COMMISSION DECISION

of 4 April 2001

amending Decision 93/402/EEC concerning animal health conditions and veterinary certification for imports of fresh meat from South American countries to take account of the animal health situation in Argentina

(notified under document number C(2001) 1040)

(Text with EEA relevance)

(2001/276/EC)

THE COMMISSION OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES,

Having regard to the Treaty establishing the European Community,

Having regard to Council Directive 72/462/EEC of 12 December 1972 on health and veterinary inspection problems upon importation of bovine, ovine and caprine animals and swine, fresh meat or meat products from third countries [1], as last amended by Directive 97/79/EC [2], in particular Articles 3 and 14 thereof,

Whereas:

(1) The animal health conditions and veterinary certification for imports of fresh meat from Colombia, Paraguay, Uruguay, Brazil, Chile and Argentina are laid down by Commission Decision 93/402/EEC [3], as last amended by Decision 2000/755/EC [4].

(2) Imports of fresh meat must take into account the different epidemiological situations in the countries concerned, and indeed in the different parts of their territories.

(3) The responsibe veterinary authorities of the concerned countries must confirm that their countries or regions have for at least 12 months been free from rinderpest, and foot-and-mouth disease. Furthermore, the responsible authorities of the concerned countries must undertake to notify the Commission and the Member States within 24 hours, by fax, telex or telegram of the confirmation of the occurrence of any of the abovementioned diseases or an alteration in the vaccination policy against them.

(4) On 2 March 2001 the authorities of Argentina informed the Commission that a new regionalisation and vaccination policy against foot-and-mouth disease was being introduced as a result of the incursion of illegally intorduced animals from neighbouring countries found to be positive for foot-and-mouth disease in order to protect the border areas and part of the rearing and fattening areas of central Argentina.

(5) The authorities of Argentina have provided information that, *inter alia*, in the northem border areas (buffer area) and a separate central area (restricted area) vaccination of cattle against foot-and-mouth disease is being reintroduced after a cessation of vaccination since 1999. In addition an outbreak of foot-and-mouth disease was notified to the OIE on 13 March 2001. Therefore it appears that the status of the country should be reviewed in the light of these changes as the existing requirements were based on a different disease and animal movement control strategy.

(6) Moreover information from Argentina indicates that it has suspended exports of meat to Canada, Chile and the United States of America but not to the European Community.

(7) It is therefore necessary to supsend the authorisation of importation into the Community of all categories of fresh meat from those species susceptible to foot-and-mouth disease, at least until a Commission inspection mission has been carried out to examine the new situation on the ground or the situation has been adequately clarified.

(8) It is necessary to clarify the tables listing the countries following experience gained in the implementation of this Decision by the authorities.

(9) Therefore importation into the Community of fresh meat from bovines and ovines should no longer be authorised.

(10) Decision 93/402/EEC must be amended accordingly.

(11) It will be necessary to review this Decision in the light of the results of the next Commission veterinay inspection mission and/or any change in the health situation in Argentina notified to the Commission in the meantime.

(12) The measures provided for in this Decision are in accordance with the opinion of the Standing Veterinary Committee,

[1] OJ L 302, 31.12.1972, p. 28.
[2] OJ L 24, 30.1.1998, p. 31.
[3] OJ L 179, 22.7.1993, p. 11.
[4] OJ L 303, 2.12.2000, p. 36.

HAS ADOPTED THIS DECISION:

Article 1

Decision 93/402/EEC is amended as follows:

1. Annex I is replaced by Annex A to this Decision;
2. Annex II is replaced by Annex B to this Decision.

Article 2

This Decision shall apply until 15 April 2001.

Article 3

This Decision is addressed to the Member States.

Done at Brussels, 4 April 2001.

For the Commission
David BYRNE
Member of the Commission

ANNEX A

'ANNEX I

DESCRIPTION OF TERRITORIES OF SOUTH AMERICA ESTABLISHED FOR ANIMAL HEALTH CERTIFICATION PURPOSES

Country	Territory		Description of territory
	Code	Version	
Argentina	AR	01/2001	Whole country
Brazil	BR	01/93	Whole country
	BR-1	01/96	States of: Rio Grande do Sul, Parana, Minas Gerais, (except regional delegations of Oliveira, Passos, São Gonçalo de Sapucai, Setelagoas and Bambuí), São Paulo, Espirito Santo, Mato Grosso do Sul (except for the municipalities of Sonora, Aquidauana, Bodoquena, Bonito, Caracol, Coxim, Jardim, Ladario, Miranda, Pedro Gomes, Porto Murtinho, Rio Negro, Rio Verde of Mato Grosso and Corumba), Santa Catarina, Goias and the regional units of Cuiaba (except for the municipalities of San Antonio de Leverger, Nossa Senhora do Livramento, Pocone and Barão de Melgaço), Caceres (except for the municipality of Caceres) Lucas do Rio Verde, Rondonopolis (except for the municipality of Itiquiora), Barra do Garças and Barra do Bugres in Mato Grosso
Chile	CL	01/93	Whole country
Colombia	CO	01/93	Whole country
	CO-1	01/93	The zone included within the following borderlines: from the point where the Murri River flows into the Atrato River, downstream along the Atrato River to where it flows into the Atlantic Ocean, from this point to the Panamanian border following the Atlantic coastline to Cabo Tiburon; from this point to the Pacific Ocean following the Columbian-Panamanian border: from this point to the mouth of the Valle River along the Pacific Coast and from this point along a straight line to the point where the Murri River flows into the Atrato River
	CO-2	01/93	The municipalities of Arboletas, Necocli, San Pedro de Uraba, Turbo, Apartado, Chigorodo, Mutata, Dabeiba, Uramita, Murindo, Riosucio (right bank of the Atrato river) and Frontino
	CO-3	01/93	The zone included within the following borderlines: from the mouth of the Sinu River on the Atlantic Ocean, upstream along the Sinu River to its headwaters of Alto Paramillo, from this point to Puerto Rey on the Atlantic Ocean, following the borderline between the Department of Antiquia and Cordoba, and from this point to the mouth of the Sinu River along the Atlantic Coast
Paraguay	PY	01/93	Whole country
Uruguay	UY	01/93	Whole country
	UY-1	01/00	Whole country excluding the department of Artigas'

ANNEX B

'ANNEX II

(Version No 02/2001)

ANIMAL HEALTH GUARANTEES REQUESTED ON CERTIFICATION (1)

Country	Territory	Fresh meat including bone but excluding offal				Deboned fresh meat excluding offal				Offal						
		Species				Species				of bovine animals					of ovines	
		Bovine	Ovine/ caprine	Porcine	Soliped	Bovine	Ovine/ caprine	Porcine	Soliped	HC (*)	MP (*)				PF (*)	PF (*)
											1	2	3	4		
Argentina	AR	—	—	—	D	—	—	—	D	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Brazil	BR	—	—	—	D	—	—	—	D	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	BR-1	—	—	—	D	A	—	—	D	—	—	—	—	—	F	—
Chile	CL	B	B	H	D	A	C	H	D	B	B	B	B	B	B	B
Colombia	CO	—	—	—	D	—	—	—	D	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	CO-1	—	—	—	D	A	—	—	D	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	CO-2	—	—	—	D	—	—	—	D	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	CO-3	—	—	—	D	A	—	—	D	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Paraguay	PY	—	—	—	D	A	—	—	D	—	—	—	—	—	F	—
Uruguay	UY	—	—	—	D	A	C	—	D	—		—	E	E	F	G
	UY-1	B	B	—	D	A	C	—	D	B	B	B	B	B	B	B

(1) The letters (A, B, C, D, E, F, G and H) appearing on the table, are referring to the models of animal health guarantees as described in Annex III Part 2 of Decision 93/402/EEC, to be applied for each product and origin in accordance with Article 2 of this Decision.

(*) HC Human consumption.

MP Destined for heat-treated meat products industry:

1 = hearts

2 = livers

3 = masseter muscles

4 = tongues.

PF: Destined for the pet food industry.'