

Commission Decision of 12 November 1997 laying down certain detailed rules for the application of Council Directive 91/496/EEC as regards veterinary checks on live animals to be imported from third countries (Text with EEA relevance) (97/794/EC) (repealed)

Article 1

The documentary, identity and physical checks provided for in Directive 91/496/EEC shall be carried out in accordance with the provisions of this Decision.

Article 2

The documentary check shall be carried out in accordance with the rules laid down in Annex I.

Article 3

1 Identity checks shall be carried out on each animal in a consignment.

2 By way of derogation from paragraph 1, identity checks may be carried out on 10 % of the animals in a consignment, with a minimum of 10 animals representative of the whole consignment checked per consignment, where the consignment contains a large number of animals.

The number of animals checked must be increased and may reach the totality of the animals concerned, if the initial checks carried out have not been satisfactory.

3 By way of derogation from paragraph 1, for animals for which individual marking is not provided for by Community rules, identity checks must at least consist of a check on the marking of a representative number of packages and/or containers.

The number of packages and/or containers checked must be increased and may reach the totality of the packages and/or containers concerned, if the initial checks carried out have not been satisfactory.

The identity check shall consist of a visual check of the animals contained in a representative number of packages and/or containers, for the verification of the species thereof.

Article 4

1 The official veterinarian shall carry out the physical check provided for in Article 4 (2) of Directive 91/496/EEC on live biungulate animals and equidae, by ensuring in particular that all such animals are unloaded at the border inspection post in his presence.

2 The animals shall be subject to an inspection regarding their fitness to travel and to a clinical examination, which may include the collection of samples. Those examinations and the collection of samples shall be carried out in accordance with the provisions of Annex II.

3 The samples shall be sent to a laboratory approved by the competent authority to check on compliance with the requirements of the veterinary certificate.

4 For each animal sampled, the following information shall be recorded:

- reference number of the veterinary certificate and serial number given by the border inspection post to the consignment,
- identification number of the animal,

- laboratory test requested,
- result of the test and any follow-up action taken,
- complete address of the final destination of the consignment.

5 The clinical examination referred to in paragraph 2 shall consist of a visual examination of all of the animals.

Animals intended for breeding or production shall also be subjected to a clinical examination, as laid down in Annex II to this Decision, of at least 10 % of the animals with a minimum of 10 animals, which must be selected so as to be representative of the whole consignment. Where the consignment contains fewer than 10 animals, the checks must be carried out on each animal in the consignment.

Animals intended for slaughter shall also be subjected to a clinical examination, as laid down in Annex II to this Decision, of at least 5 % of the animals with a minimum of five animals, which must be selected so as to be representative of the whole consignment. Where the consignment contains fewer than five animals, the checks must be carried out on each animal in the consignment.

The number of animals checked must be increased and may reach the totality of the animals concerned, if the initial checks carried out have not been satisfactory.

6 Member States shall only detain the consignment of animals in the border inspection post while awaiting the results of the laboratory checks in cases of suspicion.

7 The results of the checks, together with the information referred to in paragraph 4, shall be communicated to the Commission every six months on a routine basis or immediately by fax both to the Member State of destination and the Commission in the case of positive sampling results or where otherwise justified. In the case of positive sampling results, copies of the veterinary certificate(s) must be sent as soon as possible to the Member State of destination and the Commission.

Article 5

1 The animals listed below need not be subjected to individual clinical examination:

- poultry,
- birds,
- aquaculture animals, including all live fish,
- rodents,
- lagomorphs,
- bees and other insects,
- reptiles and amphibians,
- other invertebrates,
- certain zoo and circus animals, including biungulates and equidae, considered to be dangerous,
- fur animals.

2 For the animals listed in paragraph 1, clinical examination shall consist of observations of the state of health and behaviour of the entire group or of a representative number of animals. The number of animals checked shall be increased if the initial checks carried out have not been satisfactory. If the abovementioned checks reveal an anomaly, a more rigorous examination shall be carried out, including sampling where appropriate.

3 In the case of live fish, crustaceans and molluscs, and animals destined for scientific research centres having a certified specific health status, contained in sealed containers under controlled environmental conditions, a clinical examination and sampling shall be carried out only where it is considered that a specific risk may exist because of the species involved or their origin, or where there are other irregularities.

Article 6

1 For each consignment, the official veterinarian of the border inspection post shall provide to the person concerned an authenticated copy of the original veterinary certificate(s) or other original veterinary documents) accompanying the consignment, together with the certificate as laid down in Decision 92/527/EEC. They must be annotated with the serial certificate number given to the consignment by the border inspection post.

2 The official veterinarian shall retain the original veterinary certificate(s) or original veterinary documents) accompanying the consignment as well as a copy of the certificate as laid down in Decision 92/527/EEC.

3 For each consignment, the following information shall be recorded and kept at the border inspection post:

- the serial certificate number given to the consignment concerned by the border inspection post,
- the date of arrival of the consignment concerned at the border inspection post,
- the size of the consignment,
- the species and category of use of the animals, and age where applicable,
- the reference number of the certificate,
- the third country of origin,
- the Member State of destination,
- the decision concerning the consignment,
- reference to sampling where carried out.

4 In the case of registered equidae, as referred to in Article 2 (c) of Council Directive 90/426/EEC⁽¹⁾, the identification document shall not be retained, and in the particular case of temporary admission of those equidae the original health certificate shall not be retained.

5 In the case of equidae for slaughter which are intended to pass through a market or marshalling centre, the certificate as laid down in Decision 92/527/EEC, as well as an authenticated copy of the original health certificate, must accompany the equidae to the slaughterhouse.

6 All veterinary certificates or other veterinary document relating to consignments which have been rejected at the border inspection post must be stamped on each page with the word 'REJECTED' in red as laid down in Annex III.

7 The official veterinarian shall retain the certificates or other veterinary documents accompanying the consignment, the copy of the certificate as laid down in Decision 92/527/EEC and the records referred to in Article 4 of this Decision and paragraph 3 of this Article for at least three years.

Article 7

Member States shall amend the measures which they apply to trade so as to bring them into compliance with this Decision. They shall immediately inform the Commission thereof.

Status: This is the original version (as it was originally adopted).

Article 8

Decisions 92/424/EEC and 92/432/EEC are hereby repealed.

Article 9

This Decision shall apply from 1 January 1998.

Article 10

This Decision is addressed to the Member States.

Done at Brussels, 12 November 1997.

For the Commission

Franz FISCHLER

Member of the Commission

(1) OJ L 224, 18. 8. 1990, p. 42.