the European Food Safety Authority (EFSA) and comprises 4 offices as shown above.

Regional and local level Ministry of Health

The following local offices of MH are responsible for import controls and intra-community trade:

- 37 Border Inspection Posts (BIPs), responsible for controls on imported animals, food of animal origin and feedingstuffs;
- 12 Port, Airport and Border Health Offices (USMAF), comprising 35 local units at the main ports and airports, responsible for controls on imported food of non animal origin;
- 17 Veterinary Offices for Compliance with Community Requirements (UVAC), responsible for intra community trade of animals, food of animal origin and feed.

The BIPs and UVAC report to Office VIII of DGAHVM while the USMAF report to Office II of Directorate General for Food Safety and Nutrition (DGFSN) and to the Directorate-General for Sanitary Prevention (DGPS) of MH.

A total of 278 staff are employed in the BIPs, 61 in the UVAC and 515 in the USMAF.

Carabinieri Health Protection Unit (NAS)

The NAS is a special branch of the Carabinieri which operates under the supervision and direction of MH. They are organised into a central command, with 3 field offices and 35 territorial inspection units and are responsible for investigations and controls on illegal adulteration of foodstuffs, fraud, and illegal trafficking of medicines. They may perform controls and investigations on their own initiative or on request from the offices of MH, including hygiene inspections of businesses, verification of own control systems, sampling and analysis of products, and examination of documents of authorisations. NAS officials have the title of health inspector and the authority of judicial police. Most of the 1,000 staff are warrant officers with specific technical training. On average 50% of their time is dedicated to food safety inspections.

During 2007, the NAS performed 29,269 inspections and took 21,894 samples for analysis in relation to food, veterinary medicines and feedstuff. These controls resulted in: 5,702 infringements, 11,798 people charged for criminal and administrative offences, 47 people arrested, 868 establishments subject to an order for closure and 23,612 tonnes of goods seized, for an estimated value of 127 million euros

Ministry of Agriculture Foodstuffs and Forestry Policies

Within the Ministry of Agriculture Foodstuffs and Forestry Policies (MIPAAF), the Directorate General for Quality of Agricultural and Food Products (DGQPA) is responsible for the co-ordination of activities related to the quality of agricultural products and food.

Within the DGPQA, Office VIII is responsible for plant health, seeds, propagation material, fertilisers and plant protection products. Office V is responsible for husbandry and products of animal origin.

Central Inspectorate for Quality Control of Foodstuff and Agricultural Products

MIPAAF's control activity is carried out by the Central Inspectorate for Quality Control of Foodstuff and Agricultural Products (ICQ). The ICQ is an inspection body of the MIPAAF responsible for fraud prevention. It carries out controls on labelling and quality of foodstuffs, agricultural products feed, fertilisers and plant protection products.

At central level the ICQ consists of a Directorate General for Planning and Inspection and Laboratory Co-ordination and a Directorate General for Administration Co-ordination. It has 12 decentralised inspection offices and 15 local units. The ICQ has its own laboratory network, comprising five chemical routine laboratories and a central reference laboratory responsible for research activity and confirmatory analysis. Most of the controls performed by the ICQ are related to wine, alcoholic beverages, milk, dairy products and olive oil. Specific control campaigns are carried out in relation to feedingstuffs, ABP, traceability of meat, GMOs in soya and corn seeds, fertilizers and organic agricultural products.

All laboratories are accredited to ISO 17025:2005 by the National System for Laboratory Accreditation (SINAL).

The ICQ employs 28 directors, 412 inspectors, 170 analysts and 318 administrative staff. In 2006, the ICQ performed 36,391 inspection visits and 11,256 chemical analyses. These controls resulted in: 4,094 administrative sanctions; 458 criminal cases; and 520 seizures.

The ICQ carries out controls on feedingstuffs for the presence of prohibited animal proteins (PAP) and on organic products for the presence of residues of prohibited Plant Protection Products (PPPs). The ICQ also undertakes controls on wine production, fertilizers and fruit and vegetables for the presence of unauthorised additives. Feedingstuffs, fertilisers and wine are checked for the presence of heavy metals.

The monitoring of feedstuffs for PAP accounts for about 15% of all activity and ICQ laboratories undertake the analysis. The ICQ laboratory at Catania specialises in the analysis of organic products for the presence of prohibited PPPs. The same laboratory also checks for the presence of unauthorised compounds used for surface treatments of fruit and vegetables.

ICQ may make specific control activities in the food safety field on request of the judicial authorities.

Regional veterinary services and public health services

In the 21 Regions, responsibility for animal health, food of animal origin and feed safety and animal welfare is assigned to the Regional Veterinary Services (RVS) which are normally part of the Regional Public Health Services (RPHS). Responsibility for foods of non animal origin is assigned to a separate office of the same RPHS.

The internal organisation of the RPHS differs between Regions (e.g. in Tuscany the veterinary services form an independent organisational unit as regards public health, and in one of the two autonomous Provinces the veterinary service is subject to the Provincial Agriculture Authority).

The RPHS have a co-ordination function while the implementation of controls is done at local level by inspectors employed in the AUSL.

A total of 100 veterinarians are employed in the RPHS.

Regional Plant Health Services

Plant health responsibilities are assigned to the Regional Plant Health Services (RPS) which are normally attached to the agriculture departments of the Regions and directly responsible for the implementation of controls.

The RPS employs 374 inspectors, 173 technical/administrative staff and 60 laboratory staff.

Local Health Units

The Local Health Units (AUSL) are public bodies responsible at local level for the organisation and management of all public health services. They have a high degree of managerial, administrative, financial and technical autonomy and are organised in sanitary districts, departments of preventions and hospital services.

Public health responsibilities are shared between two separate services within the Department of Prevention: the Food Hygiene and Nutrition Service (SIAN), and the Local Veterinary Services (LVS).

The LVS are responsible for: animal health; animal welfare; food of animal origin; and feedingstuffs, and are usually organised into three different areas:

- *area A* - responsible for animal health;
- *area B* – responsible for food of animal origin;
- *area C* – responsible for animal breeding and animal productions and by-products.

The distinction between areas of activity does not apply in all the AUSL and the allocation of resources may vary according to the AUSL. The majority of inspectors in the LVS are veterinarians. A total of 5,334 veterinarians are employed in the AUSL.

SIAN is responsible for food of non animal origin. Some staff are medical doctors, but the majority are technicians with a second level diploma. The staff in charge of control activities are specifically designated for that purpose, whereas other staff are also involved in other public health activities.

Laboratory services

Laboratory services for animal health, food and feed are provided by a network of public laboratories at regional level. Analyses of food of animal origin and animal health are carried out by the Experimental Zooprophylaxis Institutes (IZS). There are 10 IZS, with 90 field diagnostic units at provincial level. The IZS are subject to control and supervision by the Regions and co-ordination by the DVPHNFS.

Analysis of contaminants, pesticides and foodstuffs of plant origin is carried out by 105 Agencies for Environment Protection (ARPA). The ARPA comprise both laboratories responsible for environmental monitoring and laboratories responsible for food controls, formerly known as Multi-Territorial Prevention Offices (PMP). The ARPA report to the local AUSL but they may perform analyses for more than one AUSL in a particular a region.

At national level, the National Health Institute (ISS) is the leading technical and scientific public body of the Italian National Health Service. The ISS (which is under the remit of MH) supervises the laboratories of the Italian National Health Service engaged in food and feed control and performs confirmatory analysis. Its activities include research, control, training and consultation in the interest of public health protection. An important activity of the Institute carried out on behalf of the Minister of Health or the Regions, is inspection and quality control of food products and packaging. The ISS includes: the Community Reference Laboratories for *Escheria coli* (including verotoxigenic *E. coli*); parasites (in particular *Trichinella*); and the residues listed in annex I, group B 3(c) of Directive 96/23/EC.

National Reference Centres are present in several IZS laboratories and in the ISS. All 10 IZS laboratories for the official control of feed and foodstuffs are accredited.

MANCP

The first Italian MANCP, covering the period 2007-2010 was adopted by the State-Region Conference on 14 June 2007 (reference 133/C5R), formal notice of which was published in the official journal). Office VIII DGFSN co-ordinates the MANCP. The first review of the plan is scheduled for June 2008.

Risk assessment for the MANCP is the responsibility of the National Strategic Committee and the National Committee for food safety. The plan comprises an overall synthesis together with more detailed regional plans. A database has been established to collect control data. A working group (comprising MH and the regions) has been established to look at existing data sources with the objective of developing an integrated database for MANCP implementation.

Competent Authority Audit Systems

In 2003, the DVPHNFS introduced a system of audits of regional control systems in the areas of feed and food safety, animal health and animal welfare. Office IX of DGAHVM is the responsible office.

The audits comprise systemic audits of the overall management structure of the regional services, and sectoral audits looking vertically at the implementation of controls. At the time of the general review mission, the number of audited sectors is 9: milk and milk products, animal nutrition, epidemical emergencies, animal welfare, rapid alert system for food, fishing, bovine and ovi-caprine brucellosis, meat and meat by-products, identification and registration of animals. A full regional audit is considered to be completed when the systemic audit and at least four sectoral audits have been carried out.

The Regions and the sectors to be audited are selected following an assessment of epidemiological data, production data, feed-food business data, zootechnical data, flow of information, information that might indicate non-compliance, and the outcome of previous FVO or CCA missions.

The audits are carried out by the staff of Office IX (current staffing: 5: down from 8 in 2006), together with staff from the other sectoral offices of the Department. In 2007, Office IX produced an amended manual of procedures to address remarks by the FVO. The manual includes standard reporting templates. Office IX ensures that follow-up actions are taken in response to audit reports. The office is also developing new trend performance indicators developed for use in audits

In 2006, Office IX-DGAHVM adopted indicators for the qualitative and quantitative assessment of efficiency and effectiveness and for the presentation of the results of the systemic audits. .

Only one audit took place in 2006 due to a lack of funds for missions. The audit plan for 2007 was based on an agreement with the Regions and Autonomous Provinces (DGSA-IX-3182-P of 24 April 2007) and comprised 7 system and 18 sectoral audits (of which 2 system and 8 sectoral had been completed in 2007). For 2008, 15 audits are envisaged to complete a further 3-4 regions. The MH was not in a position to give any planned timescale for the completion of first round audits in all 21 regions/provinces.

So far 44 audits have been carried out in 12 Regions and 73 AUSL and the audit cycle has been completed in 5 regions. The reports for 3 of those audits are published on the MH website:

<http://www.ministerosalute.it/alimenti/attivita/sezAttivita.jsp?lang=italiano&label=aud&id=39&dad=s>

To strengthen the co-ordination and monitoring of audit activities at regional level, Office IX launched a survey in February 2007 on audit systems in operation by the regions and established a working group to define common criteria for audits by Regions on local offices (both food and veterinary sectors). At the time of the general review mission, replies had been received from 14 regions.

The first meeting of the working group was scheduled for 12 December 2007.

LEA (performance indicators)

Office IX has responsibility for coordinating the verification system for LEA (see above).

National accreditation bodies

The accreditation of laboratories may be carried out by a private organisation, the National System for Laboratory Accreditation (SINAL), or by the Laboratory Accreditation Body (ORL) which is part of the ISS.

The National Institute of Health (*Istituto Superiore di Sanità* – ISS) was designated by the Ministry of Health as the accreditation body for laboratories carrying out official controls on food products (Ministerial Decree of 12 May 1999) on the basis of Article 3 of Council Directive 93/99/EEC. Article 3 of that Directive, which was transposed by means of Article 5 of Legislative Decree No 156/97, specifies that the designation of the bodies responsible for the assessment and accreditation of laboratories charged with official controls on food products, is a specific responsibility of the State authorities.

Distribution of responsibilities in relation to control systems

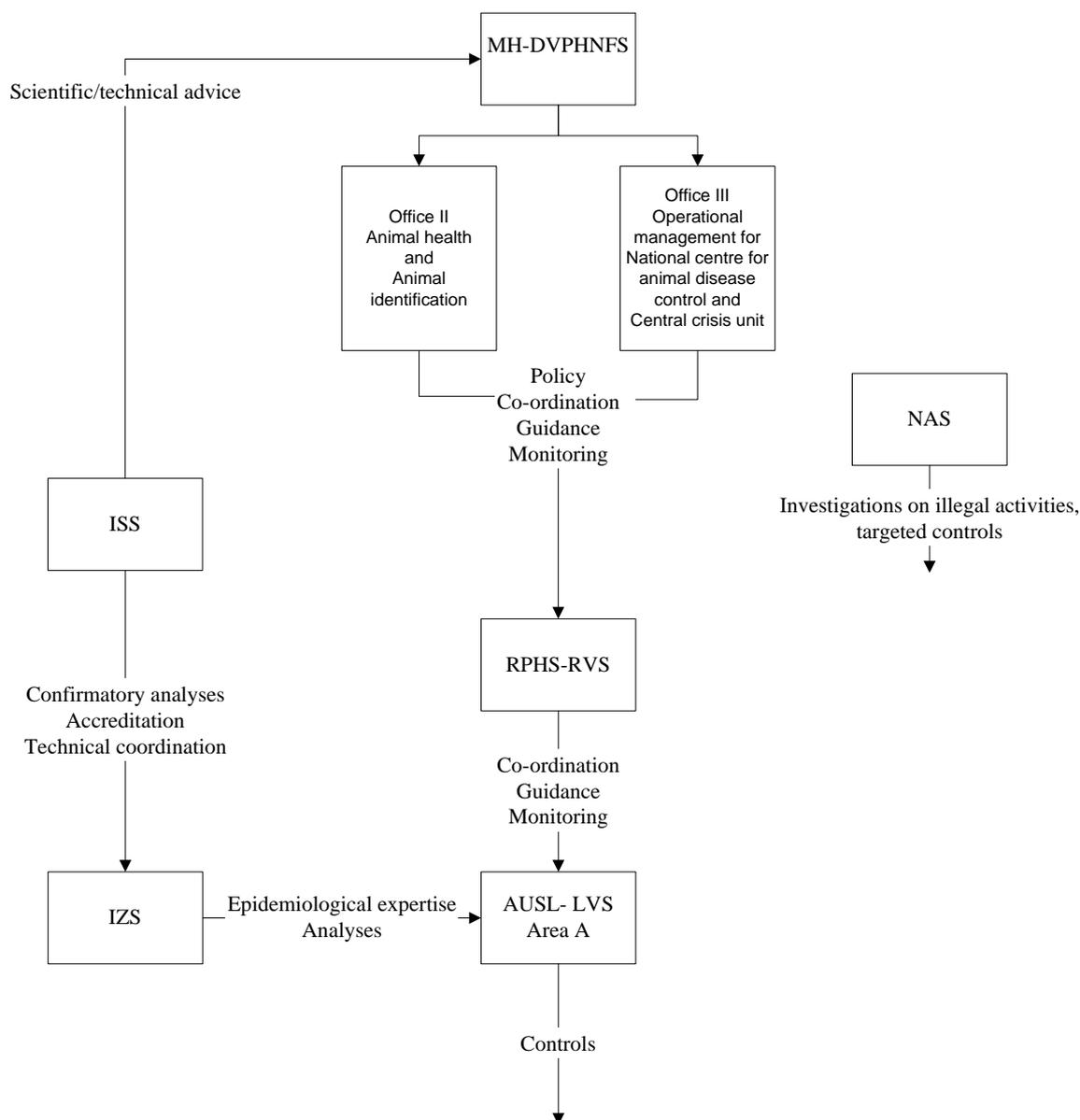
The following chart gives an overview of the distribution of responsibilities in relation to control systems and operational levels in Italy.

Sector	Policy co-ordination	Co-ordination of controls	Implementation of controls	Laboratories	Risk assessment, scientific advice
1. Animal Health	MH DGAHVM- II and III	RPHS-RVS	AUSL LVS (A)	IZS	SNVR
2. Food of Animal Origin	MH (III – DGFSN)	RPHS-RVS	AUSL LVS (B)	IZS	CNSA
3. Imports of animal and food of animal origin	MH DGAHVM (VIII)		UVAC, BIP	IZS	
4. Feedingstuffs - imports	MH DGAHVM (VII) MH DGAHVM VII - VIII	RPHS-RVS	AUSL LVS (C) UVAC, BIP	IZS IZS	
Feedingstuffs - production	MIPAAF DGQPA		ICQ	ICQ	
5. TSEs/ABP	MH DGAHVM (III) / DGFSN (III)	RPHS-RVS	AUSL LVS (A)	IZS	
6. Veterinary medicines - authorisation, marketing & distribution	MH DVPHNFS DGAHVM (IV - V)	RPHS-RVS	AUSL LVS (C)	IZS	
Veterinary medicines - residues	MH DGFSN (III)	RPHS-RVS	AUSL LVS (C)	IZS	
7. Foodstuffs and Food hygiene	MH DGFSN (II)	RPHS	AUSL SIAN	ARPA	
8. Imports of food of plant origin	MH DGFSN (II)		USMAF	ARPA	
9. Plant protection products - residues	MH DGFSN (VII)	RPHS	AUSL SIAN	ARPA	
Plant protection products - authorisation, marketing and use		RPHS	AUSL SIAN	ARPA	
10. Animal Welfare - slaughter/farms		RPHS	AUSL LVS (C)		
- transport	MH DGAHVM (VI)	RPHS	AUSL SLVS (C) Police		
- animal reproduction	MH DGAHVM (VI)	RPHS	AUSL LVS A or C		
11. Plant Health	MIPAAF DGQPA (VIII)	RPS	RPS	RPS	

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

2. COMPETENT AUTHORITIES AND DISTRIBUTION OF RESPONSIBILITIES IN RELATION TO INDIVIDUAL CONTROL SYSTEMS

2.1. Control system for animal health



MH	Ministry of Health
DVPHNFS	Department for Veterinary Public Health, Nutrition and Food Safety
NAS	Carabinieri Health Protection Unit
ISS	National Health Institute
RPHS	Regional Public Health Services
RVS	Regional Veterinary Services
IZS	Experimental Zooprophyllaxis Institutes
AUSL	Local Health Units
LVS	Local Veterinary Services

Competent Authorities

The DVPHNFS is the Central Competent Authority (CCA) for animal health. Within the DVPHNFS, Office II and III DGAHVM are responsible for animal health, animal identification and Transmissible Spongiform Encephalopathies (TSEs). Their responsibilities cover general policy, co-ordination, monitoring and supervision.

Controls are carried out at local level by veterinarians working in the area A of the Local Veterinary Services.

The CCA co-ordinates the regional authorities through regular bi-annual meetings. Information on epidemiological data and technical reports are forwarded by the AUSL to the Regions and by the Regions to the CCA twice a year.

Holding registration, animal identification and movement controls

National databases are in place for bovines, sheep and goats, pigs and poultry holdings. These databases are maintained by the Teramo IZS, which is also the National Reference Centre for epidemiology. AUSL have access to the national databases.

The central bovine database has been recognised as fully operational by Commission Decision 2006/132/EC. In order to achieve recognition, Italy had undertaken to improve the reliability of the database in particular

- Taking of measures to improve respect of the seven day deadline for notifications
- Follow-up of errors
- Measures to ensure all movements are recorded
- Ensuring that controls are undertaken in accordance with Commission Regulation (EC) No 1082/2003.

The bovine database includes health status from second quarter 2007.

As at October 2007, more than 94% of notifications were taking place within seven days. MH has put into place a monthly monitoring system for anomalies, including births, movement and slaughter. Each year, the MH sends a listing to each region specifying the minimum number of controls to be carried out. As at December 2006, the rate of controls on holdings was 8% (14,620 holdings visited out of 173,620 total).

The system of cattle passports is in operation.

The CCA has implemented the ovine and caprine identification system according to Regulation (EC) No 21/2004. All small ruminant holdings, including holdings with three or fewer animals, must be registered in the central database. A unified model of the holding register is in use. Animals are identified at the age of 6 months or, in any case, before leaving the holding, with two ear tags or if destined for the national market with a tattoo and an ear-tag. Animal movements in the sheep/goat database have been implemented in Sicily and are being implemented in other regions. A system of on-the-spot inspections for sheep and goats and holdings comprising 3% of the holdings and 5% of the animals has recently been set up by the CCA. Guidance notes have been sent to the RVS and LVS, and a standard checklist is required to be used.

All pig holdings without exception are required to be registered. Pigs are identified by an ear tattoo containing the herd number. Holdings keeping not more than one animal for home consumption do not have to be registered in the central database.

A movement document ("form 4") and passports for cattle are required for all movements which must be authorised by regional Competent Authorities (CAs). Seasonal transhumance of animals is subject to the approval of the mayor of the municipality. The registration of pig movements began in 2006.

Controls on 10% of registered cattle holdings are carried out by officers of the LVS each year using risk-based criteria defined by the CCA. A system of on-the-spot inspections for sheep and goats and holdings has been set-up by the CCA and guidance notes and a standard checklist have been provided to the RVS and LVS. The target annual frequency for controls of small ruminants is 3%.

Animal health controls

Office II and III DGAHVM are responsible for drawing up national eradication programmes, which must then be implemented by the regional authorities. While the Regions are administratively controlled by the CCA, it does not have the authority to modify regional policies. Systematic verification and monitoring by the CCA is carried out in relation to the financial aspects of the eradication programmes.

Eradication, control and monitoring programmes have been approved by Decision 2006/875/CE for financing by the Commission for 2007 in respect of: bovine brucellosis, enzootic bovine leucosis, bovine tuberculosis, ovine and caprine brucellosis, bluetongue, salmonella in breeding poultry, African swine fever (in Sardinia), avian influenza, BSE, TSEs and scrapie and Swine Vesicular Disease (SVD).

The Regions may adopt their own programmes on issues in areas not regulated at national level. These programmes are sent to the CCA for information only.

Special measures for the control of tuberculosis, bovine and buffalo brucellosis, sheep and goat brucellosis, enzootic bovine leukosis

The Minister for Health signed an Order on 14 November 2006 introducing special measures to be applied in Calabria, Campania, Puglia and Sicilia for the control of tuberculosis, bovine and buffalo brucellosis, sheep and goat brucellosis, enzootic bovine leukosis. MH has proposed to the Minister that an "*ad acta*" Commissioner be appointed in Calabria (Article 19).

In view of the complexity of the problems in Campania, a "state of socio-economic emergency" was declared (by Decree of the President of the Council of Ministers) on 3 August 2007, as a civil defence measure, in the province of Caserta to address buffalo brucellosis. An implementing Order was being finalised to provide for the nomination and powers of the special Commissioner (more wide-ranging than those available to an *ad acta* Commissioner under the November 2006 Order) to overcome the emergency. Since this declaration, the carabinieri arrested 18 persons on 29 October 2007 and closed 13 buffalo holdings.

Contingency plans

A chain of command from the CCA, through Office III DGAHVM of the DVPHNFS, to the RVS and the AUSL, applies to contingency plans.

A crisis unit was established in MH to handle all outbreaks, including co-ordination at national level (Legislative Decree 202 of 1 October 2005).

The tasks of the Crisis Unit are: (i) Planning of actions and of co-ordination of disease control and eradication measures on the whole national territory; (ii) Co-ordination, connection and overview tasks on disease prevention, information and control measures; (iii) Proper enforcement of the procedures and criteria for action management; (iv) Ensuring an effective connection between MH's central and local offices, the Regions and Autonomous Provinces and the local bodies.

The Central crisis Unit issued guidelines on epidemiological surveillance and action strategy for AI control and eradication in Italy; recommendations on the conduct of people handling or coming into contact with birds and guidelines for operators exposed to AI outbreaks.

In the event of a notification of an infectious disease these bodies can act as crisis units at central, regional and local level. The central crisis unit is the decision-making body, but their decisions are co-ordinated at regional level, and implemented at local level.

Although the AUSL are the operational units, in the event of an emergency, the IZS plays the main role in co-ordinating control actions and provides, *inter alia*, any necessary epidemiological expertise.

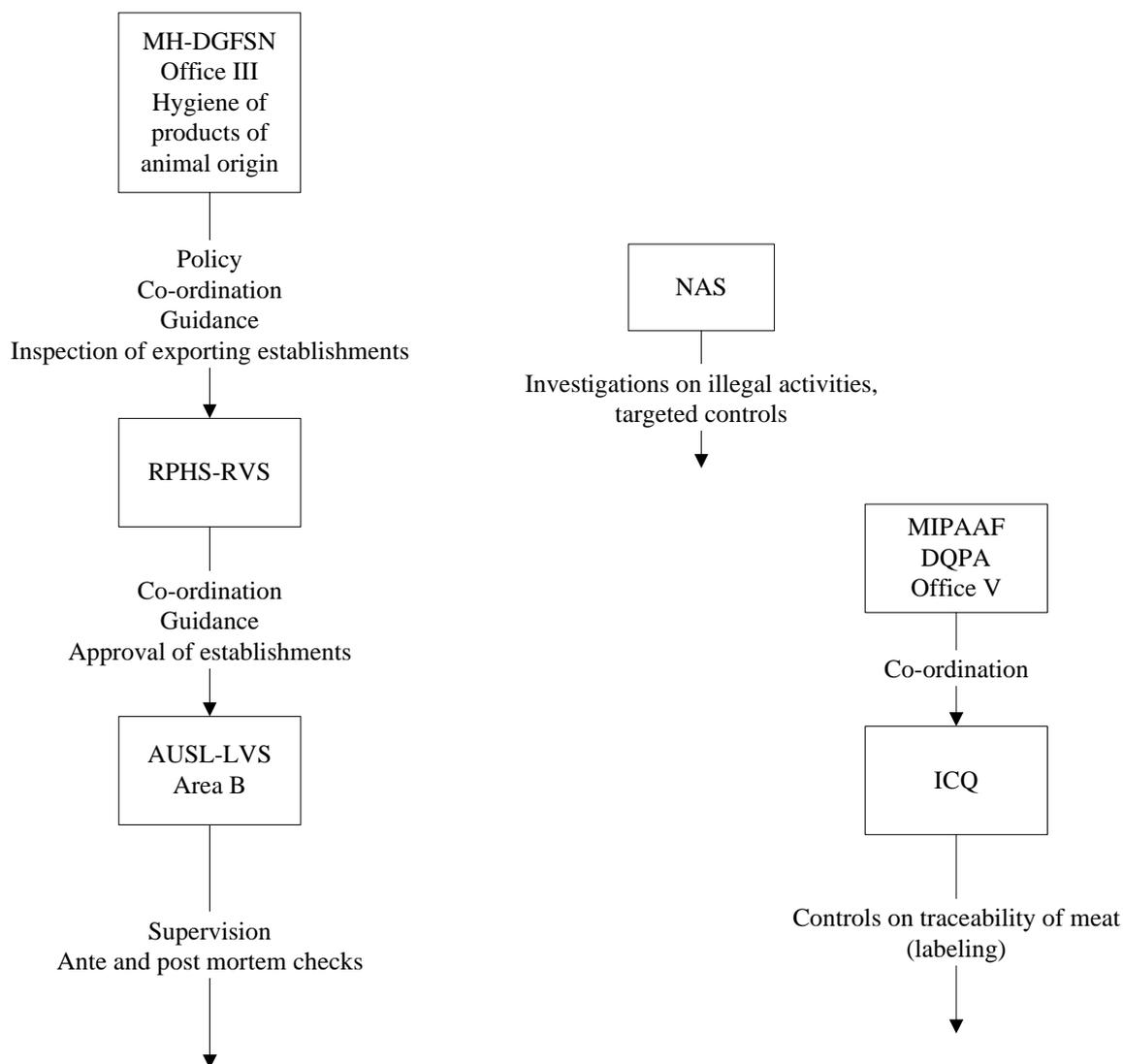
Laboratories

Official analyses in the area of animal health are performed by the IZS network. The ISS functions as: a central laboratory for the development of methods and training; gives technical guidance; acts as the National Reference Laboratory; and carries out second instance analysis. The ISS also acts as the technical scientific body of MH.

The laboratory network for sheep and goat brucellosis comprises approximately 78 official laboratories throughout the country. The national reference laboratory (NRL) for brucellosis in Teramo organises inter-laboratory proficiency tests every year in relation to the two official methods at national level, the RBAT and the CFT.

The NRL lacks the legal basis to audit regional laboratories. However, it plans to start visits of the regional laboratories, together with staff from MH, to advise and to check the quality of the work.

2.2. Control system for food of animal origin



MH	Ministry of Health
DGFSN	Directorate General for Food Safety and Nutrition
NAS	Carabinieri Health Protection Unit
RPHS	Regional Public Health Services
RVS	Regional Veterinary Services
AUSL	Local Health Units
LVS	Local Veterinary Services
MIPAAF	Ministry of Agricultural and Forestry Policies
DQPA	Directorate-General for Quality of Agricultural Products and Consumer Protection
ICQ	Central Inspectorate for Quality Control of Foodstuff and Agricultural Products

Competent Authorities

The DVPHNFS is the CCA for controls on food of animal origin. Within the DVPHNFS, Office III DGFSN is responsible for controls on all food of animal origin, including milk, fishery products, bivalve molluscs, eggs and honey. It is also responsible for the control of veterinary residues in food of animal origin, Animal By-Products (ABP) and Specific Risk Materials (SRM).

In addition to the audit activity by Office IX DGAHVM, Office III DGFSN undertakes vertical inspections in collaboration with the regions. For 2007, the programme of visits covers 10 regions and 43 establishments selected on risk based criteria. At the time of the mission, inspections had been completed in 6 regions.

The programme for 2008 envisages inspections at 328 establishments. These inspections use standard checklists.

The criteria for selection includes establishments showing anomalies in the SINTESI system, temporary approval, issues arising from test results prior to export and cases highlighted by inspections.

Registration and approval of establishments

Establishments are approved by the RVS following a visit by the AUSL. The list of approved establishments is maintained at central level by the DVPHNFS and published on the internet site of MH through the information system "SINTESI".

The list of approved establishments is being updated to take account of the requirements of Regulations (EC) No 852/2004 and 853/2004. No formal reassessment of the establishments already approved is envisaged.

Official controls and inspections at establishments

The CCA provides guidance and co-ordination throughout the country including guidelines on ABP, Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Points (HACCP) in meat establishments, and on public health aspects of traceability of food and feed.

Legislative Decree 193 of 6 November 2007 transposes Directive 2004/41/EC and introduces sanctions in relation to Regulations (EC) No.s 852/2004 and 853/2004. National guidelines on the implementation of Regulations (EC) No.s 882/2004 and 854/2004 were issued by means of Ministerial Circular letter dated 31 May 2007, following agreement at technical level at the State-Region Conference. These guidelines include standard reporting forms for the regions to provide results to MH.

The RVS are responsible for the co-ordination and supervision of the work of the AUSL. Supervision of establishments and ante- and post- mortem checks are carried out at local level by the veterinarians working in Area B of the AUSL.

The CCA may call upon the investigation and inspection capability of the NAS to perform national surveys or targeted and unplanned inspections. These inspections are usually linked to emergencies, court proceedings or cases of illegal activity.

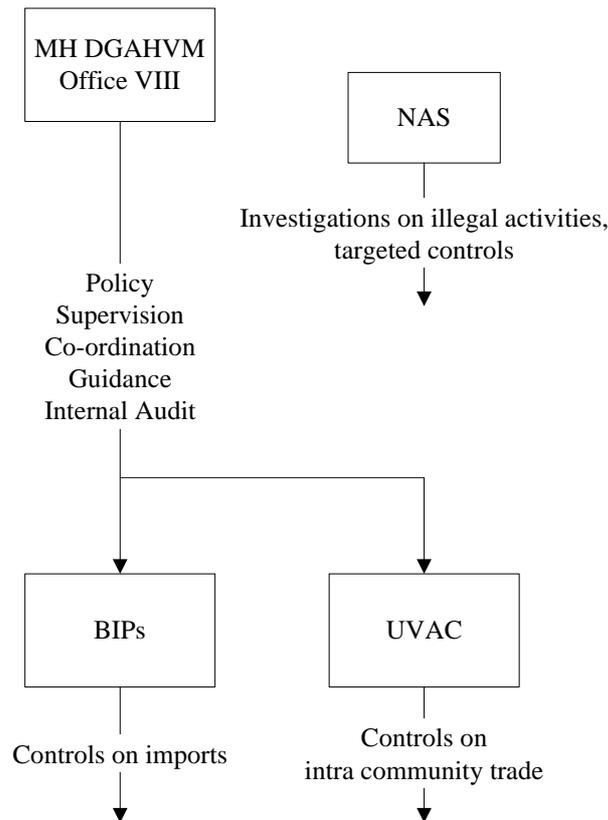
Official controls on identification mark and traceability

A system of controls on compulsory labelling requirements for beef has been in place since May 2005. Office V of the MIPAAF co-ordinates and monitors the implementation of control programmes prepared by the Regions and implemented by the AUSL. In parallel to the regional control programmes, the ICQ carries out a priority programme of checks focusing on the more critical parts of the meat chain, especially traceability and labelling (cutting plants, large-scale distribution and traditional butchers' shops). Controls on the 87 approved voluntary labelling specifications are carried out by 14 independent bodies recognised by the MIPAAF.

Laboratories

Official analyses are performed by the IZS network. The ISS functions as a central laboratory for the development of methods and training, gives technical guidance, acts as the National Reference Laboratory and carries out second instance analysis. The ISS also acts as the technical scientific body of MH.

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



MH	Ministry of Health
DGAHVM	Directorate-General for Animal Health and Veterinary Medicine
NAS	Carabinieri Health Protection Unit
BIP	Border Inspection Posts
UVAC	Veterinary Offices for Compliance with Community Requirements

Competent Authorities

The DVPHNFS is the CCA for import controls on animals and food of animal origin. Within the DVPHNFS, Office VIII-DGAHVM is responsible for import of animals and products of animal origin and co-ordination of local offices.

Its responsibilities: general policy, co-ordination, monitoring and supervision.

Import controls

Controls on imported animals, food of animal origin and feedingstuffs are carried out at 37 Border Inspection Posts (BIPs) which report directly to MH. Two of these are currently suspended (BIP of Gaeta and Torino Caselle). The veterinary staff of the BIPs are directly employed by MH as official veterinarians or as veterinarians under contract. The latter are also responsible for veterinary checks and are authorised to sign the Common Veterinary Entry Document.

A Memorandum of Understanding between Customs and MH was signed on 22 March 2007 improving co-ordination between both services. From November, the customs information system (AIDA) flags consignments subject to veterinary control. The system prevents the release of those consignments without the necessary BIP clearance. Comprehensive guidelines have been finalised. Work is in progress on the development of a “Food code” in an inter-regional conference for eventual decision by State-Regional conference. This will address, *inter alia*, co-operation with Customs.

Comprehensive operational guidelines for BIPs had been finalised and were to be placed on the MH website and also made available on CD by end 2007.

Starting from 2008, the CCA forwards two monitoring programmes to the BIPS, the first on risk based controls and the second on pathogenic micro-organism controls. BIPs report annually on results.

The national information system, SINTESI PIF, has been replaced by TRACES.

Audit of BIPs

MH introduced a programme for the audit of BIPs in 2005. This programme involves a detailed examination of all aspects both operational and procedural, as well as facilities, equipment and hygiene. The procedures for documentary, identity, physical and laboratory checks are assessed during the audit of BIPs by Office VIII. The first round of audits was completed in 2007 and a second round was to commence in 2008.

Listed BIPs

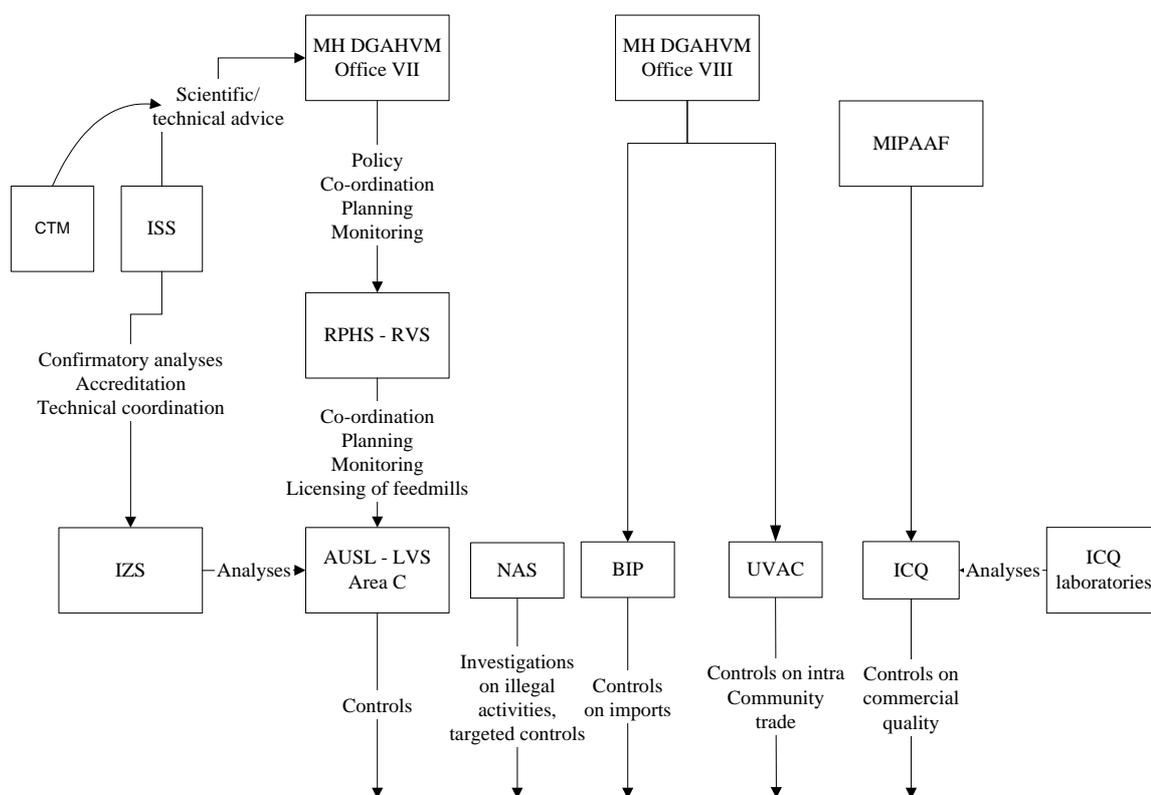
The listing applicable at the time of the general review mission was included in Commission Decision 2007/616/EC of 5 September 2007 (OJ L254 of 28.9.2007), which can be found at:

<http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=OJ:L:2007:254:0001:0025:EN:PDF>

Laboratories

The laboratories of IZS provide analytical services to the BIPs. The results of analyses undertaken for each BIP are forwarded to CCA for review of the implementation of the plan every six months.

2.4 Control system for feedingstuffs and animal nutrition



MH	Ministry of Health
DGAHVM	Directorate-General for Animal Health and Veterinary Medicine
MIPAAF	Ministry of Agricultural and Forestry Policies
CTM	Technical Commission for Feedingstuffs
ISS	National Health Institute
RPHS	Regional Public Health Services
RVS	Regional Veterinary Services
IZS	Experimental Zooprophyllaxis Institutes
AUSL	Local Health Units
LVS	Local Veterinary Services
NAS	Carabinieri Health Protection Unit
BIP	Border Inspection Posts
UVAC	Veterinary Offices for Compliance with Community Requirements
ICQ	Central Inspectorate for Quality Control of Foodstuff and Agricultural Products

Competent Authorities

The DVPHNFS is the CCA for feedingstuffs and animal nutrition. Within the DVPHNFS, Office VII-DGAHVM deals specifically with feedingstuffs and animal nutrition. Its responsibilities comprise: general policy; co-ordination, monitoring, supervision; developing the national control plan for animal nutrition; and collating the results of its implementation.

The Technical Commission for Feedingstuffs (CTM) provides scientific and technical advice to Office VII-DGAHVM and gives official opinions on matters established by law.

The MIPAAF controls the commercial quality of feedingstuffs through its inspection service, the ICQ.

Office VII planned to undertake vertical inspections in 24 regions and in 8 establishments during 2008.

Registration and approval of establishments and intermediaries

Approval for establishments manufacturing additives is given at CCA level by Office VII. Approval and registration of other FBO (including the primary sector) are given by the RVS.

Detailed guidance on the implementation of Regulation (EC) No 183/2005 was outlined in a letter dated 28 December 2005 (including templates for Food Business Operators (FBO) notifications to continue their activities in line with Art. 18 of Regulation (EC) No 183/2005). The main elements were published on the MH website.

These guidelines, which include standard models to be used for registration and approval, have been sent to all RVS and key FBO associations. The CA informs FBOs about new legal requirements through their respective association.

A list of approved establishments is published on the MH website at:

<http://www.ministerosalute.it/alimenti/sanita/sanApprofondimento.jsp?lang=italiano&label=alim&id=444>

Official controls

The CCA prepares an annual national control plan which provides the basis for regional plans. The national plan includes guidelines on: the development of regional plans based on risks, the selection of establishments to control and the frequency and objective of control. The national plan also includes detailed checklists as guidance for official controls at regional and local level. The national plan also outlines the sampling priorities and distributes compulsory sampling targets for each RVS, which together with their LVS are responsible for the implementation of the plan.

The RVS develop regional plans based on the national plan and guidance, taking into account regional and local information on risks. The RVS may increase inspection and sampling targets, as appropriate. Since 2007, the CCA is responsible for approving regional plans.

The national plan includes controls on the presence of GMOs, additives, veterinary medicinal products, contaminants and the feedban. It provides for an inspection frequency of at least once a year for all registered and approved establishments and holdings using additives, premixtures of additives or medicated premixtures. In other cases inspection frequencies are established at regional level.

The AUSL are responsible for carrying out official inspections, sampling and on-the-spot verification to ensure that a feed business meet the requirements for obtaining and retaining an authorisation or registration. Within the AUSL, responsibility for feedingstuffs is normally assigned to Area C of the veterinary services. Each AUSL has a contact person for feedingstuffs.

Responsibility for the control of imported feedingstuffs is assigned to the BIPs. Controls on feedingstuffs of animal origin coming from other Member States are carried out by the UVAC. In August 2006 a guidance document to support import controls was issued.

In specific cases the CCA can avail of the investigation and inspection capability of the NAS to perform national surveys or targeted and unplanned inspections. These inspections are usually linked to emergencies, court proceedings or cases of illegal actions.

Reports on the implementation of the plan are sent by the AUSL to the Regions which send them to the CCA annually, using standard report models.

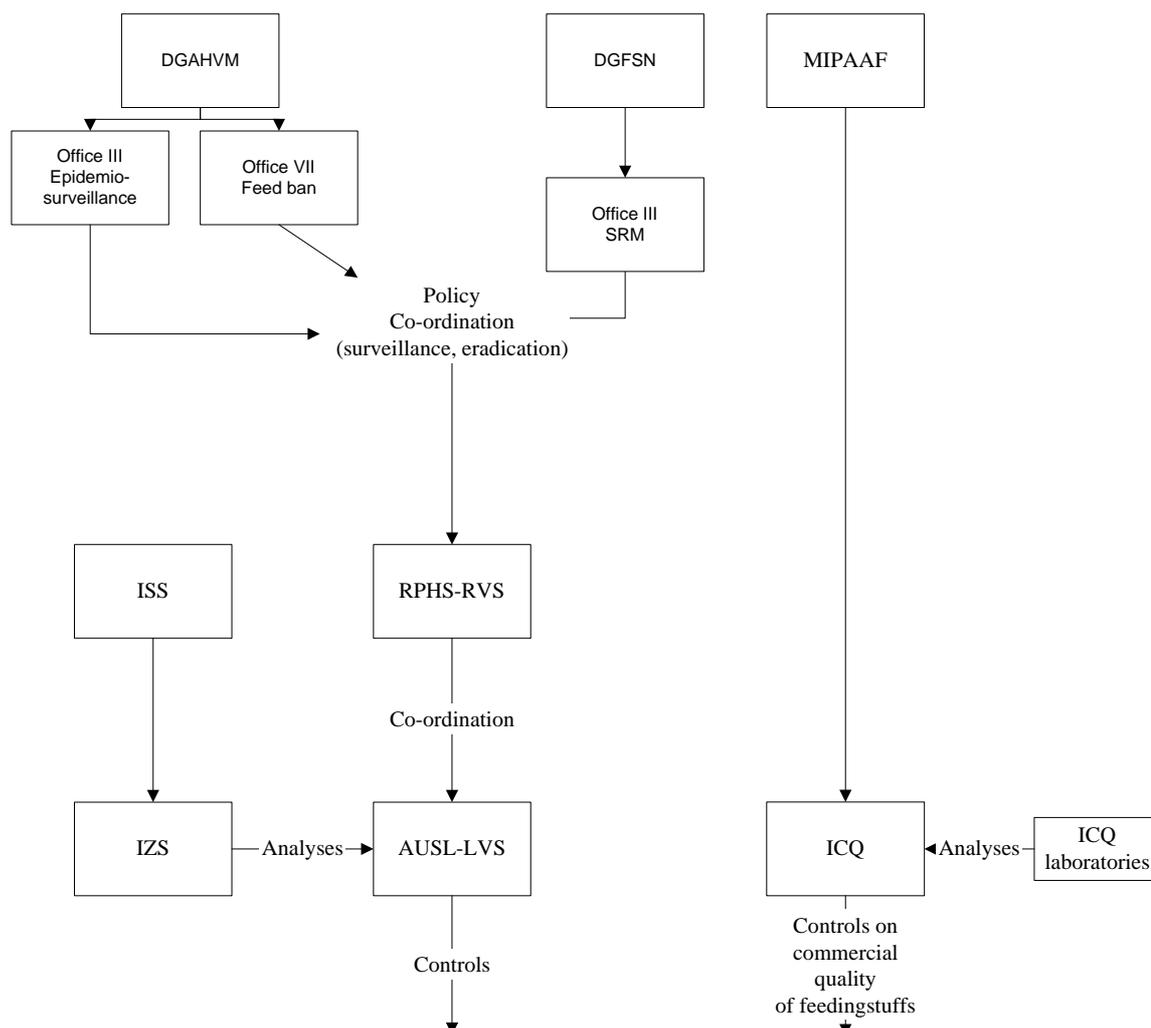
Laboratories

The National Reference Centre for feedingstuffs, including for the total feed ban, is CREAA, which is part of the IZS of Torino. The IZS Teramo is the National Reference Laboratory for dioxins and PCBs in feedingstuffs. The IZS of Padova is the National Reference Centre for Salmonellosis. The ISS is the National Reference Centre for Mycotoxins. The IZS of Torino was designated by MH as NRL for additives in feedingstuffs in March 2007.

Official analyses of feedingstuffs are performed by 10 IZS laboratories.

2.5 Control system for TSEs/ABP

TSEs



DGAHVM	Directorate-General for Animal Health and Veterinary Medicine
DGFSN	Directorate General for Food Safety and Nutrition
MIPAAF	Ministry of Agricultural and Forestry Policies
SRM	Specified Risk Materials
ISS	National Health Institute
RPHS	Regional Public Health Services
RVS	Regional Veterinary Services
IZS	Experimental Zooprophyllaxis Institutes
AUSL	Local Health Units
LVS	Local Veterinary Services
ICQ	Central Inspectorate for Quality Control of Foodstuff and Agricultural Products

Competent Authorities

The CCA for TSEs is the DVPHNFS. Within the DVPHNFS, Office III DGAHVM is responsible for the overall planning, co-ordination, monitoring, supervision and verification of the implementation of measures on epidemio-surveillance and eradication.

Office III DGFSN is in charge of controls on (SRMs) and Office VII DGAHVM is responsible for controls on the feedban.

Epidemiology surveillance

Controls are performed by the veterinary services of the AUSL and co-ordinated by the RVS. Official veterinarians working for the AUSL carry out controls at slaughterhouses and on the feed ban. In addition, they visit animal holdings and are responsible for taking samples for TSEs in sheep and goats, and monitoring BSE.

The MH has put into place a verification system for BSE. The National reference centre for TSE (IZS Torino) prepares a monthly summary of tested animals by risk category (routine, emergency and deferred slaughter and fallen animals) for each region in order to allow for a reconciliation between animal and tested numbers. MH co-ordinates the process with regular information flows to/from the regions.

Specified Risk Materials (SRM)

The controls on the removal and handling of SRM are covered in the guidelines of June 2005 on the ABP Regulation. MH also issued a circular letter to the regions on 9 March 2007 on the management of SRM and on verification procedures.

Total Feed ban

The annual control plan for feed covers the total feed ban. A memorandum of understanding between MH and MIPAAF on the control of animal feed for the prevention of BSE was adopted on 9 May 2006. This was subsequently revised and a new version adopted on 21 June 2007. A common sampling report is included in the new Memorandum of understanding and in the national feed control plan (PNAA) for 2007. The Memorandum of understanding also lays down how information is reported and exchanged. Results are transmitted from the reference laboratory to the MH and to the regions every three months.

Since 2007, Office VII (responsible for the feed sector) assesses the quality of regional plans and whether those plans comply with the requirements of the PNAA. One of the aspects assessed is the criteria adopted by the RVS as a basis for their risk analysis.

As MIPAAF is responsible for feed quality, any feed safety issues are notified to MH for follow-up.

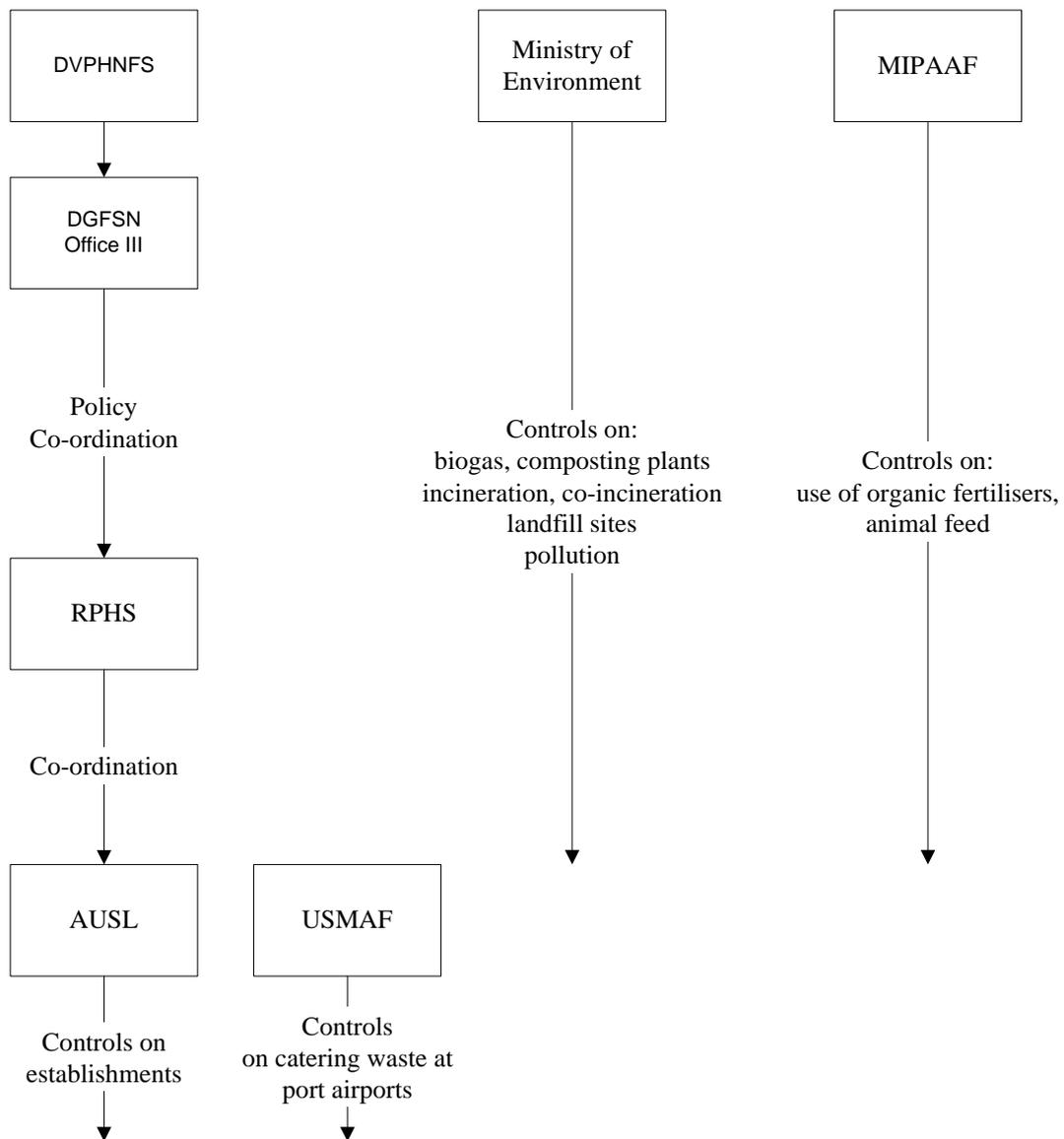
The national reference centre (Torino) receives all the results of controls and based on these, adjusts the risk based strategy for the following year's control plan. The annual control plan prescribes the number of samples to be taken in each region.

The Central Inspectorate for Fraud Repression (*Ispettorato Centrale Repressioni Frodi* – ICRF) is an inspection body of the Ministry for Agricultural and Forestry Policy (MPAF) that participates in the controls of the feed ban. Analyses are carried out by the ICQ laboratories. Co-ordination of all the authorities involved in controls of the feed ban is the subject of a protocol of understanding covering the respective responsibilities, standard forms for inspection and sampling, and exchange of information.

Laboratories

The IZS in Turin is the National Reference Laboratory for BSE and the National Reference Centre for feedingstuffs. The ISS is the National Reference Centre for genotyping and molecular characterisation. These NRLs also organise ring tests, confirm incomplete results and provide training.

Animal by Products



DVPHNFS	Department for Veterinary Public Health, Nutrition and Food Safety
DGFSN	Directorate General for Food Safety and Nutrition
MIPAAF	Ministry of Agricultural and Forestry Policies
RPHS	Regional Public Health Services
AUSL	Local Health Units
USMAF	Port, Airport and Border Health Offices

Competent Authorities

The CCA for ABP is the DVPHNFS. Within DVPHNFS, Office III DGFSN is responsible for the transposition of EU legislation and the harmonisation and co-ordination of ABP controls, in co-operation with the regional authorities.

The competencies for implementing the ABP Regulation are delegated to the regional authorities. Within the Regions, the RPHS are responsible for co-ordination while the AUSL are responsible for practical implementation of controls.

Responsibility for controls on international catering waste (ports and airports) lies with the local port or airport health offices (USMAF) which report directly to MH.

Two other authorities are responsible for specific aspects of the Regulation:

- the Ministry of Environment is responsible for biogas and composting plants (controls only, approvals by MH), incineration and co-incineration, landfill sites, environmental pollution and incineration and burial sites;
- the MIPAAF is responsible for use of organic fertilisers and soil improvers and the animal feed sector.

Approval of ABP plants and other premises

The national guidelines adopted by the conference of the State and Regions on 1 July 2004 describe in general terms the approval of establishments and the authorisation of users under Article 23 of the ABP Regulation. A more detailed description of the minimum requirements for granting approvals is given in the technical guidelines developed by the ABP working group on which the national guidelines were based. These stipulate the minimum level of technical documentation needed to support an application, including the need for a validation of processing parameters, and a requirement that the local ASL had inspected the establishment and given a positive opinion. In addition to these national guidelines, the Regions may develop further guidelines and checklists for the inspections, including those connected with the approval of premises.

Premises approved under the ABP Regulation are issued with a unique approval number comprising a set of digits followed by a specific acronym indicating the activity of the plant. If more than one activity falling under the scope of the ABP Regulation is undertaken at the same site, a separate approval number is issued for each, where the same digits are kept but different suffix codes are used to identify the activities. A list of the ABP premises approved in each Region has been compiled by the CCA and is available on the internet site of MH.

Collection of fallen animals

Vehicles collecting ABP have to be authorised by the AUSL. For commercial reasons, Category 1 and 2 materials are generally transported and processed as Category 1. Since 2001, it has been forbidden by law to import into Italy Category 1 materials from other countries. Movements of fallen stock classified as Category 1 materials have to be accompanied by a health certificate completed by officials from AUSLs. Fallen bovines of all ages are considered as Category 1 material. Farmers are generally responsible for arranging and paying for the collection and disposal of fallen stock, but in some Regions, 40-60% of these costs are paid by the governments. In the food processing premises all categories of ABP are dispatched with standardised commercial documents.

Category 3 materials are collected either for their destruction or permitted use. Former foodstuffs containing fresh meat are separated and sent for processing. Hides are generally sent directly from slaughterhouses to tanneries in Italy or other MS, or via intermediates before final processing.

A number of intermediate centres assemble small loads of ABP locally and consolidate them into larger ones to facilitate a more efficient transport system to processing or disposal sites.

Catering waste from restaurants is collected as domestic municipal waste.

The majority of Category 1 and 2 materials are transformed in processing plants using methods 1 to 5 and the resulting meat and bone meal (MBM) and fats are disposed of by incineration or, in the case of fats, used as fuel.

The disposal of fallen stock by burial is permitted in certain remote areas. It is also permitted to bury dead pet animals.

Raw Category 3 materials are used in pet food or technical plants including, in particular, tanneries concentrated in two Regions, or transformed in a number of processing plants. The resulting processed products are further processed at other establishments or used directly in pet food or as fertilisers.

Category 3 materials for the feeding of animals under Article 23 of the ABP Regulation are generally supplied directly to authorised users.

Municipal waste is incinerated or land-filled.

Official controls

In June 2005 the CCA issued guidelines for the implementation of controls on ABP, including minimum frequencies of inspection, and standard checklists for controls.

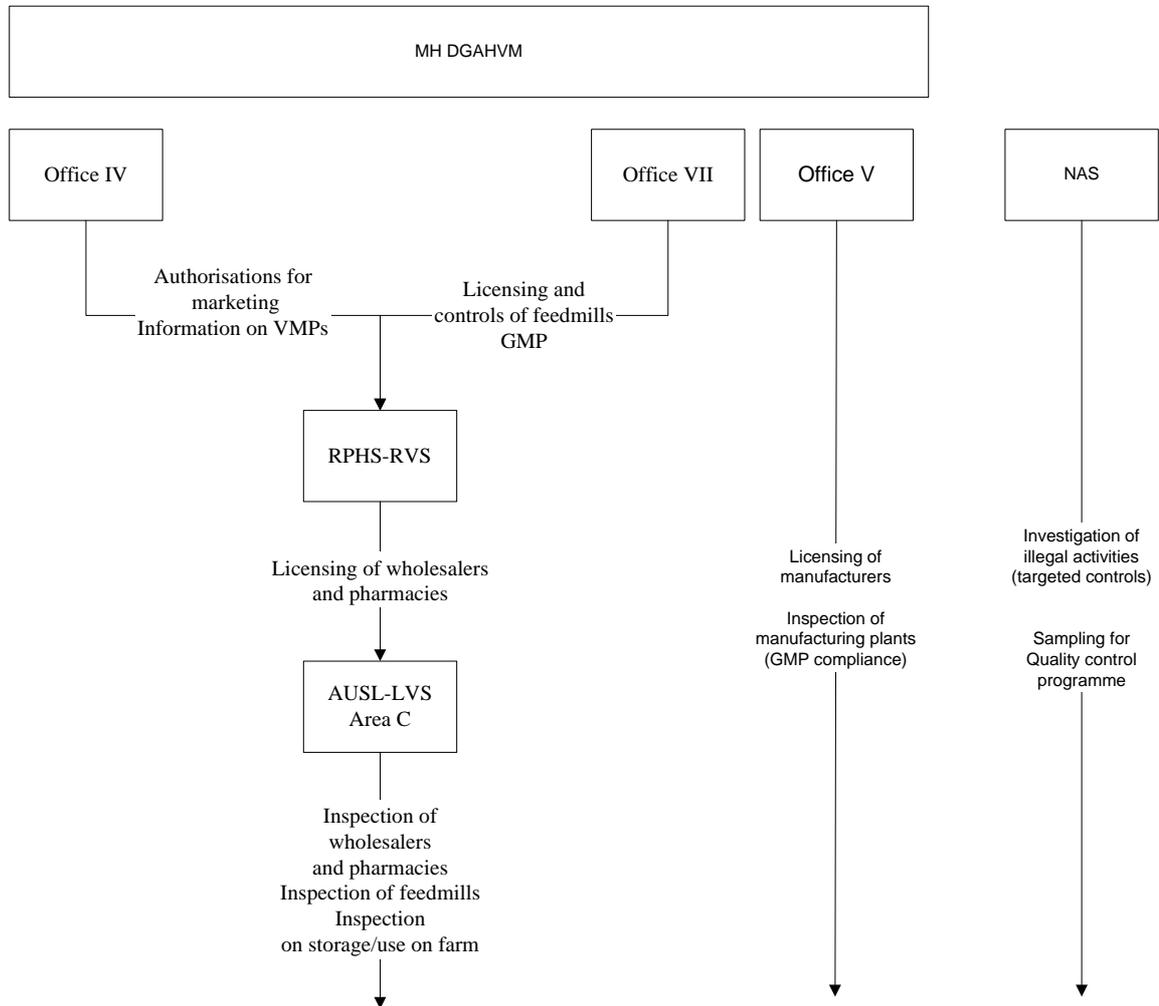
Controls on production establishments are conducted as part of the supervision of food of animal origin establishments. For other categories of establishments, dealing with transport, collection, storage, handling processing, use and disposal of ABP, the recommended frequency for routine controls range from once a week to every three months. For controls on hygiene and own control systems the frequency is from every 6 months to once a year.

The systematic collection of data on the quantities of ABP produced, and their destination, began in 2006. The CCA has requested the Regions to report annually on the implementation of controls and follow-up activities in cases of non conformities.

Vertical inspections by Office III in 2008 will include ABP. In addition, MH was finalising a further set of guidelines to Regions on the organisation of official controls.

2.6 Control system for veterinary medicinal products (VMP) and residues

VMP



MH	Ministry of Health
DGAHVM	Directorate-General for Animal Health and Veterinary Medicine
RPHS	Regional Public Health Services
RVS	Regional Veterinary Services
NAS	Carabinieri Health Protection Unit
AUSL	Local Health Units
LVS	Local Veterinary Services
GMP	Good Manufacturing Practice

Competent Authorities

The CCA for veterinary medicines is DGAHVM, Offices IV and V. Office IV is responsible for issuing marketing authorisations for veterinary medicinal products and Office V is responsible for the licensing of MIA (manufacturing, importation,

authorization) and for compliance with GMP (Good manufacturing practices). Both offices are responsible for general policy, co-ordination, monitoring and supervision.

Controls are implemented by the AUSL under the co-ordination of the RVS, and by the NAS.

Authorisation of VMPs

Authorisations are issued by MH after an evaluation by Office IV DGAHVM with the support of a consultative committee.

The MH database of authorised VMPs was being upgraded.

Official controls on marketing/use

The RVS are responsible for the licensing of wholesalers and pharmacies. In Sardinia the DVPHNFS (DGAHVM office IV) is responsible for licensing.

Wholesalers and pharmacies are inspected annually by the AUSL. The responsibility for checks on the storage/use of veterinary medicinal products on farms and by veterinary practitioners also lies with the AUSL. In this case there are no recommended frequencies for controls at national level.

Decree 193/2006 requires the regions to report annually on the results of controls undertaken at wholesalers and pharmacies.

Feedmills are authorised to manufacture medicated feedingstuffs by the Office VII DGAHVM following an inspection and recommendation by the Regions. These feedmills are inspected annually by the AUSL.

The National Group for survey of veterinary medicines was established under Article 88 (4) of Decree 193/2006 with the objective of improving controls on the marketing of VMPs.

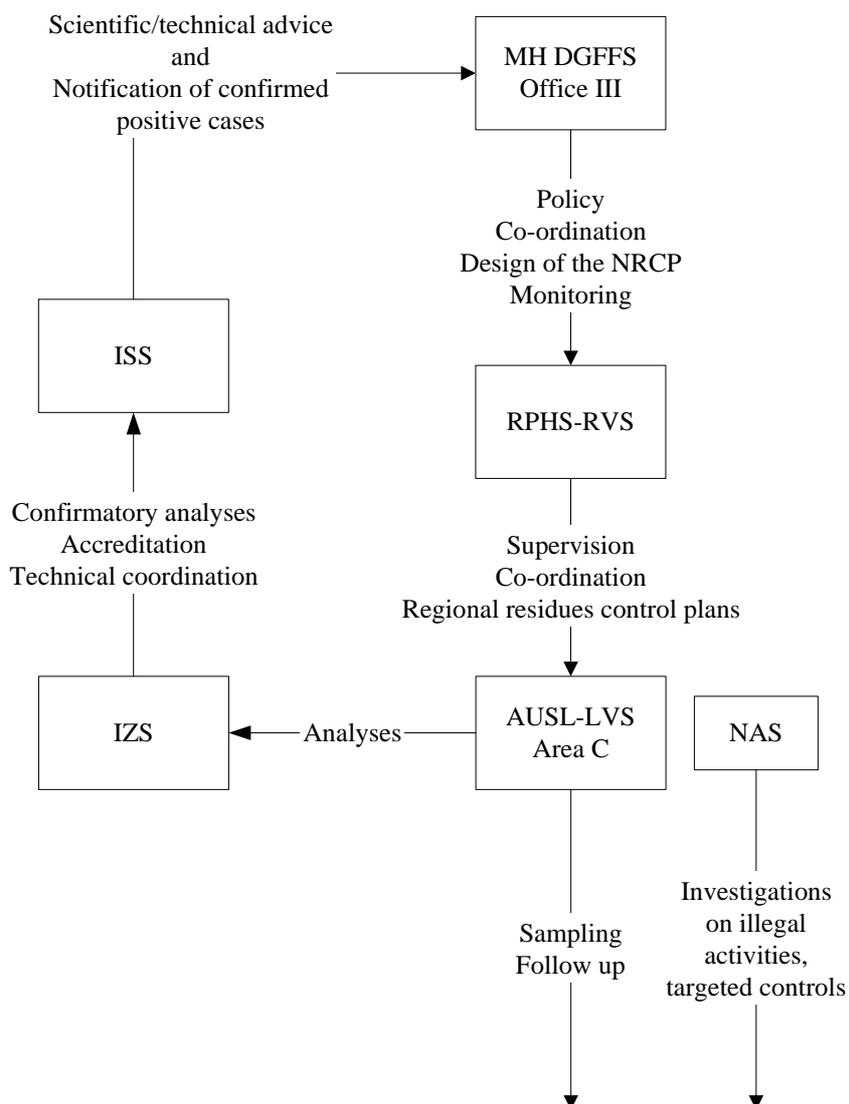
A new Decree was under review by the State-Region conference to define the tasks of the regions and to set down a format for data transfer from the regions. A central information system was being developed to receive control data from the regions (by 31 March each year).

There is a national control programme for the quality of VMPs. Samples are taken by the NAS.

Laboratories

Two laboratories are used for controls on marketing and use: ISS and IZS at Teramo. As regards quality controls, the IZS at Abruzzo and Molise carry out the analyses.

Residues



MH	Ministry of Health
DGFSN	Directorate General for Food Safety and Nutrition
ISS	National Health Institute
RPHS	Regional Public Health Services
RVS	Regional Veterinary Services
IZS	Experimental Zooprophyllaxis Institutes
AUSL	Local Health Units
LVS	Local Veterinary Services
NAS	Carabinieri Health Protection Unit
BIP	Border Inspection Posts

Competent authorities

Office III-DGFSN is responsible for developing the National Residue Control Plan (NRCP). Controls are implemented by the AUSL under the co-ordination of the RVS, and by the NAS.

Official controls on residues

The NRCP is drafted by Office III DGFSN of the DVPHNFS with the involvement of representatives from all the Regions and the ISS. The ISS, which acts as the National Reference Laboratory, co-ordinates the technical requirements for the plan with the IZS residue control laboratories which carry out the analyses.

The NRCP is distributed to the RVS, which develop their own regional residue control plans, decide on the distribution of sampling between the AUSL within their Region and supervise the implementation of the plan. The Regions may for this purpose establish dedicated task forces.

RVS and AUSL may draw up their own more intensive residue sampling plans over and above the requisites of the NRCP. Results from this sampling are included in the annual report of the outcome of the NRCP.

The AUSL are responsible for sampling and for follow-up activities where infringements have been identified. Each AUSL has a contact person for veterinary residues. In case of non conformities, the IZS immediately inform the CCA and, in parallel, the AUSL inform the Regions and provide details about the follow-up activities undertaken.

The CCA monitors the implementation of the plan and collates the data for transmission to the Commission. Data on analysis is entered by the IZS in a national information system. This provides web-based access for the Official Veterinary Laboratories to upload the data, for the regional departments to validate them, and for MH to monitor the action taken under the NRCP and compile national figures. The CCA transmits the results of the NRCP to the Commission database.

The NAS carry out national surveys on residues and may co-operate with the DVPHNFS and/or AUSL on special campaigns involving simultaneous, unplanned sampling at national, regional or local level. The NAS are responsible for follow-up actions including legal measures following any non-compliant findings.

Laboratories

Italy has one NRL for all commodities and all substance groups listed in Annex I to Council Directive 96/23/EC. The NRL is part of the ISS. The NRL does not perform any routine testing under the NRCP. The NRL is responsible for the NRL tasks under Article 14 of Council Directive 96/23/EC. It also carries out confirmatory analyses. The ISS assists the NAS in identifying the active substances in seized illegal drugs.

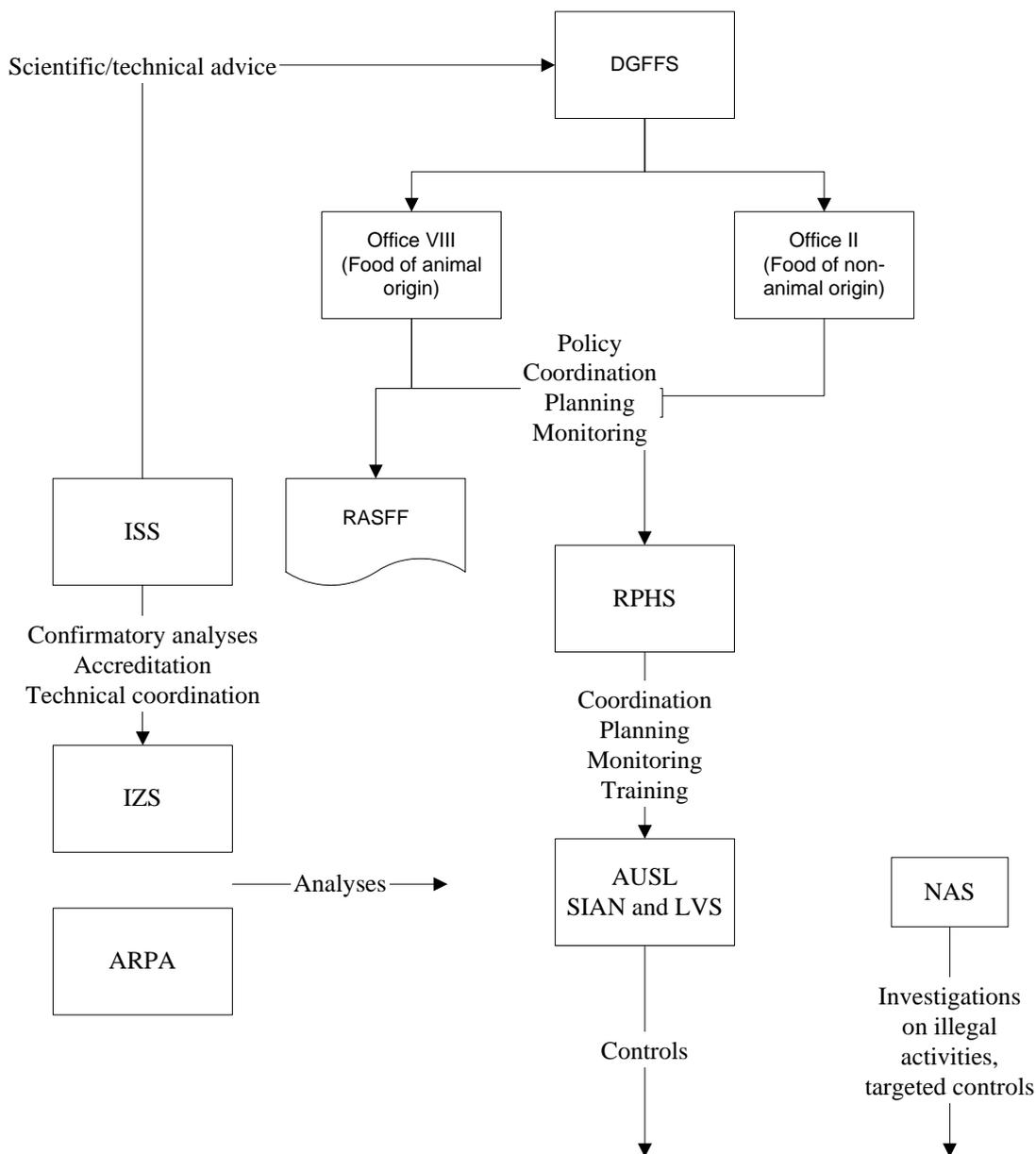
The accreditation body SINAL completed all accreditation procedures on 28 November 2007 and formal accreditation is to follow. The 10 regional IZS had already been accredited (for listing please see

<http://62.123.162.33/izs/modules/sections/index.php?op=viewarticle&artid=25>)

Analyses under the NRCP are performed by 10 IZS laboratories. Each sample is entered into a database by IZS. Confirmatory analyses are undertaken by ISS. MH has access to the database.

All methods for group A substances have been validated in at least one of the laboratories. Analyses are undertaken only in laboratories where the relevant method has been validated.

2.7 Control system for foodstuffs and food hygiene



DGFSN	Directorate General for Food Safety and Nutrition
ISS	National Health Institute
RASFF	Rapid Alert System for Food
RPHS	Regional Public Health Services
IZS	Experimental Zooprophylaxis Institutes
AUSL	Local Health Units
SIAN	Food Hygiene and Nutrition Service
LVS	Local Veterinary Services
NAS	Carabinieri Health Protection Unit
ARPA	Regional Agencies for Environment Protection

Competent Authorities

The DVPHNFS is the CCA for official controls of foodstuffs and food hygiene. Within the DVPHNFS, Office VIII DGFSN is responsible for policy issues, planning, co-ordination, monitoring, supervision and collating information from the Regions relating to the national programmes for the official control of foodstuffs (and for pesticides residues). Office VIII also co-ordinates the accreditation process for laboratories involved in official controls.

Office II DGFSN is responsible for foodstuffs of plant origin. Guidelines for the implementation of Regulation (EC) No. 852/2004 were prepared by Office III DGFSN.

In addition to the audits undertaken by Office IX DGAHVM across all sectors, Office II DGFSN has trained 23 auditors (ISO 19011) drawn from MH (11) and the USMAFs (12) to conduct vertical inspections in the sector food hygiene, including on imports of non-animal origin every two years.

Licensing and Registration of food businesses

In February 2006, the State –Region conference adopted guidelines for the application of Regulations (EC) No.s 852/2004 and 853/2004.

The guidelines on Regulation (EC) No. 852/2004 provides for the registration of all food businesses except those producing food for private consumption. Registration does not require a prior inspection by the AUSL. The existing administrative acts and authorisations for the notification of “start of activity” are used for the purpose of registration. The intention is to maintain a register/database of food businesses at local level by AUSL in line with requirements defined at regional level.

Official controls of food premises

By note dated 31 May 2007, MH issued guidelines to the regions for official controls in accordance with Regulations (EC) No.s 882/2004 and 854/2004. This includes standard reporting forms for the regions to provide results to MH. Annexes 1-3 of these guidelines provide guidance on risk categorisation and inspection frequency and include a standard form for annual reporting on control activities to MH.

At regional level, the departments of health have responsibility for the official control of foodstuffs. The main role of the regional authorities is to provide guidance and staff training for official control activities at local level.

Official controls are carried out at local level by the SIAN and LVS of the AUSL.

The NAS take part in the control activities as part of their competence for monitoring hygiene measures and carrying out health inspections in a wide range of areas, including water, beverages, meat, processed food, dairy products, catering, etc. They may be requested to perform control activities in support of MH or in cases of multiregional or national significance requiring co-ordinated action.

At national level in 2005, there were 281,450 on-the-spot inspections of general food hygiene performed in 220,244 establishments, including primary production, manufacturing, transport, distribution, retail and service sectors. A total of 50,282

infringements regarding general hygiene, the HACCP and labelling and presentation were reported.

Good Hygiene Practice Guides

MH had listed the 98 Good Hygiene Practice Guides, prepared by producer organisations, on its website. Office II of DGFSN co-ordinates the validation of new guides and a procedure has been established for this. Office II is working to streamline the validation process, including amending the existing Ministerial circular so as to enable regions and the ISS to be consulted electronically. Office II is also exploring with the producers' associations the possibility of placing the full text of the guides on the MH website.

Rapid Alert System for Food and Feed (RASFF)

Office VIII is responsible for the operation of RASFF. It issues instructions and recommendations to the BIPs and to the Regions in order to improve the efficiency of the RASFF and monitors its operation. Risk assessment is carried out on a case-by-case basis in consultation with the sectoral offices of the DVPHNFS and/or the ISS.

Office IX of DGAHVM is responsible for audit of regional control systems. Since 2003, there have been four audits of RASFF.

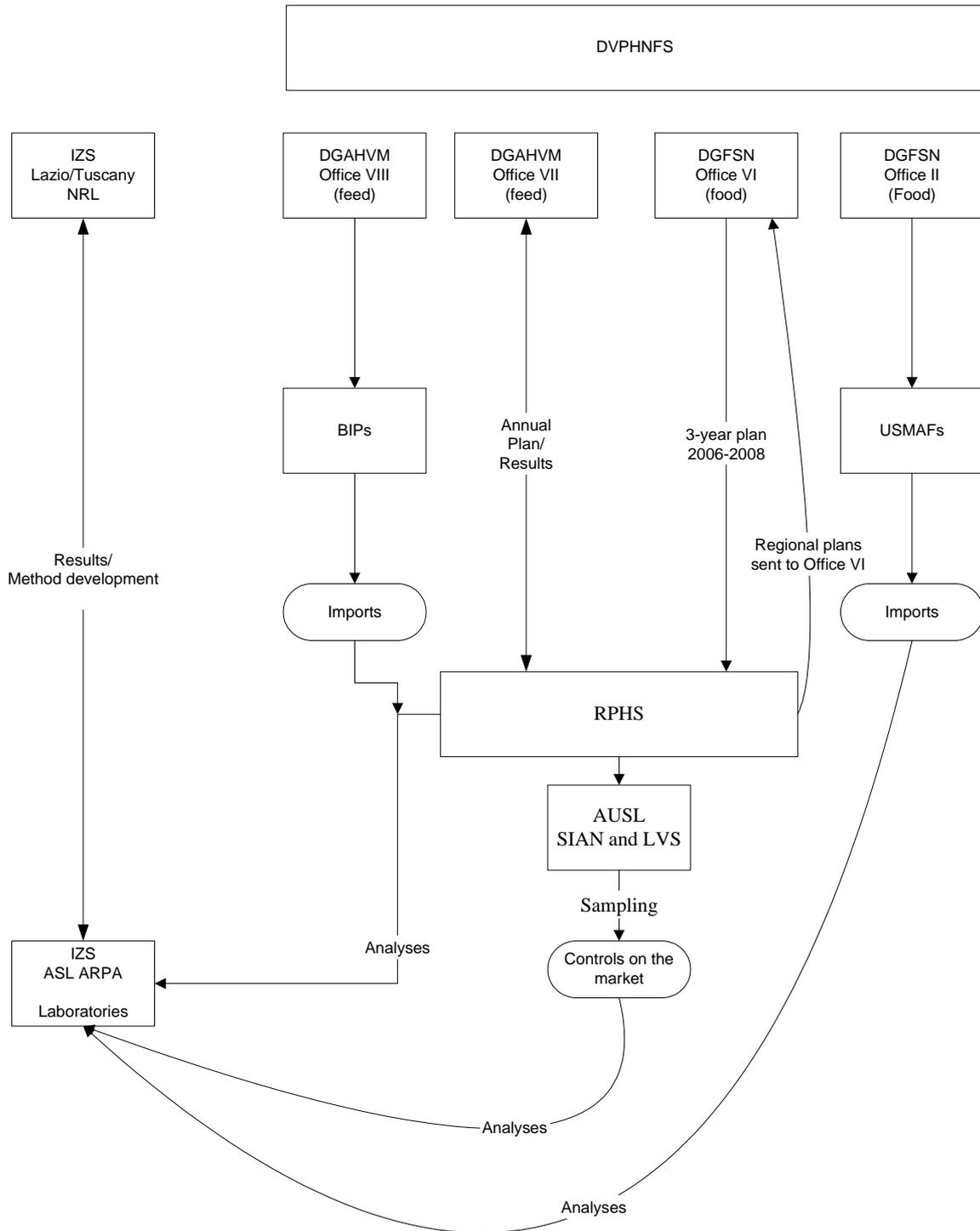
Laboratories

Analyses of foodstuffs of plant origin are carried out by the Regional Agencies for Environment Protection (ARPA), while the IZS are responsible for analyses of food of animal origin. In all, 115 laboratories are approved for official control, of which 10 are in IZS and 105 in ARPA.

All 10 IZS and 70 of the ARPA laboratories are accredited to ISO 17025 by either the national accreditation body SINAL or by the National Health Institute (ISS).

The ISS provides a central laboratory capability for second instance analyses, the development of methods and the training of regional laboratory staff. In addition, the ISS acts as NRL for: monitoring viral contamination of bivalve molluscs; milk and milk products; E.coli (including verotoxigenic E.coli); parasites (in particular Trichinella); materials intended to come into contact with food; Polycyclic Aromatic Hydrocarbons (PAH). It is also the National Reference Centre for botulism.

GMO



- DVPHNFS** Department for Veterinary Public Health, Nutrition and Food Safety
- IZS** Experimental Zooprophyllaxis Institutes
- DGAHVM** Directorate-General for Animal Health and Veterinary Medicine
- DGFSN** Directorate General for Food Safety and Nutrition
- BIP** Border Inspection Posts
- RPHS** Regional Public Health Services
- USMAF** Veterinary Offices for Compliance with Community Requirements
- AUSL** Local Health Units
- SIAN** Food Hygiene and Nutrition Service
- LVS** Local Veterinary Services
- ARPA** Regional Agencies for Environment Protection

Competent authorities

MH is the central competent authority with responsibility for both GMO food and feed. Different offices within the MH are responsible for food and feed safety both on the market and at import point.

Some 5-7% of the sampling activities of the NAS includes samples for GM analysis.

GM food

Office VI in the DGFSN is responsible for GM food (with 0.7FTE). This includes applications for authorisation of GM food. Office II of DGFSN is responsible for the organisation and co-ordination of procedures for the control of food of plant origin (both raw materials and processed food) at the USMAFS.

GM feed

Office VII DGAHVM is responsible for GM feed (with 0.3 FTE). This includes applications for authorisation of GM feed. Office VIII of DGAHVM responsible for the co-ordination of border airports and ports (BIPs) for the compliance of imports of feed with the relevant legislation, including GMOs.

MIPAAF is responsible for controls on propagating material.

Official controls of GMO, including at import

For 2006, 1,091 feed samples and 927 food samples were taken for analysis.

Food

In February 2006, a three year plan for official controls on the presence of GMOs in food was established. This Plan (circulated to the regions by letter dated 28 February 2006) provided instructions for the drafting of the regional plans which must be sent to the MH. The regional and local authorities are responsible for undertaking inspection and sampling activities and the Region must produce reports for MH (annually). The results of the analysis are directly loaded by the laboratories in the information system of the IZS (CROGM).

Food imports

Control activities concerning GMO in foodstuffs are undertaken by the USMAF. Typical controls involve documentary, identity and physical checks, and sampling. Samples are taken from approximately 5-10% of consignments focusing largely on those declared free of GMO. Procedures are in place to notify all other USMAF and MH of any non conformances detected. The AUSL of destination for a consignment is notified when the consignment contains GMO.

Feed

Controls are planned by the central authorities in Office VII DGAHVM on an annual basis. Each region adapts the national plan to meet regional or local concerns. For 2007, Chapter 5 of the national feed control plan sets out the numbers of samples to be taken by region (1,180 in total) and includes reporting forms.

Feed imports

GMO feed controls at the point of entry are performed by the veterinary services of the BIP. In August 2006 the CCA issued a guideline regarding criteria to be followed for import control of feed, including GM feed. Documentary, identity and physical checks are undertaken. Samples are taken according to criteria established in the guidelines. The CCA is preparing a new plan to attach to the national feedstuffs control plan. This new plan will further develop the guidelines issued in August 2006 regarding the criteria, frequency and types of control required.

Official controls of GMO in propagating material

The ICQ and the national agency for seeds (ENSE) together with Customs took 2,170 corn and 413 soyabean seed samples in 2007.

Laboratories

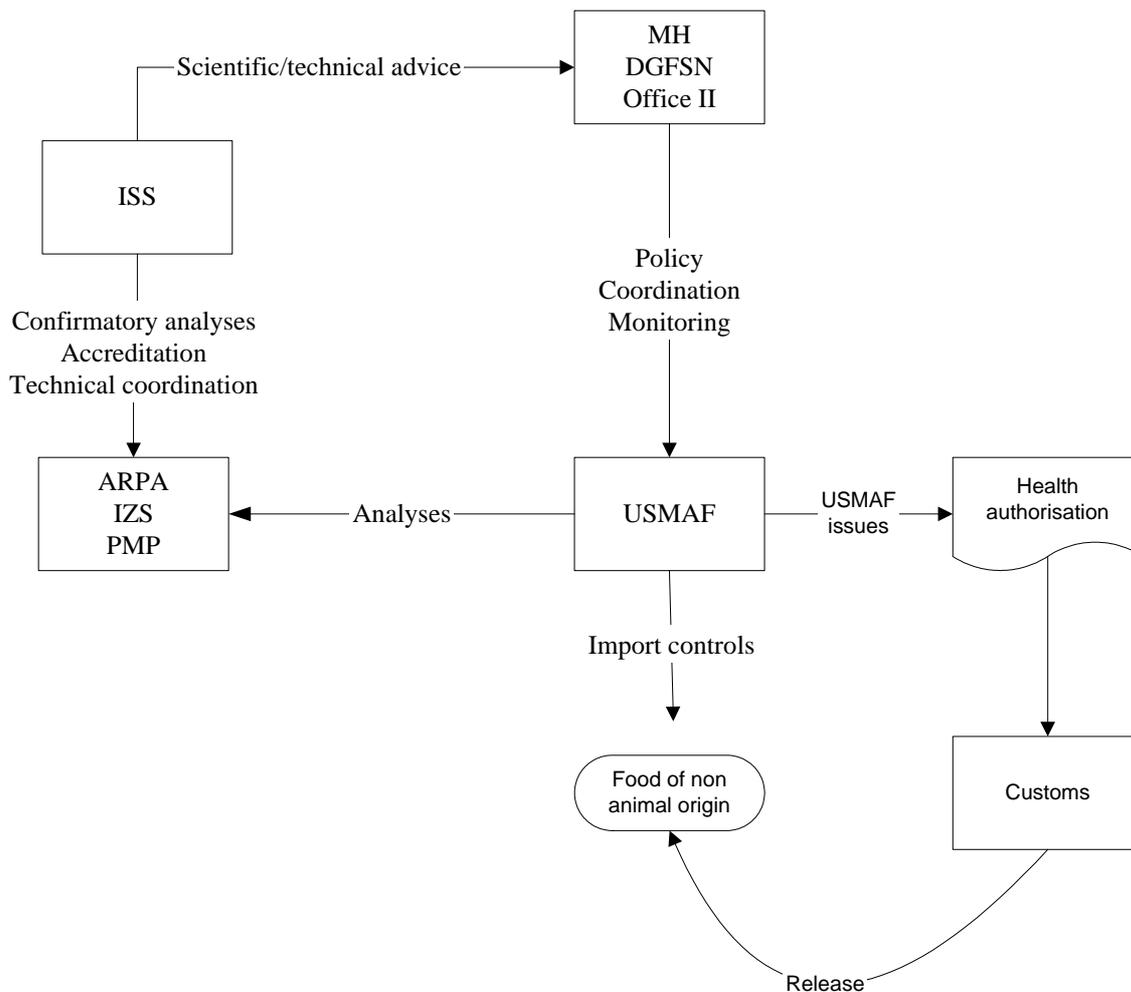
The IZS of Lazio and Tuscany is the national reference laboratory for GMO analysis and is member of the European Network of GMO Laboratories. The NRL is accredited under ISO 17025 by the Italian accreditation body SINAL for GMO analysis since 2001. The scope of accreditation covers 3 qualitative PCR methods and 2 quantitative real time PCR methods. It regularly participates in GeMMA proficiency test schemes since 2001.

In its function as national reference laboratory, ISZ-LT is also responsible for assisting other control laboratories in confirming or interpreting results and the set-up of a national network of GMO laboratories. It develops and harmonises methods and assists the MH in collecting and elaborating data from the GM laboratories' official control activities. It is charged with the creation of a database for these purposes.

The NRL has created a scientific-technical group to strengthen the network of GM laboratories and to address issues such as validation of methods.

In addition to the NRL, 10 IZS laboratories, 7 laboratories of ARPA and 5 laboratories of ASL undertake analyses for GM. 12 of these are accredited to ISO 17025 (8 by SINAL and 4 by ISS). Second instance analytical services are available to FBOs at the ISS.

2.8 Control system for imports of food of plant origin



MH	Ministry of Health
DGFSN	Directorate General for Food Safety and Nutrition
ISS	National Health Institute
ARPA	Regional Agencies for Environment Protection
IZS	Experimental Zooprophyllaxis Institutes
PMP	Multi Territorial Prevention Offices
USMAF	Port, Airport and Border Health Offices

Competent Authorities

The DVPHNFS is the CCA for official controls of food of non-animal origin and food hygiene. Within the DVPHNFS, Office II DGFSN is responsible for policy development and deals with all issues related to the safety of products of plant origin.

Customs are responsible for ensuring that products submitted for import are accompanied by a health approval certificate issued by the USMAF.

The control of products on the market is undertaken by the AUSL and co-ordinated at regional level. While the AUSL have no direct control over imports, they are informed of consignments of perishable products which are allowed to move to their point of destination pending analytical results and products placed under health restrictions.

Import controls

The USMAF carry out controls of imported goods. They have 35 local units at the main points of entry and exit to Italy (ports and airports), staffed mainly with health technicians supervised by medical doctors. Their responsibilities include a range of activities for international disease prevention. Checks on products of plant origin account for about 30% of the overall work of the USMAF.

Twelve USMAF territorial units have been designated as points of import by Italy for the food products coming under the relevant Commission Decisions concerning mycotoxin contamination. All 35 USMAF territorial units have been designated as points of import for the food products coming under the relevant Commission Decisions concerning Sudan dye adulteration.

The importer or his legal representative applies to the local USMAF to obtain a health authorisation which is necessary to allow the consignment to clear customs. The importer can also request the health authorisation via the Internet, using a specific software application, which became operational at the beginning of 2006.

USMAF staff carry out the health and hygiene inspection, comprising of one or all of the following elements:

- a systematic document check;
- a sample identity check based on the type of goods, especially in the case of packaged or perishable products;
- a physical check, including sampling and analysis.

The analytical check is, as a rule, carried out at random on 5% of consignments where there is no reason for suspicion.

The USMAF offices issue the health authorisation if, on the basis of the accompanying documents, a decision against carrying out an inspection and/or analysis was taken. When samples are taken, the USMAF offices order the health authorisation to be issued once the results of the analysis carried out on the goods have arrived from the laboratory and it has been verified that the goods comply with legislation.

Goods are released by Customs on the basis of the necessary documentation duly filled in and provided the health certificate has been presented. In the case of transfer of the goods to the final destination in Italy, information on the arrival of the goods is forwarded from the USMAF offices to the local AUSL and the AUSL inspector responsible carries out the sampling. Analytical results are reported back by the AUSL office to the USMAF office for issuing the health certificate for the release of the goods into free circulation. For goods in T1 transfer to another MS, the responsible USMAF office performs documentary and identity checks.

In the case of goods covered by Commission Decisions concerning mycotoxin contamination and Sudan dye adulteration, the minimum frequency is laid down by the relevant Decision. For all other imports, Presidential Decree of 23 November 1995 sets a minimum sampling frequency of 5% (for the second and third quarters of 2007, some 39,370 consignments were imported and of these 1,820 were sampled).

Quality systems and supervision

A quality system was introduced on a trial basis on 1 July 2007. This comprises 7 standard operating procedures and 1 operational instruction (on import of food of non-animal origin). The system was scheduled to become fully operational in January 2008.

As part of the quality system for USMAFs, Office II has drawn up draft SOPs. These were to be finalised in January 2008. Procedures concerning the handling of non-compliant foodstuffs at import and the handling of foodstuffs subjected to a secondary treatment are detailed in SOPs

In addition to the audits undertaken by Office IX DGAHVM across all sectors, Office II (DGFSN) has trained 23 auditors (ISO 19011) drawn from MH (11) and USMAFs (12) to conduct vertical inspections in the sector food hygiene (including on imports of non-animal origin). This course was organized by UNI (Italian corporation of ISO procedures standardization). The objective is to audit each USMAF over a two year cycle.

The first two audits, to be conducted with the participation of UNI, were scheduled for 29 November (USMAFs in Rome and Milan). Two further audits were planned for December (USMAFs Livorno and Genova).

Laboratories

The ISS was designated as national reference laboratory for the analysis of mycotoxins in food and feed, in application of Article 33.1 of Regulation (EC) No 882/2004 on 7 March 2007.

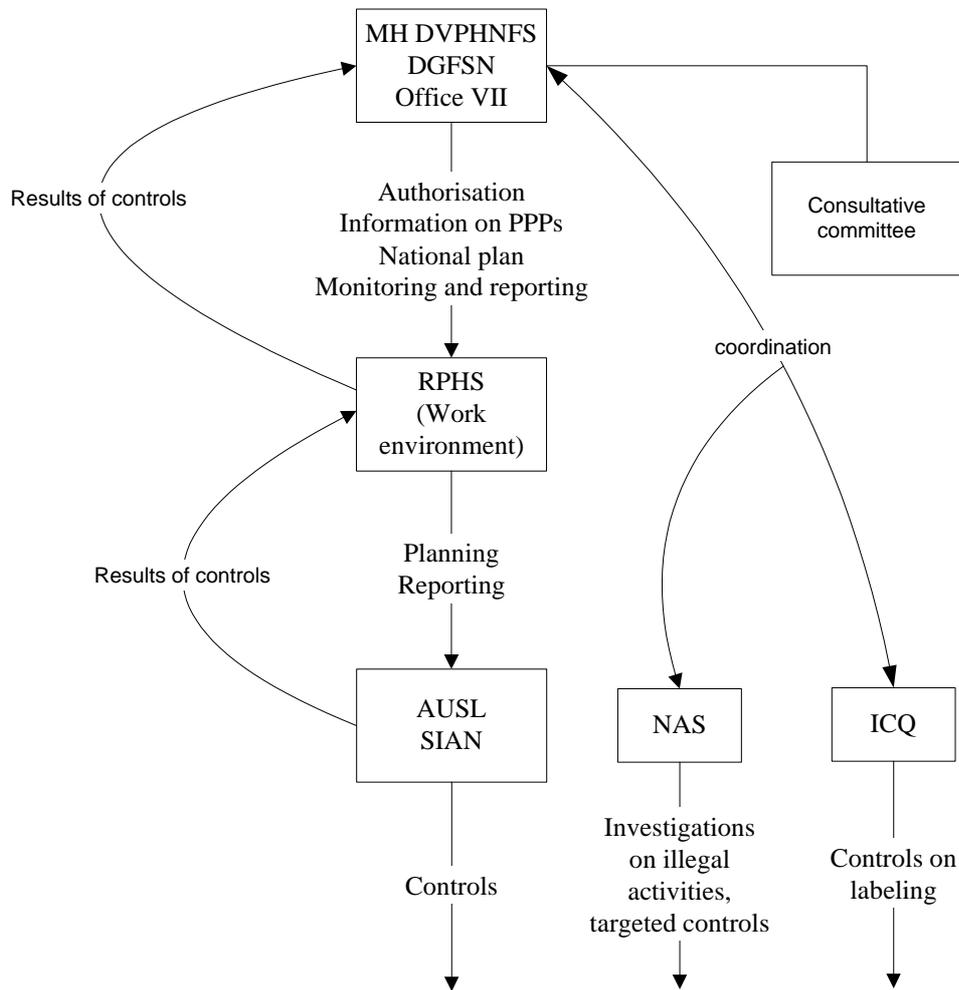
Routine analysis is undertaken mainly by the ARPA laboratories at regional level, the *Presidi multizonali di Prevenzione (PMP – Multi-area prevention centres)* and in some cases by IZS. The ISS provides a central laboratory capability for second instance analyses, the development of methods and the training of regional laboratory staff.

Currently, the ISS laboratory in Rome approves laboratories working in accordance with ISO 17025 and co-ordinates collaborative trials.

A draft agreement had been prepared at technical level within the State–Region conference, on analytical capacity for imports, including the requirement for accreditation. This agreement had to be formally adopted (latest draft was dated 18 July 2007). MH wrote to the USMAFs in October 2006 reminding them that only accredited laboratories could be used for official controls. During the general review mission, MH confirmed that from 1 January 2008 only accredited laboratories would be used. This requirement was to be checked as part of the audits described above.

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

PPP



MH	Ministry of Health
DVPHNFS	Department for Veterinary Public Health, Nutrition and Food Safety
DGFSN	Directorate General for Food Safety and Nutrition
RPHS	Regional Public Health Services
AUSL	Local Health Units
SIAN	Food, hygiene and Nutrition Services
NAS	Carabinieri Health Protection Unit
ICQ	Central Inspectorate for Quality Control of Foodstuff and Agricultural Products

Competent authorities

The DVPHNFS is the CCA for controls on pesticides. Within the DVPHNFS, Office VII DGFSN is responsible for the authorisation and control of the marketing and use of plant protection products (PPP).

The NAS undertake investigations for the control of illegal pesticides and illegal uses of pesticides.

Authorisation of PPP

PPPs are authorised by MH following an evaluation carried out by Office VII DGFSN with the support of a consultative committee.

Some 5,000 PPP, containing around 350 active substances, are authorised in Italy. A list of authorised PPP (and a copy of the label) together with relevant legislation is available on MH website at

<http://www.ministerosalute.it/alimenti/sicurezza/fitosanitari/ricerca.jsp>.

http://www.ministerosalute.it/fitosanitariwsWeb_new/FitosanitariEngServlet

Official controls on marketing/use

The Regions are responsible for the licensing of wholesalers and retailers following checks on the premises and the professional qualifications of the operators.

The regional services issue licences for use of pesticides. To obtain a licence the farmers must attend a specific course organised in collaboration with the AUSL. The regional services also provide advice to farmers on the use of pesticides.

A national plan (five year) for the official control of the placing on the market and use of PPP is established under a Decree dated 9 August 2002. It includes checklists and outlines general provisions and procedures for the transmission of results to the central level by the Regions.

For 2006, some 20,887 controls were carried out on labelling, packaging, sale, use and composition.

The Regions report to MH annually on the results of controls. Office VII DGFSN is responsible for collating the results of inspections undertaken at a local level. The annual reports produced by MH also include data related to the activities of the NAS and the ICQ.

At Regional level, the Food Hygiene Service under the Regional Public Health Service (RPHS) is responsible for the marketing and use of PPP. Controls are carried out at local level by SIAN of the AUSL.

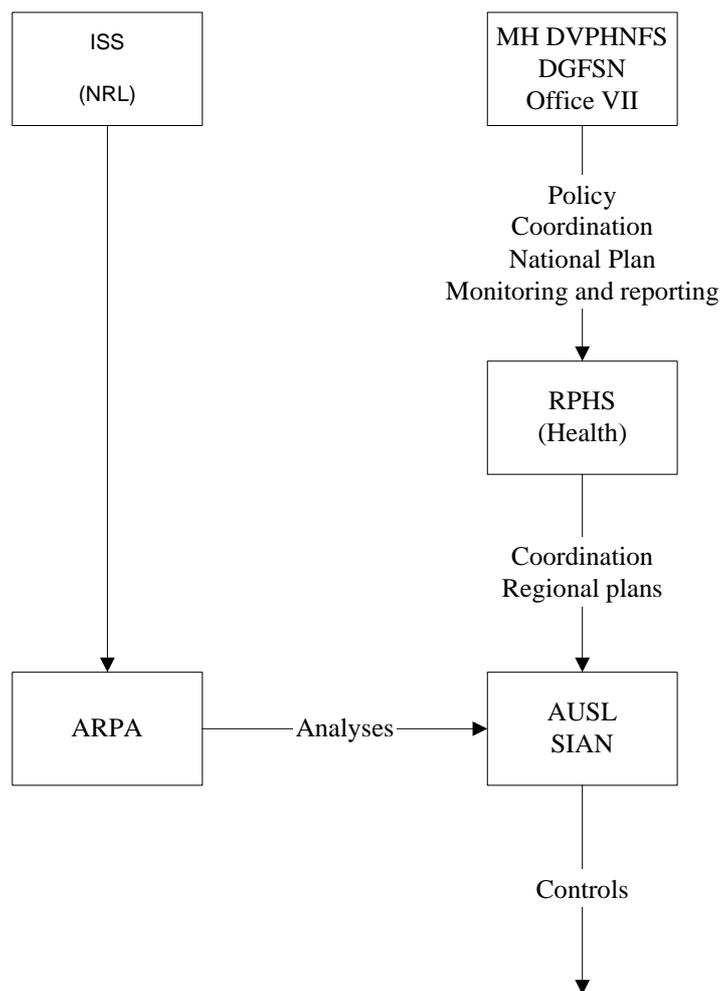
The ICQ of the Ministry of Agriculture carries out inspections on the marketing of PPP. The labelling, packaging and formulation of PPP are checked to prevent and combat commercial fraud.

The occupational medicine service is responsible for safety at work and assists and informs farmers on handling of machinery and PPP.

Laboratories

Formulation analyses are carried out by some ARPA laboratories for the regional health services and, in the case of controls of the ICQ, by its own laboratory in Catania.

PPP residues



ISS	National Health Institute
NRL	National Reference Laboratory
MH	Ministry of Health
DVPHNFS	Department for Veterinary Public Health, Nutrition and Food Safety
DGFSN	Directorate General for Food Safety and Nutrition
RPHS	Regional Public Health Services
ARPA	Regional Agencies for Environment Protection
AUSL	Local Health Units
SIAN	Food, hygiene and Nutrition Services

Competent authorities

The DVPHNFS is the CCA for controls on pesticides. Within the DVPHNFS, Office VII DGFSN is responsible for controls on residues.

The ICQ within MIPAAF has no responsibilities for pesticide residue controls, but carries out a monitoring programme for pesticide residues in organic food under Regulation (EEC) No. 2092/91, together with its 12 peripheral offices and 5 laboratories. The ICQ also carries out marketing controls at retailers of PPPs.

Official controls on residues

A Decree of 23 December 1992 of MH specifies general criteria for the preparation of control plans at regional level. The number of samples to be taken in each region is specified at central level. Office V summarises the results of controls and prepares the annual report for the Commission.

At regional level the health departments under the RPHS are responsible for controls on pesticide residues. They draw up detailed sampling plans and compile the results of controls.

Controls on pesticide residues are carried out at local level by SIAN of the AUSL. Sampling procedures are set out in a Decree of 23 July 2003 of MH.

The central or regional health authority may enlist the assistance of NAS particularly where enforcement action is necessary.

Information on samples and results of analysis are directly loaded by the regional laboratories in a national information system (which is in operation since 1 January 2007). This provides web access to all laboratories. The laboratories send the results for the whole year by 31 March of the following year. After AUSL receives an analytical report showing a non-compliance, the case is usually forwarded to the Public Prosecutor.

The national monitoring report for 2005 shows that 6,330 samples of fruit and vegetables were analysed for pesticide residues, which was substantially more than the planned number of 4,370 samples. The number of pesticides sought (fruit and vegetables) had increased from 297 in 2005 to 332 in 2006.

In the national monitoring report for 2006, 6822 samples of fruit and vegetable were analysed. The report was published on the MH website:

<http://www.ministerosalute.it/alimenti/sicurezza/sicApprofondimento.jsp?lang=italiano&label=pro&id=198>

Sampling of products at import is not covered by the national pesticide monitoring programme, but Ministerial Decree of 30 July 1993 lays down that 3% of imported consignments of food of plant origin are to be sampled for pesticide residue analysis. The results are reported within the USMAF Intranet, which is accessible to DGFSN.

Laboratories

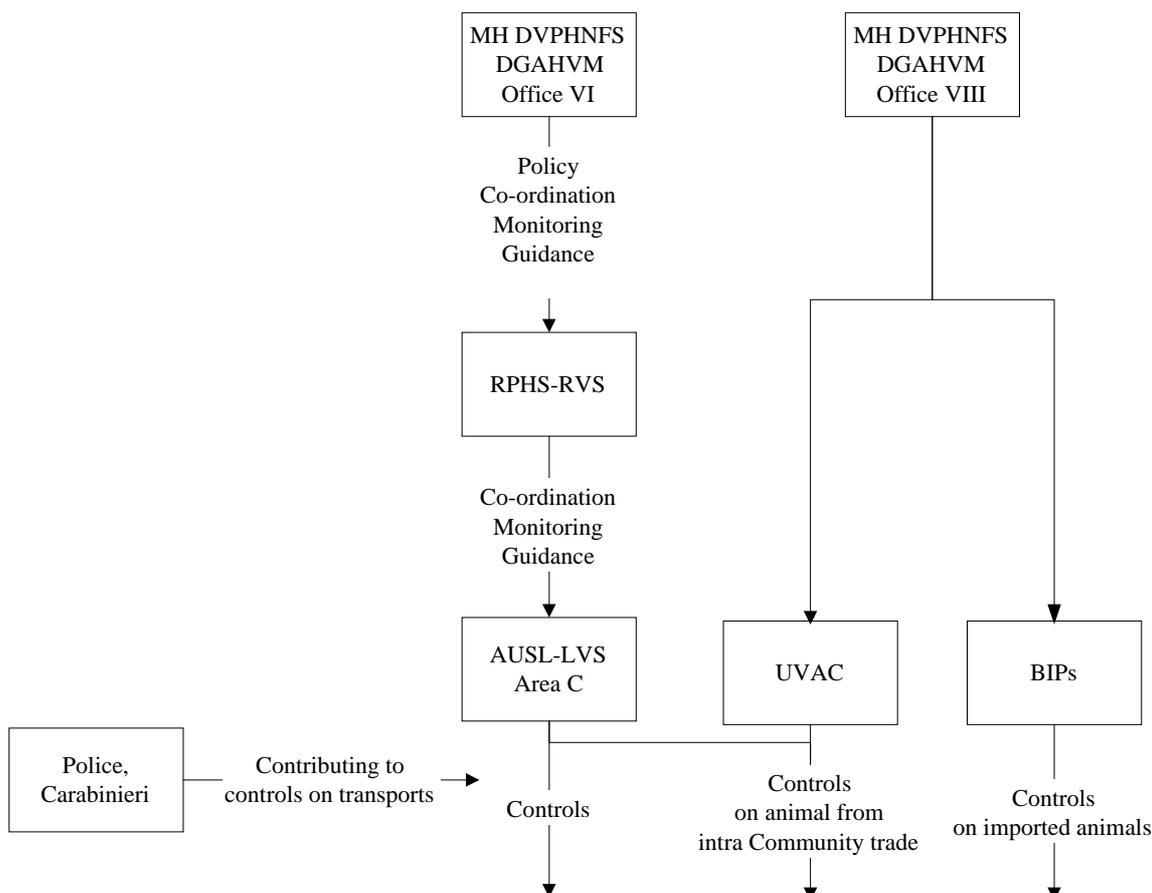
The ISS was appointed as National Reference Laboratory (NRL) for pesticide residue analysis in fruits and vegetables, animal products and for single-residue methods in March 2007. The ISS is not involved in pesticide residue monitoring, but carries out second instance analysis. Staff of the NRL are also involved in physical and chemical analysis of PPPs and the evaluation of active substances and EU MRLs.

The ISS is not accredited but the intention was to lodge an application for accreditation early in 2008. As part of this process, a quality manual was prepared and a quality manager appointed.

Analyses for national monitoring of pesticide residues in food of plant origin for 2005 were carried out by the 36 ARPA/PMP/IZS Laboratories. Of these laboratories, 13 have been accredited by SINAL and a further 12 have been accredited by ISS-ORL. 14 laboratories have plans in place for accreditation.

Of the 36 laboratories, 8 now have LC-MS/MS equipment and a further 5 are in the process of procuring such equipment.

2.10 Control system for animal welfare



MH	Ministry of Health
DVPHNFS	Department for Veterinary Public Health, Nutrition and Food Safety
DGAHVM	Directorate-General for Animal Health and Veterinary Medicine
RPHS	Regional Public Health Services
RVS	Regional Veterinary Services
AUSL	Local Health Units
LVS	Local Veterinary Services
UVAC	Veterinary Offices for Compliance with Community Requirements
BIP	Border Inspection Posts

Competent authorities

The DVPHNFS is the CCA for animal welfare and animal reproduction. Within the DVPHNFS, Office VI DGAHVM is responsible for policy issues, co-ordination, monitoring, supervision and collating the information supplied by the Regions and by the BIPs and UVAC.

BIPs and UVAC notify infringements to other Member States, third countries and international bodies. Both Office VIII DGAHVM and Office VI DGAHVM collect data on animal welfare from BIPs and UVAC.

Office VI planned to undertake two vertical inspections in December 2007 (on ritual slaughter and on laying hens).

Official controls on farm

Controls are co-ordinated by the RVS and performed by the veterinary services of the AUSL, in particular Area A and C. The RVS also collect and aggregate the data supplied by the AUSL veterinary services for subsequent forwarding to MH.

If necessary, the RVS may carry out inspections to verify the correct implementation of the legislation. Currently, all farms are visited at least once every three years.

The AUSL are responsible for taking action in the event of non-compliance which may include punitive measures and, when animals are severely maltreated, referral to the judicial authorities.

The CCA has issued guidelines for the control of animal welfare on farm for calves and pigs, including instructions on: specific requirements to be controlled; criteria for the planning of controls; checklists for controls; and a reporting system from the Regions to the CCA.

In the case of calves, a minimum annual frequency of 10% of farms to be inspected has been set at national level. Based on this general requirement the Regions are responsible for establishing annual control programmes which are sent to the CCA.

MH circulated procedures on 31 October 2007 on the correct implementation of Legislative Decree 267/2003 on the protection of laying hens (implementing Directive 1999/74/CE and 2002/4/CE). Checklists have been provided by MH to the regions.

Official controls during transport

Roadside checks to monitor animal welfare during transport are carried out by the AUSL in conjunction with the police and Carabinieri. Inspections of animals coming from other Member States are normally conducted in conjunction with the UVAC.

Although the primary responsibility for the implementation of Regulation (EC) No 1/2005 is for the Local Health Unit (Azienda Unitá Sanitaria Locale), UVAC, which is a local office of the CCA responsible for intra community trade, is involved in checks of animals in intra community trade. In addition Police, Carabinieri and Forest Guards are also involved in implementation and enforcement of animal welfare during transport, and can perform checks, including road-side checks, on their own as well as joint checks with official veterinarians (OV). They have the legal power to stop and inspect vehicles, to check documents, to assess the welfare of animals and to issue sanctions. In case of doubt they can consult an OV.

The role of contact point as defined in Article 24(2) of Regulation (EC) No 1/2005 has been assigned to the OV responsible for animal welfare at central level.

The CCA has established a system of training on the requirements of Regulation (EC) No 1/2005 including specific requirements, such as requirements for the partitions, individual stalls and access to water during transport for equidae.

The CCA prepared guidance for the regional services on how to proceed with the authorisation of transporters (Article 11 of Regulation (EC) No 1/2005), but this was not adopted yet and is pending its approval at the State – Regions Conference (Conferenza Stato-Regioni).

UVAC prepare each year a general programme of checks to be performed on the basis of the checks in previous years, which requires that approximately 2% of consignments of live animals coming from intra community trade are inspected at the place of destination. The actual checks are delegated to the AUSLs, and an OV in UVAC decides, on the basis of a risk assessment, which consignments must be checked.

On 14 December 2006, the CCA sent an explanatory note to the CAs involved in the control of animal welfare during transport, which included a basic explanation of the requirements of Regulation (EC) No 1/2005 and gave some details on certain requirements, such as authorisation of transporters, training of drivers and attendants and the role of the CCA contact point.

On 17 January 2007 the CCA sent a note on application of Regulation (EC) No 1/2005, which stated that, although they were waiting for further clarification from the Commission on certain issues, such as navigation systems and monitoring of temperature on vehicles, the AUSLs should focus their inspections on the requirements that are clear, such as fitness of animals for transport, checks of journey times and rest times, stocking density and intervals for feeding and watering of animals.

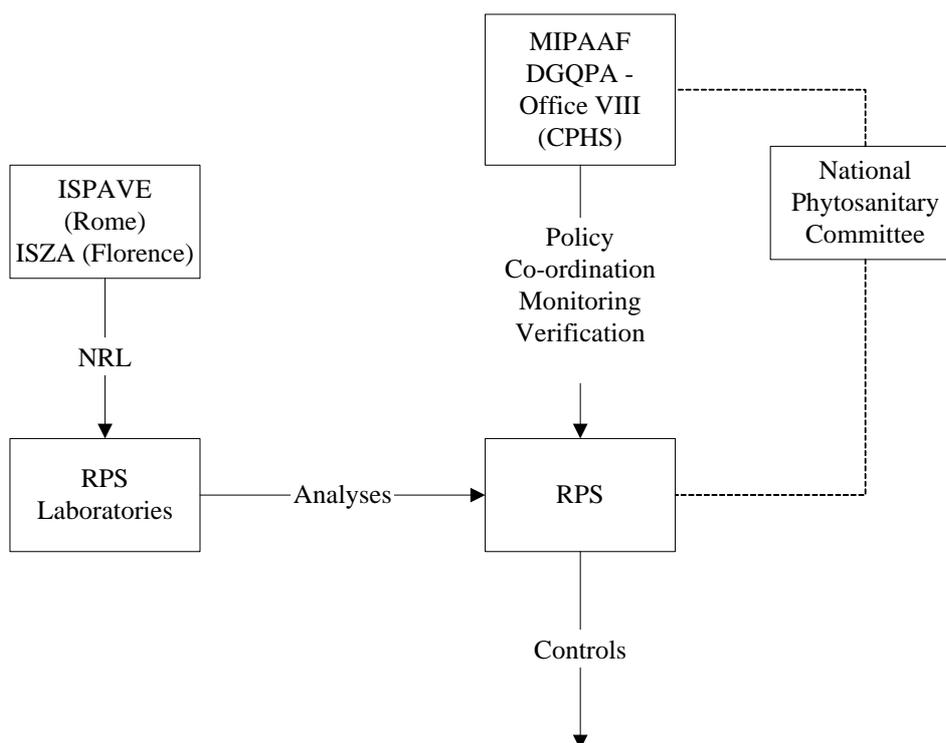
Checklists have been prepared for controls during transport.

A National control plan is to be introduced for farms in 2008 (with the possibility that this may be extended to transport and slaughter).

Official controls at slaughter

Three checklists for animal welfare at slaughter have been adopted and are in use.

2.11 Control system for plant health



MIPAAF	Ministry of Agricultural and Forestry Policies
DGQPA	Directorate-General for Quality of Agricultural Products and Consumer Protection
CPHS	Central Plant Health Service Laboratory
ISPAVE	Laboratory
ISZA	Laboratory
NRL	National Reference Laboratory
RPS	Regional Phytosanitary Services

Competent authorities

The Single Authority, within the meaning of Article 1(4) of Council Directive 2000/29/EC (CPHS), is the MIPAAF. Within the MIPAAF, the role of CCA is assigned to Office VIII (Plant health, fertilisers and seeds) of the Directorate-General for the Quality of Agricultural Products and Consumer Protection (DGQPA) which is responsible for: relations with the Commission and other Member States, third countries and international institutions; transposing EU legislation; issuing Decrees for the compulsory control of specific pests and parasites; collecting data on plant diseases at national level; and co-ordinating the activities of the Regions.

CPHS maintains the national register of plant health inspectors and organises training courses for inspectors at national level.

There are three FTE and the unit head working on plant health.

The organisation of plant health services at national and regional level is set out in Decree No 214 of 19 August 2005. This Decree reinforces the co-ordination role of the

CPHS by establishing a National Plant Health Committee, comprising representatives of each RPS as well as the CPHS and meets at least monthly to advise the CCA.

A regional headquarter is located in the capital of the region. Within a region, there is generally one local office for each of the provinces, except for Sicilia, where there are only two local offices for the whole region which consists of nine provinces.

There is no national database or harmonised data recording system to facilitate the exchange of data between the CPHS and the RPS.

Plant passport system and internal market checks

The implementation of plant health legislation is handled at regional level by the RPS. Each region generally has a local office in each of its Provinces. In some Regions, the RPS are also responsible for the quality control of propagating material.

The RPS define the duties of inspectors, including: inspection of nurseries for plant passport purposes; conducting specific surveys (based on Ministerial Decrees); pre-export inspections; and import controls.

The RPS are responsible for inspection of nurseries for plant passport purposes.

The plant passport system is laid down at national level by the Ministerial Decree of 31 January 1996. Growers, traders and distributors of regulated plants and plant material have to be registered at regional level with the exception of local market production (see point 5.4). Retailers selling to final consumers do not have to be registered. Professional producers and packing centres for *Citrus*, *Fortunella* and *Poncirus* fruit are registered too. So-called 'secondary' *Citrus* fruit producers, only producing for the local market, are not registered.

The registrations are based on an application document, completed by the responsible person within the company and a visit by an inspector. Applications are detailed and include information about species and quantity of the regulated material and a plan of the premises and have to be introduced on standardised forms. The VAT-numbers are used as individual identification numbers of the registered premises.

If appropriate, registered companies can get an authorisation from the regional headquarters to produce and issue plant passports. Such an authorisation stipulates in detail for which species plant passports can be issued.

Import controls

The RPS are responsible for import controls for plant health. Each RPS registers importers. All the import controls in Italy are executed at the point of entry.

There is no general agreement concluded between the CPHS and the central authorities of Customs in order to harmonise the co-operation between their respective administrations at the points of entry throughout Italy

The general Customs procedure provides for importers to issue a customs declaration in paper form, which customs agents use for manual registration using the AIDA software. Customs agents are responsible for analysing the characteristics of the goods in order to determine which kind of document and controls are necessary. As regards regulated

articles, AIDA does not automatically alert customs agents to the need for a phytosanitary certificate and control by RPS.

It is the responsibility of the importer to serve notice of plant health control, if necessary, to RPS and provide it with all necessary information.

Laboratories

Each RPS has its own diagnostic laboratory. In addition, two laboratories act as reference laboratories: the I.S.Pa.Ve. in Rome, and the ISZA in Florence. University laboratories can provide additional capacity or expertise if required. A network of plant health laboratories was established by Decree No 214 of 19 August 2005.

3. FOLLOW-UP OF FVO INSPECTIONS

Summary of follow-up status

This part of the country profile gives an overview of the action taken on the recommendations made by the FVO to the Italian authorities in its inspection reports¹.

At the time of the general review mission to Italy in November 2007 a total of 648 recommendations had been made in the 95 finalised inspection reports for Italy in the period since 1999.

Prior to the 2007 general review mission, the Commission had closed 518 of these recommendations either on the basis of action taken² by the Competent Authorities or because they were no longer relevant. The remaining 130 recommendations were followed up during the 2007 general review mission in November 2007. These consisted of 44 recommendations classified in the 2006 country profile as either "In progress" or "Action still required" and 86 recommendations requiring follow-up from inspection mission reports which had reached the closeout stage in the meantime. In the case of these more recent recommendations the response of the Competent Authorities was considered to be unsatisfactory in 41 cases and verification of promised action by the Competent Authority was considered necessary in 45 cases. The position is summarised in the following table:

	Pre-General Review Mission 2007	Post- General Review Mission 2007
Action taken / No longer relevant	518	571
Outstanding / Action still required	45	32
For verification / In progress	85	45
Total number of recommendations	648	648

This assessment is based on information and documentation received and reviewed during meetings with the Central Competent Authorities in the course of the 2007 general review mission. Given the nature and scope of the general review mission, no

¹ Those in respect of which the technical assessment by the FVO had been finalised ("closeout") at the time of the general review mission

² For the purpose of the Country Profile the terms: "Action taken," "In Progress", "No longer relevant" and "Action still required" are defined as follows:

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

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

"In Progress": Appropriate measures to address the recommendation have been initiated by the Competent Authority but not all of the measures have been implemented. The recommendation therefore remains open.

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

verification through inspection on the spot was carried out. The assessment undertaken through the general review mission is considered complementary to other follow-up actions and verifications that may be necessary and carried out as part of future sectoral inspections by the FVO. In this regard, unless otherwise indicated, recommendations classified as "In progress" or "Action still required" are not considered to require any immediate specific legal or administrative action on the part of the Commission. These recommendations will remain the subject of monitoring by the Commission to assess progress. If as a result of this monitoring the Commission considers the situation in regard to any of these recommendations warrants additional action on its part, it will take the appropriate measures.

The following table gives an overview of FVO missions to Italy and the assessment in relation to the 130 recommendations identified for further follow-up during the 2007 general review mission. The findings in relation to the individual recommendations are presented in a separate chapter for each control system.

X: no recommendations identified for follow-up during the FVO general review mission of November 2007
A: recommendations on which action has been taken
P: recommendations on which action is still in progress
R: recommendations on which action is still required
N: recommendations which are no longer relevant

** recent inspections for which responses from the CCAs are awaited or are being assessed by the FVO*
S: scheduled FVO mission

Reference number and objectives of the mission		Animal health	Food of animal origin	Imports of animals and food of animal origin	Feedingstuffs and animal nutrition	TSEs/ABP	Veterinary medicines and residues	Foodstuffs and food hygiene	Imports of food of plant origin	Plant protection products	Animal welfare	Plant health
1020/1999	Disease eradication/control programmes - Brucella melitensis	X										
1099/1999	Food production - milk/products		X									
1011/1999	Erad/control programmes - B. leucosis/TBC/BB	X										
1143/1999	Disease contingency plans	X										

Reference number and objectives of the mission		Animal health	Food of animal origin	Imports of animals and food of animal origin	Feedingstuffs and animal nutrition	TSEs/ABP	Veterinary medicines and residues	Foodstuffs and food hygiene	Imports of food of plant origin	Plant protection products	Animal welfare	Plant health
1067/1999	Border inspection posts/Animal welfare - Transport/market			X								
1188/1999	Protected zones -Erwinia amylovora											X
1189/1999	Plant pest outbreak -Arable crops											X
1238/1999	Identification/certification - Wild and farmed game meat		X									
1212/1999	Food production - poultry meat/products/preparations		X									
1112/2000	Disease outbreak - Fowl plague	X										
1024/2000	TSEs					X						
1161/2000	Disease outbreak - Fowl plague	X										
1131/2000	Animal welfare - Transport/markets										X	
1113/2000	Pesticides – Residues									X		
1093/2000	Disease eradication/control programmes - Brucella melitensis	X										
1137/2000	Aflatoxins in Peanuts							X				
1163/2000	Evaluation of CA in MS – partial		X									
1073/2000	Food production - milk/products		X									
1052/2000	Organic farming controls											

Reference number and objectives of the mission		Animal health	Food of animal origin	Imports of animals and food of animal origin	Feedingstuffs and animal nutrition	TSEs/ABP	Veterinary medicines and residues	Foodstuffs and food hygiene	Imports of food of plant origin	Plant protection products	Animal welfare	Plant health
1005/2000	Food production - wild game meat/products/preparations		1A									
1195/2000	Disease outbreak - Other disease(s)	X										
1258/2000	Food Hygiene HACCP							X				
1264/2000	Border inspection posts			X								
1219/2000	Food production red meat products preparations		X									
1105/2000	Animal welfare - Transport/markets										X	
1235/2000	Food production red meat products preparations		1A									
1306/2000	TSEs					X						
3235/2001	Plant pest situation - Forst plants/products											X
3301/2001	BSE					X						
3199/2001	Milk Production Disease eradication/control programmes - Brucella melitensis	X										
3261/2001	Food production - table eggs/products		X									
3402/2001	Plant pest outbreak -Arable crops											X
3385/2001	Animal welfare - On-farm										X	

Reference number and objectives of the mission		Animal health	Food of animal origin	Imports of animals and food of animal origin	Feedstuffs and animal nutrition	TSEs/ABP	Veterinary medicines and residues	Foodstuffs and food hygiene	Imports of food of plant origin	Plant protection products	Animal welfare	Plant health
3442/2001	Fishery products and bivalve molluscs		X									
8523/2002	Disease eradication control programmes	X										
8556/2002	Animal welfare - Transport										X	
8533/2002	Disease eradication control programmes	X										
8602/2002	Contaminants							X				
8639/2002	Pesticides - Marketing and uses and Residues									X		
8547/2002	Traceability		X									
8576/2002	TSEs epidemio-surveillance					X						
8666/2002	Import controls - animals/animal products			X								
8691/2002	Feedstuffs				X							
8735/2002	Border inspection posts			X								
9078/2003	Disease contingency plans	1R 1A										
9091/2003	Disease eradication control programmes - Tuberculosis	1R 2P										
9031/2003	Border inspection posts			X								
9131/2003	Import controls - food of non-animal origin								X			

Reference number and objectives of the mission		Animal health	Food of animal origin	Imports of animals and food of animal origin	Feedingstuffs and animal nutrition	TSEs/ABP	Veterinary medicines and residues	Foodstuffs and food hygiene	Imports of food of plant origin	Plant protection products	Animal welfare	Plant health
9225/2003	TSEs					X						
9207/2003	Import controls - plants/plant products											X
9189/2003	Traceability		X									
9186/2003	Disease eradication control programmes	X										
7059/2004	Food Hygiene							1R 2A 3P				
7254/2004	Additives							X				
7042/2004	TSEs surveillance , rendering, feedban					X						
7130/2004	Disease eradication control programmes	3P										
7083/2004	Internal market - Plant passport											X
7229/2004	Plant pest outbreak -Fruits, fruit plants, vegetables											X
7010/2004	Animal Welfare - Laying hens –Transport										1P	
7263/2004	Control of residues in live animals and animal products						1A 1P					
7026/2004	Fishery products and bivalve molluscs		4P									
7318/2004	Pesticides – Residues									3P		
7120/2004	Animal by-products and Food unfit for human consumption					1A						

Reference number and objectives of the mission		Animal health	Food of animal origin	Imports of animals and food of animal origin	Feedingstuffs and animal nutrition	TSEs/ABP	Veterinary medicines and residues	Foodstuffs and food hygiene	Imports of food of plant origin	Plant protection products	Animal welfare	Plant health
7367/2004	National Audit Systems	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
7369/2004	Disease eradication/control programmes – ASF	X										
7288/2004	Animal nutrition				X							
7366/2004	Community Reference Laboratory						X					
7529/2005	Border inspection posts			5A 1P								
7547/2005	Import controls - illegal imports			X								
7636/2005	Animal welfare - calves, pigs and laying hens										1A	
7653/2005	GMOs food – Labelling							X				
7622/2005	Identification certification and AI/embryo/semen collection centres	5A										
7701/2005	Scrapie					1R 1A 1P						
7706/2005	Disease eradication/control programmes – ASF	1P										
8119/2006	Import controls - food of non-animal origin								4A 1P			
8072/2006	BSE					10 A 3P						
8171/2006	Intra-Community trade of live animals	2P										
8260/2006	Import controls - plants/plant products											6R 1P 1A

Reference number and objectives of the mission		Animal health	Food of animal origin	Imports of animals and food of animal origin	Feedingstuffs and animal nutrition	TSEs/ABP	Veterinary medicines and residues	Foodstuffs and food hygiene	Imports of food of plant origin	Plant protection products	Animal welfare	Plant health
8184/2006	Disease eradication control programmes - Bluetongue	1R 3A										
8204/2006	Disease eradication control programmes – Brucellosis	2A 6P										
8207/2006	Identification/certification – Sheep	X										
8272/2006	Plant pest outbreak -Forest plants/products, Plant pest outbreak -Ornamentals, incl. Bonsais											7R
8273/2006	Plant pest outbreak -Arable crops											9R
8274/2006	Plant pest outbreak -Forest plants/products											5R
8145/2006	Food production red meat products preparations, Food Hygiene, Animal welfare Slaughter killing	6A 5P										
7275/2007	Import control system for products of animal origin and live animals			8A 7P								
7264/2007	Evaluation of the implementation of measures concerning official controls on feed and compliance with requirements for feed hygiene				*							
7435/2007	Safety of food of animal origin, in particular meat, milk and their products as well as animal welfare at the time of slaughter or killing		*									
7193/2007	Official control systems on the hygiene of foodstuffs, and in particular regarding bottled water							*				

Reference number and objectives of the mission		Animal health	Food of animal origin	Imports of animals and food of animal origin	Feedingstuffs and animal nutrition	TSEs/ABP	Veterinary medicines and residues	Foodstuffs and food hygiene	Imports of food of plant origin	Plant protection products	Animal welfare	Plant health
7194/2007	Controls of pesticide residues in food of plant origin									*		
7368/2007	Operation of the Ovine/Caprine Brucellosis Eradication Programme	*										
7373/2007	Implementation of EU Animal Health requirement for Intra-Community Trade in live horses	*										
7332/2007	Animal welfare during transport, in particular horses destined for slaughter.										*	
7743/2008	Health rules on processed animal by-products (ABP)					*						
7691/2008	Animal welfare during transport and at the time of slaughter and killing										*	
7870/2008	Situation and controls for <i>Rhynchophorus ferrugineus</i> (Olivier)											*
7801/2008	African/Classical Swine Fever eradication control programme	S										
7627/2008	Salmonella risk in the table egg sector		S									
7930/2008	Safety of food of animal origin (meat and milk)		S									

Follow-up of FVO missions

This section lists all recommendations requiring follow-up during the general review mission in Italy in November 2007. Recommendations requiring follow-up are shown by control system and are classified as follows:

- Recommendations carried over from the country profile of October 2006;
- Recommendations in reports which have reached closeout note stage since the general review mission in 2006 and which were reviewed in the general review mission of November 2007.

3.1. Animal health

Since 1999, the FVO has completed 22 inspections in Italy in relation to animal health.

Out of 153 recommendations contained in the reports of these missions, 28 were identified for follow-up during the 2007 general review mission, 16 of which were carried over from the country profile of 2006 and 12 were contained in reports that had reached closeout stage since the 2006 general review mission.

The following table summarises the FVO's assessment of the position on these recommendations following the 2007 general review mission. 11 recommendations have been classified as "action taken", 14 have been classified as "in progress" and 3 have been classified as "action still required".

Recommendations carried over from the country profile of October 2006

MR 9091/2003 of 02/03/2003 on Disease eradication control programmes – Tuberculosis		
Reference No and recommendation	Findings	Assessment
(12970) To complete transposition of all the provisions of Council Directive 64/432/EEC, as amended.	<p>The Italian Decree No. 196 of 22 May 1999 correctly transposes Council Directive 64/432/EEC up to and including amendments adopted by Directives 98/46/EC and 98/99/EC. Later amendments to Directive 64/432/EEC have not yet been transposed into Italian legislation.</p> <p>The actual implementation of the Italian tuberculosis eradication programme is, however, based on Ministerial Decree No. 592 of 15 December 1995 and not the above legislation, which is applied to intra-Community trade only.</p> <p>Although Decree 592/95 generally transposes the EC legislation correctly, some minor differences were noticed with regard to provisions relating to procedures for suspension and restoration of OTF status of herds, the exemption from testing of fattening herds and the definition of OTF regions.</p> <p>The Italian authorities reaffirmed their intention to make the necessary legislative changes but the priority in 2007 was the control of brucellosis, TB and EBL in Calabria, Campania, Puglia and Sicily. The national legislation is to be reviewed in 2008 by the special task force established under Article 18 of the Order of the Minister for Health introducing special measures to be applied in Calabria, Campania, Puglia and Sicily for the control of tuberculosis, bovine and buffalo brucellosis, sheep and goat brucellosis, enzootic bovine leucosis.</p>	<p>Action still required</p> <p><i>The Commission has initiated specific follow-up measures in the case of this recommendation</i></p>
(12974) To promote the development of special plans for the eradication of bovine tuberculosis in Regions with continuing high disease incidence or specific problems.	The Minister for Health signed an Order on 14 November 2006 introducing special measures to be applied in Calabria, Campania, Puglia and Sicily for the control of tuberculosis, bovine and buffalo brucellosis, sheep and goat brucellosis, enzootic bovine leucosis. The Order, which includes twelve specimen forms to be used for sampling and reporting, was	In progress

MR 9091/2003 of 02/03/2003 on Disease eradication control programmes – Tuberculosis

Reference No and recommendation	Findings	Assessment
<p>See also 18063, 12972, 18064 and 26311</p>	<p>published in the official journal on 7 December 2006.</p> <p>The Order aims to guarantee a more reliable collection of data because the LVS (local veterinary services) must carry out an epidemiological investigation in each infected holding and in the slaughter house and send it to the competent RVS.</p> <p>The health status (i.e. officially free, infected etc.) of all the holdings in the four Regions covered by the Order has to be inserted into the national database, which is available on internet.</p> <p>A task force is established under Article 18 of the Order to direct, co-ordinate and implement the special measures. This comprises representatives from MH, one representative from each of the three National disease Reference centres, one representative from each of the four regions and the four epidemiological observatories and one representative from the NAS (Carabinieri).</p> <p>Following meetings of the task force on 14 March 2007 and 21 November 2007, operating procedures and reporting forms were sent to the regions by letters dated 29 March and 21 November 2007. The first of these included a procedure for sampling animals from infected herds. The November letter transmits the final protocol for the control of brucellosis.</p> <p>The March letter also requested the four regions to await guidelines from the task force before intensifying controls on milk and milk products in line with Article 16 of the Order.</p> <p>Data provided shows that the prevalence of bovine tuberculosis in Sicily continues to be high (7.18% for 2006 and 5.14% as at 31 July 2007).</p> <p>Work is in progress on improving data collection and conversion to electronic media. This is being driven by a working group comprising the National references for each disease, the database experts and the regions. The project also plans to extend the use of laptops for data entry beyond the 4 regions where this is already in operation.</p>	
<p>(12972) To establish an effective system to co-ordinate and audit activities at regional level in order to assure that all regional authorities comply with national and EU legislation.</p> <p>As regards audit, see also 18058, 25271, 4409, 3043 and 17247 (and rec 1 of 8119/2006)</p> <p>As regards the 2006</p>	<p>The audit function undertaken by Office IX of DGAHVM is described in Part 1 of the country profile.</p> <p>Office IX has also verified conformity with the Order of the Minister for Health of 14 November 2006 during a systems audit in Calabria, in March 2007.</p> <p>The Task Force established under Article 18 of the November Order, may carry out inspections or audits with the support of the <i>Carabinieri</i> health unit (NAS).</p> <p>Office II DGSA, in conjunction with the task force carried out, inspections as follows:</p>	<p>In progress</p>

MR 9091/2003 of 02/03/2003 on Disease eradication control programmes – Tuberculosis		
Reference No and recommendation	Findings	Assessment
Ordinanza, see also 12974, 18063, 18064 and 26311	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 21 December 2006, an inspection to ASL Caserta 2 (Campania) on buffalo brucellosis • 20-21 February 2007, an inspection to Calabria on brucellosis in sheep and goats • 7 to 12 June 2007, a mission took place aimed at checking the prevalence buffalo brucellosis in the province of Caserta, through the conduct of inspections and laboratory tests on a representative sample of farms <p>Following the visit to Calabria which detected serious shortcomings, MH has proposed that an "ad acta Commissioner" be appointed under Article 19 of the Order of the Minister for Health of 14 November 2006 with extraordinary powers to implement the Order.</p> <p>For the emergency, also NAS have done some missions in Caserta.</p> <p>As regards co-ordination, see recommendation 12974 above. The special task force created under Article 18 of the Order, has met on several occasions since December 2006.</p>	

MR 7130/2004 of 28/03/2004 on Disease eradication control programmes – Brucellosis		
Reference No and recommendation	Findings	Assessment
(18058) To put an effective system in place to co-ordinate and audit activities at regional level eradication programmes. (See also 12972, 25271, 4409, 3043 and 17247)	See recommendation No 12972. Supervision inspections by Office III planned for 2007 were postponed to 2008.	In progress
(18063) To fully implement and enforce all elements of the EU approved and EU co-financed national and regional eradication programme for buffalo brucellosis as specified in Article 72 (1) of Commission Decision 2003/849/EC without delay. See also 12974, 12972, 18064 and 26311	<p>The Minister for Health signed an Order on 14 November 2006 introducing special measures to be applied in Calabria, Campania, Puglia and Sicilia for the control of tuberculosis, bovine and buffalo brucellosis, sheep and goat brucellosis, enzootic bovine leukosis.</p> <p>As regards buffalo brucellosis, Commission Decision 2007/561/EC of 2 August 2007 approved the amendment to the eradication programme for Caserta in Region Campania.</p> <p>The Commission wrote to Italy on 11 April 2007 confirming concerns as to</p>	In progress <i>The Commission has initiated specific follow-up measures in the case of this recommendation</i>

Reference No and recommendation	Findings	Assessment
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The extent of implementation • The continuing high rate of disease • The deficient management of outbreaks, and • The apparent failure to remove all positive animals. <p>Italy was requested to-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure optimal implementation of the programme • Strengthen measures to reduce fraud (such as greater genotyping to verify the match between samples and animals) • Proceed with the identification of all buffalo electronically by means of ruminal boluses (already purchased and staff were undergoing training) <p>This letter also referred to the unsatisfactory situation as regards brucellosis in sheep and goats in Sicily.</p> <p>The Italian authorities provided the following information:</p> <p>There are 243,674 buffalos in 1,478 holdings in Campania, of which 147,830 and 987 in Caserta province. Some 91,000 head have been identified electronically by means of ruminal boluses.</p> <p>For 2006, the prevalence of buffalo brucellosis in Caserta was 3.2%. A survey was carried out in the period 7 May to 12 June to establish the current prevalence in each of 13 districts in Caserta. Prevalance was shown to range from 0% to 15% with an overall rate of 7.7%.</p> <p>In order to strengthen measures to reduce fraud, samples for genotyping to verify the match between positive and slaughtered animals, 105 samples were taken in Calabria and 665 in Campania (up to end October 2007). In addition, 371 samples were taken in the same period to verify correct sampling in Campania.</p> <p>For brucellosis in sheep and goats, data provided by the Italian authorities show that 49,539 animals were vaccinated in Sicily in the first half of 2007. 90,000 doses had been delivered to Campania; results awaited.</p>	
(18064) To urgently implement effective controls over milk from brucella infected dairy buffalo and over milk from healthy buffalo on not Officially Brucellosis Free/Brucellosis Free holdings. To ensure that such milk is treated in conformity with Community requirements as specified in	<p>According to the national legislation, only milk from OBMF/brucellosis free holdings should be used for the manufacture of milk products for human consumption. Milk from healthy animals in infected farms may also be used provided that it has been collected in separately labelled and sealed containers and it undergoes a heat treatment under official control.</p> <p>The national legislation and the approved national eradication plans require that milk from animals which are infected or suspected of being infected is collected separately and used</p>	In progress

MR 7130/2004 of 28/03/2004 on Disease eradication control programmes – Brucellosis		
Reference No and recommendation	Findings	Assessment
Article 3 of Council Directive 92/46/EEC.	<p>exclusively for animal feed, following heat treatment.</p> <p>Dairy establishments must receive a health attestation for each flock supplying milk following each herd test for brucellosis.</p> <p>The Minister for Health signed an Order on 14 November 2006 introducing special measures to be applied in Calabria, Campania, Puglia and Sicilia for the control of tuberculosis, bovine and buffalo brucellosis, sheep and goat brucellosis, enzootic bovine leukosis.</p> <p>Article 16 of this Order provides for intensified controls on milk and milk products. A letter dated 29 March 2007 from MH requested the four regions to await guidelines from the task force before intensifying controls in line with Article 16 of the Order.</p>	

Report 9078/2003, Inspection of 17/02/2003 on Disease contingency plans		
Reference No and recommendation	Findings	Assessment
(13371) To address urgently the outstanding recommendations of mission DG(SANCO)/1143/99. Other contingency plans provided for in EU legislation should be reviewed in the light of these recommendations.	<p>The operation of contingency plans was reorganised in 2004 with specific decrees on CSF, ASF and Bluetongue.</p> <p>During the general review mission of October 2005 the CCA announced that the measures provided for in these contingency plans would be extended to all animal diseases.</p> <p>Since then, a new contingency plan for bluetongue had been drafted. Once the new crisis unit is fully operational, the first objective will be to produce horizontal contingency plans.</p>	<p>Action still required</p> <p><i>The Commission has initiated specific follow-up measures in the case of this recommendation</i></p>
(13372) To take action so that contingency plans are applied uniformly across the Regions, and that disease planning, and the response to disease outbreaks, is co-ordinated effectively at national level.	A crisis unit has been established in MH to handle all outbreaks, including co-ordination at national level (Legislative Decree 202 of 1.10.2005).	Action taken

MR 7706/2005 of 02/12/2005 on African Swine Fever in Sardinia		
Reference No and recommendation	Findings	Assessment
(25851) Urgently ensure that pig meat and pig meat products certified according to Articles 5 and 6 of	The approval of establishments by the CCA according to art. 5 and 6 of Commission Decision 2005/363/EC is in progress: 20 establishments have been approved, 18 establishments have to be approved following an inspection visit by AUSL/Region	In progress

MR 7706/2005 of 02/12/2005 on African Swine Fever in Sardinia		
Reference No and recommendation	Findings	Assessment
Commission Decision 2005/363/EC are only produced in establishments approved for that purpose, and ensure that such certificates are issued only for pig meat or meat products which fulfil the requirements.	and the UVAC.	

MR 7622/2005 of 03/07/2005 on Animal Health - AI/embryo/semen collection centres		
Reference No and recommendation	Findings	Update
(21772) To ensure that all semen and embryos entering ICT are produced by correctly approved centres or teams, which comply with the conditions for approval, and to ensure that complete and updated approval lists are duly transmitted to the Commission Services.	Council Directive 2003/43/EC was transposed into national law by Legislative Decree No 132 of 27 May 2005, as amended. The CCA prepared in consultation with representatives of the Regions guidelines addressing all the recommendations made in the FVO inspection report. These guidelines were issued on 13 March 2007.	Action taken
(21773) To ensure that all animal health conditions for the production of semen are respected and documented; to ensure in particular that the conditions for the introduction of bulls and the quarantine regime in all cases comply with requirements of Council Directive 2003/43/EC, and that adequate and complete measures are applied in case of positive test results.	See recommendation 21772	Action taken
(21774) To ensure that conditions applying to embryo donor animals are respected and correctly documented.	See recommendation 21772. Additional clarification on the requirements for the collection of bovine ovaries in slaughterhouses for the production of embryos was provided by a letter circulated on 6 August 2007.	Action taken
(21775) To ensure that certificates are completed correctly, based on directly ascertained information or on data which can be verified by the certifying officer.	See recommendation 21772.	Action taken
(21776) To ensure that individual doses of semen are marked in accordance with the provisions of Annex A,	See recommendation 21772	Action taken

MR 7622/2005 of 03/07/2005 on Animal Health - AI/embryo/semen collection centres		
Reference No and recommendation	Findings	Update
Chapter II.2(e)(vi) to Council Directive 88/407/EEC, and that the characteristics and form of the marking are communicated to the Commission and the other Member States.		

MR 8171/2006 of 20/03/2006 on Intra-Community trade in live animals		
Reference No and recommendation	Findings	Assessment
(25271) To guarantee supervision and audits of all CAs involved in ICT of live animals as foreseen in Council Directive (EC) No 882/2004. (See also 12972, 18058, 4409, 3043 and 17247)	In order to improve supervision, by means of a note dated 5 October 2007 to all provinces, MH initiated a review of the data contained in the national database.	In progress
(25272) To urgently complete and use the national animal databases as requested in Council Regulation (EC) No 1760/2000, Commission Decision 2000/678/EC and Council Regulation (EC) No 21/2004.	<p>Cattle owners must notify any movement of animals within 7 days of the event. The ASL then has 5 days to register the movement in the national database.</p> <p>The CCA sent circular letters in March 2006 and in June and September 2007, to the Regions asking them to complete the information on pig holdings in the central database and to enhance controls on the registration of pig movements.</p> <p>The national pig database does not yet register the movement of animals contrary to the requirements of Article 18 (c) of Council Directive 64/432/EEC. Pigs entering ICT are registered in the TRACES System. A circular was being prepared to require the entry of all obligatory data into the database. Data provided by the Italian authorities showed that the number of holdings which notified movements had increased from 1,750 in October 2006 to 5,175 in September 2007. During the same period, notified animal movements increased from 115,977 to 3,075,897.</p> <p>MH is looking at possibility of providing access to the database for farmers at post offices. MH has also produced a checklist for the regions for use in controls on pig movements and is examining the feasibility of using information from other sources (for example producer associations).</p>	In progress

Recommendations reaching closeout note stage since the 2006 general review mission.

Inspection 8204/2006 of 26/06/06 concerning Disease eradication/control programmes - Brucella melitensis		
Reference no. and Recommendation	Findings	Assessment
(26311) To ensure the reliability of the data collected and forwarded to the Commission Services in the framework of brucellosis eradication programmes. See also 12974, 12972, 18063 and 18064	See recommendation 12974. A Working Group comprising the National Disease Reference centres, the MH and the regions, is driving a project aimed at converting information flows from a paper to an electronic based system.	In progress
(26312) To ensure epidemiological inquiries are carried out after brucellosis outbreaks and the results used to speed up the eradication process.	The MH Order of 14 November 2006 sets out the format to be used by the AUSLs for reporting on epidemiological inquiries. These reports are transmitted to the region for onward transmission to MH. The Working Group referred to in recommendation 26311 is also looking at ways to improve information flows concerning the results of these inquiries.	In progress
(26313) To define common criteria and a time frame for depopulation of infected herds and flocks and to ensure its use as a tool in a consistent and effective way.	See reply to recommendation 12974. National legislation (DM 592/95, DM 651/94, DM 453/92) is already allows AUSLs and regions to define requirements on a case by case basis. National Guidelines have been discussed at several meetings of the task force established under Article 18 of the MH Order of 14 November 2006. The technical view is that this approach is more appropriate than a set of national guidelines. Discussion is continuing.	In progress
(26314) To ensure the RVS and LVS have the necessary powers to take effective control measures, especially in cases of long-standing outbreaks and high herd prevalence.	The MH Order of 14 November 2006, and in particular Articles 12 and 15, gives power to the veterinary services to order the slaughter of positive animals, instead of the mayor, as was previously the case. These new powers had already been used in Sicily.	Action taken
(26315) To guarantee that laboratories are able at all times to carry out their tasks in the framework of brucellosis eradication programmes.	A new decree is planned in order to establish the roles of the Italian Reference Centre for Brucellosis in Teramo, including the obligation of periodical inspections to assure the appropriate level of performance in all the laboratories of the other IZS in Italy. The Reference centre has circulated a questionnaire to all IZS as part of the process of establishing operational guidelines.	In progress
(26316) To enforce and speed up the small ruminants brucellosis vaccination programme in Sicily.	The Commission had requested Italy to set more specific targets for vaccination in Sicily. Data had been provided by Sicily to MH in relation to the eradication plan for 2008. These were being assessed prior to responding to the Commission's request.	In progress <i>The Commission has initiated specific follow-up measures in the</i>

Inspection 8204/2006 of 26/06/06 concerning Disease eradication/control programmes - Brucella melitensis		
Reference no. and Recommendation	Findings	Assessment
		<i>case of this recommendation</i>
(26317) To enhance brucellosis controls on holdings delivering raw milk to dairies producing raw milk-based products in areas with high brucellosis prevalence.	See recommendation 18064. The MH Order of 14 November 2006, and in particular Articles 3, 6 and 16 introduces new measures for the control of milk.	In progress
(26318) To ensure correct implementation of Regulation (EC) No 21/2004.	The Italian authorities confirmed that the format of the holding register now contains all the information required by Regulation (EC) No 21/2004. The CCA had sent out a circular to the regional and local CAs in relation to the implementation of Regulation (EC) No 21/2004. This circular was published in the national official gazette 4 August 2005. Further circulars of 14 March and 16 May 2006 dealing with sheep and goat holding registration, identification, and movement controls were sent out to the RCAs and LCAs. A circular was issued on 4 October 2006 on staging points. A system of on-the-spot inspections for sheep and goats and holdings comprising 3% of the holdings and 5% of the animals has recently been set up by the CCA and guidance notes have been sent to the regions and the AUSLs, as well as a standard checklist to be used.	Action taken

Inspection 8184/2006 of 02/05/2006 concerning the Disease eradication control programmes		
Reference no. and Recommendation	Findings	Assessment
(27330) To ensure that the OM for BT is up-dated, as well as the eradication programme, in order to contain all measures that are currently in force and that the Commission services are informed of legislation and instructions issued after the approval of the programme.	MH circulated the revised 2007 serological surveillance plan on 12 March 2007 for immediate implementation (with copy to the Commission). A MH Order dated 28 March 2007 on the vaccination campaign 2006-2007 was published in the Italian official journal on 17 May 2007. This included a protocol on vaccination and a number of operational guides and standard reporting forms.	Action taken
(27332) To ensure that all measures are correctly applied as laid down in the approved eradication programme, Council Directive 2000/75/EC and Commission Decision 2005/393/EC, in particular with regard to: -the vaccination campaign,	See recommendation 27330. Articles 1-5 of the MH Order dated 28 March 2007 address these issues except in relation to serological surveillance in sentinel animals which is addressed in recommendation 27334 below.	Action taken

Inspection 8184/2006 of 02/05/2006 concerning the Disease eradication control programmes		
Reference no. and Recommendation	Findings	Assessment
<p>-the serological surveillance in sentinel animals,</p> <p>-the exit ban and movement of animals from the restricted to the free zone,</p> <p>-the channelling of animals from the restricted to the free zone, to ensure that they are not subsequently moved to another MS.</p>		
(27333) To ensure that the use of the live attenuated vaccine follows the principles laid down in Council Directive 2001/82/EC, in particular Article 8 and the recommendations for use from the manufacturer.	The protocol contained in the MH Order dated 28 March 2007 includes instructions for administration of the vaccine.	Action taken
(27334) To ensure that investigations are carried out in holdings where seroconversion is been detected, including virological testing in blood samples and insects, in order to have a confirmation concerning the BT status, in accordance with the provisions of the approved eradication programme.	<p>The situation in Italy has remained unchanged.</p> <p>Virological testing of blood samples and of insects in risk areas has not been introduced. Epidemiological investigations at farm level have not been undertaken. Therefore these aspects do not influence the determination of BT status.</p> <p>These issues had been considered by the National reference centre for BT and they considered that such measures were not necessary.</p>	<p>Action still required</p> <p><i>The Commission has initiated specific follow-up measures in the case of this recommendation</i></p>

3.2. Food of animal origin

Since 1999, the FVO has completed 14 inspections in Italy in relation to food of animal origin.

Out of 128 recommendations contained in the reports of these inspections, 17 were identified for follow-up during the 2007 general review mission, 6 of which were carried over from the country profile of 2006 and 11 were contained in reports that had reached closeout stage since the 2006 general review mission.

The following table summarises the FVO's assessment of the position on these recommendations following the 2007 general review mission. 8 recommendations have been classified as "action taken" and 9 have been classified as "in progress".

Recommendations carried over from the country profile of October 2006

MR1235/2000 of 13/11/2000 on Food production red meat products preparations		
Reference No and recommendation	Findings	Assessment
(4409) To take the action necessary to establish documented systems for monitoring the supervisory activities of regional and local services. (See also 12972, 18058 and 25271, 3043 and 17247)	<p>By note dated 31 May 2007, MH issued guidelines to the regions for official controls in accordance with Regulations (EC) 882 and 854/2004. This includes standard reporting forms for the regions to provide results to MH.</p> <p>The State-Region conference also adopted guidelines for the application of Regulations (EC) 852 and 853/2004</p> <p>These guidelines include checklists for use by the regions. Regions send the results of controls to MH.</p> <p>By letter dated 3 December 2007, the Minister for Health wrote to the Presidents of the regions requesting them to ensure that undertakings made in the State-Region conference are immediately and properly fulfilled so as to enable Italy to comply correctly, carefully and appropriately with the obligations resulting from membership of the European Union.</p> <p>In addition to the audit activity by Office IX of DGAHVM, Office III undertakes vertical inspections in the regions. For 2007, the programme of visits covers 10 regions and 43 establishments selected on risk based criteria. The programme for 2008 envisages inspections at 328 establishments. These inspections use standard checklists.</p>	Action taken

Report 1005/2000, Inspection of 22/05/2000 on Food production - wild game meat/products/preparations		
Reference No and recommendation	Findings	Assessment
(3043) To increase the number of inspections of establishments carried out by the central authorities in order to ensure consistent application of Community requirements in relation to the approval of establishments and the maintenance of standards in establishments.	In addition to the audit activity by Office IX of DGAHVM, Office III undertakes vertical inspections in collaboration with the regions. For 2007, the programme of visits covers 10 regions and 43 establishments selected on risk based criteria. The programme for 2008 envisages inspections at 328 establishments. These inspections use standard checklists.	Action taken

MR 7026/2004 of 20/09/2004 on Fishery products and bivalve molluscs		
Reference No and recommendation	Findings	Assessment
(20631) The CA should ensure by any means that Council Directives 91/493/EEC, 91/492/EEC, 92/48/EEC and Commission Decision 94/356/EC are uniformly implemented, controlled and enforced throughout the whole Italian territory and that the necessary staff are available do this in a timely/effective way.	<p>The State Region conference adopted guidelines for the application of Regulations (EC) 852 and 853/2004 covering the fishery and bivalve molluscs sector (published in May 2007). These guidelines provide the basis for planning controls by the regions.</p> <p>MH assesses these plans but does not approve them. MH proposes to introduce a national monitoring programme and to discuss this at the State-Region conference during 2008.</p> <p>Office III plans to undertake vertical inspections in 328 establishments in 2008, including 64 establishments producing LBMs.</p> <p>The Ministry of Health planned to submit to the Conference State-Regions a Draft Agreement concerning "Guidelines on official control of LBMs and fishery products", by December, 31th 2008.</p> <p>A vertical inspection plan is scheduled from June to December 2008 covering the following Regions:</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">June: Emilia-Romagna, Marche. July: Sardinia, Puglia. September: Lazio, Veneto. October: Marche, Toscana. November: Liguria, Sicily</p>	In progress
(20636) Live bivalve molluscs In order to achieve an appropriate and uniform implementation/control/enforcement of Council	See recommendation 20631 There is currently no systematic reporting from regions on results of controls on live bivalve molluscs, only serious non-compliances are reported. This situation is to be addressed in 2008.	In progress

MR 7026/2004 of 20/09/2004 on Fishery products and bivalve molluscs

Reference No and recommendation	Findings	Assessment
<p>Directive 91/492/EEC: d) the CCA should have a clear overview of the regional monitoring programme (microbiology, marine biotoxin, phytoplankton, water quality etc) and improve the co-ordination of data collection from the AUSLs, so that the implementation of these programmes can be readily verified;</p>		
<p>(20637) Live bivalve molluscs In order to achieve an appropriate and uniform implementation/control/enforcement of Council Directive 91/492/EEC: e) the CAs should review the adequacy of the monitoring programmes put in place by the AUSLs to ensure that there is a systematic monitoring of the LBM production areas, using scientific criteria to select water/LBM sampling sites. The CA should also ensure that the relevant toxin groups (including PSP, DSP and ASP) and shellfish species (including clams) are monitored effectively;</p>	<p>See recommendations 20631 and 20636.</p>	<p>In progress</p>
<p>(20642) Fishery products In order to achieve an appropriate and uniform implementation/control/enforcement of Council Directives 91/493/EEC, 92/48/EEC and Commission Decision 94/356/EC, the CA should ensure: a) the efficacy of veterinary supervision and b) that the own-check systems and their official assessment by the CA have been brought into line with the provisions laid down by Commission Decision 94/356/EC;</p>	<p>See recommendations 20631 and 20636. Legislative Decree 193 of 6 November 2007 introduces sanctions for breaches of Regulations (EC) 852 and 853/2004. Article 6 (6) introduces specific sanctions for non compliance with own-check requirements (with specific reference to Regulation (EC) 2073/2005). In order to improve awareness, IZS Rome plans to organise training on own-checks for food business operators in this sector during 2008.</p>	<p>In progress</p>

Recommendations reaching “closeout stage” since the 2006 general review mission

Report 8145/2006 of 20/11/2006 on official controls related to the safety of food of animal origin, in particular meat, milk and their products as well as animal welfare at the time of slaughter or killing		
Reference No and recommendation	Findings	Assessment
(27850) To adapt the national legislation, and finalise the updating of instructions and guidelines in line with the requirements of the new EU hygiene legislation.	<p>Legislative Decree 193 of 6 November 2007, implementing Directive 2004/41/EC, was published in the Italian official journal on 9 November 2007.</p> <p>By letter dated 3 December 2007, the Minister for Agriculture wrote to the Presidents of the regions requesting them to ensure that undertakings made in the State-Region conference are immediately and properly fulfilled so as to enable Italy to comply correctly, carefully and appropriately with the obligations resulting from membership of the European Union.</p> <p>Following agreement with the Regions, guidelines have been issued on Regulations (EC) No.s 852/2004, 853/2004, 882/2004, 854/2004, 2075/2005, 2073//2005.</p>	Action taken
(27851) To implement an audit system in accordance with Article 4(6) of Regulation (EC) No 882/2004.	<p>In addition to the audit activity by Office IX of DGAHVM, Office III undertakes vertical inspections in collaboration with the regions. For 2007, the programme of visits covers 10 regions and 43 establishments selected on risk based criteria. At the time of the mission, inspections had been completed in 6 regions.</p> <p>The programme for 2008 envisages inspections at 328 establishments. These inspections use standard checklists.</p> <p>The criteria for the selection includes establishments showing anomalies in the SINTESI system, temporary approval, issues arising from test results prior to export and cases highlighted by inspections.</p> <p>During inspections, verification of the correct application of hygiene standards is carried out, as is verification of the correct application of animal welfare and certification.</p>	Action taken
(27852) To modify the official control system in line with the requirements of the new EU hygiene legislation and ensure appropriate training of staff performing official controls as required by Article 6 of Regulation (EC) No 882/2004	<p>See recommendation 27850.</p> <p>Under a 2005 agreement between the State and the regions, the regions must run an annual training programme which is evaluated by the MH.</p> <p>This issue was discussed during a meeting with the regions on 7 March 2007. A documented plan of official controls of establishments throughout the territory, based on risk categorization is planned.</p> <p>While regions have been asked to provide training projects, a budget for training has yet to be</p>	<p>In progress</p> <p>(a similar recommendation is contained in report 7435/2007)</p> <p><i>The Commission has initiated specific follow-up measures in the case of this recommendation</i></p>

Report 8145/2006 of 20/11/2006 on official controls related to the safety of food of animal origin, in particular meat, milk and their products as well as animal welfare at the time of slaughter or killing		
Reference No and recommendation	Findings	Assessment
	allocated for 2008 and beyond.	
(27853) To ensure that certifying officers comply with the requirements of Council Directive 96/93/EC in order to guarantee the integrity of certification.	<p>The requirements for certification for issuing veterinary certificates for export of products of animal origin to third countries are laid down in Ministerial Decree No. 303 of 19 June 2000, which transposes Council Directive 96/93/EC.</p> <p>MH sent a note (dated 23 March 2007) to the regions highlighting the shortcomings specified in the FVO report 8145/2006 and specifying actions to be taken.</p> <p>Office IX conducted 23 audits on this subject in the period January to May 2007. The audit plan for 2008 will include certification.</p> <p>Office III inspections (programme for 2008 envisages inspections at 328 establishments) will also cover certification.</p>	Action taken
(27854) To carry out a full review of the lists of approved establishments to ensure that inaccuracies are removed and to ascertain the reasons for establishments remaining under provisional approvals for periods of years.	<p>The complete updating of the SINTESI system was scheduled for completion by end 2007. The regions make direct entry to the database.</p> <p>During a meeting of the interregional work group on the 26th of February 2007, MH asked to the regions to proceed to assign definitive approval numbers to the plants, or to repeal the temporary approval.</p> <p>MH monitors anomalies in the SINTESI system and follow these up with the regions.</p>	<p>In progress</p> <p>(a similar recommendation is contained in report 7435/2007)</p> <p><i>The Commission has initiated specific follow-up measures in the case of this recommendation</i></p>
(27855) To ensure that FBOs comply with the general and specific hygiene requirements laid down in Regulations (EC) No 852/2004 and No 853/2004 respectively.	<p>Following agreement with the regions, guidelines have been issued on Regulations (EC) 852/2004, 853/2004, 882/2004, 854/2004, 2075/2005, 2073//2005.</p> <p>Legislative Decree 193 of 6 November 2007, implementing Directive 2004/41/EC, was published in the Italian official journal on 9 November 2007. Article 6 of the Decree introduces sanctions for non compliance. 12 suspensions had been imposed during the period July to November 2007.</p> <p>The Act on own-controls (January 2005) is to be updated to reflect the new situation.</p> <p>Official controls undertaken by the regions are to be evaluated by a working group involving MH and the regions.</p> <p>Office III inspections (programme for 2008</p>	<p>In progress</p> <p>(a similar recommendation is contained in report 7435/2007)</p> <p><i>The Commission has initiated specific follow-up measures in the case of this recommendation</i></p>

Report 8145/2006 of 20/11/2006 on official controls related to the safety of food of animal origin, in particular meat, milk and their products as well as animal welfare at the time of slaughter or killing		
Reference No and recommendation	Findings	Assessment
	<p>envisages inspections at 328 establishments) will also cover hygiene requirements.</p> <p>As regards training of FBOs, a training programme was being prepared by MH and IZS for the fish sector.</p>	
(27856) To improve the official controls at establishment level and ensure that corrective action is taken when needed as required in Article 8 of Regulation (EC) No 882/2004.	<p>By note dated 31 May 2007, MH issued guidelines to the regions for official controls in accordance with Regulations (EC) 882 and 854/2004. This includes standard checklists and reporting forms for the regions to provide results to MH.</p> <p>This documentation includes a matrix showing the required frequency of inspections depending on the type of production and the risk category.</p>	Action taken
(27857) To ensure that post-mortem inspection in all approved slaughterhouses is carried out in compliance with the requirements of Regulation (EC) No 854/2004, Annex I.	<p>MH and the regions discussed the correct execution of ante and post mortem inspection by OVVs. The region of Calabria did provide special training but other regions considered that these issues were an inherent feature of professional competence which would be checked as part of AUSL controls.</p>	<p>In progress</p> <p>(a similar recommendation is contained in report 7435/2007)</p> <p><i>The Commission has initiated specific follow-up measures in the case of this recommendation</i></p>
(27858) To ensure that animal welfare at the time of slaughter or killing is in compliance with the requirements of Council Directive 93/119/EC.	<p>On 7 December 2007, MH provided the regions with checklists for controls on animal welfare at the time of slaughter. MH confirmed with the two regions visited by the FVO during MR8145/2006 that all deficiencies had been corrected. One of the establishments in question in Puglia was to be visited by MH in December 2007.</p> <p>MH will continue to monitor compliance during audits and inspections.</p>	Action taken
(27859) To take the necessary measures to bring the controls and identification of animal by-products in line with Regulation (EC) No 1774/2002.	<p>MH issued a circular on 28 April 2005 enclosing checklists for controls in this sector.</p> <p>MH issued two further letters to the regions in response to this recommendation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Correct management of SRM (9 March 2007) • Guidelines for the application of Regulation (EC) 1774/2002 concerning remote areas" <p>In addition, MH (Office III) was finalising a further set of guidelines to regions on the organisation of official controls.</p>	<p>In progress</p> <p>(a similar recommendation is contained in report 7435/2007)</p> <p><i>The Commission has initiated specific follow-up measures in the case of this recommendation</i></p>

Report 8145/2006 of 20/11/2006 on official controls related to the safety of food of animal origin, in particular meat, milk and their products as well as animal welfare at the time of slaughter or killing		
Reference No and recommendation	Findings	Assessment
(27860) To ensure that meat intended for freezing is frozen without undue delay in accordance with Regulation (EC) No 853/2004, Annex III, Section I, Chapter VII, point 4.	<p>This issue is included in the guidelines issued as regards Regulation (EC) 853/2004.</p> <p>This aspect is included in control visits. A new reporting form for use by regions on the results of controls on the labelling of beef was introduced in 2007.</p>	Action taken

3.3. Imports of animals and food of animal origin

Since 1999, the FVO has completed 8 inspections in Italy in relation to imports of animals and food of animal origin.

Out of 64 recommendations contained in the reports of these inspections, 21 were identified for follow-up during the 2007 general review mission, 6 of which were carried over from the country profile of 2006 and 15 were contained in reports that had reached closeout stage since the 2006 general review mission.

The following table summarises the FVO's assessment of the position on these recommendations following the 2007 general review mission. 13 recommendations have been classified as "action taken" and 8 have been classified as "in progress".

Recommendations carried over from the country profile of October 2006

MR 7529/2005 of 28/02/2005 on Border inspection posts		
Reference No and recommendation	Findings	Assessment
(23691) To take the necessary administrative and other supporting measures required including working instructions, guidelines and procedures for products and live animals to ensure the effective implementation of the provisions of the EU legislation and overlapping of responsibilities is avoided.	<p>A Memorandum of understanding between the customs agency and MH was signed on 22 March 2007 aimed at improving co-ordination.</p> <p>This Memorandum of understanding has provided the basis for a number of actions.</p> <p>MH wrote to customs on 15 October 2007 on the implementation of the Memorandum of understanding, including the issue of access to information held by customs (cargo manifests).</p> <p>Since 16 November 2007, the customs information system AIDA flags consignments subject to veterinary control. The system now requires BIP agreement (compulsory field for CVED reference) before consignments may be released by customs.</p>	Action taken

MR 7529/2005 of 28/02/2005 on Border inspection posts		
Reference No and recommendation	Findings	Assessment
	<p>A Decree of the President of the Council of Ministers was being finalised creating “sportello unico doganale”, a one stop shop for importers</p> <p>Comprehensive operational guidelines for BIPs had been finalised and were to be placed on the MH website and also made available on CD by end 2007.</p>	
(23695) To develop adequate co-operation with other involved authorities in particular with customs for the identification and selection of the consignments of veterinary interest passing through BIPs, the access to relevant customs databases, the availability and checks of manifests, the access of BIP staff to consignments and the opening of the means of transport and the harmonisation of the procedures in the different BIPs.	<p>See recommendation 23691</p> <p>MH wrote to Customs on 15 October 2007 on the implementation of the Memorandum of understanding, including the issue of access to information held by customs (cargo manifests). In practice, such information is currently made available and the purpose of this joint action is to ensure access in a uniform way throughout the territory. This will allow BIP staff access to the AIDA system to perform cross checks etc.</p> <p>Since 16 November 2007, the customs information system AIDA flags consignments subject to veterinary control. The system now requires BIP agreement (compulsory field for CVED reference) before consignments may be released by customs.</p> <p>Some BIPs have already accessed manifests.</p> <p>MH was also working with customs and other relevant agencies in inter-regional conference to develop a "Food code" which would cover <i>inter alia</i> import controls. It will include all the administrative requirements needed for the import of food and feed. In this document the importance of a co-ordination between all the public administrations concerned (including the Ministry of Industry) in food and feed controls will be stressed.</p>	In progress
(23704) To ensure that the positive list in accordance to Decision 2002/349/EC is applied by Customs also in accordance to Article 7 paragraph 3 of Directive 97/78/EC.	<p>Since 16 November 2007, the customs information system AIDA flags consignments subject to veterinary control. The system now requires BIP agreement (compulsory field for CVED reference) before consignments may be released by customs.</p> <p>Comprehensive operational guidelines for BIPs had been finalised and were to be placed on the MH website and also made available on CD by end 2007.</p>	Action taken
(23694) To develop and implement initial and refreshment training to BIP staff and customs; to increase number of BIP staff in Gioia Tauro.	<p>During 2007, training was provided to BIP staff on the following topics: 1) Scrapie; 2) Zoonoses; 3) Risk communication; 4) Distance Learning Course on Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza; 5) Welfare of Animals during transport and related operations. A computer-aided course is provided to newly recruited staff.</p> <p>BIP veterinary officers attended DG SANCO training on checks in port (13 participants) and airport (6 participants) BIPs. A separate course had been organised at Livorno by DGFSNCO for BIP staff.</p>	Action taken

MR 7529/2005 of 28/02/2005 on Border inspection posts		
Reference No and recommendation	Findings	Assessment
	<p>Furthermore, for 2007, a course organised by DG SANCO has been completed at Livorno BIP, attended by numerous veterinary officers working in national BIPs.</p> <p>For 2008, based on available funding, courses similar to those organised by DG SANCO are scheduled in BIPs. The lecturers will be selected among those who already attended the training and CCA competent staff. Personnel from customs were invited to attend training.</p> <p>Under the terms of the Memorandum of Understanding with customs, joint training actions will be developed.</p> <p>Three additional veterinarians for import controls were appointed to Gioia Tauro BIP.</p>	
(23705) To develop an annual sampling monitoring plan for all BIPs for imported consignments in relation to tests carried out for the presence of residues, pathogens and contaminants to ensure it complies with the requirements foreseen in Annex II to Regulation (EC) No 136/2004.	<p>The monitoring plans for 2008 for residues and for pathogens were circulated to the regions by MH letter of 23 November 2007.</p> <p>The plans specify the level of sampling and provide standard reporting forms. Results are transmitted to MH twice a year.</p> <p>Results of 2006 microbiological controls and residues were provided to the team.</p>	Action taken
(23711) To ensure that documentary, identity and physical checks, including laboratory tests, are carried out, and that veterinary decisions taken are in accordance with provisions foreseen in Directives 91/496/EEC, 97/78/EC and the annexed Regulations and Decisions.	<p>MH introduced a programme for the audit of BIPs in 2005. The above programme involves a detailed examination of all aspects of BIP operation dealing with both operational and procedural aspects as well as the facilities equipment and hygiene of the BIPs. The procedures for documentary, identity, physical and laboratory checks are assessed during the audit of BIPs by Office VIII. The first round of audits was completed in 2007 and a second round is to commence in 2008.</p> <p>A scheme based on the FVO's checklist was developed, which includes the sending of a pre-audit questionnaire in advance of the audit, the evaluation of facilities, procedures, relationship with other authorities involved in controls.</p> <p>Comprehensive operational guidelines for BIPs had been finalised and were to be placed on the MH website and also made available on CD by end 2007.</p>	Action taken

Recommendations reaching “closeout stage” since the 2006 general review mission

Report 7275/2007 of 26/02/2007 on import controls and BIPs		
Reference No and recommendation	Findings	Assessment
1. To examine if there is an issue with the transposition of Art. 6 of Directive 97/78/EC or if further	<p>MH issued detailed procedures on 19 October 2007 for the approval of new BIPs and inspection centres.</p> <p>The Italian authorities confirmed that no further instrument was</p>	Action taken

Report 7275/2007 of 26/02/2007 on import controls and BIPs		
Reference No and recommendation	Findings	Assessment
administrative measures are needed in order to ensure proper application of this article in relation to the proposal, for listing by the Commission of new BIPs.	necessary to implement the requirements of Directive 97/78/EC.	
2. To expedite the development of manuals in order to provide documented procedures including complete instructions to allow uniform implementation of veterinary checks – including animal welfare requirements - and checks on personal luggage and non-commercial pet animals, and of kitchen waste, so as to adequately implement Art. 8.1 of Regulation (EC) No 882/2004.	Comprehensive operational guidelines for BIPs had been finalised and were to be placed on the MH website and also made available on CD by end 2007.	Action taken
3. To take measures to ensure that documentation is maintained at the BIPs and their inspection centres as required in section 3 of the Annex to Decision 2001/812/EC and to review the systems place to be sure that all staff have at their disposal the documentation they require in order to be able to properly implement the import requirements for live animals and animal products in order to correctly execute the checks foreseen in Directives 91/496/EEC and 97/78/EC especially safeguard measures.	Comprehensive operational guidelines for BIPs had been finalised and were to be placed on the MH website and also made available on CD by end 2007. Section 3 of the guidelines specifies documentation requirements for BIPs and Inspection Centres. This includes links to Community legislation and third country establishments' lists.	Action taken

Report 7275/2007 of 26/02/2007 on import controls and BIPs		
Reference No and recommendation	Findings	Assessment
4. To take measures necessary in relation to the CITES list of points of entry in order to ensure that all CITES-consignments which are subject to veterinary checks are presented to entry points with an appropriately approved BIP.	<p>On 23 October 2007, MH wrote to the Ministry of the Environment, which drafts the CITES list, and to MIPAAF in order to introduce the restriction in list 1999/C 356/02/EC. A working group has been established between MH, ME and customs and this group had a meeting scheduled for 29 November³. The working group was also taking into account work on a draft Commission document giving guidance on CITES entry points.</p> <p>The automatic flagging in AIDA, protects against the entry of animals through non BIP entry points.</p>	In progress
5. To provide more detailed guidance in relation to the implementation of the monitoring sampling plan for all BIPs for residues, pathogens or other substances dangerous to humans, animals or the environment as laid down in Annex II to Regulation (EC) No 136/2004 so as to ensure uniform application of the requirements	<p>Comprehensive operational guidelines for BIPs had been finalised and were to be placed on the MH website and also made available on CD by end 2007.</p> <p>The monitoring plans for 2008 for residues and for pathogens were circulated to the regions by MH letter of 23 November 2007.</p> <p>The plans specify the level of sampling and provide standard reporting forms. Results are transmitted to MH twice a year.</p>	Action taken
6. To further develop the system of supervision to ensure a more rapid confirmation of correction of identified shortcomings to achieve better overall compliance with EU requirements laid down in Directives 97/78/EC and 91/496/EEC and implementing Regulations and Decisions.	<p>MH introduced a programme for the audit of BIPs in 2005. The above programme involves a detailed examination of all aspects of BIP operation dealing with both operational and procedural aspects as well as the facilities equipment and hygiene of the BIPs. The first round of audits was completed in 2007 and a second round is to commence in 2008.</p> <p>Audits by Office VIII now require systematic follow-up of corrective action by the BIPs. Deadlines are specified in the reports. In any case where corrective actions are not taken after a follow-up inspection, Office VIII takes the necessary measures to restrict approval conditions of the BIP and communicates this to the Commission in order to amend the approval.</p>	Action taken
8. To take measures to ensure the correct application of Regulation (EC) No 745/2004 regarding the identified shortcomings in relation to the documentation of the	Under the Memorandum of Understanding between MH and customs, a working group has been created to develop joint actions to enhance controls in this area. Special attention will be paid to the uniform collection of data on the destruction of illegally imported goods, the provision of information to travellers, data collection on seizures and arrangements at points of entry where there are no BIPs (where Customs have sole	In progress

³ In their comments on the draft country profile, the Italian authorities indicated that agreement had been reached on a modification to the Decree of 8 July 2005 on CITES and this was expected to be adopted in June 2008. This modification includes a list of authorised BIPs for CITES purposes.

Report 7275/2007 of 26/02/2007 on import controls and BIPs		
Reference No and recommendation	Findings	Assessment
destruction of illegal imports, the provision of information to travellers and in the collection of information regarding seizures in order to fully implement the provisions of Art. 3, 4 and 5 to Regulation (EC) No 745/2004 and of Chapter III of Annex II to Regulation (EC) No 1774/2002.	responsibility).	
10. To ensure that the requirements for collection, transport and records for destruction of kitchen waste from international means of transport are implemented as laid down in Regulation (EC) No 1774/2002	Comprehensive operational guidelines for BIPs had been finalised and were to be placed on the MH website and also made available on CD by end 2007. Section 9 of the guidelines covers disposal of kitchen waste produced by international means of transport.	Action taken
11. To rectify the deficiencies noted for facilities equipment and hygiene in the proposed BIPs of Brescia-Montechiari, Brindisi and Civitavecchia	Brescia-Montechiari MH inspection took place on 19 November. Shortcomings were corrected ⁴ . Brindisi For these two proposed BIPs, corrective actions had not yet been completed. These BIPs were not currently operational ⁵ . Civitavecchia This site was added to the list of BIPs in Commission Decision 2007/616/EC.	In progress
12. To rectify the major deficiencies noted in Livorno and Milano Linate BIPs in order to implement the provisions of Art. 6 of Directive 91/496/EEC and Directive 97/78/EC and the	The FVO deadline for the correction of deficiencies was 1 February 2008. Milano Linate Work was underway.	In progress

⁴ Brescia-Montechiari is to be added to the list of BIPs

⁵ In their comments on the draft country profile, the Italian authorities indicated that the CAA undertook an inspection at this site on 4 March 2008 and confirmed that almost all deficiencies had been corrected. Italy will request that this site be added to the list of BIPs.

⁶ In their comments on the draft country profile, the Italian authorities indicated that deficiencies had been corrected and that the authorisation for the "Porto commerciale" would be modified.

Report 7275/2007 of 26/02/2007 on import controls and BIPs		
Reference No and recommendation	Findings	Assessment
provisions of Decision 2001/812/EC.	<p>Livorno</p> <p>Deficiencies were to be corrected at 4 inspection centres (ICs Porto commerciale, Sintermar, Lorenzini and Terminal Darsena Toscana). MH wrote to the BIP on 8 November seeking confirmation that each of the deficiencies had been corrected.</p> <p>A response from the BIP was awaited⁶.</p>	
13. To complete the rectification of the deficiencies noted in Milano Malpensa and Genova BIPs without delay and to provide up to date information in relation to progress with implementation of the corrective actions agreed.	<p>Milano Malpensa</p> <p>The new inspection centre Magazzini aeroportuali ALHA is now listed by the Commission. MH confirmed that work was in progress to correct deficiencies at the inspection centre Cargo City MLE.</p> <p>Genova</p> <p>Works completed and MH to carry out an inspection⁷.</p>	In progress
14. To rectify any minor shortcomings noted for facilities, equipment and operational hygiene in all BIPs visited in order to implement the provisions of Art. 6 of Directive 91/496/EEC and Directive 97/78/EC and Decision 2001/812/EC.	<p>Brindisi, Milano Linate, Brescia-Montechiari and Citavecchia</p> <p>FVO recommendations have been sent to all these BIPs and answers to address the shortcomings are being followed up. Corrective works are underway.</p> <p>(See recommendations 11 and 12)</p>	In progress
15. To further develop the system for the identification and selection of the consignments of veterinary interest, in co-operation with customs and port and airport operators, especially regarding access to electronic systems, as laid down in Art. 6 and 7 of Regulation (EC) No 136/2004 and Art. 5 and 6 of Regulation (EC) No 282/2004.	<p>A Memorandum of understanding between customs and MH was signed on 22 March 2007 aimed at improving co-ordination.</p> <p>In application of this Memorandum of understanding, MH wrote to the Ministry of the Treasury (who has responsibility for the customs agency) on 15 October 2007, enclosing a draft agreement to introduce a uniform access to manifests by BIP staff throughout the territory.</p> <p>Comprehensive operational guidelines for BIPs had been finalised and were to be placed on the MH website and also made available on CD by end 2007. Section 6.2.2 of the guidelines requires the BIPs to undertake a cross check with manifests on a weekly basis.</p>	In progress

⁷ Vado Ligure Savona Porto is to be listed as a separate BIP.

Report 7275/2007 of 26/02/2007 on import controls and BIPs		
Reference No and recommendation	Findings	Assessment
16. To ensure that pre-notification is received in advance of physical arrival of the consignment as required by Art. 2 of Regulation (EC) No 136/2004, Art. 1 of Regulation (EC) No 282/2004 and Art. 3 of Directive 97/78/EC and to put in place a system of cross checks of manifests in ports and airports to verify that this is happening	Comprehensive operational guidelines for BIPs had been finalised and were to be placed on the MH website and also made available on CD by end 2007. Section 6.2.2 of the guidelines requires the BIPs to undertake a cross check with manifests on a weekly basis. Instructions on pre-notification delays and on cross-check procedures are included in section 4 of the guidelines.	Action taken
17. To ensure that veterinary checks including laboratory checks are carried out, and that veterinary decisions taken are in accordance with provisions of Directives 91/496/EEC, 97/78/EC and the implementing Regulations and Decisions, and to establish a procedure to ensure consignments which cannot be released pending results of laboratory or other checks are demonstrably under the control of the official veterinarian.	The guidelines referred to in recommendation 16 include procedures for release of consignments in cases involving laboratory tests (section 4). In addition, MH sent a circular letter dated 27 September 2007 to all BIPs setting out the procedures to be followed.	Action taken

3.4. Feedingstuffs and animal nutrition

Since 1999, the FVO has completed 3 inspections in Italy in relation to feedingstuffs and animal nutrition.

None of the 16 recommendations contained in the reports of these inspections required to be followed up during the 2007 general review mission.

3.5. Control system for TSEs/ABP

Since 1999, the FVO has completed 9 inspections in Italy in relation to TSEs and ABP.

Out of 101 recommendations contained in the reports of these inspections, 17 were identified for follow-up during the 2007 general review mission, of which 4 were carried over from the country profile of 2006 and 13 were contained in reports that had reached closeout stage since the 2006 general review mission.

The following table summarises the FVO's assessment of the position on these recommendations following the 2007 general review mission. 12 recommendations have been classified as "action taken", 1 has been classified as "action still required" and 4 have been classified as "in progress".

Recommendations carried over from the country profile of October 2006

Inspection 7120/2004 of 18/10/2004 on ABP		
Reference No and recommendation	Findings	Assessment
(23513) To ensure compliance with the requirements concerning the burial of ABP set out in Art. 24 of the ABP Regulation.	<p>In order to ensure correct application of the rules concerning the burial of fallen stock in "remote areas", MH issued a circular letter to the regions on 15 March 2007 setting out procedures and reporting requirements. This circular had been agreed with the inter-regional working group.</p> <p>Vertical inspections by Office III in 2008 will include ABP. In addition, MH was finalising a further set of guidelines to regions on the organisation of official controls.</p>	Action taken

Inspection 7701/2005 of 14/11/2005 on TSEs in sheep and goats		
Reference No and recommendation	Findings	Assessment
(23366) To put measures in place as required by Article 10 of Regulation (EC) No 999/2001 to ensure that sufficient awareness in the farming community increases their willingness to notify animals suspected of being infected with TSEs in order to ensure that no under-reporting of the disease occurs.	Information activities aimed at farmers were initially planned for 2006 were not achieved in 2006 or 2007 due to lack of funding. For 2008 it is planned to produce a CD aimed at farmers.	In progress
(23367) To ensure enforcement of measures for the implementation of the epidemio-surveillance of TSEs in order to bring the sampling of healthy slaughtered goats and dead animals in line with targets set up in Annex III to Regulation (EC) No 999/2001.	<p>Based on annual census data for sheep and goats, the CCA notifies the regions of the expected number of samples they should take and test from the sub-populations of healthy slaughtered sheep and goats and dead animals in order to reach the minimum sample size laid down in Annex III to Regulation (EC) No 999/2001.</p> <p>For 2005, this sample size was 60,000 goats slaughtered for human consumption, and 10,000 goats which had died or been killed.</p> <p>The MH believes that the sampling targets for goats are unrealistic due to an inaccurate estimate of the goat population. In its view, more realistic targets should be established after the completion of the sheep and goats registration.</p> <p>For 2007, census data for goats showed 1.089.000 head. Tested animals were as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Slaughter: 8,352 • Dead: 3,834 • Culled (brucellosis): 1,062 • Culled in outbreaks: 1,080 <p>A total of 36 positive cases was identified.</p> <p>In accordance with Commission Regulation (EC) No 727/2007 of 26 June 2007 amending Annexes I, III, VII and X to Regulation (EC) No 999/2001 of the European Parliament and of the Council, with effect from July 2007, the requirement for Italy is to sample 10,000 slaughtered animals and 10,000 fallen animals. Using samples from eradication programmes is restricted to 10% of the target number for the healthy animals slaughtered for human consumption (before 60,000, now 10,000).</p>	<p>Action still required</p> <p><i>The Commission has initiated specific follow-up measures in the case of this recommendation</i></p>

Inspection 7701/2005 of 14/11/2005 on TSEs in sheep and goats		
Reference No and recommendation	Findings	Assessment
(23372) To enhance supervision by the RVS and the CCA of official controls on removal and handling of SRMs in order to ensure their satisfactory implementation throughout Italy in line with requirements in Annex XI (point 12 in section A) to Regulation (EC) No 999/2001.	The controls on the removal and handling of SRM are covered in the guidelines of June 2005 on the ABP Regulation (see recommendation No 23510). MH issued a circular letter to the regions on 9 March 2007 on the management of SRM and on verification procedures.	Action taken

Recommendations reaching “closeout stage” since the 2006 general review mission

Report 8072/2006 of 06/03/2006 on BSE		
Reference No and recommendation	Findings	Assessment
(24693) To further enhance the efficiency and effectiveness of co-ordination between all CA involved in control, prevention and eradication of BSE to ensure compliance with Art. 4(3) of Regulation (EC) No 882/2004.	CCA (Office III of MH) holds a series of meetings on a monthly basis with the regional authorities, the NRL and the laboratories in order to discuss BSE-related issues.	Action taken
(24694) To introduce procedures in line with Art. 8(3) of Regulation (EC) No 882/2004 to verify compliance with the BSE monitoring programme as implemented by the RVS and implementation of efficient official controls to demonstrate and ensure that restrictions and general obligations on the feed ban and the requirements on SRM are effectively enforced.	The MH has put into place a verification system for BSE. The National reference centre for TSE (IZS Torino) prepares a monthly summary of tested animals by risk category (routine, emergency and deferred slaughter and fallen animals) for each region in order to allow for a reconciliation between animal and tested numbers. MH co-ordinates the process with regular information flows to/from the regions. MH produces an annual report on the implementation of the feed ban. MH issued a circular letter to the Regions on 9 March 2007 on the management of SRM and on verification procedures. Vertical inspections by Office III in 2008 will include ABP. In addition, MH was finalising a further set of guidelines to Regions on the organisation of official controls.	Action taken
(24695) With regard to BSE epidemio-surveillance, to ensure a harmonised understanding towards handling of cattle displaying symptoms compatible with BSE and for which no alternative diagnosis can be	Since 2001, the MH provides training in all regions (IZS staff and AUSL veterinarians). During 2006, this included a module devoted specifically to the clinical aspects of BSE, including photos and videos as well as specific instructions concerning the clinical trials to perform in order to confirm a suspected case. In 2007, training focused on TSE in sheep and goats. Training covers around 400 veterinarians per year.	Action taken

Report 8072/2006 of 06/03/2006 on BSE		
Reference No and recommendation	Findings	Assessment
established in order to guarantee that all these animals are considered as official clinical suspects and notified accordingly as required by Art. 3(h) and 11 of Regulation (EC) No 999/2001.	<p>A five page diagnostic guideline and a step by step checklist reporting form for BSE were introduced to ensure a harmonised understanding.</p> <p>All this information is provided in CD format, which is given to the participants at the end of training.</p>	
(24696) To ensure monitoring and testing of all fallen stock in line with provisions laid down in point 3, Chapter A of Annex III to Regulation (EC) No 999/2001.	<p>Following the FVO mission, the National reference centre (CEA), IZS Torino, was commissioned to conduct a study on discrepancies between the number of bovines subject to testing and the number actually tested. This compared bovines categorised as dead in the national database with the database of the Reference Centre showing animals that had actually been tested. The study concluded that for the first half of 2006, 26% of fallen stock had not been tested. The study identified five Regions where the rate of testing was lowest.</p> <p>Following the publication of the document, MH informed the Regions of the outcome of the study of the (letter dated 8 June 2007). All regions were requested to reinforce controls.</p> <p>In the five regions where major deficiencies were detected (, the Regional Health Authorities were sent a letter, signed by the Undersecretary of State (dated 5 July) stressing the lack of control on dead bovines and proposing potential intervention measures.</p> <p>To ensure that all fallen stock are tested, MH introduced a number of measures:</p> <p>Farmers who fail to notify the death of animals on the holding within 48 hours are subject to sanctions.</p> <p>MH together with NRL, provides the following data to regions to enable cross checking:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A list of all animals that underwent rapid tests, classified as fallen or emergency slaughtered in the NRL database, which are not classified as fallen or slaughtered in the Bovine Register Data Bank; • A list of all fallen or emergency slaughtered animals, which were not tested (absent on the NRL Data Bank); • Monthly statistics, by regions and AUSL, reporting the total number of fallen animals, the number of fallen animals older or younger than 24 months, the total number of animals slaughtered, the number of animals slaughtered due to health provisions and/or that died during transport. <p>The MH reported that discrepancies in relation to fallen stock had been reduced to 10%.</p>	In progress

Report 8072/2006 of 06/03/2006 on BSE		
Reference No and recommendation	Findings	Assessment
(24697) To ensure a harmonised approach as regards classification in the appropriate sub-populations of animals slaughtered for human consumption tested for BSE in line with provisions laid down in point 2, Chapter A of Annex III to Regulation (EC) No 999/2001.	MH circulated a Memorandum to the regions on 29 August 2006 in order to harmonise classification approaches to bovine subgroups slaughtered and tested for BSE and destined for human consumption.	Action taken
(24698) To enhance the regular verification of the BSE epidemio-surveillance in order to ensure full compliance with all provisions laid down in Regulation (EC) No 999/2001 to guarantee submission to the Commission of data in the annual report concerning the BSE testing and eradication programme in accordance with Art. 6(4) therein, that allows a reliable picture of the epidemiological situation of the disease to be drawn.	<p>A new web-based system is under development for electronic processing of BSE testing.</p> <p>The central database will be used to introduce web services which will allow the AUSLs, slaughterhouse operators and the laboratories to access it in real time. This procedure will make it possible to check that the animals to be tested are entered in the database, that the holding of origin is entered in the database and to obtain the information necessary to draw up the accompanying document for BSE samples.</p> <p>The system will allow the laboratories carrying out rapid BSE tests to input information on the rapid tests conducted. A data flow will be created between the database and the NRL which will make it possible to check any discrepancy between the levels of surveillance achieved and expected</p> <p>The form accompanying the sample will receive the ID Code of each animal by reading the barcode on the animal's passport. It will then be transmitted electronically to the national database and automatically completed with the other information (animal birth date, gender, etc), and finally it will accompany the samples to the laboratory, which will use the same system for the input of data.</p> <p>Additional funding is required to purchase hardware for reading barcodes from the bovine passports.</p> <p>The national centre for TSE (IZS in Teramo) is responsible for verification of data contained in the central database, which has a list of stock reported as dead/slaughtered and the list of animals subject to the rapid BSE test, checks that all animals slaughtered older than 30 months and those fallen or belonging to risk categories (fallen on holding, emergency slaughter, etc.) older than 24 months notified to the database have been tested for BSE and that all cattle tested for BSE have been notified to the database. This centre informs the RVS, the AUSL, the MH and the NRL on a monthly basis of any anomalies.</p>	In progress

Reference No and recommendation	Findings	Assessment
(24699) With regard to the total feed ban, to further enhance the risk-based strategy used to draw up the national feed ban control plan to bring it more in line with general obligations laid down in Art. 3 of Regulation (EC) No 882/2004 and to render the use of criteria to set priorities and the planned arrangements to be implemented more auditable.	<p>A memorandum of understanding between MH and MIPAAF on the control of animal feed for the prevention of BSE was adopted 9 May 2006. This was subsequently revised and a new version adopted on 21 June 2007. A common sampling report is included in the new Memorandum of understanding and in the national feed control plan (PNAA) for 2007. The Memorandum of understanding also lays down how information is reported and exchanged. Results are transmitted from the reference laboratory to the MH and to the regions every three months.</p> <p>As MIPAAF is responsible for feed quality, any feed safety issues are notified to MH for follow-up.</p> <p>The National reference centre (Torino) receives all the results of controls and based on these, adjust the risk based strategy for the following year's control plan. The annual control plan prescribes the number of samples to be taken in each region. The NRC provided a detailed description of this strategy to the Commission in a memorandum dated 20 December 2007.</p>	Action taken
(24700) To ensure satisfactory levels of understanding of the main objectives laid down in the national feed ban control plan to facilitate its uniform implementation by the RVS.	<p>Since 2006, the Feed control plan (PNAA) in relation to BSE monitoring distinguishes between epidemiological surveillance, which applies to livestock holdings only, and monitoring, which applies to the entire production chain. The plan is developed on a risk basis (following assessment of the statistical and epidemiological data obtained from the controls carried out at national and Community levels in 2004 and 2005).</p> <p>Since the 2006 plan, the chapter related to the BSE monitoring plan has been enhanced with a new paragraph which specifies the criteria for the distribution of samples. The RVS must base their risk analysis on these criteria.</p> <p>From 2007, Office VII (responsible for the feed sector) has commenced the assessment of the quality of regional plans and whether those plans comply with the requirements of the PNAA. One of the aspects assessed is the criteria adopted by the RVS as a basis for their risk analysis. Plans were returned to some regions following this assessment for 2007.</p>	Action taken
(24701) To have efficient measures in place to further enhance and verify the co-ordinated implementation between all relevant CA of targeted controls along the feed chain and prevention of cross-feeding at farm level in order to ensure that restrictions on the use of feed materials of animal origin in feedingstuffs are effectively enforced in compliance with Regulation (EC) No 999/2001.	<p>The chapter related to the BSE monitoring plan of the Feed control plan requires that controls be targeted along the feed chain. This is aimed at the prevention of cross-feeding at farm level (priority is given to farms with ruminants and other species).</p> <p>As regards controls on imports, guidelines were issued by MH on 4 August 2006 to the BIPs.</p>	Action taken

Report 8072/2006 of 06/03/2006 on BSE		
Reference No and recommendation	Findings	Assessment
(24702) To ensure that identification of breaches of the feed ban are followed by appropriate investigations and actions taken by the relevant CA in accordance with provisions laid down in Art. 54 of Regulation (EC) No 882/2004.	<p>The national feed control plan (PNA) provides that details of samples found positive or not in compliance for the presence of PAP, must be forwarded immediately to the MH by the IZS, enclosing the analysis report and the sampling report, and the RVS must send the MH a report on follow-up actions taken.</p> <p>Both the national feed control plan and the Memorandum of Understanding between MH and MIPAAF set out the procedures to be followed if irregularities are identified.</p> <p>In addition, MH receives an overview of the non-compliance from the National Reference Laboratory (CEA) every three months.</p>	Action taken
(24703) With regard to the laboratory network, to consider introducing measures in all IZS participating in BSE testing to verify that the quality of samples tested has no significant impact on the sensitivity of rapid tests used for monitoring BSE in fallen stock.	<p>IZS Torino has a system in place for monitoring the integrity/quality of samples taken by individual AUSLs. The unsuitability of samples is primarily related to fallen stock (9,840 unsuitable samples in 2006 out of a total 10,001). In such cases the carcass is destroyed.</p> <p>The operating procedure for the rapid BSE test includes specific instructions, including the treatment of samples where the obex is missing (paragraphs 8.4.3 and 9.11).</p>	Action taken
(24704) With regard to SRM, to ensure that appropriate awareness of the operators and effective official controls avoid any contamination in places where SRM is removed in compliance with requirements laid down in Annex XI to Regulation (EC) No 999/2001.	<p>Measures were introduced on 24 March 2006 on the proper procedure for removing the brain and nervous system at slaughterhouses. In addition, precise instructions were issued to the RVS for implementing provisions on compliance with the procedures set out in Annex XI to Regulation (EC) No 999/2001, with particular reference to the removal of the spinal cord, improvement of the control systems on SRM intended for destruction and the frequency and effectiveness of official controls aimed at avoiding any contamination at sites where SRM is removed.</p> <p>In relation to the meat contamination monitoring plan, a pilot project for monitoring contamination of meat by nervous tissue was agreed in February 2006 with the RVS and the IZS. To provide guidance on sampling methods and the execution of the validated test for the examination of nervous tissue a seminar was organised for all IZS on 5 April 2006.</p> <p>On 7 May 2007, MH (Office VIII) issued a circular to regions to organise monitoring plans for the presence of central nervous tissue on meat. Regions were requested to send details of these plans to the reference centre in Torino before end June 2007.</p> <p>The results of these plans were sent to Torino and MH and were being evaluated for the purpose of risk assessment</p> <p>The following training courses have been delivered:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - training addressed to IZS staff to provide general information on the plan itself and in particular to indicate the correct way of 	Action taken

Reference No and recommendation	Findings	Assessment
	<p>collecting samples and to perform analysis. The course was organized by the National Reference Centre.</p> <p>- training addressed to AUSL official veterinarians to provide general information on the plan itself and in particular to indicate the correct way of collecting samples. The course was organized by the Regions and IZS.</p> <p>In progress:</p> <p>- Training for private laboratories (HACCP) to provide general information on the plan itself and in particular to indicate the correct way of collecting samples and to perform analysis.</p>	
<p>(24705) To put measures in place to ensure co-ordination and verification of the effective implementation of frequent official controls as regards removal, handling and dispatch of SRM in order to guarantee effective enforcement of all requirements laid down in Annex XI to Regulation (EC) No 999/2001.</p>	<p>Vertical inspections by Office III have been undertaken in Campania Region (from 22 to 26 October 2007 and in Sicilia region (from 26 to 30 November 2007).</p> <p>Further inspections are planned for 2008.</p>	<p>In progress</p>

3.6. Control system on veterinary medicinal products (VMP) and residues

Since 1999, the FVO has completed 2 inspections in Italy in relation to veterinary medicines and residues.

Out of 11 recommendations contained in the reports of these inspections, 2 were identified for follow-up during the 2006 general review mission, both of which were carried over from the country profile of 2006.

The following table summarises the FVO's assessment of the position on these recommendations following the 2007 general review mission. 1 recommendation has been classified as "action taken" and 1 has been classified as "in progress".

Recommendations carried over from the country profile of October 2006

Report 7263/2004 of 07/09/2004 on Control of residues in live animals and animal products		
Reference No and recommendation	Findings	Assessment
(18913) To ensure that the NRL is accredited to ISO 17025 and fulfils all the requirements as laid down in Article 14 of Council Directive 96/23/EC.	The accreditation body SINAL completed all accreditation procedures on 28 November 2007 and formal accreditation was to follow. The 10 regional IZS had already been accredited.	Action taken
(18915) Ensure that all analytical methods used for the NRCP are elaborated in SOP format and are fully validated in accordance with EU legislation.	Validation for Group A substances has been achieved (except for two confirmatory tests, planned for 2008). Progress has been made on validation of tests for Group B substance and this is scheduled to be completed by end 2008.	In progress

3.7. Foodstuffs and food hygiene

Since 1999, the FVO has completed 6 inspections in Italy in relation to foodstuffs, food hygiene and GMOs.

Out of 31 recommendations contained in the reports of these inspections, 6 were identified for follow-up during the 2007 general review mission, all of which were carried over from the country profile of 2006.

The following table summarises the FVO's assessment of the position on these recommendations following the 2007 general review mission. 2 recommendations have been classified as "action taken", 3 have been classified as "in progress" and 1 has been classified as "action still required".

Recommendations carried over from the country profile of October 2006

Report 7059/2004, Inspection of 23/02/2004 on Food hygiene		
Reference No and recommendation	Findings	Assessment
<p>(17247) Given the lack of information at central level with regard to regional official control activities, the competent authorities should ensure that office VII, which now has responsibility for auditing food safety controls in the Regions, has sufficient resources to evaluate regional official controls.</p> <p>(See also 12972, 18058, 25271, 4409 and 3043)</p>	<p>Office IX of DGAHVM has responsibility for audits in the regions <u>in all sectors of the MH activities</u>. No audits took place in 2006 due to a lack of funds for missions.</p> <p>The current staffing of Office IX is 5 FTE (down from 8 in 2006). The audit plan (all sectors) for 2007 included 7 system and 18 sectoral audits. As at November 2007, 2 system and 7 sectoral audits had been completed.</p> <p>Audits have been completed by Office IX in 5 regions. For 2008, 15 audits are envisaged in order to complete a further 3 to 4 regions.</p> <p>Notwithstanding point 6.5 of the Commission's guidelines for the conduct of audits under Regulation (EC) No. 882/2004 (Commission Decision 2006/677/EC), the MH were not in a position to give any planned timescale for the completion of first round audits by Office IX in all 21 regions/provinces or to give details of future resource allocations to the office.</p> <p>In addition to the audits undertaken by Office IX across all sectors, Office II (DGFSN) has trained 23 auditors (ISO 19011) drawn from MH and USMAFs to conduct vertical inspections in the sector food hygiene (including on imports of non-animal origin).</p>	<p>Action still required</p> <p><i>The Commission has initiated specific follow-up measures in the case of this recommendation</i></p>
<p>(17249) The competent authorities should encourage the dissemination of Good Hygiene Practice guides to the food sectors which require them, and where they exist give due consideration to such guides when carrying out official controls as required under Article 8(1) of Council Directive 93/43/EEC.</p>	<p>The requirements in relation to good hygiene practice guides (previously contained in Council Directive 93/43/EEC) are set out in Regulation (EC) No 852/2004, in particular Articles 7-9).</p> <p>Good Hygiene Practice Guides remain the property of the producers' associations and MH had listed the 98 guides on its website. Office II of DGFSN co-ordinates the validation of new guides and a procedure has been established for this. Office II is working to streamline the validation process, including amending the existing Ministerial circular so as to enable regions and the ISS to be consulted electronically rather than the current paper based system. Office II was also exploring with the producers' associations the possibility of placing the full text of the guides on the MH website⁸.</p> <p>Office II of DGFSN (MH) wrote to the regions on 21 November 2007 following FVO mission 7193/2007. This letter requested regions to undertake a number of actions, including in relation to the use of Good Hygiene Practice</p>	<p>In progress</p> <p>(a similar recommendation is contained in report 7193/2007)</p>

⁸ In their comments on the draft country profile, the Italian authorities confirmed that the new procedure would be adopted in May 2008 and that a dedicated email account had been created. It had also been decided to place on the MH website the full text of Good Hygiene Practice Guides where the producers' associations have given their consent.

Report 7059/2004, Inspection of 23/02/2004 on Food hygiene		
Reference No and recommendation	Findings	Assessment
	Guides during official controls, and to report back to the MH on measures taken.	
(17251) The competent authorities should ensure that official controls cover all aspects of Council Directive 93/43/EEC during inspections, as required in Article 8(1) of that Directive (repealed by Regulation (EC) No 852/2004).	Office II of DGFSN (MH) wrote to the regions on 21 November 2007 following FVO mission 7193/2007. This letter requested regions to undertake a number of actions, including in relation to documented procedures, and to report back to the MH on measures taken ⁹ .	In progress (a similar recommendation is contained in report 7193/2007)
(17252) The competent authorities should ensure that inspection staff receives adequate training in order to adequately assess whether the necessary monitoring and verification controls are being operated by food businesses.	FVO mission 7193/2007 found that there had been an improvement in the range of training provided for regional and local staff.	Action taken
(17253) The competent authorities should ensure that inspection staff has adequate equipment and protective clothing with which to carry out controls.	Following the FVO mission in February 2004, the MH wrote to regions on a number of issues arising, including in relation to protective clothing. The subsequent FVO mission in June 2005 found that such clothing was not used during official inspections. Office II of DGFSN (MH) again wrote to the regions on 21 November 2007 following FVO mission 7193/2007. This letter requested regions to undertake a number of actions, including in relation to protective clothing, and to report back to the MH on measures taken. MH will verify actions taken. (see also recommendation 17251)	In progress (a similar recommendation is contained in report 7193/2007)
(17254) The competent authorities should ensure that food premises are inspected at a frequency which has regard to the risk associated with the premises as required by Article 8(2) of Council Directive 93/43/EEC.	The relevant EU provision is now Article 3.1 of Regulation (EC) No 882/2004. By note dated 31 May 2007, MH issued guidelines to the regions for official controls in accordance with Regulations (EC) 882 and 854/2004. This includes standard reporting forms for the regions to provide results to MH. Annexes 1-3 of these guidelines provide guidance on risk categorisation and inspection frequency and include a standard form for annual reporting on control activities to MH.	Action taken

⁹ In their comments on the draft country profile, the Italian authorities indicated that a reminder was sent on 9 April 2008. An inspection plan covering the application of HACCP was scheduled for six regions during 2008.

3.8. Imports of food of plant origin

Since 1999, the FVO has completed 2 inspections in Italy in relation to imports of food of plant origin.

Out of 10 recommendations contained in the reports of these inspections, 5 were identified for follow-up during the 2007 general review mission, all of which were contained in a report that had reached closeout stage since the 2006 general review mission.

The following table summarises the FVO's assessment of the position on these recommendations following the 2007 general review mission. 4 recommendations have been classified as "action taken" and 1 has been classified as "in progress".

Recommendations reaching closeout note stage since the 2006 general review mission.

Inspection 8119/2006 of 11/12/2006 concerning import controls on food and feed of non-animal origin		
Reference no. and Recommendation	Findings	Assessment
(28073) Consider carrying out audits in the area of imports of food of non-animal origin to ensure that the objectives of Regulation (EC) No 882/2004 are met, as required by Article 4.6 thereof. As regards audit, see also 12972, 18058, 25271, 4409, 3043 and 17247	Office IX of DGAHVM has responsibility for audits in the regions in all sectors of the MH activities. No audits took place in 2006 due to a lack of funds for missions. In addition to the audits undertaken by Office IX across all sectors, Office II (DGFSN) has trained 23 auditors (ISO 19011) drawn from MH (11) and USMAFs (12) to conduct vertical inspections in the food hygiene sector (including on imports of non-animal origin). This course was organized by UNI (Italian corporation of ISO procedures standardization) The first two audits, to be conducted with the participation of UNI, were scheduled for 29 November (USMAFs in Rome and Milan). Two further audits were planned for December (USMAFs Livorno and Genova).	Action taken
(28074) Ensure that official controls within the scope of the mission are carried out regularly, on a risk basis, and with appropriate frequency as required by Article 3 of Regulation (EC) No 882/2004.	As part of the Quality system for USMAFs, Office II has drawn up draft SOPs. These were to be finalised in January 2008. The implementation of these SOPs will be verified by the audit systems referred to in recommendation 28073.	Action taken
(28075) Ensure that the requirements of Article 8.3 of Regulation (EC) No 882/2004 are met, in particular concerning the handling of non-compliant foodstuffs at import and the handling of foodstuffs subjected to a secondary treatment.	Procedures concerning the handling of non-compliant foodstuffs at import and the handling of foodstuffs subjected to a secondary treatment are detailed in SOPs (see recommendation 28074).	Action taken

Inspection 8119/2006 of 11/12/2006 concerning import controls on food and feed of non-animal origin		
Reference no. and Recommendation	Findings	Assessment
(28076) Nominate a national reference laboratory for the analysis of mycotoxins in food and feed as required by Article 33.1 of Regulation (EC) No 882/2004.	The ISS was designated as national reference laboratory for the analysis of mycotoxins in food and feed, in application of Article 33.1 of Regulation (EC) No 882/2004 on 7 March 2007.	Action taken
(28077) Ensure that all laboratories carrying out official analysis within the scope of the mission comply with the requirements of Article 18 of Commission Regulation (EC) No 2076/2005, in particular that they provide satisfactory guarantees that quality control schemes (e.g. validation of analytical methods) are in place.	MH (Office II) wrote to the regions in May 2007 asking for collaboration amongst ARPA, APPA (the agency for environmental protection in the two autonomous provinces) and USMAF concerning laboratory activities (letter n.11457 of 3/5/2007). MH wrote again to certain regions on 30 August. In parallel with this action, a draft agreement has been prepared at technical level within the State –Region conference, on analytical capacity for imports, including the requirement for accreditation. This agreement had to be formally adopted (latest draft was dated 18 July 2007). MH confirmed that from 1.1.2008, only accredited laboratories are used for official controls. This requirement will be checked as part of the audits described in recommendation 28073.	In progress

3.9. Plant protection products (PPP) and residues

Since 1999, the FVO has completed 3 inspections in Italy in relation to pesticides.

Out of 24 recommendations contained in the reports of these inspections, 3 were identified for follow-up during the 2007 general review mission, all of which were carried over from the country profile of 2006.

The following table summarises the FVO's assessment of the position on these recommendations following the 2007 general review mission. All 3 recommendations have been classified as "in progress".

Recommendations carried over from the country profile of October 2006

Report 7318/2004, Inspection of 27/09/2004 on Pesticides – residues		
Reference No and recommendation	Findings	Assessment
(20310) The competent authorities of Italy should ensure that results of inspections of plant protection products and results of residue monitoring are reported by every region to the central authorities within the time outlined by the specific legislation. This should be enforced, so that	Office VII of DVPHNFS produced a report on the results of control measures under article 17 of Council Directive 91/414/EEC for year 2006 (dated 22 November 2007). All regions, with the exception of Abruzzo and Molise had provided the necessary input. MH obtained assurances from these regions that results would be provided in 2008. MH will monitor the reporting from the regions every quarter. MH issued a circular to the regions on 31 October 2007 following FVO mission 7194/2007. The MH requested the regions to provide confirmation that all the necessary actions	In progress (a similar recommendation is contained in report 7194/2007)

Report 7318/2004, Inspection of 27/09/2004 on Pesticides – residues		
Reference No and recommendation	Findings	Assessment
the information forwarded to the European Commission is complete and representative for the country.	(including reporting) are taken.	
(20323) The range of pesticide substances, and their metabolites, being examined in the laboratories should be increased to allow adequate enforcement of pesticide MRLs as specified in Council Directives 76/895/EEC, 86/362/EEC and 90/642/EEC as amended.	The MH provided data showing that the number of pesticides sought (fruit and vegetables) had increased from 297 in 2005 to 332 in 2006. The NRL obtained a new LC-MS/MS. Of the 36 ARPA laboratories, 8 now have LC-MS/MS equipment and a further 5 are in the process of procuring such equipment.	In progress (a similar recommendation is contained in report 7194/2007)
(20324) The time lapse between sampling and analysis for pesticide residues should be such as to allow adequate enforcement and follow-up actions, as well as any necessary emergency measures.	MH issued a circular to the regions on 31 October 2007 following FVO mission 7194/2007. The MH requested the regions to provide confirmation that all the necessary actions (including the range of substances) are taken.	In progress (a similar recommendation is contained in report 7194/2007)

3.10. Animal welfare

Since 1999, the FVO has completed 6 inspections in Italy in relation to animal welfare.

Out of 31 recommendations contained in the reports of these inspections, 2 were identified for follow-up during the 2007 general review mission, both of which were carried over from the country profile of 2006.

The following table summarises the FVO's assessment of the position on these recommendations following the 2007 general review mission. 1 recommendation has been classified as "action taken", and 1 has been classified as "in progress".

Recommendations carried over from the country profile of October 2006

MR 7010/2004 of 10/05/2004 on Animal welfare – transport		
Reference No and recommendation	Findings	Assessment
(17976) Regarding animal welfare at slaughter, to provide adequate training and instructions regarding welfare at slaughter.	The Italian authorities indicated that a budget of €300,000 had been provided for the training of farmers and slaughterhouse operators. In collaboration with the national reference centre for animal welfare, the first phase of this training was due to commence in May 2008.	In progress

Report 7636/2005, Inspection of 18/04/2005 on Animal welfare – on-farm		
Reference No and recommendation	Findings	Assessment
(22122) In relation to laying hens, take steps to ensure: The completion of the central register for the purpose of tracing eggs (Article 1, 3 of Directive 2002/4), as proposed in response to the recommendations in report 7010/2004. Inappropriate checklists are taken out of use and the appropriate space requirements are applied (Directive 99/74/EC, Chapter II, Art. 5, 1). That recurring problems, such as overstocking, are promptly corrected and dissuasive measures are applied in a consistent way in the different Regions. The practice of forced moulting is not tolerated (Article 3 and point 3 of the Annex of Council Directive 99/74/EC; point 14 of the Annex of Council Directive 98/58/EC).	MH circulated procedures on 31 October 2007 on the correct implementation of Legislative Decree 267/2003 on the protection of laying hens (implementing Directive 1999/74/CE and 2002/4/CE). Checklists have been provided by MH to the regions. MH gave assurances that any cases of forced moulting are immediately followed up by the inspectors in the regions. In addition, reports of audits in this sector show that Ministry Inspectors have always made remarks in this respect, mentioning point 14 of Directive 98/58 and Point 3 of the Annex to CD 1999/74/EC.	Action taken

3.11. Plant health

Since 1999, the FVO has completed 12 inspections in Italy in relation to plant health.

Out of 76 recommendations contained in the reports of these inspections, 29 were identified for follow-up during the 2007 general review mission, all of which were contained in reports that had reached closeout stage since the 2006 general review mission.

The following table summarises the FVO's assessment of the position on these recommendations following the 2007 general review mission. 1 recommendation has been classified as "action taken", 1 has been classified as "in progress" and 27 have been classified as "action still required".

Recommendations reaching closeout note stage since the 2006 general review mission.

Inspection 8260/2006 of 17/03/2006 concerning Import controls - plants/plant products		
Reference no. and Recommendation	Findings	Assessment
<p>(26130) Italy is recommended to:</p> <p>(1) Increase the capacity of the Single Authority to enable it to meet the obligations of the Article 1(4) of Council Directive 2000/29/EC and specifically :</p> <p>(a) to ensure that notifications of interceptions are sent to the EC and other MS within no more than 2 working days as required by Article 2 (1) of Commission Directive 94/3/EC, preferably using EUROPHYT;</p> <p>(b) to ensure that the data furnished or published by the SA concerning the points of entry and the interceptions are confirmed by the SFRs in order to fully comply with Article 13c (4) of Council Directive 2000/29/EC;</p> <p>(c) to ensure that the information necessary at the import inspection posts is provided without delay as required by Article 2 (1) of Commission Directive 94/3/EC and Point 1 of the Annex to Commission Directive 98/22/EC;</p>	<p>The single authority is part of Office VIII (Plant Health, fertilisers and seeds) of MIPAAF. There are 3 FTE along with the head of unit working on plant health.</p> <p>The central plant health service (CPHS) did not describe how data on interceptions are transmitted from the regions and validated before passing to the Commission.</p> <p>All new EU legislation is discussed at the monthly meeting of the national phytosanitary committee which meets every month (CPHS and all regions). Work is in progress on a website to contain legislation.</p> <p>CPHS has not described how legislation, procedures, guidelines etc are disseminated to and by the regions and the system of reporting to CPHS.</p> <p>As regards the notification of interceptions, an official has been designated for this task within the CPHS.</p>	<p>Action still required</p> <p><i>The Commission has initiated specific follow-up measures in the case of this recommendation</i></p>
<p>(26131) Transpose and implement Commission Directive 2004/103/EC;</p>	<p>This was implemented by Decree of 16 October 2006 (published in the official journal on 2.1.2007)</p>	<p>Action taken</p>
<p>(26133) Establish official co-operation and communication with Customs for import controls at national level in order to apply Article 1 (4) of Council Directive 2000/29/EC and to meet the requirements for a "rapid communication</p>	<p>There is a joint working group between CPHS and customs on a joint manual of procedures. In the meantime, co-operation and communication is by FAX.</p> <p>The CPHS did not give any timescale for the completion of this project.</p>	<p>Action still required</p> <p><i>The Commission has initiated specific follow-up measures in the case of this recommendation</i></p>

Inspection 8260/2006 of 17/03/2006 concerning Import controls - plants/plant products		
Reference no. and Recommendation	Findings	Assessment
system with [...] the customs authorities..." mentioned in Point 3 (a) of the Annex to Commission Directive 98/22/EC;		
(26134) Ensure that at least the minimum conditions for carrying out plant health checks are available at inspection posts, as required by Commission Directive 98/22/EC; this includes access to destruction facilities;	<p>CPHS has created a working group to plan and organise inspections of inspection posts by a technical support group.</p> <p>CPHS has not described the composition of these groups, procedures, control plans for 2007/2008 or results to date.</p>	<p>Action still required</p> <p><i>The Commission has initiated specific follow-up measures in the case of this recommendation</i></p>
(26135) Ensure inspectors are made aware in good time of new legislative requirements, in particular the provision of Article 13a(4)(b) of Council Directive 2000/29 concerning "Additional Declaration";	<p>All new legislation is discussed at the monthly meeting of the national phytosanitary committee which meets every month (CPHS and all regions). Work is in progress on a website to contain legislation and guidelines.</p> <p>CPHS has not described how legislation, procedures, guidelines etc are disseminated to and by the regions and the system of reporting to CPHS.</p>	<p>Action still required</p> <p><i>The Commission has initiated specific follow-up measures in the case of this recommendation</i></p>
(26136) Italy is also advised to establish a national database or harmonised data system to facilitate exchanges of data between the SFC and the SFRs;	A national database to include data from the register of producers (RUP), import certificates and notifications of interceptions has been developed and the RPSs were loading first data.	In progress
(26137) Italy is also advised to plan and increase the number of controls of consignments with wood packing material;	<p>A working group has been established to develop a national control plan. An agreement has been reached with customs on the control of non-regulated articles.</p> <p>CPHS has not provided details of the agreement with customs or on the timeline for a national control plan.</p>	<p>Action still required</p> <p><i>The Commission has initiated specific follow-up measures in the case of this recommendation</i></p>
(23138) Italy is also advised to issue publicity material on concessions for travellers and controls on passengers to monitor compliance;	<p>Work in progress on a poster and leaflet.</p> <p>CPHS did not provide a timeline for the completion of this work or on how this information will be distributed.</p>	<p>Action still required</p> <p><i>The Commission has initiated specific follow-up measures in the case of this recommendation</i></p>

Inspection 8272/2006 of 10/10/2006 concerning the situation and controls for <i>Anoplophora chinensis</i>		
Reference no. and Recommendation	Findings	Assessment
(27950) The current control strategy for <i>A. chinensis</i> , including funding, is reviewed in order to ensure that <i>all necessary measures</i> can and are being taken to eradicate or inhibit the spread of this pest as required by Article 16(1) of Directive 2000/29/EC.	<p>CPHS provided a copy of a Decree dated 9 November 2007 which had not been published as at 10 January 2008.</p> <p>CPHS did not describe the current control strategy and available funding.</p> <p>CPHS did not describe how Commission Decisions which are directly applicable have been implemented to date.</p>	<p>Action still required</p> <p><i>The Commission has initiated specific follow-up measures in the case of this recommendation</i></p>
(27951) The Commission and other Member States are notified of the protective measures taken with regards host plants originating in Asian countries, in accordance with Article 16(2) of Directive 2000/29/EC	CPHS referred to the Decree of 9 November 2007 but did not describe the protective measures in place.	<p>Action still required</p> <p><i>The Commission has initiated specific follow-up measures in the case of this recommendation</i></p>
(27952) All necessary measures are always taken following the appearance of harmful organisms listed in Annex I, Part A, Section I or Annex II, Part A, Section I to eradicate, or if that is impossible, inhibit their spread, in accordance with Article 16(1) of Directive 2000/29/EC.	<p>In relation to pest presence, a summary report of the current situation in Italy (spread, surveillance, eradication measures) concerning the following harmful organisms was requested:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Anoplophora chinensis</i> • <i>Diabrotica virgifera</i> • <i>Dryocosmus kuriphilus</i> • <i>Anoplophora glabripennis</i> (ALB) <p>CPHS failed to provide the requested information.</p>	<p>Action still required</p> <p><i>The Commission has initiated specific follow-up measures in the case of this recommendation</i></p>
(27953) The Commission and other Member States are kept regularly informed of the control measures taken to eradicate or inhibit the spread of <i>A. chinensis</i> and its up-to-date situation in Italy.	<p>See recommendation 27952.</p> <p>CPHS was in the process of preparing a list of national co-ordinators for survey and reporting to the Commission on specific pests.</p> <p>CPHS failed to provide information even though one region (Lombardy) had made information available through the EPPO website.</p> <p>http://www.eppo.org/QUARANTINE/anoplophora_chinensis/chinensis_IT_2007.htm</p>	<p>Action still required</p> <p><i>The Commission has initiated specific follow-up measures in the case of this recommendation</i></p>
(27954) Details of customers who have purchased host and potential host plants from nurseries situated in quarantine areas, are	<p>CPHS made reference to Article 7 of the Decree of 9 November 2007. However this does not address the recommendation.</p> <p>CPHS failed to provide details of such customers and failed to describe how such data is used to target inspections and surveys.</p>	<p>Action still required</p> <p><i>The Commission</i></p>

Inspection 8272/2006 of 10/10/2006 concerning the situation and controls for <i>Anoplophora chinensis</i>		
Reference no. and Recommendation	Findings	Assessment
available to the Single Authority and other SFR to enable targeted inspections and surveys to be carried out.		<i>has initiated specific follow-up measures in the case of this recommendation</i>
(27955) In light of the review recommended above, whether a national strategy, funding or contingency plans should be developed and implemented.	CPHS made reference to the Decree of 9 November 2007. However this does not address the recommendation. CPHS failed to describe how the national strategy had been reviewed or adjusted.	Action still required <i>The Commission has initiated specific follow-up measures in the case of this recommendation</i>
(27956) Carrying out specific surveys in regions other than Lombardy, focussing on high-risk areas, in order to ensure that the pest has not spread outside of Lombardy.	CPHS made reference to Article 6 of the Decree of 9 November 2007. While Articles 4 and 6 are relevant, the CPHS failed to provide details of any surveys undertaken or of results obtained.	Action still required <i>The Commission has initiated specific follow-up measures in the case of this recommendation</i>

Inspection 8273/2006 of 10/10/2006 concerning the control measures taken against <i>Diabrotica virgifera</i>		
Reference no. and Recommendation	Findings	Assessment
(27957) Implement, before the next growing season of maize, the provisions of Commission Decision 2006/564/EC of 11 August 2006 amending Commission Decision 2003/766/EC;	CPHS indicated that a working group had been established to develop national measures and a national plan. CPHS failed to describe how the Commission Decisions, which are directly applicable, have been implemented to date.	Action still required <i>The Commission has initiated specific follow-up measures in the case of this recommendation</i>
(27958) Improve the co-ordination within the	CPHS failed to describe any measures taken to date.	Action still

Inspection 8273/2006 of 10/10/2006 concerning the control measures taken against <i>Diabrotica virgifera</i>		
Reference no. and Recommendation	Findings	Assessment
country of the <i>Diabrotica</i> surveillance and control in order to satisfy the provisions of Article 1(4) of Commission Directive 2000/29/EC;		required <i>The Commission has initiated specific follow-up measures in the case of this recommendation</i>
(27959) Ensure that relevant provisions of Commission Decision 2003/766/EC, as amended by Commission Decision 2006/564/EC, are applied, and in particular that: (a) articles 3 and 4 are applied when <i>Diabrotica</i> is found in an area previously known to be free from the organism, (b) infested zones are defined, to comply with Article 4a(1), (c) containment programmes are organised to limit the spread of <i>Diabrotica</i> from all infested zones to comply with Article 4a(2);	CPHS failed to describe any measures taken	Action still required <i>The Commission has initiated specific follow-up measures in the case of this recommendation</i>
(27960) Ensure that regular official checks in the field are carried out to verify that maize growers comply with the imposed requirements;	CPHS failed to describe any measures taken.	Action still required <i>The Commission has initiated specific follow-up measures in the case of this recommendation</i>
(27961) Ensure that complete results of the survey of <i>Diabrotica</i> are sent to the Commission and other Member States each year before 31 December, to comply with Article 2(2) of Commission Decision	CPHS failed to describe any measures taken. Results for 2006 transmitted to the Commission in February 2007 were incomplete. CPHS was in the process of preparing a list of national co-ordinators for survey and reporting to the Commission on specific pests.	Action still required <i>The Commission has initiated specific follow-up measures in the case of this recommendation</i>

Inspection 8273/2006 of 10/10/2006 concerning the control measures taken against <i>Diabrotica virgifera</i>		
Reference no. and Recommendation	Findings	Assessment
2003/766/EC;		
(27962) Extend the survey to the regions not yet surveyed (e.g. Marche region), in order to obtain as much knowledge as possible about the situation in the whole of the national maize area of cultivation, and fully comply with Article 2(1) of Commission Decision 2003/766/EC;	CPHS failed to describe any measures taken.	Action still required <i>The Commission has initiated specific follow-up measures in the case of this recommendation</i>
(27963) Enhance co-operation between SFRs for better exchange of information and experiences between regions;	CPHS failed to describe any measures taken	Action still required <i>The Commission has initiated specific follow-up measures in the case of this recommendation</i>
(27964) Set up at national level protocols for surveys and <i>Diabrotica</i> management for a more harmonised effort across the regions;	CPHS failed to describe any measures taken.	Action still required <i>The Commission has initiated specific follow-up measures in the case of this recommendation</i>
(27965) Apply the measures of Commission Recommendation 2006/565/EC in the containment programmes referred to in recommendation 3(c) above.	CPHS failed to describe any measures taken.	Action still required <i>The Commission has initiated specific follow-up measures in the case of this recommendation</i>

Inspection 8274/2006 of 10/10/2006 concerning the situation and measures taken against *Dryocosmus kuriphilus*

Reference no. and Recommendation	Findings	Assessment
(27966) To ensure that imports of plants of <i>Castanea</i> Mill intended for planting, other than fruit and seed, may only take place if they comply with the requirements of Article 3 of Commission Decision 2006/464/EC;	CPHS referred to Decree of 30 October 2007 which had not been published as at 10 January 2008. CPHS failed to describe how the Commission Decision, which was directly applicable, has been implemented to date	Action still required <i>The Commission has initiated specific follow-up measures in the case of this recommendation</i>
(27967) To ensure that movement of plants of <i>Castanea</i> Mill intending for planting, other than fruit and seed, from their place of production, meet the conditions laid down in Article 4 of Commission Decision 2006/464/EC;	CPHS referred to Article 5 of the Decree of 30 October 2007. CPHS failed to describe how the Commission Decision, which is directly applicable, has been implemented to date.	Action still required <i>The Commission has initiated specific follow-up measures in the case of this recommendation</i>
(27968) To ensure that demarcated zones are established in accordance with Article 6 of Commission Decision 2006/464/EC;	CPHS referred to Article 8 of the Decree of 30.10.2007. CPHS failed to describe how the Commission Decision, which is directly applicable, has been implemented to date	Action still required <i>The Commission has initiated specific follow-up measures in the case of this recommendation</i>
(27969) To ensure that information on the establishment of demarcated zones according to the Annex II section I point 1 (5) to the Commission Decision 2006/464/EC, is sent to the Member States and the Commission;	CPHS referred to Article 8.2 of the Decree of 30 October 2007. The establishment of a demarcated zone for one region (Lazio) was notified to the Commission on 15 November 2007. CPHS notified the Commission in 2007 of the appearance of the pest in other Regions (Abruzzo, Sardinia, Trento province and Veneto) but had not confirmed the establishment of any other demarcated zones.	Action still required <i>The Commission has initiated specific follow-up measures in the case of this recommendation</i>
(27970) To ensure that movement of plants within the demarcated zones is prohibited as laid down in Annex II section II first indent to the Commission Decision 2006/464/EC.	CPHS referred to Article 10 of the Decree of 30 October 2007. CPHS failed to describe how the Commission Decision, which is directly applicable, has been implemented to date.	Action still required <i>The Commission has initiated specific follow-up measures in the case of this recommendation</i>

3.12. Overview of more recent inspections

In addition to the 95 finalised inspection reports and recommendations arising from these reports which are dealt with in chapters 3.1 - 3.11 above, 10 further inspections which had not reached the "closeout" stage at the time of the general review mission in November 2007 had been carried out. The recommendations contained in these reports will be followed up and assessed in the next update of the country profile.

The following tables give a brief summary of state of play on these inspections as of May 2008.

MR 7264/2007 of 23 January 2007: Evaluation of the implementation of measures concerning official controls on feed and compliance with requirements for feed hygiene
<p>The final report was sent to the Italian authorities on 4 September 2007 and is published on the Commission's website.</p> <p>Overall, the report concluded that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- The system in place for official controls in the feed sector is largely in line with Regulation (EC) No 882/2004. However there are some deficiencies, notably regarding efficient and effective co-ordination of official controls, planning of official controls, and official controls to ensure compliance with the phasing out of antibiotics as feed additives.- Compliance with requirements for feed hygiene was largely in line with Regulation (EC) No 183/2005 although some actions regarding approval and registration of FBOs are still to be completed. <p>The competent authority's response to the recommendations can be found at http://ec.europa.eu/food/fvo/ap/ap_italy_7264_2007.pdf</p> <p>The Action Plan provided has been assessed by the FVO as satisfactory and actions had already been taken in response to certain recommendations.</p>

MR 7435/2007 of 4 June 2007: Meat, milk, products Animal welfare (slaughter/killing)
<p>The final report was sent to the Italian authorities on 7 January 2008 and is published on the Commission's website.</p> <p>The report concluded that the system of official controls according to the EU food safety legislation had not yet been put into place throughout Italy.</p> <p>The competent authority's response to the recommendations can be found at http://ec.europa.eu/food/fvo/ap/ap_Italy_7435_2007.pdf</p> <p>The Action Plan provided has been assessed by the FVO as satisfactory and actions had already been taken in response to certain recommendations.</p>

MR 7193/2007 of 11 June 2007: Official control systems on the hygiene of foodstuffs, and in particular regarding bottled water

The final report was sent to the Italian authorities on 20 December 2007 and is published on the Commission's website.

The report concluded that Italy has a clearly defined structure of CAs responsible for food hygiene and natural mineral water, with improved communication pathways in place. However, there remain a considerable number of shortcomings many of which are outstanding from the time of the last food hygiene mission including the inspection frequency of some food premises, HACCP assessment in performing of official controls and RASFF delays.

The competent authority's response to the recommendations can be found at http://ec.europa.eu/comm./food/fvo/ap/ap_Italy_7193_2007.pdf

The Action Plan provided has been assessed by the FVO as generally satisfactory.

MR 7194/2007 of 18 June 2007: Controls of pesticide residues in food of plant origin

The final report was sent to the Italian authorities on 20 November 2007 and is published on the Commission's website.

The report concluded that since the previous mission, progress has been achieved concerning communication. Structures, plans, and procedures for controls of pesticide residues on the domestic market and at the point of import are in place. However, the controls suffer as a result of significant deficiencies in the laboratory network, such as the lack of accreditation, analytical equipment, co-ordination and technical support.

The competent authority's response to the recommendations can be found at http://ec.europa.eu/comm./food/fvo/ap/ap_Italy_7194_2007.pdf

The Action Plan provided has been assessed by the FVO as not being fully satisfactory.

MR 7368/2007 of 10 September 2007: Operation of the Ovine/Caprine Brucellosis Eradication Programme

The final report was sent to the Italian authorities on 18 February 2008.

The report concluded that the situation in some regions has improved and that a new Ministerial Order of 14 November 2006 provides CAs with more stringent rules in relation to the eradication of sheep and goat brucellosis in the regions Sicily, Calabria, Campania and Puglia. Evidence of its enforcement was available in Sicily, especially in relation to public health. However, several significant shortcomings related to animal health remain including: failure to reach the sampling targets, lack of clear and transparent criteria for vaccination of Officially Free of ovine/caprine brucellosis (*B.melitensis*) holdings in an area of high flock prevalence, insufficient controls on movements and transhumance, insufficient cleaning and disinfection of livestock vehicles, and lack of evidence of slaughter of all reactor animals.

The Action Plan provided has been assessed by the FVO as satisfactory and actions had already been taken in response to certain recommendations.

MR 7373/2007 of 25 November 2007: Implementation of EU Animal Health requirement for Intra-Community Trade in live horses

The draft report was sent to the Italian authorities on 11 February 2008.

The report concluded that the new system introduced for the identification and movement control of equidae will, once enforced, give effect to EU requirements, and even bring further guarantees of traceability in this field. The documented procedure introduced is a major asset, as at the moment, controls lack both such procedures and proper verification of their implementation. The system also has some inconsistencies in its legal framework. Despite good planning of specific controls to be performed on equidae originating from other MS, many controls performed at arrival were not performed satisfactorily, which may have consequences both for animal and public health. The development of active health surveillance programme enables the CA to have a clearer appreciation of the health situation in the country, but their effectiveness may be reduced when their application is not ensured or controlled. The system for approval and supervision of assembly centres is not in line with EU requirements.

Action plan awaited.

MR 7332/2007 of 25 November 2007: Animal welfare during transport, in particular horses destined for slaughter.

The final report was sent to the Italian authorities on 5 June 2008 and is published on the Commission's website.

The report concluded that delays in adopting legal measures and approving CCA guidance has contributed to poor implementation of the requirements of Regulation (EC) No 1/2005 in relation to the protection of horses during transport. Although the CCA has ensured that good quality training for carrying out checks has been made available to the regional level, the subsequent dissemination of this information to the veterinarians who are doing the inspections has not yet proved effective. The low priority given by certain regions to such controls means that checks of conditions during transport have not been rigorous and there has been a very low level of enforcement of the requirements of Regulation (EC) No 1/2005. As a result, vehicles for transporting horses for long journeys are not adequately equipped with individual stalls or watering equipment, animals are overstocked and journey times are exceeded.

Although the CCA has obtained a more complete picture of the checks being carried out throughout Italy, as recommended in report 7010/2004, and has carried out audits which have identified weaknesses in the system of controls in place, subsequent actions have not been taken to improve the quality of inspections carried out.

The competent authority's response to the recommendations can be found at http://ec.europa.eu/comm/food/fvo/ap/ap_Italy_7332_2007.pdf

The Action Plan provided is being assessed by the FVO.

MR 7743/2008 of 18 February 2008: implementation of health rules on certain animal by-products

The draft report (EN) was sent to the Italian authorities on 20 May 2008.

The report concluded that Italy avails only of the possibilities to use Category 1 fat in thermal boilers according to Regulation (EC) No 92/2005 and to use PAP as OF/SI according to Regulation (EC) No 181/2006.

All relevant plants are subject to regular official controls but certain deficiencies in the organisation and implementation of these controls prevents them from ensuring that all relevant requirements are fulfilled. Nevertheless, there is a minimal risk that Category 1 fat intended for use in thermal boilers might be diverted to improper uses as all operators maintained detailed records that could demonstrate that the fat is only used as intended. In the case of OF/SI, there is an increased potential for these materials to be misused as official controls currently pay little attention to the flow of PAP sent directly to farms and, OF/SI dispatched by producers often did not carry the appropriate labels and warnings regarding application to pastureland as required by Regulation (EC) No 181/2006. Official controls to check that farms comply with Regulation (EC) No 181/2006 are at an early stage. In practice, most OF/SI sent to farms have been formulated in ways which make them unsuitable for application to pastureland and too costly and unpalatable to be diverted into animal feed.

Action plan awaited.

MR 7691/2008 of 10 March 2008: Animal welfare during transport and at the time of slaughter and killing

The draft report was sent to the Italian authorities on 20 May 2008.

The report concluded that there has been some progress in improving the system for control of animal welfare during transport, particularly with central level developing training and guidance and with enforcement actions following checks during the course of long distance transport. However, procedures adopted by those responsible for enforcing the legislation at places of destination have been generally insufficient.

Although certain CAs have begun to address the issue of the transport of sick and injured dairy cows, in regions where there are a substantial number of such cases, measures have not been sufficient to prevent unnecessary suffering arising as a result of such transport.

Lack of training of control staff on animal welfare at slaughter, which was also subject of a recommendation in report 7010/2004, has contributed to insufficient checks of animal welfare at slaughter.

Action plan awaited.

MR 7870/2008 of 4 February 2008: Plant health - situation and controls for *Rhynchophorus ferrugineus* (Olivier) (red palm weevil)

The draft report was sent to the Italian authorities on 8 May 2008.

The report concluded that *R. ferrugineus* has been present in Italy since 2004; it is now known to occur in 9 regions of the country. The three regional plant health services visited during the mission have demarcated areas and implemented measures intended to eradicate the pest and undertake surveys to establish the distribution of the pest, in collaboration with other authorities. They have also established an intensive publicity and information campaign and have taken steps to ensure that susceptible plants for planting are not moved unless they comply with the

conditions of Decision 2007/365/EC.

Extensive control measures have been put in place, however despite these, the pest has continued to spread. The control measures are hindered by a number of factors:

- difficulties in identifying and destroying infested trees, particularly in urban environments;
- a lack of scientific data on the pest;
- a lack of authorised treatments;
- the large number of infested trees and the inability, in a number of cases, for private individuals to pay for the destruction of their trees also means that infested trees cannot all be destroyed within an appropriate time frame;
- the delayed transposition of the administrative elements of Commission Decision 2007/365/EC has also had an impact, particularly with regards to ensuring that areas are demarcated in accordance with that Decision.

Significant developments in the distribution of the pest and its occurrence on plants not recognised as being susceptible have not been notified to the Commission or other Member States.

Action plan awaited.

ANNEX I – ACRONYMS, ABBREVIATIONS, SPECIAL TERMS AND WEBSITES

ACRONYM	DESCRIPTION	WEBSITES
ABP	Animal By-Products	
APPA	Agency for Environmental Protection in the two autonomous provinces	
ARPA	Regional Agencies for Environment Protection (<i>Aziende Regionali per la Protezione Ambientale</i>)	
ASF	African Swine Fever	
AUSL	Local Health Units (<i>Aziende Unità Sanitarie Locali</i>)	
BIPs	Border Inspection Posts (<i>Posti di Ispezione Frontaliera</i>)	http://www.ministerosalute.it/ministero/sezMinistero.jsp?id=80&label=uffici
BSE	Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy	
CA	Competent Authority	
CCA	Central Competent Authority	
CEA	National Reference Laboratory for BSE	
CNSA	National Committee for Food Safety (<i>Comitato Nazionale per la Sicurezza Alimentare</i>)	
CPHS	The central plant health service (in MIPAFF) <i>Servizio Fitosanitario Centrale</i>	
CREAA	National Reference Centre for feedingstuffs <i>Centro di Referenza per la sorveglianza e il controllo degli Alimenti per gli Animali</i>	
CSF	Classical Swine Fever	
CTM	Technical Commission for Feedingstuffs	
DGAHVM	Directorate General for Animal Health and Veterinary Medicine <i>Direzione Generale della sanità animale e del farmaco veterinario</i>	
DGFSN	Directorate General for Food Safety and Nutrition <i>Direzione Generale della sicurezza degli alimenti e della nutrizione</i>	
DGPS	Directorate-General for Sanitary Prevention (<i>Direzione Generale della Prevenzione Sanitaria</i>)	
DGQPA	Directorate-General for Quality of Agricultural Products and Consumer Protection (<i>Direzione Generale per la Qualità dei Prodotti Agroalimentari e la Tutela del Consumatore</i>)	

ACRONYM	DESCRIPTION	WEBSITES
DVPHNFS	Department for Veterinary Public Health, Nutrition and Food Safety (<i>Dipartimento per la Sanità Pubblica Veterinaria, la Nutrizione e la Sicurezza degli Alimenti</i>)	http://www.ministerosalute.it/
EFSA	European Food Safety Authority	
FMD	Foot and Mouth Disease	
FVO	Food and Veterinary Office	
GMOs	Genetically Modified Organisms	
HACCP	Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Points	
ICQ	Central Inspectorate for Quality Control of Foodstuff and Agricultural Products (<i>Ispettorato Centrale per il Controllo della Qualità dei Prodotti Agroalimentari</i>)	http://www.politicheagricole.it/RepressioneFrodi/default
ISS	National Health Institute (<i>Istituto Superiore di Sanità</i>)	http://www.iss.it/
ISS-ORL	Laboratory Accreditation Body (<i>Organismo Riconoscimento Laboratori</i>)	
IZS	Experimental Zooprophyllaxis Institutes (<i>Istituti Zooprofilattici Sperimentali</i>)	http://www.ministerosalute.it/alimenti/attivita/sezAttivita.jsp?lang=italiano&label=coo&id=112&area=ministero&colore=2&lang=it
LVS	Local Veterinary Services (<i>Servizi Veterinari Locali</i>)	
MANCP	Multi Annual National Control Plan	
MH	Ministry of Health (<i>Ministero della Salute</i>)	
MIPAAF	Ministry of Agricultural and Forestry Policies (<i>Ministero per le Politiche Agricole e Forestali</i>)	http://www.politicheagricole.it/default.html
MRL	Maximum Residue Level	
NAS	Carabinieri Health Protection Unit (<i>Comando Carabinieri per la Tutela della Salute - Nuclei Antisofisticazione e Sanità dei Carabinieri</i>)	http://www.carabinieri.it/Internet/Cittadino/Informazioni/Tutela/Salute/default.htm
NRCP	National Residues Control Plan	
NRL	National Reference Laboratory	
OF/SI	Organic fertilizers and soil improvers	
PAP	Processed animal proteins	
PMP	Multi-Territorial Prevention Offices (<i>Presidi Multizonali di Prevenzione</i>)	
PPP	Plant Protection Products	
RASFF	Rapid Alert System for Food and Feed	

ACRONYM	DESCRIPTION	WEBSITES
RPHS	Regional Public Health Services (<i>Servizi di Sanità Pubblica delle Regioni</i>)	
RPS	Regional Phytosanitary Services (<i>Servizi Fitosanitari Regionali</i>)	
RVS	Regional Veterinary Services (<i>Servizi Veterinari Regionali</i>)	
SIAN	Food Hygiene and Nutrition Service (<i>Servizio Igiene degli Alimenti e della Nutrizione</i>)	
SINAL	National System for Laboratory Accreditation (<i>Sistema Nazionale per l'Accreditamento dei Laboratori di Prova</i>)	
SIS	Sanitary Information System	
SNVR	Segretariato Nazionale della valutazione del rischio della catena alimentare	
SRM	Specified Risk Materials	
TSEs	Transmissible Spongiform Encephalopathies	
USMAF	Port, Airport and Border Health Offices (<i>Uffici di Sanità Marittima, Aerea e di Frontiera</i>)	
UVAC	Veterinary Offices for Compliance with Community Requirements (<i>Uffici Veterinari per gli Adempimenti degli Obblighi Comunitari</i>)	http://www.ministerosalute.it/ministero/sezMinistero.jsp?label=uffici&id=78
VMPs	Veterinary Medical Products	

ANNEX II – OVERVIEW OF STAFF RESOURCES

Authority	Staff with university degree	Technical staff	Administrative staff	Total	Note
National level					
DVPHNFS				40	
DGAHVM				91	
DGFSN				106	
SNVR				26	
UVAC				61	
BIP				278	
USMAF		104	411	515	2005 data
MIPAAF DGQPA VIII				3	2005 data
ICQ		610 ⁽¹⁾	318	928	⁽¹⁾ 28 directors, 412 inspectors, 170 analysts
NAS				500	
Regional level					
RPHS	146	14	133	293	
RPS		434 ⁽²⁾	173	607	⁽²⁾ 374 inspectors, 60 analysts, 173 administrative staff; 2005 data
Local level					
AUSL LVS	6130	1669	933	8732	
AUSL SIAN	1035	1981	501	3517	
Laboratories					
ISS				1808 ⁽³⁾	⁽³⁾ Total posts available in 2006
IZS	829	1564	540	2933	
ARPA/PMP	542	1150	303	1995	
Total				22,433	