



Food and
Veterinary Office

Work Programme 2014

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Table of Contents

1.	Introduction	3
2.	Audits in the area of food safety and quality, animal health and welfare, and plant health	4
2.1.	Strategic multi-annual outline of audit themes in Member States 2014 to 2016	4
2.2.	Number and distribution of audits in 2014	6
2.3.	Audits in Member States in 2014	7
2.4.	Audits in Acceding and Candidate Countries in 2014	15
2.5.	Audits in Third Countries in 2014	15
3.	Assessments and audits in the human health area	19
3.1.	Medical devices	19
3.2.	Active pharmaceutical ingredients	19
4.	Activities of the Food and Veterinary Office in 2014 other than audits	19
4.1.	Cross-sectoral activities	19
4.2.	Activities in the food safety and animal health areas	20
4.3.	Activities in the animal welfare area	20
4.4.	Activities in the plant health area	20
5.	Report on the audit programme 2012	21
Annex 1:	Audits in Member States 2014, by country in alphabetical order	25
Annex 2:	Audits in Acceding and Candidate Countries 2014, by country in alphabetical order	29
Annex 3:	Audits in Third Countries 2014, by country in alphabetical order	30

1. Introduction

The work of DG SANCO's Food and Veterinary Office (FVO) is a key element in the effective implementation and enforcement of controls in the areas of food and feed safety, food quality, animal health, animal welfare and plant health. Since 2013 the Office has extended its activities also to the area of human health, carrying out joint assessments of notified bodies for medical devices and audits related to active pharmaceutical ingredients. The FVO's control activities contribute to the effective enforcement of EU requirements within the EU and in third countries and the enhancement of the operation of national control systems.

These activities, in turn, help to ensure that:

- Consumers and businesses can be confident that relevant controls are properly enforced.
- Trade within the EU can take place under conditions of uniform and high safety levels and standards, which allow markets to focus on price, quality and consumer preferences.
- Exporters can harness the advantages of a single EU market, with high and uniform levels of enforcement, to promote their position on world markets.
- EU policies in relation to the above areas, including their obligations towards trade partners and developing countries, are supported by effective, non-discriminatory and transparent enforcement and informed by the lessons from on-the-ground audit findings.

The reports of the FVO also provide a solid basis for ensuring that legislation is kept up-to-date.

This document sets out the work programme of the FVO for 2014.

It contains a detailed description of the FVO's audit programme in the areas of food and feed safety, food quality, animal health, animal welfare and plant health (chapter 2).

Chapter 3 gives an outline of its programme of audits and assessments in the human health area.

In addition to audits and their follow-up, the FVO carries out a wide range of other control activities and activities to further promote sound regulatory practices in the implementation of controls; these are described in more detail in chapter 4.

Finally, this document also contains a short report on the execution of the FVO's audit programme 2012 (chapter 5).

This work programme has been published at the website of DG Health and Consumers:

http://www.ec.europa.eu/food/fvo/inspectprog/index_en.htm

The FVO's work programme will be reviewed and updated mid-year to ensure that it remains relevant and responds to emerging situations. This update will be published in June 2014.

2. Audits in the area of food safety and quality, animal health and welfare, and plant health

2.1. Strategic multi-annual outline of audit themes in Member States 2014 to 2016

The Food and Veterinary Office has been moving from an annual to a multi-annual planning cycle and developed a three-year strategic outline of its audit priorities. The following overview gives an indication of the themes that will be assessed through audit series and desk studies as well as the period during which the Office intends to address these. The strategic outline will be reviewed on an annual basis and updated, if necessary, to take account of emerging issues and any unforeseen circumstances.

Table 1. Strategic three-year outline of audit themes in Member States:

AREA	2014	2015	2016
Cross-Cutting Priorities	Emergency preparedness		
	HACCP		
	Laboratories		
	Organic Farming/Geographical Indicators		
	Aquaculture		
		Composite products	
		Harmonised import controls	
		Poultry	
Other cross-office activities	Food additives		
	Post-slaughter traceability		
General follow-up	General follow-up audits		
	National audit systems		
Food of Animal Origin/ Mammals	Hygiene package: meat/milk		
		Gelatine & MSM	
	Blood products		
	Rendered fat		
Food of Animal Origin/ Birds and Fish	Hygiene package: poultry meat and products derived therefrom		
	Salmonella national control programmes on poultry populations		
	Hygiene package: bivalve molluscs		
	Hygiene package: fishery products		
Food of Plant Origin	Marketing and use of pesticides; follow-up to pesticide residue audits	Pesticide residue testing in organic farming	
	Pesticides: National Action Plans under the Sustainable Use Directive		

AREA	2014	2015	2016
Food of Plant Origin	Food supplements	Health claims	
	Primary production		
	Contaminants		
GMOs	Import, traceability and labelling of GM products. GM Trials		
Plant health	Plant pest outbreaks		
	Plant health – potatoes		
	Surveillance and risk identification/management		
Residues	Residues and veterinary medicinal products		
Feed safety	Risks and traceability, feed marketing		
	Dioxins monitoring		Medicated feed
	Feed importers		Feed importers.
ABP / TSEs	Traceability of ABP and derived products		
	ABP (follow-up)		
	Feed ban	Feed ban	Feed ban
Animal Health & Welfare	Contingency planning incl. slaughter for disease control		
Animal Health	Animal identification and movement registration		
		Import of captive birds	Animal health status of some EU territories
	Aquatic animal health		Semen and embryos
	Approval of zoos and research centres		
	Bee diseases		
		FMD laboratories	
	EU funded Eradication programmes		
Animal Welfare	Animal transport		
	Animal welfare at slaughter		
Import Controls	TRACES (TRAdE Control and Expert System)		
	Import control systems - verification of effectiveness		
	Live animals and products of animal origin	Import controls	
	Food of plant origin		
		Plant health	

In the above list of themes, the FVO has identified a number of cross-cutting priorities (blue shaded in the overview) which it will address horizontally, i.e. from various angles and across several sectors. Aquaculture, for example, will be assessed covering public health, animal health, feed, labelling and traceability aspects.

For 2014, five such priority projects have been identified: Emergency preparedness; HACCP¹; laboratories; organic farming/geographical indicators and aquaculture. Priority themes for 2014/2015 onwards include composite products, the poultry sector and harmonised import controls. All projects are described in more detail in chapter [2.3](#).

In addition to these priorities, further horizontal activities are planned for the areas of post-slaughter traceability of meat, meat products and preparations and composite products as well as on the use and labelling of food additives.

Cross-cutting priorities and horizontal themes will usually be analysed through desk studies first in order to gain a thorough overview of the topic, identify potentially problematic areas and prioritise audits. Subsequent audit series will be targeted, organised and carried out within a short period to ensure the comparability and prompt delivery of the results. The results of these projects will be summarized in overview reports which will also form the basis for meetings with Member States experts in the framework of the Better Training for Safer Food (BTSF) programme planned for 2014/15, to discuss common problems identified and exchange best practice.

The detailed programme for 2014 is presented in the subsequent sections of this chapter.

2.2. Number and Distribution of Audits in 2014

As shown in table 2, a total of 220 audits are planned for the 2014 programme, corresponding to roughly 4,000 auditor days on the ground, travel time excluded.

Table 2. Breakdown of Audits 2014 by Main Areas:

Area	No. of Audits	%
Food Safety	147	66.8
Food Quality	12	5.5
Animal Health	11	5.0
Animal Welfare	16	7.2
Animal Health/Animal Welfare	4	1.8
Plant Health/Seeds	18	8.2
General Follow-Up	12	5.5
Total	220	100%

As usual, audits in the food safety area make up the main part of the programme (67%). However, in line with the "farm to fork" approach, a large number of food safety audits

¹ Hazard Analysis Critical Control Point

naturally also cover animal health and welfare elements. In addition, 14% of audits will specifically focus on controls in the animal health and welfare areas, and a further 8% of audits are targeted at phytosanitary controls and seeds.

Around 6% of controls will be in the area of food quality (organic farming and geographical indicators²).

General follow-up audits make up another 6% of the planned programme.

Table 3 provides an overview on the geographical breakdown of audits in 2014:

Table 3. Geographical Breakdown of Audits 2014:

Country	No. of Audits	%
EU-28	146	66
Acceding and Candidate countries	10	5
Other third countries	64	29
Total	220	100%

In 2014, 66% of the audits will take place in the European Union. 5% of audits are planned in acceding and candidate countries and 29% in other third countries.

Taking into account that about 12% of the audits in the EU deal with Member States' import control systems, overall, controls of third countries' exports of feed, food, plants and animals amount to 42% of the programme.

Emergencies, other urgent issues and unforeseen circumstances may lead to adjustments of the audit programme as the year progresses. Audits in response to emergencies are made possible by cancelling or postponing others. An update of the programme will therefore, as usual, be presented mid-year, in June 2014.

2.3. Audits in Member States in 2014

Cross-sectoral priorities

As already mentioned, five horizontal priority topics have been identified for 2014:

1. *Emergency preparedness*: A continuation of the fact-finding series that started 2013, to gather information and to identify areas of best practice concerning contingency planning in the feed and food chain and issues relevant to emergency preparedness. Following two audits in the beginning of the year, the project will be completed by a desk study and an overview report.
2. *Laboratories*: Development of a comprehensive overview of performance of laboratories in the various sectors, preparation of an over-arching discussion paper which can serve as

² Protected Denominations of Origin (PDO), Protected Geographical Indications (PGI), Traditional Specialities Guaranteed (TSG)

a basis for engagement with relevant stakeholders, depending on the analysis of the overview.

3. *HACCP*: The principles of HACCP are present in a range of European legislation for food and feed. The project aims at harmonising the FVO's approach to the assessment of procedures based on HACCP principles, obtaining an overview of the state of implementation and control of HACCP across Member States and identifying and exchanging good practices and common approaches to problems encountered. Following the desk study (started in 2013) a short audit series is planned for 2014 which will result in an overview report.
4. *Organic farming and labelling*³ and *geographical indication schemes*⁴: Audits in these food quality related areas started in 2012 in response to recommendations from the Court of Auditors for improvements to enforcement policies in these sectors.
5. *Aquaculture*: Horizontal assessment of the sector covering public health, animal health, feed, labelling, residues and traceability. Following the completion of a desk study and pilot audits in 2014, a short audit series is planned for 2015.

Other horizontal activities

- *Post-slaughter traceability*: A desk analysis followed by a short audit series will be organised to examine controls on trade, including traceability and labelling, of meat, meat products and preparations as well as composite products (i.e. products which are a composite of products of both animal and plant origin).
- *Food additives*: An assessment of the use and labelling of food additives (including, for example, nitrites in meat preparations) will be integrated into the scope of relevant audits that are covering in particular meat products and preparations within their scope.

Follow-up

Of the 146 audits planned in Member States, nine will be targeted *general follow-up audits* intended to check on the progress of individual Member States with recommendations made at the conclusion of previous audits. The results of the general follow-up audits will also be used to update country profiles.

Food of animal origin and residues

In the area of *food of animal origin*, audits on the application of the hygiene legislation in the meat and milk sectors are a regular part of the audit programmes. In addition, the FVO will conclude a series of audits of Member States' programmes to control *Salmonella* in poultry populations. The series on fishery products will be continued and two follow-up audits will take place in relation to bivalve molluscs.

Another regular element of the audit programme are again audits on *veterinary medicines and residues in live animals and animal products*.

³ Audits on organic farming will also take place in third countries.

⁴ PDO - protected designations of origin, PGI - protected geographical indications, TSG - traditional specialities guaranteed

Food of plant origin (including compound food)

In 2014, the fact-finding series in the sector of *primary production* will be continued. In addition, three audit series, on the marketing and use of *plant protection products* (including elements of follow-up to audits on pesticide residues), on *contaminants* as well as on *food supplements* will be finalised with overview reports.

In the area of *genetically modified food, feed and seed*, one audit in relation to imports, traceability, labelling and GM trials is foreseen.

Feed and animal nutrition; animal by-products

The audit series in relation to the management of risks and traceability in the *feed area* and dioxin monitoring will be finalised early 2014 (with overview reports), while a new series will be started to assess the traceability of *animal by-products* (ABP) and derived products.

In addition, a number of audits will be organised in relation to the derogation concerning the use of processed animal proteins of non-ruminant origin for feeding of aquaculture animals.

Animal health and animal welfare

In the area of *animal health*, audits on EU-funded eradication programmes as well as on contingency planning are continuing in 2014, the latter also looking at animal welfare during emergency slaughter measures. One audit is planned in relation to bee health. A new topic in the animal health programme are audits to assess the application of Regulation (EU) No 780/2013 which allows approved bodies (research institutes, zoos, etc.) to import ungulates from third countries and to trade ungulates within the EU under less strict animal health conditions than apply to commercial holdings.

The majority of *animal welfare* audits will cover welfare at slaughter. On animal transport, the series of fact-finding missions ("study visits") aims at increasing the co-operation and communication between competent authorities by sharing best practice.

Plant health

Audits in the area of *plant health* will primarily cover measures against plant pest outbreaks (pine wood nematode, kiwi vine canker and longhorn beetles). In addition, a new fact-finding series will evaluate the identification and management of new and emerging risks to plant health, including surveillance, carried out by Member States.

Import controls

Finally, audits on Member States' import control systems remain an essential, regular element of the programme. Audits will be carried out in relation to imports of live animals and food of animal origin (covering border inspection posts and also looking at the use of the TRACES (TRAde Control and Expert System) network and verification systems in place) and imports of food of plant origin.

An overview of all audits planned in Member States in 2014 is provided in Table 4:

Table 4. Audits 2014 in Member States

CROSS-SECTORAL PRIORITIES		COUNTRY
Emergency Preparedness <i>(fact-finding)</i>		Netherlands, Slovenia
HACCP		Belgium, Czech Republic, Denmark, France, Germany, Ireland, Netherlands, Slovenia, United Kingdom
Food Quality – Organic Farming and certification, labelling and marketing of organic products		Czech Republic, Finland, Netherlands, Slovakia
Food Quality – Geographical Indicators (PDO, PGI, TSG ⁵)		Italy, Netherlands, Slovenia
Aquaculture		Ireland <i>(study visit)</i> , Sweden <i>(pilot audit)</i>
OTHER HORIZONTAL PROJECTS		COUNTRY
Use and labelling of food additives		<i>(integrated in relevant sectoral audits)</i>
Post-Slaughter Traceability of Meat, Meat Products and Preparations, and Composite Products		Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Poland
GENERAL FOLLOW-UP		COUNTRY
General follow-up audits		Austria, Bulgaria, Croatia, Denmark, France, Ireland, Lithuania, Poland, Portugal, Romania
FOOD OF ANIMAL ORIGIN		COUNTRY
Food of Animal Origin - Mammals	Hygiene package: meat / milk	Croatia, Denmark, Luxembourg, Sweden
	Hygiene package: milk	France
	Hygiene package: meat	Romania
Food of Animal Origin - Birds	Hygiene package: poultry meat and products derived therefrom	Belgium, Croatia, Finland, Germany, Poland
	Salmonella national control programmes on poultry populations	Belgium, Cyprus, Hungary, Portugal
Food of Animal Origin – Fish	Fishery products	Estonia, Germany, Greece, Ireland, Netherlands, Portugal
	Fishery products and live bivalve molluscs	Croatia
	Bivalve molluscs	Greece
Veterinary Medicines and Residues	Residues and controls on veterinary medicinal products	Cyprus, Greece

⁵ PDO - protected designations of origin, PGI - protected geographical indications, TSG - traditional specialities guaranteed

FOOD OF PLANT ORIGIN			COUNTRY
Primary production	Primary production		Cyprus, France, Romania, Spain
Pesticides	Marketing and use of plant protection products / follow-up of pesticide residues		Denmark, Finland, Romania, Slovakia, Sweden
Food – Processing and Distribution	Food contaminants		Estonia, Romania, United Kingdom
	Food supplements (fact-finding)		Poland, Czech Republic
Genetically modified organisms	Import, traceability, labelling and GMO trial		United Kingdom
FEED AND ANIMAL NUTRITION			COUNTRY
Feed Safety	Risk management and hazard identification (incl. feed marketing) and monitoring of dioxins		United Kingdom
	Monitoring of dioxins		Germany, Italy
Animal By-products (ABP)/TSEs ⁶	Traceability of ABP and derived products		Austria, Czech Republic, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Portugal, Spain, Sweden, United Kingdom
ANIMAL HEALTH AND ANIMAL WELFARE			COUNTRY
Animal Health	EU funded eradication programmes	Rabies	Bulgaria
		Bovine Tuberculosis	Ireland, United Kingdom
		Brucella melitensis	Greece
	Approved bodies under Directive 92/65 (controls of notifiable diseases)		Hungary, Poland, Spain
	Bee health		Spain
Animal Health/Animal Welfare	Contingency planning / slaughter for disease control		Austria, France, Romania, Slovakia

⁶ Feedban (derogation concerning the use of processed animal proteins of non-ruminant origin for feeding of aquaculture animals) – audits to a number of Member States will be organised, for example in the context of planned ABP audits

Animal Welfare	Welfare during transport (study visit)		France, Ireland, Slovenia
	Welfare at slaughter and related operations		Austria, Belgium, Czech Republic, Denmark, Germany, Hungary, Italy, Latvia, Netherlands, Spain, United Kingdom
PLANT HEALTH			COUNTRY
Plant Health	Plant pest outbreaks	Longhorn beetles <i>Anoplophora</i> and <i>Aromia</i>	Germany, Italy
		Pine wood nematode <i>Bursaphelenchus xylophilus</i>	Portugal, Spain (combined with Kiwi vine canker)
		Kiwi vine canker <i>Pseudomonas syringae</i> pv. <i>Actinidae</i>	France (combined with plant health surveillance), Spain (combined with Pine wood nematode)
	Potatototes		Poland
	Surveillance and risk identification/management (fact-finding)		France (combined with kiwi vine canker), Germany, Hungary, Netherlands
IMPORT CONTROLS			COUNTRY
Import Controls	Live animals and products of animal origin	Import control system	Croatia, Malta (combined with audit on TRACES), Romania (combined with audit on TRACES and on imports of food of plant origin)
		Verification systems	Bulgaria, Hungary (combined with audit on TRACES), Ireland, Slovakia, United Kingdom
		TRACES	Finland, Hungary (combined with audit on verification systems), Malta (combined with audit on import control system), Netherlands, Poland, Portugal, Romania (combined with audit on import controls and imports of food of plant origin), Spain
	Food of plant origin		Bulgaria, Romania (combined with audits on TRACES and imports of live animals and products of animal origin)

An alphabetical list of audits in Member States, by country, is given in [Annex 1](#).

Desk Studies

The Food and Veterinary Office performs a number of desk studies to support the preparation and prioritisation of new audit series as well as DG Health and Consumers' official reporting requirements.

A full overview of desk studies planned for 2014 is provided in Table 5.

Overview Reports

The FVO also produces overview reports to ensure that the results of audit series are presented in a manner which facilitates understanding of the state of implementation of EU legislation and the problems and good practices identified across the Member States.

The overview reports are published on DG Health and Consumers' website

http://ec.europa.eu/food/fvo/specialreports/overview_search_en.cfm

In 2014, the FVO plans to produce overview reports of audit series on, for example, marketing and use of pesticides, food supplements, contaminants in food, management of risks and traceability in the feed area (including feed marketing) and monitoring of dioxins in feed as well as contingency planning in the animal health area including slaughter for disease control.

These overview reports will also be discussed with Member States in a series of expert meetings organised under the umbrella of the Better Training for Safer Food (BTFS) programme.

Annual Reports

The Commission also publishes regular reports on the operation of official controls along the food chain in the Member States⁷. These reports, prepared by the FVO, are based on Member States' own annual reports on their control activities, on the results of audits carried out by the FVO and on other sources of information on controls such as sector-specific reports (for examples on trends and sources of zoonoses or the pesticide monitoring reports) or the EU rapid alert systems for food and feed safety (RASFF), animal disease outbreaks (ADNS) and plant disease outbreaks (Europhyt).

⁷

Report from the Commission to the European Parliament and to the Council on the overall operation of official controls in the Member States on food safety, animal health and welfare, and plant health
<http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=COM:2013:0681:FIN:EN:PDF>

Table 5. Desk studies 2014 related to Member States

DESK STUDIES IN 2014		SCOPE
Cross-Sectoral	National audit systems	<p>This desk study aims at producing a comprehensive overview of how Member States give effect to the requirement of Art. 4.6 of Regulation (EC) No 882/2004, in terms of the objectives, and the planning, organisation, execution, and follow-up of audits for the national audit systems.</p> <p>The study will be followed by audits in selected Member States in 2015.</p>
Food of Animal Origin	Blood products	<p>To identify trade and major producers and traders in blood products, the intended use of blood products and related risk factors.</p> <p>Depending on the outcome, the desk study will be followed by audits in 2015/2016.</p>
	Rendered fat	<p>To identify trade and major producers and traders of rendered animal fat and related risk factors (continuation of the desk study started in 2013).</p> <p>Depending on the outcome, the desk study will be followed by audits in 2015/2016.</p>
Pesticides	National Action Plans under the Sustainable Use Directive	<p>An assessment of Member States' national action plans for the sustainable use of pesticides. This will feed into the respective Report of the Commission to the Council and Parliament.</p> <p>The results of the study will also identify priorities for audit series in 2015/2016.</p>
	Pesticide residue testing in organic farming	<p>The desk study will focus on sampling for and analysis of pesticides in organic farming.</p> <p>It will be followed by a short audit series in 2015.</p>
Feed Safety	Feed imports	<p>Feed imports (additives, pre-mixtures and feed materials) and representatives (in the EU) of establishments located in third countries.</p> <p>Continuation of the desk study started in 2013 which will be followed up by audits in 2016.</p>
Animal Health / Animal Welfare	Animal identification and movement registration	<p>This desk study will cover bovine, ovine, caprine, porcine and equine species and will be followed by audits.</p>
Import Controls	Controls on imports of live animals and products of animal origin	<p>The desk study, started in 2013, will look at procedures in place to verify the effectiveness of official import controls.</p>

2.4. Audits in Acceding and (potential) Candidate Countries in 2014

Under this heading, audits to the acceding country Serbia, to candidate countries, Iceland, former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Montenegro and Turkey, as well as to the potential candidate countries Albania and Bosnia and Herzegovina are summarised.

In addition to enlargement-related audits, concerning the upgrading of food establishments, animal welfare and general follow-up, a number of audits are targeted specifically at the countries' export sector.

An overview is presented in table 6:

Table 6. Audits 2014 in Acceding and Candidate Countries

AREA/SECTOR		COUNTRY
Food of Animal Origin - Mammals	Upgrading of establishments	Macedonia, the former Yugoslav Republic of, Montenegro, Serbia, Turkey
	Export of milk	Bosnia and Herzegovina
	Export of bovine, ovine, equine and game meat, meat products, minced meat, meat preparations and casings	Iceland
Food of Animal Origin - Birds	Export of class B eggs and egg products	Albania
	Export of table eggs	Turkey
Animal Welfare	On farm, at transport and during slaughter	Serbia
	At Transport and during slaughter	Turkey
Plant Health	Export of potatoes	Turkey
General Enlargement Assessment	General follow-up	Bosnia and Herzegovina, Serbia

A list of audits, categorised by countries in alphabetical order, is shown in [Annex 2](#).

2.5. Audits in Third Countries in 2014

In third countries, the FVO verifies that competent authorities correctly apply relevant EU standards or their equivalent with respect to animals, plants and products intended for export to the European Union.

Most of the audits planned in third countries in the area of *live animals and food of animal origin* are targeted at a review of existing approvals of major trade partners while a smaller number of audits will deal with first applications by third countries for export authorisation.

Besides live animals, products covered are meat, milk, eggs and various products and casings, as well as fish, live bivalve molluscs and animal by-products.

Regular controls on the implementation of residue control programmes are a key element for the listing of third countries for export.

The programme in the area of *food of plant origin and feed* covers primary production of seeds for sprouting, contaminants and pesticides in products such as fruit, vegetables and herbs.

In the *food quality* area, audits are planned on organic farming, both in relation to equivalent third countries and control bodies.

Audits in the area of *plant health* are crucial to prevent the spread of plant pests through imports of fruit and vegetables, cut flowers and plants for planting. One audit is planned in the area of seeds and propagating material.

The readiness of application files (such as timely replies by competent authorities to pre-audit questionnaires) and also certain specific regional circumstances (e.g. security considerations) are major conditions for the completion of the audit programme. Therefore, a number of third country audits can only be programmed provisionally.

Table 7. Audits 2014 in Third Countries

(Some of the subjects below are combined into one mission, as shown in [Annex 3](#) which lists all audits categorised by country in alphabetical order.)

AREA/SECTOR		COUNTRY
Food of Animal Origin – Mammals	Fresh meat (equine meat), meat products, minced meat, meat preparations	Brazil
	Fresh meat (beef, ovine and equine meat)	Argentina
	Fresh meat (pork), meat products, minced meat, meat preparations and casings	Australia
	Fresh meat (beef, pork, game, meat of lagomorphs) and casings	Canada
	Fresh meat (ovine), meat products, minced meat, meat preparations and casings	New Zealand
	Fresh meat (equine), meat products and casings	Mexico
	Fresh meat (bovine meat)	Swaziland (combined with animal health)
	Milk and casings	Russian Federation
	Casings	Egypt, Lebanon, Morocco
Animal By-Products	Animal by-products and derived products	China

AREA/SECTOR			COUNTRY
Food of Animal Origin – Birds	Poultry meat		Moldova, Morocco (both audits combined with animal health audits)
	Poultry meat/ poultry meat products		Argentina, Belarus (combined with animal health), Israel
Food of Animal Origin - Fish	Fishery products		Georgia, Greenland, India (combined with residues audit), Kazakhstan, Mauritius, Moldova (depending on the readiness of the file), Nicaragua, Nigeria, Panama (combined with residues audit), two further third countries ⁸
	(Live) bivalve molluscs		Namibia
	Fishery products and bivalve molluscs		Argentina, Vietnam
Food of Non – Animal Origin	Primary production of seeds for sprouting	Soybeans	Australia, India
		Sesame	Ethiopia
		Mungbeans	Myanmar
	Pesticides	Citrus fruit, grapes	South Africa
		Yard long beans, eggplants, basil	Thailand (combined with GMO audit)
		Fresh vegetables	Vietnam
Food Quality	Organic farming and certification, labelling and marketing of organic products		Argentina, Australia, Canada
	Organic production – equivalent control bodies		2 audits (control bodies to be decided)
Genetically Modified Organisms	Genetically modified Papaya		Thailand (combined with pesticides audit)
Veterinary Medicines and Residues	Residues and controls on veterinary medicinal products		Belarus, India (combined with audit on fishery products), Nicaragua (combined with audit on fishery products), Panama (combined with audit on fishery products), Russian Federation, Tunisia, Ukraine

⁸ Third countries to be decided following the desk study on very small fish exporters.

AREA/SECTOR		COUNTRY
Feed Safety	Feed additives and premixtures	China
Animal Health	General animal health	Belarus, Moldova, Morocco
	Foot-and-mouth disease	Swaziland (<i>combined with fresh meat</i>)
	Live horses	Russian Federation
	Poultry – animal health	Israel
Plant Health	Fruit and vegetables	Cambodia
	Fruit, vegetables and planting material	Sri Lanka
	Fruit, vegetables, cut flowers and planting material	India
	Derogations for potatoes	Russian Federation
	Derogations for coniferous planting material	Russian Federation
Seeds and propagating material	Equivalency of cereal seed	Ukraine

In addition to audits in third countries, the FVO will continue with the desk study on third countries exporting small amounts of fishery products to the EU (table 8):

Table 8. Desk studies 2014 related to third countries

DESK STUDIES IN 2014		SCOPE
Food of Animal Origin/Fish	Fishery products	<p>Second round of a desk study on smaller third country trading partners (below 5,000 tonnes/year) covering 11 countries (Mayotte, Bahamas, Singapore, Belarus, French Polynesia, Hong Kong, Grenada, United Arab Emirates, Antigua, Montenegro, Cuba).</p> <p>Following the desk study, two audits on fishery products are planned.</p>

3. Assessments and Audits in the Human Health Area

3.1. Medical devices

Since 2013, the Food and Veterinary Office has also been active in the area of human health protection.

Together with Designating Authorities from EU Member States, EFTA and ESA countries, the Office has carried out joint assessments in the framework of the *voluntary* 'joint plan for immediate actions' on the performance and designation of Notified Bodies in the medical devices sector. These Notified Bodies (third party conformity assessment bodies) are responsible for assessing that medical devices are in conformity with the requirements of the medical devices Directives. The field is very wide with tens of thousands of devices ranging from plasters to pacemakers.

For 2014 the regulatory environment has changed (Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) No 920/2013) with joint assessments of Notified Bodies being *mandatory*. Although the precise schedule of Notified Body assessments for 2014 envisaged by the Member States, EFTA and ESA countries is not yet clear, the Office estimates that around 25 joint assessments will be carried out in the coming year.

3.2. Active pharmaceutical ingredients

In 2013 the Office performed a number of audits of third countries exporting active pharmaceutical ingredients for medicinal products for human use to the European Union. These audits aimed to verify whether their regulatory frameworks applicable to active substances exported to the Union and the respective control and enforcement activities ensured a level of protection of public health equivalent to that of the Union.

This process will continue 2014. Based on the requests of a number of third countries, it is possible that up to five audits in this area will be undertaken, although audits on-the-spot will only take place in those third countries which have demonstrated on paper that their regulatory and control systems offer equivalent guarantees to Union rules.

4. Activities of the Food and Veterinary Office in 2014 other than Audits

A significant part of the FVO's work programme is made up of desk based control activities and activities to further promote sound regulatory practices in the implementation of controls.

4.1. Cross-sectoral activities

In addition to general follow-up audits, the FVO is also following up the state of recommendations of its audits with a number of desk based activities. This includes regular updates of Member States' country profiles⁹.

⁹ http://ec.europa.eu/food/fvo/country_profiles_en.cfm

Since the entry into force of Regulation (EC) No 882/2004¹⁰, the FVO assesses Member States' Annual Reports on the implementation of their Multi-Annual National Control Plans and provides feedback to Member States, aimed at improving the quality of these reports.

The Office also engages with Member States in regular meetings of Member State experts responsible for Member States' multi-annual national control plans and audit systems. The aim of these meetings is to facilitate exchanges of views and best practices and the development of guidance papers.

As mentioned in chapter 2.3, the FVO prepares regular reports on the operation of official controls in the areas of food safety, animal health and welfare and plant health.

The FVO is also actively involved in the development of Better Training for Safer Food programmes both for Member States and third countries and responsible for the organisation of specific training activities. In 2014/2015 these will be targeted at strengthening Member States' response to FVO audits and improving understanding of relevant EU legislation.

Furthermore, the Office participates in meetings of international standard setting bodies such as CODEX and co-operates with authorities of major third country trade partners.

4.2. Activities in the food safety and animal health areas

In the area of veterinary residues, the FVO is responsible for the evaluation of residue control plans from the 28 Member States and from third countries exporting food of animal origin to the EU (it is estimated that ca. 85 third country plans will be assessed in 2014). Also in relation to third countries' exports, the FVO manages the lists of approved third country establishments for the production of food of animal origin and evaluates questionnaires returned prior to audits for the purpose of first listing. The FVO also contributes to the Commission's technical assistance for third countries to help them meet EU food safety, animal and plant health standards.

In Member States, the Office evaluates plans of Border Inspection Posts and has recently taken over responsibility for the assessment of Member States' national action plans for the sustainable use of pesticides.

4.3. Activities in the animal welfare area

In addition to the organisation of study visits in the area of animal transport, regular meetings of Member States' transport contact points are organised by the FVO.

4.4. Activities in the plant health area

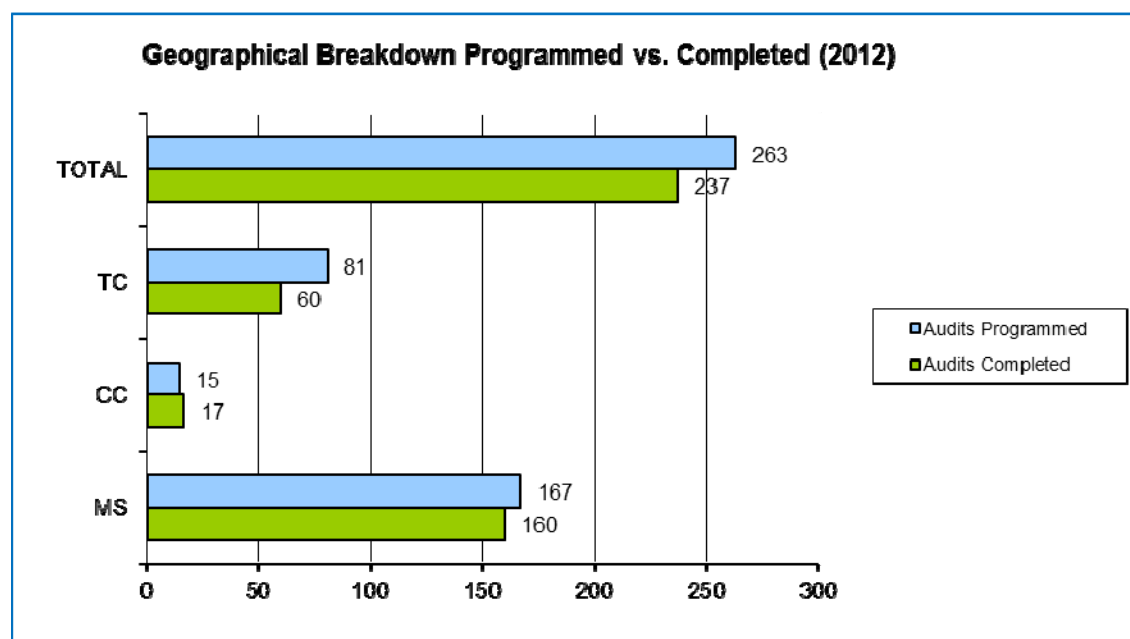
A large amount of non-audit related activities take place in the plant health sector, mainly devoted to the operation of the notification system for plant health interceptions, EUROPHYT. In addition, the FVO collects, analyses and reports on Member States' harmful organism survey results and has recently taken over the task of collecting, analysing and reporting on harmful organism outbreaks found in the EU.

¹⁰ Regulation (EC) No 882/2004 on official controls performed to ensure the verification of compliance with feed and food law, animal health and animal welfare rules

5. Report on the audit programme 2012

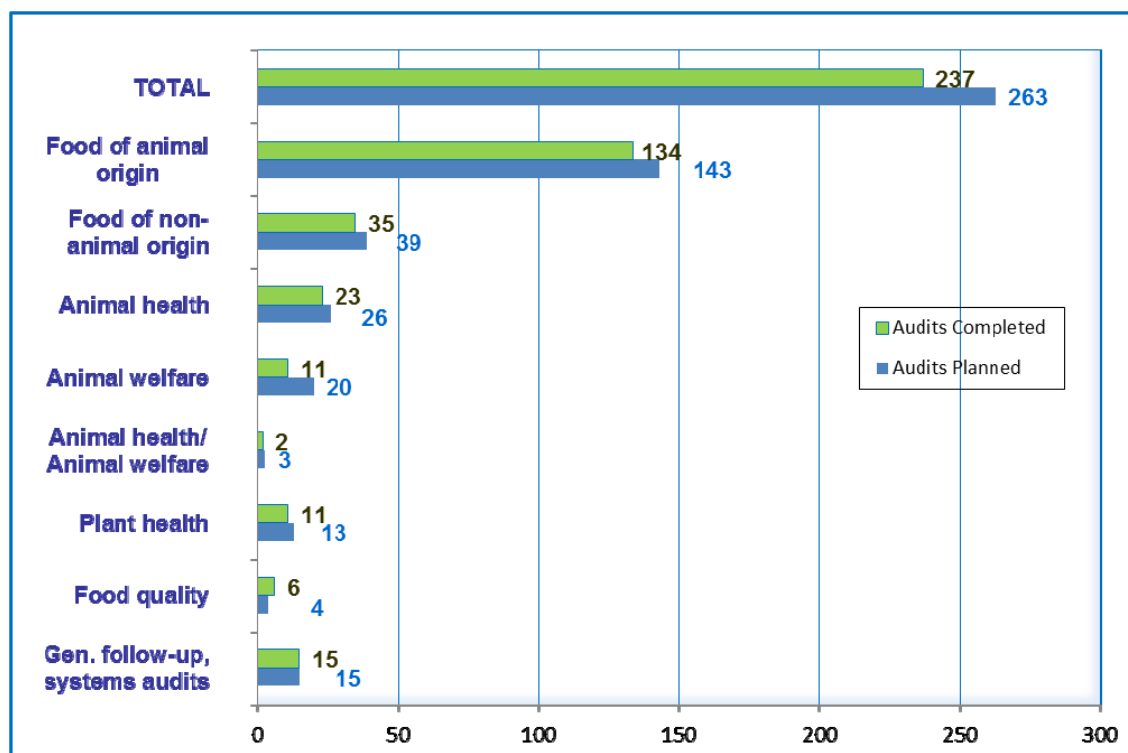
In 2012, the FVO carried out 237 audits. 160 audits (or 68% of all audits) took place in Member States, 17 (7%) in candidate countries and 60 (25%) in third countries. These figures correspond to 4145 days spent on the ground by FVO auditors. Member State national experts contributed an additional 910 days. Chart 1 compares the number of planned and completed audits by region.

Chart 1. Number of Planned and Completed Audits in 2012 by Region



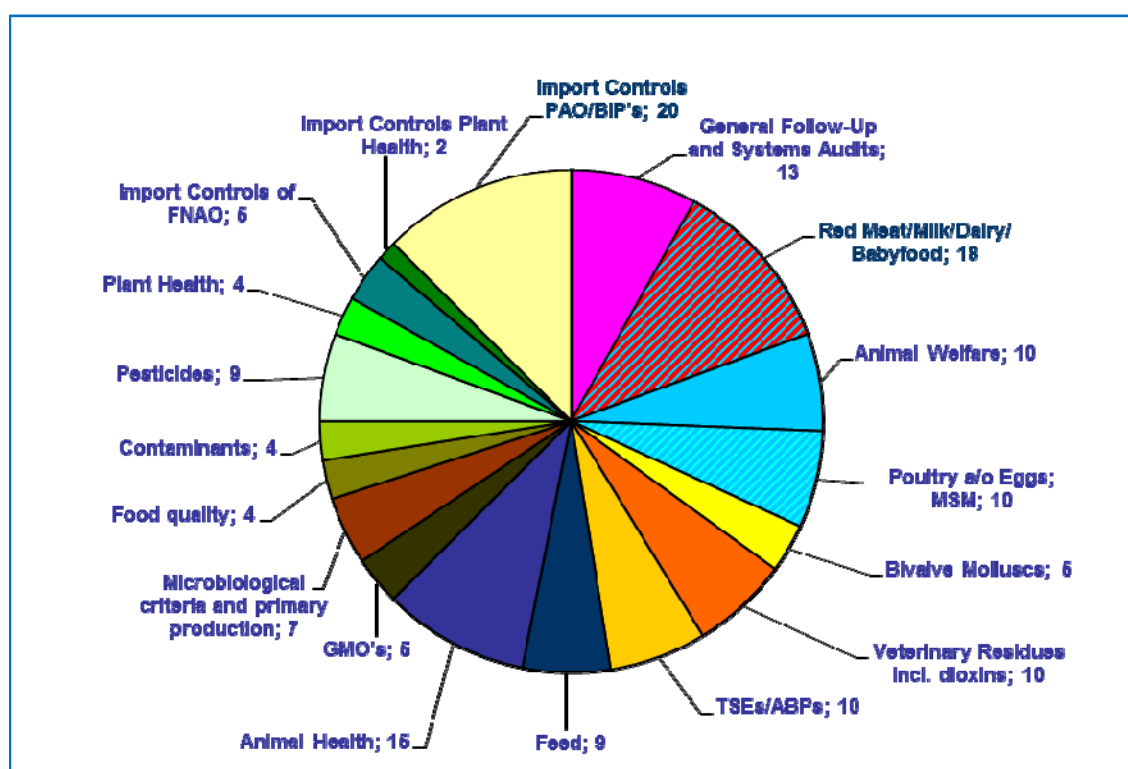
The breakdown by area of responsibility (chart 2) shows that 71% of audits were performed in the field of food safety. 15% of audits dealt exclusively with animal health and welfare, while 5% took place in the plant health area. 3% of audits were related to food quality and 6% of all completed audits were general follow-up audits or systems audits.

Chart 2. Number of Planned and Completed Audits in 2012 by Main Area



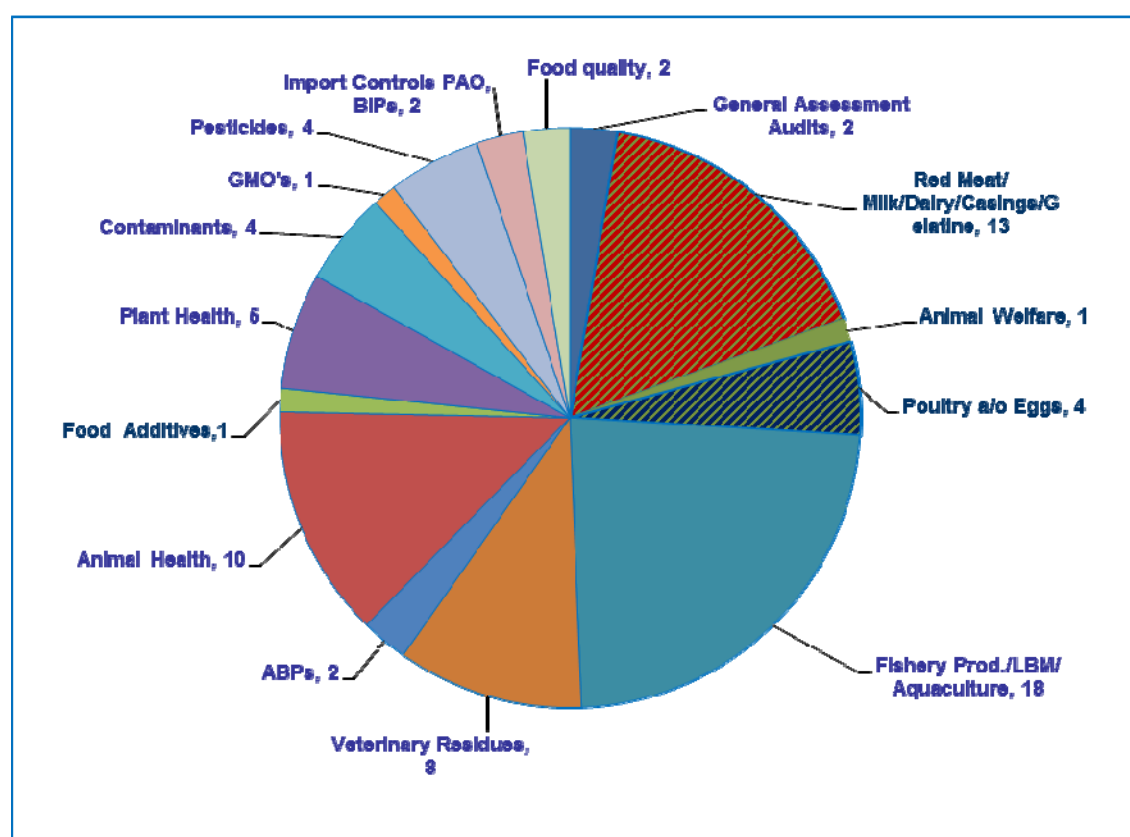
Charts 3 and 4 provide an overview on sectors and commodities covered by the audit programme 2012 in Member States (chart 3) and candidate countries and third countries (chart 4).

Chart 3. Audits in Member States 2012 by Sector/Commodity



Of the audits in Member States, 27 audits were in relation to Member States' import control systems (11% of all audits).

Chart 4. Audits in Candidate Countries and Third Countries 2012 by Sector/Commodity



Apart from the audits specifically targeted at animal welfare, there were animal welfare components to audits on red meat and poultry meat both in Member States and third countries.

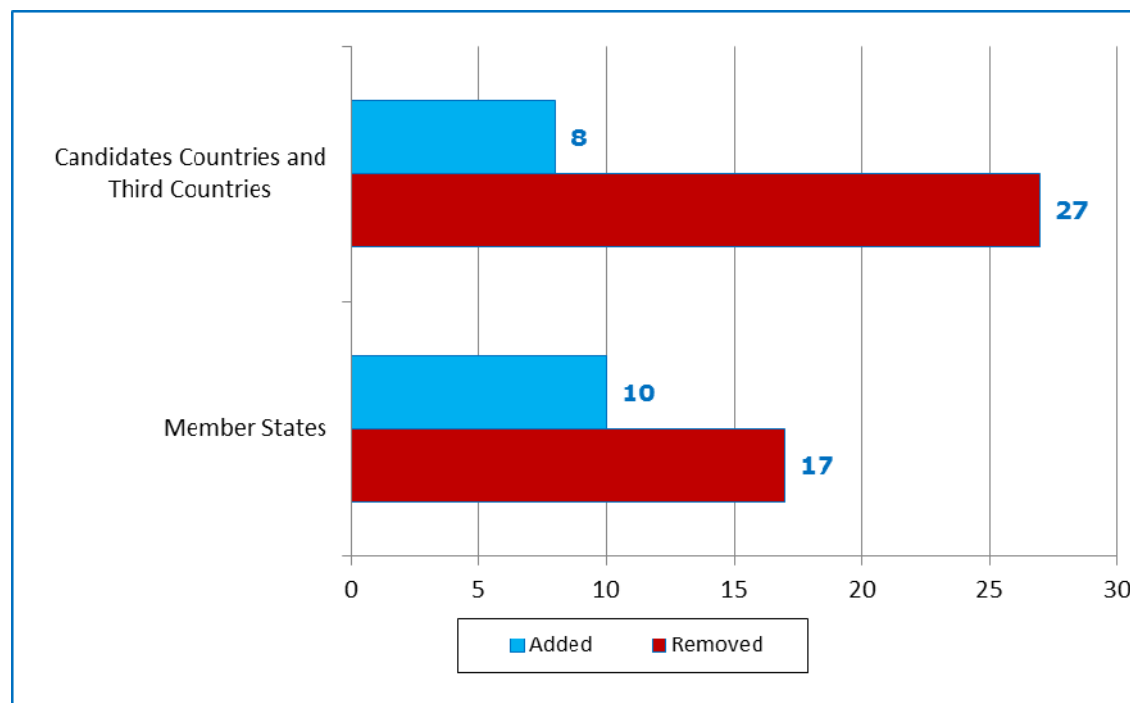
The 237 audits completed in 2012 correspond to 83% of the number of programmed audits. An overview of changes to the programme is given in chart 5.

A certain percentage of programmed audits can usually not be carried out as planned for a number of reasons. In 2012, for example, these included security considerations, competent authority action plans from previous audits that had not yet been fully implemented or replies to pre-audit questionnaires that had not been received by the FVO. In addition, a number of programmed audits in the animal welfare area (relating to cages for laying hens) were replaced by desk based work in DG Health and Consumers and legal proceedings. Audits that were removed from the programme or postponed were replaced where possible by audits from a reserve list.

At the same time, there are always new emerging circumstances or risks that make additions to the programme necessary, leading to the postponement of already planned audits.

Overall, in 2012, 44 audits were removed from the programme or postponed (17 in Member States and 27 in candidate countries and third countries) and 18 new priorities were added (10 in Member States and 8 in candidate countries and third countries).

Chart 5. Overview on programme changes in 2012



The audit reports of the Food and Veterinary Office are published on the DG Health and Consumers website:

http://ec.europa.eu/food/fvo/ir_search_en.cfm

Annex 1: Audits in Member States 2014, by country in alphabetical order

MEMBER STATE	THEME	REFERENCE NUMBER
<u>Belgique/België</u> <u>(Belgium)</u>	Poultry meat/poultry meat products HACCP Salmonella control programmes (breeders, laying hens, broilers, turkeys) Animal welfare at the time of slaughter	2014-7151 2014-7091 2014-7152 2014-7059
<u>България</u> <u>(Bulgaria)</u>	Rabies eradication programme Import controls of food of plant origin Import control system (verification of effectiveness) General follow-up	2014-7057 2014-7187 2014-7025 2014-7004
<u>Česká republika</u> <u>(Czech Republic)</u>	Food supplements Animal welfare at the time of slaughter HACCP Organic farming and certification, labelling and marketing of organic products Traceability of ABP and derived products	2014-7180 2014-7060 2014-7120 2014-7099 2014-7068
<u>Danmark</u> <u>(Denmark)</u>	HACCP Animal welfare at the time of slaughter Pesticides General follow-up Hygiene Package (meat/milk)	2014-7092 2014-7061 2014-7184 2014-7007 2014-7228
<u>Deutschland</u> <u>(Germany)</u>	Dioxins monitoring in feed Poultry meat/poultry meat products HACCP Animal welfare at the time of slaughter Longhorn beetles <i>Anoplophora</i> and <i>Aromia</i> Traceability of ABP and derived products Fishery products Surveillance and risk identification/management - plant health	2014-7038 2014-7156 2014-7121 2014-7073 2014-7197 2014-7065 2014-7134 2014-7202
<u>Eesti (Estonia)</u>	Contaminants Fishery products Traceability of ABP and derived products	2014-7166 2014-7132 2014-7066
<u>Éire/Ireland</u>	HACCP Animal welfare during transport - study visit Fishery products Tuberculosis eradication programme Import control system (verification of effectiveness) Aquaculture General follow-up	2014-7093 2014-7082 2014-7129 2014-7054 2014-7019 2014-7125 2014-7010

<u>MEMBER STATE</u>	<u>THEME</u>	<u>REFERENCE NUMBER</u>
<u>Ελλάδα (Greece)</u>	Veterinary medicines and residues (live animals and animal products)	2014-7027
	Fishery products	2014-7128
	Brucellosis eradication programme	2014-7056
	Live bivalve molluscs	2014-7127
<u>España (Spain)</u>	Approved bodies under Dir. 92/65	2014-7050
	Animal welfare at the time of slaughter	2014-7079
	Plant pest outbreaks (Kiwi vine canker)	2014-7194
	Plant pest outbreaks (<i>Bursaphelenchus xylophilus</i>) (<i>both plant health audits combined</i>)	2014-7195
	TRACES	2014-7017
	Bee diseases	2014-7053
	Traceability of ABP and derived products	2014-7041
<u>France</u>	Primary production	2014-7174
	Animal welfare during transport - study visit	2014-7081
	Hygiene Package (milk)	2014-7210
	Traceability of ABP and derived products	2014-7042
	HACCP	2014-7103
	Surveillance and risk identification/management - plant health	2014-7191
	Plant pest outbreaks (Kiwi vine canker) (<i>both plant health audits combined</i>)	2014-7196
	Primary production	2014-7172
	Contingency plans	2014-7044
<u>Hrvatska (Croatia)</u>	General follow-up	2014-7009
	Import controls of animals and food of animal origin (BIP based controls)	2014-7000
	Hygiene Package (meat/milk)	2014-7218
	Fishery products; live bivalve molluscs	2014-7131
	Poultry meat/poultry meat products	2014-7153
<u>Italia (Italy)</u>	General follow-up	2014-7005
	Dioxins monitoring in feed	2014-7037
	Animal welfare at the time of slaughter	2014-7075
	Longhorn beetles <i>Anoplophora</i> and <i>Aromia</i>	2014-7192
<u>Κύπρος (Kypros)/Kıbrıs (Cyprus)</u>	Geographical indications scheme	2014-7108
	Veterinary medicines and residues (live animals and animal products)	2014-7028
	Salmonella control programmes (breeders, laying hens, broilers, turkeys)	2014-7154
<u>Latvija (Latvia)</u>	Primary production	2014-7171
	Animal welfare at the time of slaughter	2014-7077
	Traceability of ABP and derived products	2014-7062
<u>Lietuva (Lithuania)</u>	Post-slaughter traceability	2014-7230
	Traceability of ABP and derived products	2014-7106
	General follow-up	2014-7063
<u>Luxembourg</u>		2014-7011
	Hygiene Package (meat/milk)	2014-7219

<u>MEMBER STATE</u>	<u>THEME</u>	<u>REFERENCE NUMBER</u>
	Post-slaughter traceability	2014-7232
<u>Magyarország (Hungary)</u>	Salmonella control programmes (breeders, laying hens, broilers, turkeys)	2014-7157
	Import control system (verification of effectiveness) <i>(combined with TRACES)</i>	2014-7008
	TRACES <i>(combined with verification systems)</i>	2014-7012
	Surveillance and risk identification/management - plant health	2014-7201
	Animal welfare at the time of slaughter	2014-7072
	Approved bodies under Dir. 92/65	2014-7048
	Traceability of ABP and derived products	2014-7071
<u>Malta</u>	Import controls of animals and food of animal origin (BIP based controls)	2014-7003
	TRACES <i>(both audits combined)</i>	2014-7006
<u>Nederland (Netherlands)</u>	Emergency preparedness	2014-7165
	Fishery products	2014-7140
	Surveillance and risk identification/management - plant health	2014-7190
	HACCP	2014-7104
	Animal welfare at the time of slaughter	2014-7078
	Organic farming and certification, labelling and marketing of organic products	2014-7105
	Geographical indications scheme	2014-7109
<u>Österreich (Austria)</u>	TRACES	2014-7024
	Contingency plans	2014-7043
	Traceability of ABP and derived products	2014-7039
	Animal welfare at the time of slaughter	2014-7058
	General follow-up	2014-7001
<u>Polska (Poland)</u>	TRACES	2014-7002
	Traceability of ABP and derived products	2014-7064
	Food supplements	2014-7185
	Approved bodies under Dir. 92/65	2014-7049
	Poultry meat/poultry meat products	2014-7160
	Post-slaughter traceability	2014-7237
	Potatoes - plant health	2014-7204
<u>Portugal</u>	General follow-up	2014-7013
	TRACES	2014-6999
	Plant pest outbreaks (<i>Bursaphelenchus xylophilus</i>)	2014-7193
	Fishery products	2014-7144
	Traceability of ABP and derived products	2014-7069
	Salmonella control programmes (breeders, laying hens, broilers, turkeys)	2014-7161
<u>România (Romania)</u>	General follow-up	2014-7015
	Pesticides	2014-7179
	Contaminants	2014-7168
	Hygiene Package (meat)	2014-7225
	Primary production	2014-7173

<u>MEMBER STATE</u>	<u>THEME</u>	<u>REFERENCE NUMBER</u>
	Import controls of animals and food of animal origin (BIP based controls) TRACES Import controls of food of plant origin (<i>the three import control audits combined</i>) Contingency plans General follow-up	2014-7022 2014-7023 2014-7188 2014-7045 2014-7016
<u>Slovenija (Slovenia)</u>	Animal welfare during transport - study visit Emergency preparedness HACCP Geographical indications scheme	2014-7083 2014-7090 2014-7095 2014-7102
<u>Slovensko (Slovakia)</u>	Contingency plans Organic farming and certification, labelling and marketing of organic products Pesticides Import control systems (verification systems)	2014-7046 2014-7098 2014-7183 2014-7021
<u>Suomi/Finland</u>	Poultry meat/poultry meat products Pesticides TRACES Organic farming and certification, labelling and marketing of organic products Traceability of ABP and derived products	2014-7155 2014-7181 2014-7026 2014-7101 2014-7067
<u>Sverige (Sweden)</u>	Pesticides Traceability of ABP and derived products Hygiene Package (meat/milk) Aquaculture	2014-7182 2014-7040 2014-7229 2014-7126
<u>United Kingdom</u>	Risk management along the feed chain; dioxins monitoring Contaminants Tuberculosis eradication programme Animal welfare at the time of slaughter HACCP Import control system (verification of effectiveness) Genetically modified food and feed, and environmental release of GMOs Traceability of ABP and derived products	2014-7036 2014-7167 2014-7055 2014-7080 2014-7094 2014-7014 2014-7209 2014-7070

Annex 2: Audits in Acceding and Candidate Countries 2014, by country in alphabetical order

<u>CANDIDATE COUNTRY</u>	<u>THEME</u>	<u>REFERENCE NUMBER</u>
<u>Crna Gora/Црна Гора (Montenegro)</u>	Upgrading of food-processing establishments (fresh meat, milk)	2014-7224
<u>Ísland (Iceland)</u>	Fresh meat, meat preparations, casings (<i>export-related</i>)	2014-7231
<u>поранешна југословенска Република Македонија (former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, the)</u>	Upgrading of food-processing establishments (fresh meat, milk)	2014-7217
<u>Србија (Serbia)</u>	Upgrading of food-processing establishments (fresh meat, milk) General animal welfare General follow-up - enlargement	2014-7220 2014-7084 2014-7020
<u>Türkiye (Turkey)</u>	Upgrading of food-processing establishments (fresh meat, milk) Eggs (<i>export-related</i>) Animal welfare during transport and at the time of slaughter Potatoes - plant health (<i>export-related</i>)	2014-7213 2014-7162 2014-7086 2014-7198

Annex 3: Audits in Third Countries 2014, by country in alphabetical order

<u>THIRD COUNTRY</u>	<u>THEME</u>	<u>REFERENCE NUMBER</u>
<u>AL - Albania</u>	Eggs; egg products	2014-7148
<u>AR - Argentina</u>	Organic farming and certification, labelling and marketing of organic products	2014-7096
	Poultry meat/poultry meat products	2014-7149
	Fresh meat	2014-7226
	Fishery products; live bivalve molluscs	2014-7130
<u>AU - Australia</u>	Organic farming and certification, labelling and marketing of organic products	2014-7122
	Fresh meat; animal casings	2014-7222
	Primary production	2014-7176
<u>BR - Brazil</u>	Fresh meat, meat preparations	2014-7234
<u>BY - Belarus</u>	Veterinary medicines and residues (live animals and animal products)	2014-7032
	Poultry meat/poultry meat products	2014-7150
<u>BA - Bosnia and Herzegovina</u>	Milk/milk based products	2014-7212
	General follow-up - enlargement	2014-7018
<u>CA - Canada</u>	Fresh meat, casings	2014-7216
	Organic farming and certification, labelling and marketing of organic products	2014-7100
<u>CN - China</u>	Feed safety (feed additives and premixtures)	2014-7074
	Traceability of ABP and derived products	2014-7076
<u>EG - Egypt</u>	Animal casings	2014-7236
<u>ET - Ethiopia</u>	Primary production	2014-7175
<u>GE - Georgia</u>	Fishery products	2014-7133
<u>GL - Greenland</u>	Fishery products	2014-7135
<u>IL - Israel</u>	Poultry - animal health	2014-7087
	Poultry meat/poultry meat products (<i>both audits combined</i>)	2014-7158
<u>IN - India</u>	Fishery products (<i>combined with residues audit</i>)	2014-7136
	Veterinary medicines and residues (live animals and animal products) (<i>combined with fishery products</i>)	2014-7029
	Primary production	2014-7170
	Fruit and vegetables, cut flowers and planting material - plant health	2014-7205
<u>KH - Cambodia</u>	Fruit and vegetables, cut flowers and planting material - plant health	2014-7206
<u>KZ - Kazakhstan</u>	Fishery products	2014-7137
<u>LB - Lebanon</u>	Animal casings	2014-7235
<u>LK - Sri Lanka</u>	Fruit and vegetables, cut flowers and planting material - plant health	2014-7207
<u>MA - Morocco</u>	Animal casings	2014-7214
	Poultry meat/poultry meat products	2014-7159
<u>MD - Moldova, Republic of</u>	Fishery products	2014-7139
	Poultry meat/poultry meat products; eggs; honey	2014-7239
<u>MM - Myanmar</u>	Primary production	2014-7169

<u>THIRD COUNTRY</u>	<u>THEME</u>	<u>REFERENCE NUMBER</u>
<u>MU – Mauritius</u>	Fishery products	2014-7138
<u>MX – Mexico</u>	Horsemeat; meat products, casings	2014-7223
<u>NA – Namibia</u>	Bivalve molluscs	2014-7163
<u>NG – Nigeria</u>	Fishery products	2014-7142
<u>NI – Nicaragua</u>	Veterinary medicines and residues (live animals and animal products)	2014-7034
	Fishery products (<i>both audits combined</i>)	2014-7141
<u>NZ – New Zealand</u>	Fresh meat; animal casings	2014-7233
<u>PA – Panama</u>	Fishery products	2014-7143
	Veterinary medicines and residues (live animals and animal products) (<i>both audits combined</i>)	2014-7030
<u>RU – Russian Federation</u>	Potatoes - plant health	2014-7199
	Live horses - animal health	2014-7088
	Veterinary medicines and residues (live animals and animal products)	2014-7031
	Milk; casings	2014-7227
	Coniferous planting material	2014-7208
<u>SZ – Swaziland</u>	General animal health	2014-7089
	Fresh meat (<i>both audits combined</i>)	2014-7245
<u>TH – Thailand</u>	Pesticides	2014-7178
	Genetically modified food and feed (<i>both audits combined</i>)	2014-7200
<u>TN – Tunisia</u>	Veterinary medicines and residues (live animals and animal products)	2014-7035
<u>UA – Ukraine</u>	Veterinary medicines and residues (live animals and animal products)	2014-7033
	Seeds equivalency	2014-7203
<u>VN – Viet Nam</u>	Pesticides	2014-7177
	Fishery products; bivalve molluscs	2014-7147
<u>ZA – South Africa</u>	Pesticides	2014-7186

NB. Two additional third country audits are planned on fishery products (countries to be confirmed following the desk study on small fish exporters) as well as two additional audits on organic farming (equivalent control bodies)

