



**DIRECTORATE: ANIMAL HEALTH**

**STANDARD OPERATING PROCEDURE**

***IMPORT EXPORT POLICY UNIT:***

***FOLLOW-UP ACTIONS: RESIDUE***

***MONITORING***

## DRAFT I

### DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE DIRECTORATE ANIMAL HEALTH

#### PROCEDURES MANUAL: FOLLOW-UP ACTIONS: RESIDUE MONITORING

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**A. PURPOSE:**

To lay down the necessary actions to be taken and the follow-up work to be done on farms where fraud is suspected or where positive results from any of the checks done is received, indicating that unauthorized substances or products could be in the possession of non-authorized persons.

**B. SCOPE:**

All registered farms and establishments wishing to export animal products to the EU and requiring compliance with the residue requirements as laid down in the Council Directive 96/23/EC.

**C. QUALIFICATIONS, ADDITIONAL TRAINING AND EXPERIENCE.**

The officials responsible for taking residue samples must ensure that they are knowledgeable with the following documents:

1. The VPN/19/2007-01: Standard relating to the National Residue monitoring programme.
2. Animal Diseases Act 1984 (Act No 35 of 1984)
3. Meat Safety Act 2000 (Act No. 40 of 2000)
4. Where meat or products are exported to the EU, the information given in the Council Directive 96/23/EC dated 29<sup>th</sup> of April 1996.

**D. SAMPLING STRATEGY:**

1. Official samples must be taken in accordance with the instructions described in the VPN/19/2007-01

Wherever official samples are taken, sampling must be unforeseen, unexpected and effected at no fixed time and on no particular day of the week. The

authorized official must take all precautions necessary to ensure that the element of surprise in the checks is maintained.

**E. SAMPLING LEVELS AND FREQUENCY:**

This is discussed in the VPN/19/2007-01.

**F. ACTIONS TO BE TAKEN BY THE AUTHORIZED OFFICIAL IN THE CASE OF THE SUSPICION OF THE USE OF UNAUTHORIZED SUBSTANCES.**

The authorized official shall:

1. Where authorized substances or products or substances as described in the National Residue Monitoring programme are discovered in the possession of non-authorized persons, those unauthorized substances or products must be placed under official control, until appropriate measures are taken by the Veterinary Authority, without prejudice of the possible imposition of penalties of the offender(s).
2. Where illegal treatment is suspected, the owner or person having charge of the animals or the veterinarian in charge of the farm, must provide documentation justifying the nature of the treatment.
3. Where this inquiry confirms illegal treatment, or where unauthorized substances or products have been used, or where there are grounds for suspecting their use, conduct or have conducted.
  - spot checks on animals on the farm of origin or departure, in particular with a view of detecting such use and in particular any traces of implants. These checks may include official sampling.
  - checks to detect substances, the use of which is prohibited or of unauthorized substances or products on the farm where the animals are being reared, kept, or fattened (including holdings administratively connected to such farms) or on the animals farm of origin or departure. Official samples of drinking water and feed are necessary for that purpose – for aquaculture animals, from the water from which they are caught.
  - any checks required to clarify the origin of the unauthorized substances or products or that of the treated animals.
4. Where the maximum levels laid down by Community rules or pending such legislation, the levels, set by national legislation have been exceeded; carry out any measures or investigation which he/she may deem appropriate in relation to the finding in question.

5. Where illegal treatment is established, the authorized official must ensure that the livestock concerned is immediately placed under official control. The authorized official must furthermore ensure that all the animals concerned bear an official mark or identification and that, as a first step, an official sample being a statistically representative sample, on internationally recognized scientific basis is taken,
6. After sampling has been carried out, if there is confirmation of a case of illegal treatment, the animals found to be positive shall be slaughtered immediately on the spot or taken to a designated abattoir immediately. Samples must be taken of all the animals in that particular batch.
7. During the period in which animals are impounded as provided for, the animals from the farm in question, may not leave the farm of origin or be handed over to any other person except under official control. The responsible authority shall take appropriate precautionary measures in accordance with the nature of the substance or substances identified.

**G. ACTIONS TO BE TAKEN BY THE OFFICIAL VETERINARIAN AT THE ABATTOIR IN THE EVENT OF SUSPECTING THAT ANIMALS HAVE BEEN TREATED WITH UNAUTHORIZED SUBSTANCES, ETC.**

1. The official veterinarian at the abattoir must:
  - 1.1 if he suspects or has evidence that the animals concerned have been subjected to illegal treatment or that unauthorized substances or products have been administered to them, must:
    - (a) arrange for the animals to be slaughtered separately from other batches of animals arriving at the abattoir.
    - (b) impound the carcasses and offal and carry out all sampling procedures necessary to detect the substances in question.
    - (c) if positive results are obtained, the meat and offal is not to be used for human consumption.
  - 1.2 if he suspects or has evidence that the animals concerned have been subjected to an authorized treatment, but that the withdrawal times or periods have not been complied with, he/she should post pone the slaughter of the animals, until he/she can be satisfied that the quantity of residues does not exceed the permitted levels.

However in an emergency or where required for the well-being of the animals, or if the infrastructure or equipment of the abattoir is such that slaughter cannot be deferred, the animals may be slaughtered before the end of the ban or postponement period. The meat and offal shall be impounded, pending the outcome of the official checks. Only meat and

offal containing a quantity of residue not exceeding the permitted levels, shall be used for human consumption.

- 1.3 declare unfit for human consumption, carcasses and products in which the residue levels exceed the levels authorized by the Community on National regulations.

**H. ACTIONS TO BE TAKEN BY THE AUTHORIZED OFFICIAL IN THE EVENT OF POSITIVE RESIDUE SAMPLES BEING FOUND IN SAMPLES TAKEN: (ALSO REFER TO PARAGRAPH G)**

1. Where there is evidence of residues or authorized substances or products of a level exceeding the maximum limit for residues, the authorized official shall carry out an investigation on the farm of origin or departure, as applicable, to determine why the above limit was exceeded.

In accordance with the results of this investigation, the authorized official shall take all necessary measures to safeguard public health, which may include prohibiting animals from leaving the farm concerned or products of leaving the farm or establishment concerned for a set period.

2. Where positive residue results are obtained;

the responsible official shall obtain without delay

- (a) all the information required to identify the animal and farm of origin or departure
- (b) full details of the examination done and its results.

the responsible official shall carry out

- (a) an investigation on the farm of origin or departure as appropriate, to determine the reasons for the presence of the residues.
- (b) In the case of illegal treatment, an investigation of the source or sources of the substances or products concerned, at the stage of manufacture, handling, storage, transport, administration, distribution or sale as appropriate.
- (c) Any other further investigation which is considered necessary, to safeguard public health.

The responsible officer must ensure that the animals from which the samples have been taken, are clearly identified. These animals are not to leave the farm, until the results of the checks are available.

In the event of repeated infringements of maximum residue limits, when animals are placed on the market by a farmer or processing establishment, such a farmer or processing establishment, intensified checks on the animals and products from the farm and/or establishment in question must be carried out by the competent authority for a period of at least six months. Products and carcasses being impounded, pending the results of the analysis of the samples. Such a farm or establishment will also be delisted for export.

Any results showing that the maximum residue limit has been exceeded, must lead to the carcass or products concerned, being declared unfit for human consumption.

for a further period of at least 12 months, the farm(s) belonging to the same owner shall be subject to more stringent checks for the residue in question.

## **I. COMPLAINTS AND APPEALS.**

1. The owner of the animals or products has the right to appeal against.
  - The outcome of the residue monitoring.
  - A particular official taking the samples for testing of residue.
2. Any appeal must be done in writing to the Director: Animal Health, stating in full the reasons for the appeal.
3. The Director: Animal Health will then appoint a committee consisting of at least two officials to repeat the tests and make recommendations in writing to him/her.
4. The decisions made by this committee will be regarded as final.