

# Traceability for livestock, feed and food in the EU

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# Outline of presentation

- Rationale
- Specific requirements for livestock
- Requirements in Regulation (EC) No 178/2002 (General Food Law) and additional guidance
- Specific requirements traceability of bovine meat
- Audit series on post-slaughter traceability

# Traceability

- **Live animals: animal identification and traceability**
- **Food (and feed) traceability: throughout the food chain**



# Traceability live animals

- **EU Legal framework for animal identification, holding registration and movement controls**
- **Tool for management of disease surveillance, outbreaks, eradication programmes, vaccination campaigns, regionalisation/zoning, husbandry etc.**
- **Specific legislation for cattle**

# Food and Feed traceability - rationale

- **Risk management tool**
- **Ensuring food and feed safety**
- **Traceability helps to:**
  - Facilitate targeted withdrawals and recalls of food
  - Tracing back to the source when a risk has been identified
  - Maintain consumer confidence
  - Facilitate verification by control authorities
  - Fair trading amongst operators

# Specific legislation - beef

- Full traceability of beef and beef products
- Specific labelling rules



# Cattle identification and traceability

- **Individual traceability from birth to death**
- **Rules reinforced after the BSE crisis in 1997**



# System for the identification and registration of bovine animals

- *Ear tags to identify animals individually*
- *Computerised databases*
- *Animal passports (Member State voluntary basis)*
- *Holding registers*
- *Designated authority in each Member State*
- *Control measures and sanctions*
- *Communication: published on the webpage of DG SANCO*

[http://ec.europa.eu/food/animal/identification/bovine/index\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/food/animal/identification/bovine/index_en.htm)



# Cattle Identification system



- ***Individual identification comprising :***
  - Double ear tags (one in each ear)
  - Individual identification number on the tag
- ***Specific production requirements, model and inscriptions as laid down in Regulation 911/2004***
- ***Period of application - stock at holding***
- ***Communication model***
- ***Derogations***
- ***[http://ec.europa.eu/food/animal/s/identification/bovine/ms\\_info\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/food/animal/s/identification/bovine/ms_info_en.htm) - provides information on Member State requirements and systems***

# Cattle passport

Põllumajanduse Registrite ja Informatsiooni Amet  
Veise pass A0887493

Passi väljastamise kuupäev 03.08.2004  
Loomapidaja nimi, elu- või asukoht ja aadress

**NÄIDIS**

Veise registrinumber EE0005912612

Tõug EPK Ristand X Sugu Emane

Veise sünnikuupäev 06.07.2004  
Veise sümboolne EE3535  
Veise ema registrinumber EE0004701545

VALD KAASIK  
PUUPASTVERE  
TARTU VALD  
60503, TARTUMAA

Alalkiri

	Kauplev / tulemas	Kauplev / tulemas	Kauplev / tulemas	Kauplev / tulemas	Kauplev / tulemas	Kauplev / tulemas	Kauplev / tulemas	Kauplev / tulemas	Kauplev / tulemas
Brus									
Leak									
Te									

Muud diagnoositud haigused

Vaktsineerimised

Muud veterinaartingimused

**Veise liikumise registreerimine**

Veise karja tootmise kuupäev	Ehitise registrinumber	Loomapidaja (tähta tähtidega)	Alalkiri
1.		Nimi: Elu- või asukoht ja aadress:	
2.		Nimi: Elu- või asukoht ja aadress:	
3.		Nimi: Elu- või asukoht ja aadress:	
4.		Nimi: Elu- või asukoht ja aadress:	
5.		Nimi: Elu- või asukoht ja aadress:	
6.		Nimi: Elu- või asukoht ja aadress:	

Hukkumise ☐ , kadumise ☐ , hädatapmise ☐ , oma tarbeks kohapeal lihaks tapmise ☐ , kontrollitapmise ☐ , loomataudi leviku tõkestamiseks tapmise ☐ , ekspordi ☐ kaupäev: ☐ Siltitriik: ☐ Alalkiri: ☐

Tapmine tapameajas (täidetakse juhul, kui tapamajast ei edastata töölojale andmeid elektrooniliselt)

Tapamaja tunnustamise number: ☐ Veise tapmise kaupäev: ☐ Tapmist korraldava isiku nimi ja alalkiri: ☐

- **Specific rules in Regulation 1760/2000 and 911/2004 (Articles 6 and 7):**
  - Period of issuing – return to authorities
  - Content of passport
  - Temporary passport
  - To be completed by each keeper immediately on arrival and prior to departure
  - One passport per animal
  - Communication model(s)
  - Not obligatory but many Member States use them

# Holding register

- **Specific rules in Regulations 1760/2000 and 911/2004**
  - Each keeper, with the exception of the transporter
  - Up-to date register (animals in/out/births/deaths)
  - Format approved by the competent authority
  - Manual or computerised

# Computerised database

- *At national level*
- *In accordance with requirements of Council Directive 64/432/EEC (Articles 14 and 18)*
- *Recognised as fully operational in all Member States*
- *Notification of movements (to and from holding), births, deaths, dates of these events within fixed time periods*
- *Plausibility checks - checklist*

# Sanctions cattle identification and registration- Regulation (EC) No 494/98

## ■ *Minimum administrative sanctions*

## ■ *Depending on non-compliance:*

- Movement restrictions
- Destruction of an animal without identification –cannot be slaughtered for human consumption
- Withhold or refuse the issue of passports

Example of non-compliance – 2 different tags with the same number



## Specific legislation – sheep, goats, and pigs

- **Sheep and goats – individual identification**
  - Derogation for young animals going directly to slaughter – group identification sufficient
  - Holding register, central database
- **Pigs- group identification (usually a slap mark),**
  - computerised central database,
  - holding register





# Specific legislation - Equidae

- ❑ Passport
- ❑ Identification document
- ❑ Identification (microchip, retinal scan etc.)
- ❑ Databases



# Traceability food and feed - Legislation

- *Horizontal legislation*
  - **General Food Law**
  - **Hygiene Package**
  - **Regulation on official food and feed controls**



# Art. 18 of Regulation 178/2002

*General traceability requirement (–  
"One step back" – "one step forward"  
approach*



# Traceability - Scope

- **Any substance** intended to be, or expected to be, incorporated into a food or feed
- All food business operators at all stages of the food/feed chain from primary production, food/feed processing to distribution and supply, including brokers, regardless of whether they take physical possession of the food/feed in question

## Food business operator's information/records – at least

- **From whom/where:** Name, address of supplier and identification of products supplied
- **To whom/where:** Name, address of customer and identification of products delivered
- **When?** Date and/or time of transaction/delivery
- **How much/many:** Volume/quantity
- Time for keeping records -Not specifically prescribed – should not be shorter than the shelf life

# Traceability requirements for food business operators

- systems and procedures in place - information available to the competent authorities upon request;
- Internal traceability (between incoming and outgoing products) - not legally required, but contributes to more targeted and accurate withdrawals

# Implementing aspects

Two implementing acts (detailed arrangements):

- Regulation (EU) 931/2011: food of animal origin
- Regulation (EU) 208/2013: sprouts and seeds intended for sprouting

Details on content (specific reference to identification of lot, batch or consignment) and format (flexible)

Record keeping: "remain available until it can be reasonably assumed that the food has been consumed"

## Further guidance:

[http://ec.europa.eu/food/safety/docs/gfl\\_r  
eq\\_guidance\\_rev\\_8\\_en.pdf](http://ec.europa.eu/food/safety/docs/gfl_r<br/>eq_guidance_rev_8_en.pdf)

- FBOs (including suppliers and customers): including "brokers"
- Internal traceability
  - **No mandatory direct link between incoming and outgoing products**
  - **However to be considered by FBO in view of targeting withdrawals, consumers' confidence, stock management**
- Structured approach for providing information without undue delay
- Additional specific legislation (GMOs, marketing standards)
- Period for keeping records

# *Regulation (EC) 1760/2000*

## *Title II – Labelling of beef and beef products*

- **Traceability systems of beef and beef products**
- **Compulsory beef labelling systems**
- **Voluntary beef labelling systems**
- **Official controls on traceability systems of beef and beef products and beef labelling systems**

# Traceability systems

- *Operators and organisations shall, at each of their various stages of production and sale, have an identification system and a comprehensive registration system*
- *Application – to ensure the link between the identification of the meat and the animal(s) concerned*
- *The registration system shall record, in particular, the arrival and departure of livestock, carcasses and/or cuts to ensure correlation between arrival and departures*



# Compulsory Community beef labelling system

*The labelling system shall ensure a link between:*

- **The identification of the carcass, quarter or pieces of meat**
- **The individual animals or group of animals concerned**



*A compulsory system must not lead to any disruption of trade between the Member States*

# Content of the label



- *Reference number or code*
- *Slaughtered in (name of Member State or third country) (approval number)*
- *Cutting in (name of Member State or third country) (approval number)*
- *Member State or third country of birth*
- *All Member States or third countries where fattening took place*

# Derogations

- *Derogation for simplification indication : origin of ..*
- *Derogation for minced meat*
- *Derogation for trimmings*
- *Derogation for imported beef*



# Controls on compulsory labelling and voluntary labelling



## **Regulation 1169/2011 on the provision of food information to consumers....**

*Since 2015, there are compulsory systems in the EU regarding the country of origin labelling for meat of other species than bovine – the aim is to ensure better traceability.*



# Audit series on post slaughter traceability 2014-2015

- *Series of audits 2014-2015*
- *13 Member States*
- *Individual audit reports*
- *Overview report will be published on DG SANTE's web page*



## Objectives of the audits

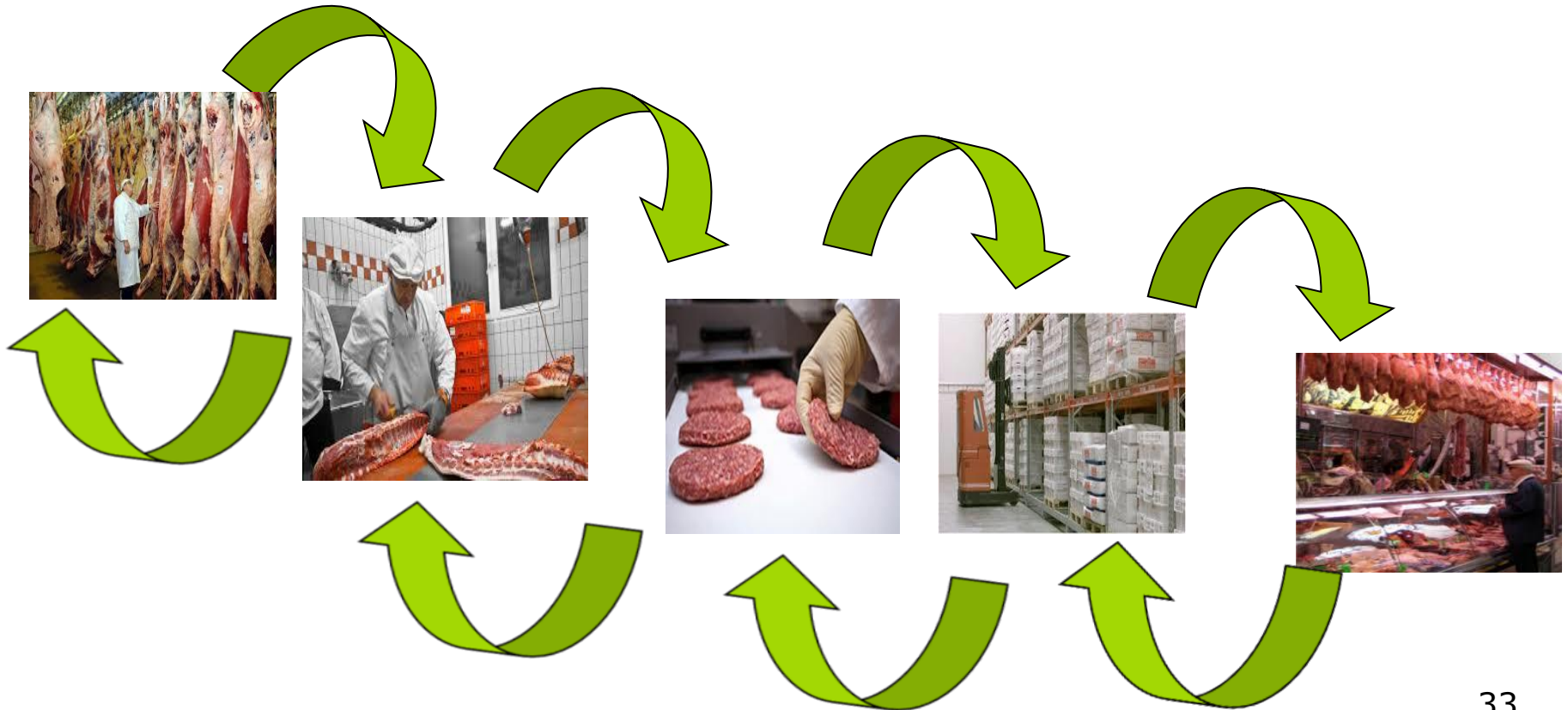
- *To evaluate the operation of official controls over the traceability of meat, minced meat, MSM, meat preparations, meat products and composite products containing meat and products thereof and other ingredients*
- *To evaluate the implementation of, and official control over, EU legislation on the labelling and identification systems of meat and products thereof*

# Scope

- *Horizontal requirements*
- *Sectoral requirements*
  - **Production chain of fresh meat and meat products thereof, including composite products**
  - **Storage and distribution chain**
  - **Retail distribution, storage and sale chain**
  - **Labelling**
  - **Use of additives in meat and products thereof**



# Scope



# Organisation of audit

- *Week 1*

- **Retail level** →
- **samples of meat and products thereof**
- **Trace back to slaughterhouse of origin or point of entry in the Member State visited**
- **Documented evidence food chain, accuracy of the labelling in relation to ingredients and composition**





# Organisation of audits (continue)

- *Week 2*
  - **Visits to different establishments,**
  - **which were identified during the above mentioned traceability exercise,**
  - **to evaluate the situation on-the-spot**

## **Some preliminary conclusions**

- **Competent authorities designated by the Member States**
- **Controls carried out by Member States**
- **Some Member States had specialized teams**
- **Audits time-consuming**
- **Shortcomings with controls on labelling related to species other than bovine**
- **Shortcomings on controls on additives**
- **Shortcoming in relation to traceability of meat and meat products**

# Conclusions

- Traceability is essential in a reliable food safety system
- A number of crises have triggered a number of initiatives to enhance/facilitate the practical application
- Work is ongoing on tools in view of facilitating traceability

# Thank you for your attention! Any Questions?

