



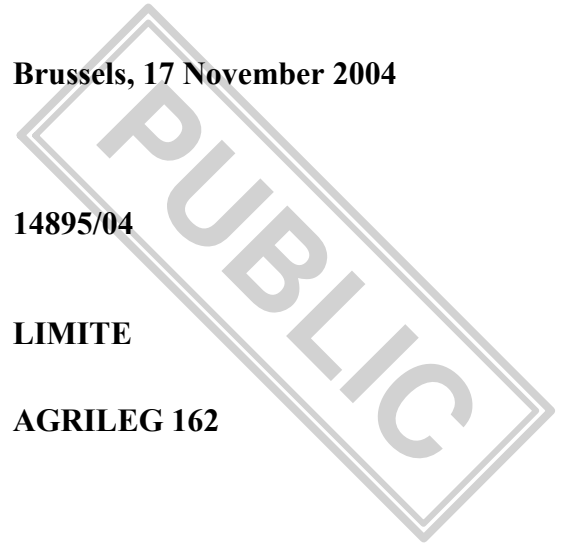
**COUNCIL OF
THE EUROPEAN UNION**

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LIMITE

AGRILEG 162



NOTE

from : Presidency
to : Delegations

Subject : EC - Russian Federation veterinary agreement negotiations
 - Pre-export certification system

Delegations will find attached the text on the pre-export certification system which was examined and amended at the Working Party of Veterinary Experts' meeting on 16 November 2004.

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

Pre-export certification of animals and animal products to be exported from the EU to Russia

For the purposes of exports of animal products covered by the 14 uniform certificates from the EU to Russia it is necessary to establish an official pre-export certification system. The system applies in cases where raw materials and animal products (including live animals for slaughter) used for the manufacture of the final exported product originate from Member State(s) other than the exporting Member State. Its purpose is to ensure that the Russian veterinary and sanitary requirements are complied with along the whole production chain and to ensure the traceability of the products.

The specific features of the pre-export certification system outlined in this document are complementary to the rules laid down in EU legislation, in particular Council Directive 96/93/EC.

The system is based upon a chain of official pre-export certificates issued by the certifying officials of the Member States' competent authorities using commonly agreed models. The same safety measures must be applied in pre-export certification as in final certification.

Along the certification chain references to the previous certificate must be made in the subsequent certificate as indicated in the relevant model certificate (date, number, country of origin, administrative territory, approval number of the establishment, name and quantity of the product).

A pre-export certificate must accompany each stage of the consignment until the final certification point is reached. The final certificate is issued by the official veterinarian in the last establishment before the consignment leaves the EU to Russia. The final certificate alone will go with the consignment to Russia.

Should consignments certified from the final establishment have to travel via a port in the EU where the product is unloaded from the sealed container noted on the certificate, for possible temporary storage in a warehouse, this constitutes a separate step in the chain and requires issuing of the final certificate from the warehouse to guarantee that the status and condition of the product have not been compromised.

The competent authorities in each Member State must establish appropriate mechanisms to ensure the traceability of issued certificates. The certifying officer shall keep records of the pre-export certificates and the final certificates that s/he has issued for a period not less than 12 months. S/he shall also keep the originals of the received pre-export certificates and copies of the issued certificates for the same period. The records should include information on the certificate numbers, date of issue, establishment of destination and consignment details.

The official veterinarian certifying the OIE list A animal disease status in the appropriate steps has the authority to do so for a wider region than his/her own, or where relevant for the whole EU based upon the information of the ADNS (Animal Disease Notification System) and the instructions from the SCOFCAH (Standing Committee on the Food Chain and Animal Health).

If there is an outbreak of an OIE list A disease affecting the chain of certification in any Member State, the relevant products must be excluded from the pre-export certification system in line with the Russian requirements and respecting the time limits set by Russia for lifting restrictions.

In the event of product having been originally sourced from a region at a time when list A disease was possibly incubating, blockage and recall of all product not meeting Russian requirements must be ensured in accordance with the Russian requirements.

The Food and Veterinary Office (FVO) will be involved in auditing the correct implementation of the pre-export certification system.