



**COUNCIL OF
THE EUROPEAN UNION**

Brussels, 1 March 2005

6573/05

LIMITE

AGRILEG 27

NOTE

from : Presidency
to : Delegations
No. prev. doc. : 14895/04

Subject : Negotiations on the EC-Russian Federation veterinary agreement
 - Certification system of EU exports to Russia

Delegations will find attached the text on the further guidelines for veterinary certification of EU exports to Russia which was examined and amended at the Working Party of veterinary experts' meeting on 18 February 2005.

The Presidency noted that there was a consensus on the amended version in Annex to the present note.

Further guidelines for veterinary certification EU exports to Russia**Pre-export certification**

Pre-export certificates should be issued only for animals or animal products moving between two or more Member States where the animals or the products are destined for products intended for exports to Russia and where the pre-export certificate is necessary to ensure that the final product meets the Russian import conditions. Pre-export certificates should not be issued for movements of animals or animal products within a single Member State.

Pre-export certificates are not necessary for raw materials or processed ingredients of animal origin used in manufacturing of processed products destined to Russia provided that the relevant Russian import conditions for the raw materials or ingredients as indicated in the final certificate do not go beyond EU requirements.

Under specific circumstances where there are well-established trade patterns between two or more Member States of so called “half products” used in the manufacture of the final product destined to Russia, the competent authorities of the relevant Member States may agree to set up a specific system whereby individual pre-export certificates issued for each consignment are replaced by alternative means for ensuring that all products moving within the system fulfil the Russian import conditions. Such alternative means must consist of the following elements:

- the responsible operators have to establish specific self control mechanisms to guarantee that the relevant Russian conditions are met throughout their production chain;
- the responsible operators have to issue formal declarations to the competent authorities of the relevant Member States confirming that the necessary self control mechanisms are in place;
- the competent authorities of the relevant Member States have to evaluate the declared self control mechanisms to ensure that they are sufficient to guarantee that the Russian import conditions are met by all products moving within the system.
- the competent authorities of the relevant Member States have carry out regular checks to verify that the declared self control mechanisms are properly implemented.

Use of animal products imported from third countries

Imported animal products (raw materials or processed products as ingredients) may be used in manufacturing of products destined to Russia provided that they fulfil the relevant Russian import conditions as indicated in the final certificate.

If there are specific Russian import conditions that go beyond EU import rules the imported product has to be accompanied by an additional health certificate certifying the specific Russian conditions in supplement to the health certificate issued in accordance with EU import rules. No reference is made to the additional health certificate in the final export certificate to Russia because animal products imported from third countries are not covered by the models for the “official pre-export support certificates”.

Composite products

In general, so-called “composite products” containing various amounts of ingredients of animal origin are covered by the certificate model for “finished food products”. However, in determining whether it is necessary to issue a veterinary certificate for a composite product destined to Russia, the past practice should be taken into account. No veterinary certificate should be issued for a particular product if it was not necessary to issue a veterinary certificate for the same product prior to the introduction of the 14 models for common EU veterinary certificates for EU exports to Russia.

Sealing of consignments

The final consignments to Russia should be sealed and the seal number indicated in the certificate. The seal may be a specific veterinary seal, customs seal or other seal that ensures integrity of the consignment. The seal numbers do not have to be serial numbers.