COMMISSION

COMMISSION DECISION

of 22 January 2002

amending Decision 93/402/EEC concerning animal health conditions and veterinary certification for imports of fresh meat from South American countries, in particular as regards from Argentina

(notified under document number C(2002) 287)

(Text with EEA relevance)

(2002/45/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 Regulation (EC) No 1452/2001 [2], and in particular Article 15 and Article 16(1) thereof,

Whereas:

(1) The animal health conditions and veterinary certification for imports of fresh meat from Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Paraguay and Uruguay are laid down by Commission Decision 93/402/EEC of 10 June 1993 concerning animal health conditions and veterinary certification for imports of fresh meat from South American countries [3], as last amended by Decision 2001/842/EC [4].

(2) Outbreaks of foot and mouth disease were confirmed in Argentina starting on 13 March 2001 and a program of vaccination of bovines against foot and mouth disease was introduced.

(3) The Commission suspended the importation from Argentina into the Community of all categories of fresh meat from those species susceptible to foot and mouth disease by Commission Decision 2001/276/EC [5].

(4) A Commission mission took place, between 19 and 30 November 2001, in order to examine the epidemiological situation regarding foot and mouth disease and the control measures in place.

(5) This examination showed that the competent veterinary authorities of Argentina have addressed most of the concerns including those identified during previous missions, and that the disease situation has now stabilised in a number of provinces. However, additional guarentees were requested.

(6) The competent veterinary authorities of Argentina have sent the necessary additional information and guarantees requested and it is therefore appropriate to allow importations from certain provinces of deboned bovine fresh meat for human consumption, and of certain meat and offal derived from bovine species for direct treatment for pet food.

(7) Decision 93/402/EEC should therefore be amended accordingly.

(8) This Decision will be reviewed in the light of the evolution of the situation within three months.

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

HAS ADOPTED THIS DECISION:

Article 1

Annexes I and II to Decision 93/402/EEC are replaced by the Annex to this Decision.

[1] OJ L 302, 31.12.1972, p. 28.
[2] OJ L 198, 21.7.2001, p. 11.
[3] OJ L 179, 22.7.1993, p. 11.
[4] OJ L 301, 30.11.2001, p. 45.
[5] OJ L 95, 5.4.2001, p. 41.

Article 2

The health certificate provided for in Commission Decision 93/402/EEC at Annex III model A part 2 dispatched from Argentina must be completed by the following health attestation:

'The deboned fresh meat described above is obtained from animals which do not come from a department where an outbreak of foot-and-mouth disease has occurred in the previous 60 days. In addition the deboned meat does not originate from animals in the surrounding departments.'

Article 3

This Decision shall apply from 1 February 2002 after being reviewed at the Standing Veterinary Committee scheduled for 22 and 23 January 2002.

Article 4

This Decision is addressed to the Member States.

Done at Brussels, 22 January 2002.

For the Commission

David BYRNE

Member of the Commission

ANNEX

'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
	AR-1	01/2002	The Provinces of Buenos Aires, Catamarca, Chaco, Chubut, Córdoba, Corrientes, Entre Ríos, Formosa, Jujuy, La Rioja, Mendoza, Misiones, Neuquen, Rio Negro, Salta, San Juan, San Luis, Santa Cruz, Santa Fe, Tierra del Fuego and Tucuman
Brazil	BR	01/93	Whole country
	BR-1	02/2001	The States of: Rio Grande do Sul, Parana, Minas Gerais, (except regional delegations of Oliveira, Passos, São Gonçalo de Sapucai, Setelagoas and Bambuí), São Paulo, Espírito 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 head-waters 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	01/2001	Whole country'

'ANNEX II

Animal health guarantees requested on certification [1]

Country	Territory	Model certificate for fresh meat				Model certificate for offal								Model certificate for deboned fresh meat (not to be used for offal)			
		Species				of bovine animals						of ovines		Species			
		Bovine	Ovine-caprine	Porcine	Soliped	HC	MP				PF	HC	PF	Bovine	Ovine-caprine	Porcine	Soliped
							1	2	3	4							
Argentina	AR	—	—	—	D	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	D
	AR-1	—	—	—	D	—	—	—	—	—	F [7]	—	—	A [6]	—	—	D
Brazil	BR	—	—	—	D	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	D
	BR-1	—	—	—	D	—	—	—	—	—	F [5]	—	—	A [5]	—	—	D
Chile	CL	B	B	H	D	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	A	C	H	D
Colombia	CO	—	—	—	D	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	D
	CO-1	—	—	—	D	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	A	—	—	D
	CO-2	—	—	—	D	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	D
	CO-3	—	—	—	D	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	A	—	—	D
Paraguay	PY	—	—	—	D	—	—	—	—	—	F	—	—	A	—	—	D
Uruguay	UY	B [2]	B [2]	—	D	B [2]	B [3]	B [3]	B [3]	B [3]	F B [3]	—	G B [3]	A [4]	C [4]	—	D

[1] The letter (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 this Decision, to be applied for each product and origin in accordance with Article 2 of this Decision; a dash (—) indicates that imports are not authorised.
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.
[2] Only to be used for meat from animals slaughtered before 23 March 2001.
[3] Only to be used for offal from animals slaughtered before 23 April 2001.
[4] Only to be used for deboned meat from animals slaughtered before 23 April 2001 and/or after 1 November 2001.
[5] In the case of Rio Grande do Sul only to be used for deboned meat or offal for pet food from animals slaughtered before 9 May 2001 and/or after 30 November 2001.
[6] Only to be used for deboned meat from bovine animals slaughtered after 31 January 2002.
[7] Only to be used for deboned meat or offal for petfood from bovine animals slaughtered after 31 January 2002.'