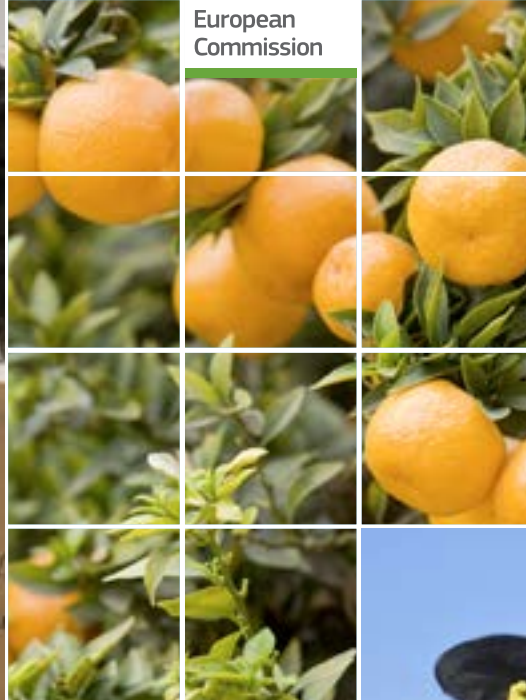




European
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Food and
Veterinary Office

Work Programme 2015

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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	3
2.1.	Strategic multi-annual outline of audit themes in Member States 2015 to 2017	3
2.2.	Number and Distribution of Audits in 2015	6
2.3.	Audits in Member States	7
2.4.	Audits in Candidate Countries	13
2.5.	Audits in Third Countries	14
3.	Assessments and Audits in the Human Health Area	16
4.	Activities of the Food and Veterinary Office in 2015 other than Audits	16
4.1.	Cross-sectoral activities	16
4.2.	Activities in the food safety and animal health areas	17
4.3.	Activities in the animal welfare area	17
4.4.	Activities in the plant health area	17
5.	Report on the audit programme 2013	18
Annex 1:	Audits in Member States 2015, by country in alphabetical order	21
Annex 2:	Audits in Candidate Countries 2015, by country in alphabetical order	25
Annex 3:	Audits in Third Countries 2015, by country in alphabetical order	25

1. Introduction

Working from within the European Commission's Directorate-General for Health and Food Safety, the Food and Veterinary Office (FVO) carries out audits and other related activities to ensure that EU legislation on food safety, animal health, animal welfare, plant health and some areas of human health is properly implemented and enforced.

The FVO's control activities contribute to the effective enforcement of EU requirements within the EU and in third countries exporting animals, plants and products to the EU. Its reports provide feed-back to risk managers in the European Commission and in national competent authorities and are a solid basis for ensuring that legislation is fit for purpose.

These activities help to ensure that EU citizens can enjoy a high level of safety and that trade can take place in safe and fair conditions.

This document sets out the work programme of the FVO for 2015. The work programme is developed in consultation with other Commission services and with Member States, taking into consideration risk as well as trade and regulatory factors.

Chapter [2](#) 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 [3](#) gives an outline of the programme of audits and assessments in the human health area.

In addition to audits and their follow-up, the FVO carries out a large amount of related non-audit work. This is described in more detail in chapter [4](#).

Finally, this document also contains a short report on the execution of the FVO's audit programme 2013 (chapter [5](#)).

The FVO's work programme is published at the website of DG Health and Food Safety:

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

It 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 2015.

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 2015 to 2017

Table 1 presents the multi-annual strategic plan of the FVO's priorities for the years 2015 – 2017. The table gives an indication of the themes that will be assessed through audit series and desk studies as well as the time period during which the Office intends to carry out this work. The strategic plan is reviewed on an annual basis and updated, if necessary, to take account of emerging issues and any unforeseen circumstances.

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

AREA/ SECTOR	2015	2016	2017	
Cross-Sectoral Priorities		HACCP ¹		
	Organic Farming/Geographical Indicators			
	Aquaculture	Poultry meat production chain		
	Composite products			
	Post-slaughter traceability of meat and meat products			
	Food Improvement Agents			
		Food labelling		
	Anti-microbial resistance (AMR)			
	High Pressure Processing (Pascalisation)			
	Means of transport ("Previous cargoes")			
	National audit systems			
General Follow-Up	General follow-up			
Food of Animal Origin/ Mammals	Slaughter hygiene (bovine and ovine)			
	Rendered fat and blood products			
	Milk – mechanically separated meat – gelatine ²			
Food of Animal Origin/ Birds	Poultry meat – <i>Salmonella</i> control programmes			
	Eggs and egg products			
	Campylobacter			
Food of Animal Origin/ Fish	Hygiene package: fishery products			
	Traceability and labelling of fishery products			
	Additives in fishery products			
	Co-ordinated control programme – fish			

¹ depending on the outcome of the 2014 project

² small number of specific follow-up audits / organised on a case by case basis

AREA/ SECTOR	2015	2016	2017
Pesticides	Authorization of Plant Protection Products (PPP)		
	Marketing and use of PPP and sustainable use of pesticides		
Food of Non-Animal Origin	Primary production – microbiological contamination		
GMOs		GMOs	
Food Quality	Pesticide residue testing in organic farming		
Plant Health	Plant health – Potatoes		
	Surveillance and risk identification/management		
	Plant pest outbreaks		
Veterinary Medicines & Residues	Residues and contaminants in food of animal origin		Veterinary medicinal products / medicated feedingstuff
		Medicated feedingstuff	
Feed	Feed importers		
		Feed: private schemes and official controls	
ABP / TSEs	Traceability of ABP	Animal by-products (ABP)	
	Feed ban (aquaculture feed)	Feed ban (pig feed)	Feed ban (poultry feed)
Animal Health	Prevention of animal diseases - contingency planning		
	Traceability of ruminants and pigs		
	Approved zoos and laboratories		
	Bee diseases		
	EU funded eradication programmes		
Animal Welfare	Welfare at slaughter	Animal transport	
	Animal welfare strategy: training		
Import Controls		Re-Enforced Checks Regime	Implementation of safeguard measures
	Transiting goods for ship supply / customs warehousing		
	Import controls – live animals and food of animal origin – food of plant origin (follow-up)		
	Import controls - plant health		

Table 1 shows priorities by area and sector (shaded in green), apart from themes listed in its first section (shaded in blue) which will be addressed horizontally, across sectors. As an example, aquaculture is being assessed under the headings of public health, animal health and welfare, feed, labelling and traceability.

A number of these cross-sectoral priorities were already identified for the 2014 work programme, like aquaculture, composite products, post-slaughter traceability of meat and meat products and food additives and work on these subjects is in progress. Audits in the food quality area (organic farming and geographical indications) are also continuing.

New cross-cutting themes are anti-microbial resistance monitoring and national audit systems in accordance with Art. 4(6) of Regulation (EC) No 882/2004. Smaller projects will look at high pressure processing (pascalisation) and means of transport for food.

New sectoral priorities are, amongst others, slaughter hygiene (bovine and ovine sectors), eggs and egg products, Campylobacter, traceability and labelling of fishery products, additives in fishery products, training in the animal welfare sector and finally, in the area of import controls of live animals and products of animal origin, controls on transiting goods and the re-enforced checks regime.

Cross-cutting priorities 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 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 State experts in the framework of the Better Training for Safer Food (BTSF) programme to discuss common problems identified and exchange best practice.

The detailed programme for 2015 is presented in the following sections of this chapter.

2.2. Number and Distribution of Audits in 2015

As shown in table 2, a total of 221 audits are planned for 2015, corresponding to roughly 4,400 auditor days on the ground, travel time excluded.

Table 2. Breakdown of Audits 2015 by Main Areas:

Area	No. of Audits	%
Food Safety	150	68
Food Quality	14	6
Animal Health	15	7
Animal Welfare	11	5
Plant Health/Seeds	22	10
General Follow-Up Audits	9	4
Total	221	100%

As usual, audits in the food safety area make up the main part of the programme (68%). In line with the "farm to fork" approach, a large number of food safety audits naturally also cover animal health and welfare elements. 12% of audits will specifically focus on controls in the animal health and welfare areas, and a further 10% of audits are targeted at phytosanitary controls and seeds.

In addition, 6% of controls will be in the area of food quality (organic farming and geographical indicators). Finally, general follow-up audits make up another 4% of the planned programme.

Table 3 provides an overview of the geographical breakdown of audits in 2015:

Table 3. Geographical Breakdown of Audits 2015:

Country	No. of Audits	%
EU-28	161	73
Acceding and Candidate countries	4	2
Other third countries	56	25
Total	221	100%

In 2015, 73% of the audits will take place in the European Union. 2% of audits are planned in candidate countries and 25% 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 36% 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 2015.

2.3. Audits in Member States

Cross-sectoral priorities

As already mentioned, work on the following cross-sectoral priorities is in progress:

1. *Organic farming and labelling³ and geographical indication schemes⁴*: 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 the sectors.
2. *Aquaculture*: Horizontal assessment of compliance with a wide range of legislation covering public health, animal health and welfare, feed used, residues, traceability and labelling. Additional standards like organic production, Good Aquaculture Practice, private quality labels and certificates and environmental aspects will also be evaluated. Following the completion of the desk study and pilot audits in 2014, a short audit series is planned for 2015.
3. *Composite products*: In 2015, a desk study is being carried out to obtain an overview of measures implemented by competent authorities of Member States and by food business operators that produce and import composite products to ensure that these products comply with EU animal and public health requirements. The results of the desk study will determine further activities in this area, such as audits.

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

4. *Post-slaughter traceability*: Following the desk analysis and short audit series in 2014, a further series of audits will be organised in 2015 with a view to evaluating the organisation and effectiveness of official controls on trade in meat (all species), meat products and preparations and, where appropriate, composite products. In particular, the audits will focus on official checks on the reconciliation of quantities produced, received, stored, processed and dispatched.
5. *Food improvement agents package*: The first phase of this project deals with the use of food additives in meat products, preparations and composite products. The scope of the project includes controls on blending, distribution, import labelling and purity of food additives. Special attention will be paid to the use of nitrates, food flavourings and smoke flavourings.
6. *Anti-microbial resistance (AMR) monitoring*: New legislation (Decision 2013/652/EU) extends AMR control requirements to pigs and calves and extends the range of indicator organisms monitored for. Member States will be obliged to carry out sampling of poultry and pigs/calves in alternate years. The audits will examine how AMR monitoring is being carried out in the Member States and its results will feed into the production of an interim overview report which is one of the deliverables foreseen in the Commission's five-year Action Plan against the rising threats from AMR.
7. *High pressure processing (Pascalisation)*: The objectives of this project are (1) to obtain an overview of the use of this technology by the food industry in the EU, and Member States' controls aimed at ensuring that its use, in particular, and new food-processing technologies in general do not pose a food safety risk; (2) to determine the extent to which current legislation provides a basis for effective official controls on the use of high pressure processing or similar food processing technologies.
8. *Means of transport*: The intention is to determine the extent to which transport vehicles and ships are used for potentially hazardous commodities and subsequently to transport food and whether this practice poses risks for food safety, and to evaluate the extent and effectiveness of official controls on means of transport for food.
9. *National audit systems*: Competent authorities are required, in accordance with Article 4(6) of Regulation (EC) No. 882/2004, to carry out internal audits or to have external audits carried out of their official control systems. The objectives of this project are, inter alia, to assess national audit systems in Member States with a view to identifying good practices and problematic areas and to provide feed-back to the managers of the European Commission and national competent authorities on the extent to which EU policy objectives are being achieved. A desk study and two pilot audits are planned for 2015.

Follow-up

Of the 161 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 of previous audits. The results of the general follow-up audits will also be used to update country profiles. In addition to these audits, further desk-based follow-up work will be carried out.

Food of animal origin and residues

In the area of *food of animal origin*, a new series of "study visits" will be launched to deal with *slaughter hygiene* in the bovine and ovine sectors. This will entail bringing groups of officials from Member States to another Member State (where there are good standards or where there are potential problems) to facilitate the exchange of ideas and strategies.

To improve knowledge of production, trade patterns and risks associated with *rendered fats and blood products for human consumption*, a desk study was commenced in 2014 and will be supplemented by two fact-finding missions in 2015.

According to the scientific report of EFSA and ECDC on Trends and Sources of Zoonoses, Zoonotic Agents and Food-borne Outbreaks in 2012, *eggs and egg products* belong to the most important food sources of outbreaks. A new series of audits on this sector will start in 2015. In addition, a first fact-finding mission is planned on *Campylobacter* (the most commonly reported gastrointestinal bacterial pathogen in humans). In parallel, the Commission is carrying out a desk study on this subject, the results of which will define further action (such as audits) in 2016.

The audit series on *fishery products* (with focus on production and microbiological criteria) will be concluded in 2015, and a new series will begin looking at *traceability and labelling of fishery products*.

Follow-up audits are planned on *milk and milk products* as well as on *Salmonella* control plans for poultry populations.

Audits on *veterinary medicines and residues in food of animal origin* are a regular element of the audit programme. Controls on veterinary medicinal products are important in view of the Commission's strategy on tackling antimicrobial resistance (AMR) by, inter alia, promoting prudent use of antimicrobials.

Food of plant origin (including compound food) and pesticides

The work in the areas of *pesticides* (authorization of plant protection products, marketing and use controls and sustainable use of pesticides) will be continued in 2015. A new series will specifically deal with *pesticide residue testing in organic farming*.

Work in the *primary production* sector resulted from the EHEC crisis in Germany, where primary production was cited by EFSA as the most likely source of the contamination. Following on from the series of audits and specific meetings with Member States in 2014, a new series, focussing on countries growing seeds for sprouting, is planned for 2015.

Feed and animal nutrition; animal by-products

In the feed sector, following the desk-study concerning *feed importers*, a number of fact-finding missions will be organised to assess the functioning of the system of official controls on this activity. Two study-visits will deal with the integration of *private certification schemes* and official controls.

In addition, audits are planned in relation to the *derogation concerning the use of processed animal proteins* of non-ruminant origin for feeding of aquaculture animals.

A number of follow-up audits will take place regarding the arrangements for collection and disposal/use of *animal by-products (ABP) and derived products* to monitor the progress made in relation to recommendations of earlier audits in this field.

Animal health and animal welfare

In the area of *animal health*, audits on *EU-funded eradication programmes* (for rabies, bovine tuberculosis, sheep and goat brucellosis, African swine fever) as well as on *contingency planning* are continuing in 2015. Since 2013, an annual workshop has been gathering experts from Member States to exchange their experience in relation to emergency preparedness and to define activities which could contribute to a better preparation of the EU for animal health threats.

Other audit themes in the area of animal health are *bee diseases, approved zoos and laboratories* and the *traceability of ruminants and pigs*.

The majority of *animal welfare* audits will look at *training* in the various livestock sectors – as the EU Strategy for the protection and welfare of animals 2012 – 2015 has noted that many of the parties involved lack sufficient knowledge about animal welfare.

A small number of follow-up audits are planned on *animal welfare at slaughter*.

Plant health

Plant health remains an important part of the FVO's audit programme. Work in 2015 will focus again on a number of serious *plant pest outbreaks*, such as *Anoplophora*, *Pomacea*, *Xylella fastidiosa* and Thousand canker disease, and on plant health *surveillance and risk identification*, in line with the new Plant Health Regime that contains proposals for pro-active surveillance of EU priority organisms and potential quarantine pests.

In addition to the plant health audit programme, a *Task Force* comprising FVO staff and a number of Member States experts will carry out several visits to Portugal and Spain to monitor the implementation of the *pinewood nematode control programme*. These visits will be more consultative and advisory in nature and should be seen in the context of additional support, including financial, to the countries fighting this pest.

Import controls

Finally, audits on Member States' import control systems are an essential, regular element of the programme. In relation to imports of live animals and food of animal origin, two new series are planned for 2015, covering the implementation of safeguard decisions and application of *the re-enforced checks regime* on imported products of animal origin and the *traceability of transiting goods* for ship supply / customs warehousing.

Import control audits are also planned in the plant health area, in combination with the above-mentioned series on surveillance and risk identification/management.

Overview Reports

The results of all audit series and, where relevant, desk studies will be summarised in overview reports providing information to all stakeholders on the state of implementation of EU legislation and the problems and good practices identified across the Member States.

The overview reports are published on the website of DG Health and Food Safety:

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

The reports will also be discussed with Member State experts in a series of 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 States⁵. 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).

An overview of all audits planned in Member States in 2015 is provided in Table 4:

⁵ http://ec.europa.eu/food/fvo/annualreports/index_en.htm

Table 4. Audits in Member States in 2015

CROSS-SECTORAL PRIORITIES		COUNTRY
Aquaculture		Greece, Italy, Poland, Spain, United Kingdom
Post-slaughter traceability of meat and meat products		Cyprus, Czech Republic, Estonia, France, Greece, Netherlands, Slovakia, Spain, Sweden
Organic Farming and certification, labelling and marketing of organic products		Bulgaria, Denmark, Lithuania, Sweden
Geographical Indicators (PDO, PGI, TSG)		Finland, France, Spain
Food Improvement Agents Package: Food additives		Austria, Czech Republic, Germany, Hungary, Netherlands, Poland
Anti-microbial resistance (AMR) monitoring		Denmark, Germany
High Pressure Processing (Pascalisation)		Ireland, Romania <i>(fact-finding)</i>
Means of transport ("Previous cargoes")		Austria, Germany <i>(fact-finding)</i>
National Audit Systems		Two Member States to be confirmed <i>(fact-finding)</i>
GENERAL FOLLOW-UP		COUNTRY
General follow-up (audits)		Belgium, Bulgaria, Czech Republic, Finland, Germany, Greece, Latvia, Spain, United Kingdom
General follow-up (desk-based)		Luxembourg, Romania, Slovakia
FOOD OF ANIMAL ORIGIN		COUNTRY
Food of Animal Origin - Mammals	Slaughter hygiene (bovine and ovine)	Belgium, Ireland, Lithuania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Sweden, United Kingdom
	Rendered fat and blood products for human consumption	Denmark, Netherlands <i>(fact-finding)</i>
	Milk and milk products	Bulgaria, Ireland, Italy, Spain
Food of Animal Origin - Birds	Eggs and Egg products	France, Netherlands, United Kingdom
	Campylobacter <i>(fact-finding)</i>	United Kingdom
	Salmonella control programmes - poultry	Germany, Malta, Poland, Romania,

Food of Animal Origin – Fish	Fishery products	Denmark, France, Sweden	
	Traceability and labelling of fishery products	Germany, Spain, Netherlands, United Kingdom	
Veterinary Medicines and Residues	Residues in food of animal origin	Belgium, Croatia, Poland, Portugal, Sweden	
FOOD OF PLANT ORIGIN		COUNTRY	
Pesticides	Marketing and use of plant protection products	Austria, Belgium, Croatia, France, Greece, Italy, Netherlands, Portugal	
Primary production	Microbiological contamination	Belgium, Bulgaria, Czech Republic, Denmark, Finland, Italy, Netherlands, Portugal, Sweden, United Kingdom	
Food quality	Pesticide residue testing in organic farming	Finland, Germany, Poland, United Kingdom	
FEED AND ANIMAL NUTRITION		COUNTRY	
Feed Safety	Feed importers	Germany, Lithuania	
	Private schemes and official controls on feed	Belgium, France	
Animal By-products (ABP)/TSEs	Feed ban (derogation for aquaculture feed)	Denmark, Greece, Italy	
	Traceability of ABP and derived products	Croatia, Hungary, Spain, Portugal	
ANIMAL HEALTH AND ANIMAL WELFARE		COUNTRY	
Animal Health	EU funded eradication programmes	Rabies	Greece, Hungary, Romania,
		Bovine tuberculosis	United Kingdom (Northern Ireland)
		African swine fever	Estonia
		Sheep and goat brucellosis	Greece
	Approved zoos and laboratories	Germany, Netherlands	
	Traceability of ruminants and pigs	Latvia, Sweden	
	Bee diseases	Romania	

	Prevention of animal diseases – contingency planning	Italy, Hungary	
Animal Welfare	Animal welfare at slaughter and related operations	France, Poland	
	Animal welfare strategy: training	Austria, Denmark, Finland, Ireland, Lithuania, Netherlands, Portugal, Romania, Sweden	
PLANT HEALTH		COUNTRY	
Plant Health	Surveillance and risk identification/management	Belgium, Greece, Italy, United Kingdom	
	Plant pest outbreaks	Longhorn beetle <i>Anoplophora</i>	France
		<i>Pomacea</i>	Spain
		Thousand canker disease	Italy
		<i>Xylella fastidiosa</i>	Italy
IMPORT CONTROLS		COUNTRY	
Import Controls	Live animals and products of animal origin	Import control system	Hungary
		"REC" - Re-Enforced Checks Regime	Germany, Greece, Italy, Netherlands, Spain, Portugal, Romania
		"TRANSIT" - Transiting goods for ship supply /customs warehousing	Bulgaria, Croatia, Greece, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Netherlands, Poland
	Plant health	Belgium, Greece, Italy	

Some of the above audits will be combined into one mission as shown in the alphabetical list of audits in Member States ([Annex 1](#)).

2.4. Audits in Candidate Countries

In 2015, the FVO plans four audits in candidate countries. In addition to a general plant health assessment in Serbia, three audits are specifically targeted at exports of products from Turkey (compare table 5).

The FVO will also review the progress Serbia is making with the follow-up to recommendations of previous FVO audits.

Table 5. Audits in Candidate Countries in 2015

AREA/SECTOR		COUNTRY
Food of Animal Origin - Mammals	Residues in food of animal origin - export-related	Turkey
Food of Animal Origin - Birds	Eggs and egg products - export-related	Turkey
Food of Animal Origin - Fish	Bivalve molluscs - export-related	Turkey
Plant Health	General Assessment	Serbia
General Enlargement Assessment	General follow-up (desk-based)	Serbia

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

2.5. Audits in Third Countries

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. Products covered are meat, milk, eggs and related products, gelatine, as well as fish, live bivalve molluscs and feed additives and premixtures.

Regular controls on the implementation of *residue control programmes* are a key element for the listing of third countries for export and a number of audits on this theme will be carried out in third countries.

The programme in the area of *food of plant origin* covers primary production of vegetables as well as pesticides. One audit will deal with *genetically modified rice* in food, feed and feed additives.

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. Two audits are 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 6. Audits in Third Countries in 2015

AREA/SECTOR		COUNTRY
Food of Animal Origin – Mammals	Fresh meat (beef)	Australia, Paraguay
	Fresh meat (equine meat)	Brazil
	Meat products	Brazil
	Meat products and gelatine	Argentina
Animal By-Products	Animal by-products (ABP) and derived products	Chile, China, Morocco, Peru <i>(combined with residues)</i>
Food of Animal Origin – Birds	Poultry meat	Moldova
	Eggs and egg products	India
Food of Animal Origin - Fish	Fishery products	Bangladesh <i>(combined with residues)</i> , Canada, Faroe Islands, Philippines <i>(combined with residues)</i> , Uruguay, one additional third country <i>still to be determined</i> ⁶
	Aquaculture <i>(part of the aquaculture project, compare chapter 2.3)</i>	Norway
	(Live) bivalve molluscs	Argentina, Morocco, Thailand, United States, Vietnam
Veterinary Medicines and Residues	Residues in food of animal origin	Australia, Bangladesh <i>(combined with fishery prod.)</i> , Faroe Islands, Peru <i>(combined with ABP)</i> , Philippines <i>(combined with fishery prod.)</i> , Uruguay
Animal Health	General animal health	Botswana, Malaysia
Feed Safety	Feed additives and premixtures	India
Food of Non – Animal Origin	Microbiological contamination - Primary production of vegetables	Morocco, Tunisia
	Pesticides	Dominican Republic
Food Quality	Organic farming	Canada, India, Israel and four recognised control bodies operating in third countries
Genetically Modified Organisms	Genetically modified food and feed	China

⁶ In addition to audits, the FVO will continue with a desk study on third countries exporting small amounts (below 5,000 tonnes/year) of fishery products to the EU. In 2015, the study will cover Suriname, Solomon Island, Egypt, Australia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Angola, Jamaica, Armenia, New Caledonia and Taiwan. Its results will determine a further third country to be audited in 2015.

AREA/SECTOR		COUNTRY
Plant Health	Fruit and vegetables	Côte d'Ivoire, Dominican Republic, Ghana, Sri Lanka
	Planting material	China, Costa Rica, Indonesia, Israel
	Fruit and vegetables, cut flowers	Uganda
	Citrus	South Africa
	Import controls	Switzerland
Seeds and propagating material	Seed certification equivalency	Moldova, Ukraine

[Annex 3](#) lists all audits categorised by country in alphabetical order.

3. Assessments and Audits in the Human Health Area

Assessments and audits in the area of medical devices and active pharmaceutical ingredients have been part of the FVO's work programme since 2013. Joint assessments of notified bodies in the medical devices sector together with Designating Authorities from Member States, EFTA and EEA countries, at first in the framework of the voluntary joint action plan are now mandatory. 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.

Based on the requests of third countries, the Office also performs audits of third countries exporting active pharmaceutical ingredients for medicinal products for human use to the European Union. These audits are aimed at verifying whether the regulatory frameworks in third countries applicable to active substances exported to the Union and the respective control and enforcement activities ensure a level of protection of public health equivalent to that of the Union.

In 2015, work will continue in the human health area with approximately 25 joint assessments of notified bodies and two audits on imports of active pharmaceutical ingredients from third countries.

4. Activities of the Food and Veterinary Office in 2015 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 also follows up the actions taken on foot of recommendations of its audit reports with a number of desk based activities. This includes regular updates of Member States' country profiles⁷.

⁷ http://ec.europa.eu/food/fvo/country_profiles_en.cfm

Since the entry into force of Regulation (EC) No 882/2004⁸, 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 Networks of officials 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 is responsible for the organisation of specific training activities. In 2015, as mentioned before, these will be organised following FVO audit series in specific areas and provide a platform to discuss common problems with Member State experts and help promote best practices identified during these audit series.

Finally, 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

The FVO is responsible for the technical evaluation of facilities at Border Inspection Posts in Member States. Similarly, in the area of veterinary residues, the Office evaluates residue control plans both from the 28 Member States and from third countries exporting food of animal origin to the EU (on average, approximately 85 third country plans are assessed annually). 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.

Linked to the audit activity in the area of slaughter hygiene, in 2015 the creation of a new Member State expert group is planned.

4.3. Activities in the animal welfare area

In the animal welfare area, the FVO continues its engagement with Member States through regular meetings of Member States' contact points for animal transport and assists with the identification and sharing of good practices as well as preparation of consensus documents to promote better official controls in the area.

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. Apart from managing the system, the FVO holds an annual users working group meeting and produces an annual report. In addition, the Office reports on harmful organism outbreaks in the EU with monthly summaries and an annual report. The Office also analyses and reports on the results of Member States' harmful organism surveys.

As already mentioned [above](#), the FVO co-ordinates the Task Force on the control of *Bursaphelenchus xylophilus* (pinewood nematode).

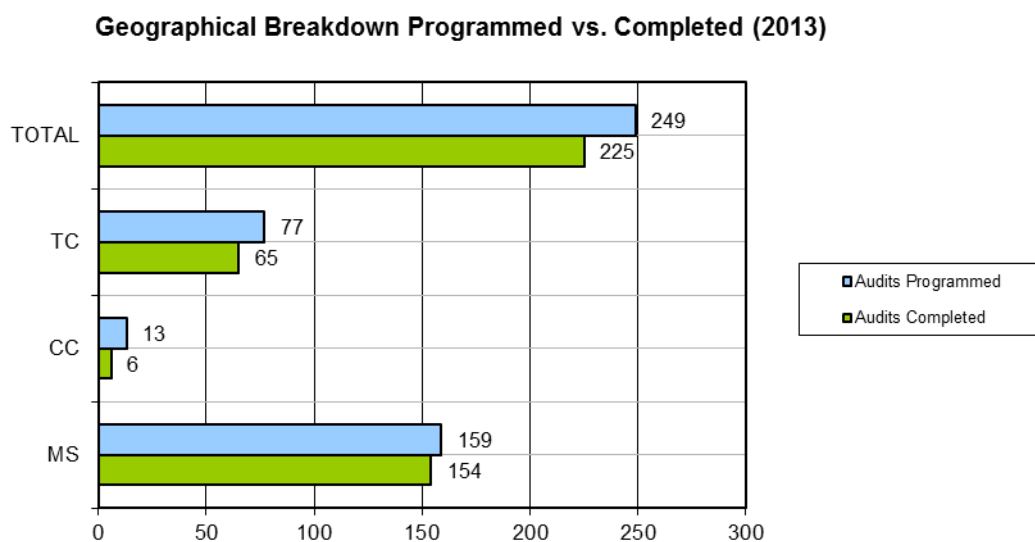
⁸ Regulation (EC) No 882/2004 on official controls performed to ensure the verification of compliance with feed and food law, animal health and animal welfare rules

5. Report on the audit programme 2013

In 2013, the FVO carried out 225 audits. 154 audits (or 68% of all audits) took place in Member States, 6 (3%) in candidate countries and 65 (29%) in third countries. These figures correspond to 4407 days spent on the ground by FVO auditors. Member State national experts contributed an additional 1106 days.

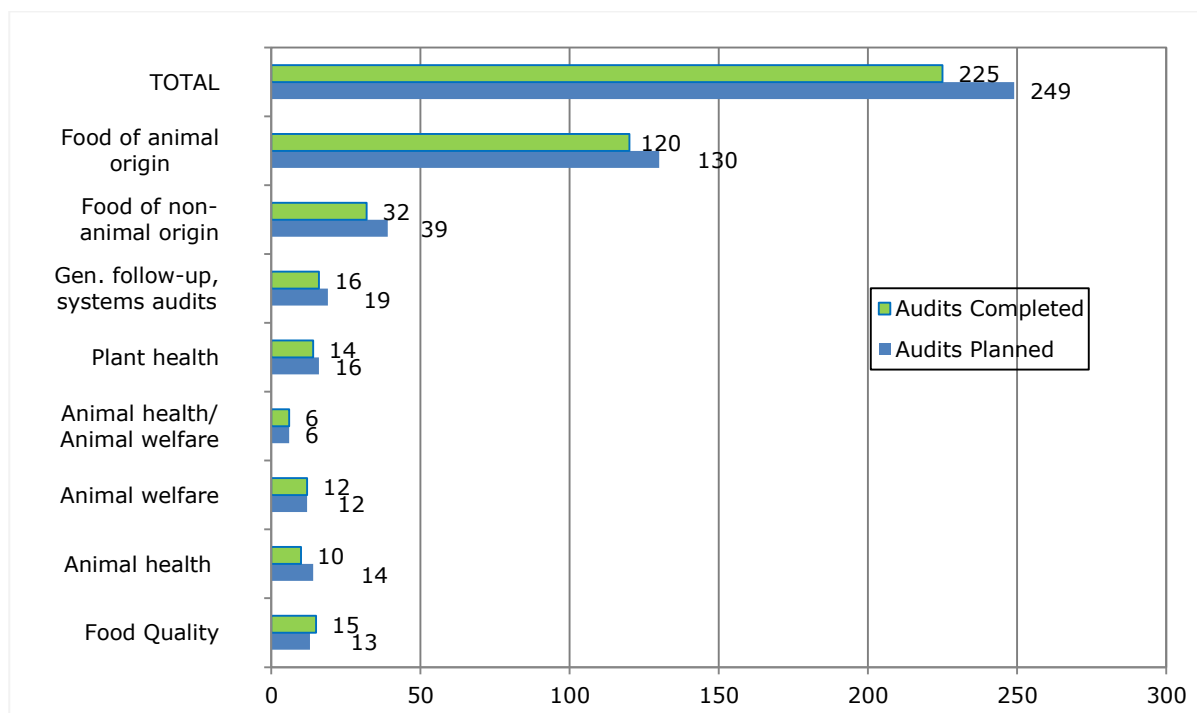
Chart 1 compares the number of planned and completed audits by region.

Chart 1. Number of Planned and Completed Audits in 2013 by Region



The breakdown by area of activity (chart 2) shows that 68% of audits were performed in the field of food safety while 6% took place in the plant health area; 12% of audits dealt with animal health and welfare; 7% of audits were related to food quality and 7% of all completed audits were general follow-up audits or systems audits.

Chart 2. Number of Planned and Completed Audits in 2013 by Main Area



Charts 3 and 4 provide an overview on sectors and commodities covered by the audit programme 2013 in Member States (chart 3) and candidate countries and third countries (chart 4).

Chart 3. Audits in Member States 2013 by Sector

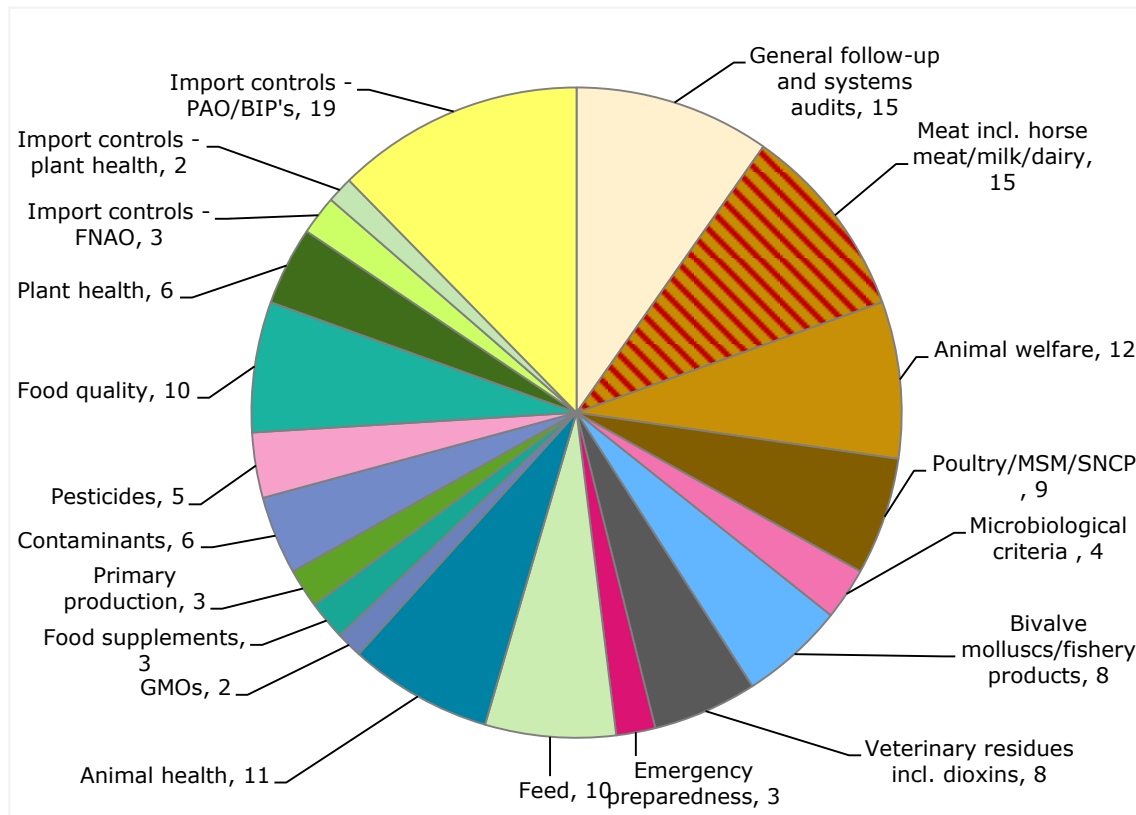
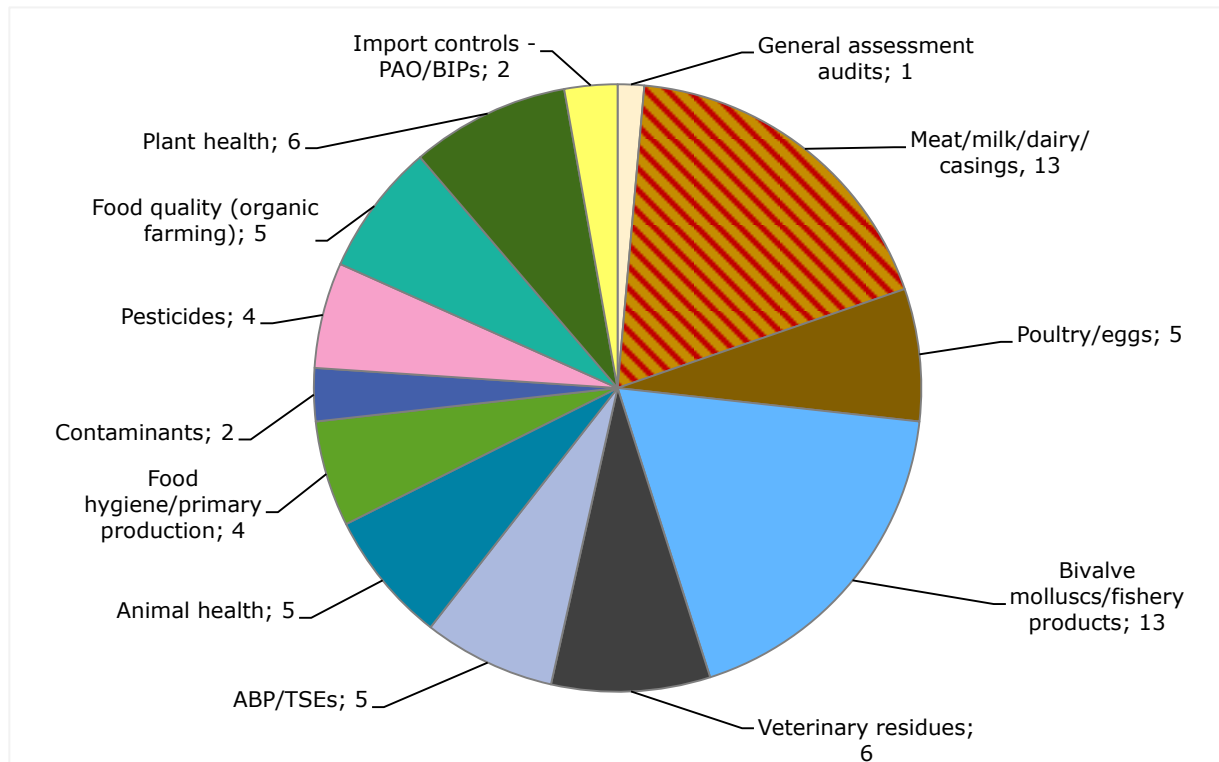


Chart 4. Audits in Candidate Countries and Third Countries 2013 by Sector



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.

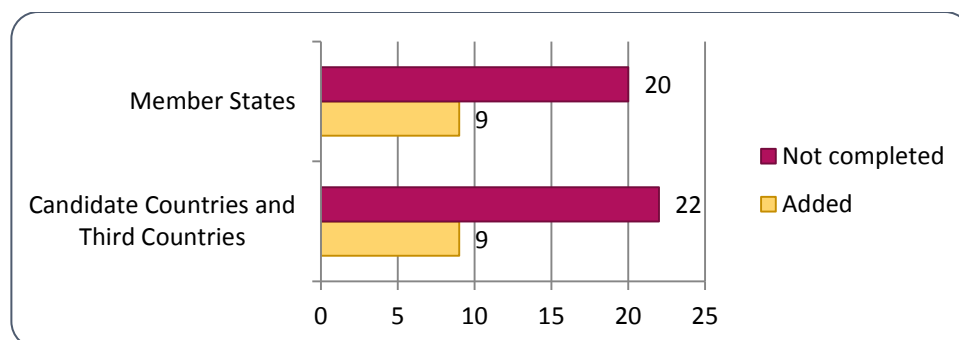
The 225 audits completed in 2013 correspond to 83% of the number of programmed audits.

A certain number of programmed audits can usually not be carried out as planned for a number of reasons. In 2013, a number of audits had to be postponed due to security concerns or extreme weather conditions. Other audits did not go ahead as competent authority action plans from previous audits had not yet been fully implemented or replies to pre-audit questionnaires had not been received by the FVO. Audits that were removed from the programme or postponed where 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 2013, 42 audits were removed from the programme or postponed (20 in Member states and 22 in candidate countries and third countries) and 18 audits were added (9 in Member States and 9 in candidate countries and third countries), as shown in chart 5.

Chart 5. Overview on programme changes in 2013



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 2015, by country in alphabetical order

MEMBER STATE	THEME	REFERENCE NUMBER
<u>Belgique/België</u> <u>(Belgium)</u>	Plant health surveillance	2015-7574
	Plant health - Import controls (<i>both plant health audits combined</i>)	2015-7602
	Plant Protection Products	2015-7470
	Microbiological contamination - Primary production	2015-7450
	Residues in food of animal origin	2015-7511
	Slaughter hygiene	2015-7587
	Private certification schemes for feed	2015-7622
	General follow-up	2015-7653
<u>България</u> <u>(Bulgaria)</u>	Import controls - transits	2015-7430
	Microbiological contamination - Primary production	2015-7457
	Organic farming	2015-7357
	Milk and milk products	2015-7597
	General follow-up	2015-7654
<u>Česká republika</u> <u>(Czech Republic)</u>	Food additives	2015-7395
	Microbiological contamination - Primary production	2015-7452
	Post-slaughter traceability	2015-7376
	General follow-up	2015-7656
<u>Danmark</u> <u>(Denmark)</u>	Animal welfare - training programmes	2015-7418
	Feed ban	2015-7616
	Fishery products	2015-7460
	Microbiological contamination - Primary production	2015-7454
	Organic farming	2015-7358
	AMR monitoring	2015-7383
	Rendered fat and blood products (<i>fact-finding</i>)	2015-7583
<u>Deutschland</u> <u>(Germany)</u>	Salmonella control programmes - poultry	2015-7507
	Animal health - approved zoos and laboratories	2015-7565
	Food additives	2015-7396
	Organic farming - pesticide residue testing	2015-7491
	Means of transport for food (<i>fact-finding</i>)	2015-7403
	Import controls - re-enforced checks regime	2015-7443
	Labelling of fishery products	2015-7477
	AMR monitoring	2015-7404
	Feed importers	2015-7619
	General follow-up	2015- 7679
<u>Eesti (Estonia)</u>	African swine fever	2015-7563
	Post-slaughter traceability	2015-7379
<u>Éire/Ireland</u>	Milk and milk products	2015-7595
	Animal welfare - training programmes	2015-7419
	High pressure processing (pascalisation) (<i>fact-finding</i>)	2015-7392
	Slaughter hygiene	2015-7594

<u>MEMBER STATE</u>	<u>THEME</u>	<u>REFERENCE NUMBER</u>
<u>Ελλάδα (Greece)</u>	Feed ban	2015-7617
	Aquaculture	2015-7374
	Rabies	2015-7625
	Sheep and goat brucellosis	2015-7571
	Plant Protection Products	2015-7475
	Plant health surveillance	2015-7577
	Plant health - Import controls (<i>both plant health audits combined</i>)	2015-7604
	Import controls - re-enforced checks regime	2015-7439
	Import controls – transits (<i>both import control audits combined</i>)	2015-7437
	Post-slaughter traceability	2015-7391
General follow-up	2015-7657	
<u>España (Spain)</u>	Post-slaughter traceability	2015-7370
	Aquaculture	2015-7352
	Milk and milk products	2015-7596
	Traceability of animal by-products	2015-7610
	Geographical indications (PDO, PGI, TSG)	2015-7410
	Import controls - re-enforced checks regime	2015-7444
	Plant pest outbreaks (<i>Pomacea</i>)	2015-7581
	Labelling of fishery products	2015-7479
General follow-up	2015-7659	
<u>France</u>	Animal welfare - slaughter	2015-7427
	Plant pest outbreaks (<i>Anoplophora</i>)	2015-7578
	Plant Protection Products	2015-7473
	Geographical indications (PDO, PGI, TSG)	2015-7413
	Eggs and egg products	2015-7496
	Private certification schemes for feed	2015-7621
	Post-slaughter traceability	2015-7378
Fishery products	2015-7458	
<u>Hrvatska (Croatia)</u>	Import controls – transits	2015-7431
	Residues in food of animal origin	2015-7510
	Plant Protection Products	2015-7480
	Traceability of animal by-products	2015-7650
<u>Italia (Italy)</u>	Feed ban	2015-7615
	Milk and milk products	2015-7626
	Animal health - contingency planning	2015-7569
	Import controls - re-enforced checks regime	2015-7441
	Import controls – transits (<i>both import control audits combined</i>)	2015-7440
	Plant Protection Products	2015-7468
	Plant health - Import controls	2015-7603
	Plant health surveillance (<i>combined with Thousand canker disease</i>)	2015-7576
	Plant pest outbreaks (Thousand canker disease)	2015-7579
	Microbiological contamination - Primary production	2015-7455
	Plant pest outbreaks (<i>Xylella fastidiosa</i>)	2015-7580
Aquaculture	2015-7380	

<u>MEMBER STATE</u>	<u>THEME</u>	<u>REFERENCE NUMBER</u>
<u>Κύπρος (Kypros)/Kıbrıs (Cyprus)</u>	Post-slaughter traceability	2015-7601
<u>Latvija (Latvia)</u>	Import controls - transits Traceability - ruminants and pigs General follow-up	2015-7432 2015-7573 2015-7658
<u>Lietuva (Lithuania)</u>	Import controls – transits Slaughter hygiene Organic farming Animal welfare - training programmes Feed importers	2015-7433 2015-7590 2015-7365 2015-7426 2015-7618
<u>Luxembourg</u>	General follow-up	<i>(desk-based)</i>
<u>Magyarország (Hungary)</u>	Rabies Animal health - contingency planning Food additives Traceability of animal by-products Import controls (live animals and animal products)	2015-7624 2015-7568 2015-7397 2015-7649 2015-7505
<u>Malta</u>	Salmonella control programmes - poultry	2015-7518
<u>Nederland (Netherlands)</u>	Rendered fat and blood products (<i>fact-finding</i>) Post-slaughter traceability Eggs and egg products Import controls - re-enforced checks regime Import controls – transits (<i>both import control audits combined</i>) Animal health - approved zoos and laboratories Animal welfare - training programmes Food additives Microbiological contamination - Primary production Plant Protection Products Labelling of fishery products	2015-7582 2015-7371 2015-7501 2015-7438 2015-7436 2015-7564 2015-7417 2015-7398 2015-7451 2015-7483 2015-7474
<u>Österreich (Austria)</u>	Animal welfare - training programmes Plant Protection Products Food additives Means of transport for food (<i>fact-finding</i>)	2015-7421 2015-7472 2015-7394 2015-7401
<u>Polska (Poland)</u>	Import controls - transits Residues in food of animal origin Animal welfare - slaughter Salmonella control programmes - poultry Organic farming - pesticide residue testing Aquaculture Food additives	2015-7434 2015-7513 2015-7420 2015-7508 2015-7488 2015-7381 2015-7399
<u>Portugal</u>	Residues in food of animal origin Traceability of animal by-products Import controls - re-enforced checks regime Animal welfare - training programmes	2015-7509 2015-7609 2015-7442 2015-7424

<u>MEMBER STATE</u>	<u>THEME</u>	<u>REFERENCE NUMBER</u>
<u>Portugal</u>	Plant Protection Products Microbiological contamination - Primary production	2015-7478 2015-7461
<u>România (Romania)</u>	Salmonella control programmes - poultry Rabies Animal health - bees Animal welfare - training programmes High pressure processing (pascalisation) (<i>fact-finding</i>) Import controls - re-enforced checks regime General follow-up	2015-7506 2015-7623 2015-7566 2015-7425 2015-7393 2015-7664 (<i>desk-based</i>)
<u>Slovenija (Slovenia)</u>	Slaughter hygiene	2015-7672
<u>Slovensko (Slovakia)</u>	Post-slaughter traceability Slaughter hygiene General follow-up	2015-7375 2015-7593 (<i>desk-based</i>)
<u>Suomi/Finland</u>	Animal welfare - training programmes Microbiological contamination - Primary production Geographical indications (PDO, PGI, TSG) Organic farming - pesticide residue testing General follow-up	2015-7423 2015-7453 2015-7412 2015-7492 2015-7655
<u>Sverige (Sweden)</u>	Fishery products Residues in food of animal origin Post-slaughter traceability Organic farming Slaughter hygiene Animal welfare - training programmes Microbiological contamination - Primary production Traceability - ruminants and pigs	2015-7462 2015-7512 2015-7373 2015-7360 2015-7592 2015-7422 2015-7459 2015-7572
<u>United Kingdom</u>	Aquaculture Eggs and egg products Slaughter hygiene Labelling of fishery products <i>Campylobacter</i> in poultry (<i>fact-finding</i>) Plant health surveillance Organic farming - pesticide residue testing Microbiological contamination - Primary production Bovine tuberculosis (<i>in Northern Ireland</i>) General follow-up	2015-7377 2015-7502 2015-7589 2015-7476 2015-7489 2015-7575 2015-7490 2015-7456 2015-7570 2015-7660

In addition, two pilot missions are planned in relation to the series of audits of Member States national audit systems (Member States to be confirmed).

**Annex 2: Audits in Candidate Countries 2015,
by country in alphabetical order**

<u>CANDIDATE COUNTRY</u>	<u>THEME</u>	<u>REFERENCE NUMBER</u>
<u>Србија (Serbia)</u>	Plant health general assessment General follow-up	2015-7648 (desk-based)
<u>Türkiye (Turkey)</u>	Residues in food of animal origin – <i>export-related audit</i> Eggs and egg products – <i>export-related audit</i> Bivalve molluscs – <i>export-related audit</i>	2015-7514 2015-7493 2015-7481

Annex 3: Audits in Third Countries 2015, by country in alphabetical order

<u>THIRD COUNTRY</u>	<u>THEME</u>	<u>REFERENCE NUMBER</u>
<u>AR – Argentina</u>	Meat and meat products; gelatine Bivalve molluscs	2015-7586 2015-7482
<u>AU – Australia</u>	Fresh meat Residues in food of animal origin	2015-7599 2015-7528
<u>BD – Bangladesh</u>	Residues in food of animal origin Fishery products	2015-7517 2015-7469
<u>BR – Brazil</u>	Meat and meat products Fresh meat	2015-7585 2015-7639
<u>BW – Botswana</u>	Animal health	2015-7561
<u>CA – Canada</u>	Organic farming Fishery products	2015-7407 2015-7464
<u>CH – Switzerland</u>	Plant health - Import controls	2015-7638
<u>CI – Côte d'Ivoire</u>	Plant health - Fruit and vegetables	2015-7634
<u>CL – Chile</u>	Animal by-products	2015-7613
<u>CN – China</u>	Plant health - Planting material Genetically modified food and feed Animal by-products	2015-7645 2015-7640 2015-7611
<u>CR – Costa Rica</u>	Plant health - Planting material	2015-7644
<u>DO – Dominican Republic</u>	Pesticides Plant health - Fruit and vegetables	2015-7495 2015-7636
<u>FO – Faroe Islands</u>	Residues in food of animal origin Fishery products	2015-7519 2015-7465
<u>GH – Ghana</u>	Plant health - Fruit and vegetables	2015-7635
<u>ID – Indonesia</u>	Plant health - Planting material	2015-7646
<u>IL – Israel</u>	Plant health - Planting material Organic farming	2015-7647 2015-7353
<u>IN – India</u>	Eggs and egg products Organic farming Feed additives and premixtures	2015-7494 2015-7355 2015-7620

<u>THIRD COUNTRY</u>	<u>THEME</u>	<u>REFERENCE NUMBER</u>
<u>LK – Sri Lanka</u>	Plant health - Fruit and vegetables	2015-7643
<u>MA – Morocco</u>	Animal by-products	2015-7612
	Microbiological contamination - Primary production	2015-7630
	Bivalve molluscs	2015-7484
<u>MD – Moldova, Republic of</u>	Seed certification equivalency	2015-7642
	Poultry meat	2015-7504
<u>MY – Malaysia</u>	Animal health	2015-7562
<u>NO – Norway</u>	Aquaculture	2015-7372
<u>PE – Peru</u>	Animal by-products	2015-7614
	Residues in food of animal origin	2015-7529
<u>PH – Philippines</u>	Fishery products	2015-7466
	Residues in food of animal origin	2015-7527
<u>PY – Paraguay</u>	Fresh meat	2015-7598
<u>TN – Tunisia</u>	Microbiological contamination - Primary production	2015-7631
<u>TH – Thailand</u>	Bivalve molluscs	2015-7485
<u>UA – Ukraine</u>	Seed certification equivalency	2015-7641
<u>UG – Uganda</u>	Plant health – Fruit and vegetables, cut flowers	2015-7637
<u>US – United States</u>	Bivalve molluscs	2015-7486
<u>UY – Uruguay</u>	Residues in food of animal origin	2015-7523
	Fishery products	2015-7471
<u>VN – Viet Nam</u>	Bivalve molluscs	2015-7605
<u>ZA – South Africa</u>	Plant health - Citrus	2015-7633

N.B. In addition, four audits are planned of recognised control bodies operating in third countries in the area of organic farming.

One audit will be performed to a third country exporting small amounts of fishery products (the country will be decided following the desk study).

