COMMISSION DECISION

of 14 March 2005

amending Annex II to Council Decision 79/542/EEC as regards imports of fresh meat from Argentina

(notified under document number C(2005) 602)

(Text with EEA relevance)

(2005/234/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], and in particular the second subparagraph of Articles 3(1) and 16(1) thereof,

Having regard to Council Directive 2002/99/EC of 16 December 2002 laying down the animal health rules governing the production, processing, distribution and introduction of products of animal origin for human consumption [2], and in particular Article 8(1) and (4),

Whereas:

(1) Part 1 of Annex II to Council Decision 79/542/EEC of 21 December 1979 drawing up a list of third countries or parts of third countries, and laying down animal and public health and veterinary certification conditions, for importation into the Community of certain live animals and their fresh meat [3] sets out a list of third countries and parts of third countries from which Member States are authorised to import certain live animals and their fresh meat.

(2) Following an outbreak of foot-and-mouth disease ('FMD') that occurred in September 2003 in Argentina in the province of Salta, in the north of the country close to the border with Paraguay, 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 [4] was amended by Decisions 2003/658/EC [5] and 2003/758/EC [6], in order to suspend importation of deboned and matured bovine meat from the Argentinean provinces of Salta, Jujuy, Chaco and Formosa. Decision 93/402/EEC has been repealed by Decision 2004/212/EC [7] and its provisions have been incorporated in Decision 79/542/EEC.

(3) The outbreak has been closed for more than 12 months and no new outbreaks have been detected in the territory of Argentina. In the meantime, inspection missions carried out in 2004 have shown that the situation in Argentina has improved in regard to both animal and public health.

(4) The Commission requested Argentina to provide for a buffer zone along its borders with Bolivia and Paraguay in order to avoid the risk of introduction of FMD. Argentina proposed a zone with a width of 25 kilometres along its border with those countries ('the buffer zone'). Detailed maps and information, in particular concerning control measures in place in the buffer zone, have now been provided to the Commission. Importation into the Community from the buffer zone of fresh meat from species susceptible to FMD should be prohibited.

(5) It is therefore appropriate to resume importation of deboned and matured bovine fresh meat from the provinces of Salta, Jujuy, Chaco and Formosa with the exception of the buffer zone.

(6) Decision 79/542/EEC has been amended by Decision 2004/212/EC *inter alia* in order to exclude meat products from its scope. It is therefore appropriate to delete in Article 1 the erroneous reference to meat products.

(7) Article 1 and Part 1 of Annex II to Decision 79/542/EEC should be amended accordingly.

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[1] OJ L 302, 31.12.1972, p. 28. Directive as last amended by Regulation (EC) No 807/2003 (OJ L 122, 16.5.2003, p. 36).
[2] OJ L 18, 23.1.2003, p. 11.
[3] OJ L 146, 14.6.1979, p. 15. Decision as last amended by Commission Decision 2004/620/EC (OJ L 279, 28.8.2004, p. 30).
[4] OJ L 179, 22.7.1993, p. 11.
[5] OJ L 232, 18.9.2003, p. 59.
[6] OJ L 272, 23.10.2003, p. 16.
[7] OJ L 73, 11.3.2004, p. 11.

(8) The measures provided for in this Decision are in accordance with the opinion of the Standing Committee on the Food Chain and Animal Health,

HAS ADOPTED THIS DECISION:

Article 1

In Article 1 to Decision 79/542/EEC the words 'and meat products' are deleted.

Article 2

Part 1 of Annex II to Decision 79/542/EEC is replaced by the text in the Annex to this Decision.

Article 3

This Decision shall apply from 18 March 2005.

Article 4

This Decision is addressed to the Member States.

Done at Brussels, 14 March 2005.

For the Commission
Markos KYPRIANOU
Member of the Commission

ANNEX

'ANNEX II

FRESH MEAT

Part 1

LIST OF THIRD COUNTRIES OR PARTS THEREOF (*)

Country	Code of Territory	Description of territory	Veterinary certificate		Specific conditions
			Model(s)	SG	
1	2	3	4	5	6
AL — Albania	AL-0	Whole country	—		
AR — Argentina	AR-0	Whole country	EQU		
	AR-1	The provinces of Buenos Aires, Catamarca, Corrientes, Entre Ríos, La Rioja, Mendoza, Misiones, Neuquen, Rio Negro, San Juan, San Luis, Santa Fe and Tucuman.	BOV	A	1 and 2
	AR-2	La Pampa and Santiago del Estero	BOV	A	1 and 2
	AR-3	Cordoba	BOV	A	1 and 2
	AR-4	Chubut, Santa Cruz and Tierra del Fuego	BOV, OVI		
	AR-5	Formosa (only the territory of Ramon Lista) and Salta (only the department of Rivadavia)	BOV	A	1 and 2
	AR-6	Salta (only the departments of General Jose de San Martin, Oran, Iruya and Santa Victoria)	BOV	A	1 and 2
	AR-7	Chaco, Formosa (except the territory of Ramon Lista), Salta (except the departments of General Jose de San Martin, Rivadavia, Oran, Iruya and Santa Victoria), Jujuy	BOV	A	1 and 2
	AR-8	Chaco, Formosa, Salta, Jujuy, with the exception of the buffer area of 25 km from the border with Bolivia and Paraguay that extends from the Santa Catalina District in the Province of Jujuy, to the Laishi District in the Province of Formosa	BOV	A	1 and 2
	AR-9	The buffer area of 25 km from the border with Bolivia and Paraguay that extends from the Santa Catalina District in the Province of Jujuy to the Laishi District in the Province of Formosa	—		
AU — Australia	AU-0	Whole country	BOV, OVI, POR, EQU, RUF, RUW, SUF, SUW		
BA — Bosnia Herzegovina	BA-0	Whole country	—		
BG — Bulgaria	BG-0	Whole country	EQU		
	BG-1	The provinces of Varna, Dobrich, Silistra, Choumen, Targovitchte, Razgrad, Rousse, V. Tarnovo, Gabrovo, Pleven, Lovetch, Plovdic, Smolian, Pasardjik, Sofia district, Sofia city, Pernik, Kustendil, Blagoevgrad, Vratza, Montana and Vidin	BOV, OVI RUW, RUF		
	BG-2	The provinces of Bourgas, Jambol, Sliven, Starazagora, Hasskovo, Kardjaliand and the 20-km-wide corridor on the border with Turkey	—		
BH — Bahrain	BH-0	Whole country	—		

1	2	3	4	5	6
BR — Brazil	BR-0	Whole country	EQU		
	BR-1	States of Paraná, Minas Gerais (except regional delegations of Oliveira, Passos, São Gonçalo de Sapucai, Setelagoas and Bambuí), São Paulo, Espíritu Santo, Mato Grosso do Sul (except for the municipalities of Sete Quedas, Sonora, Aquidauana, Bodoqueno, Bonito, Caracol, Coxim, Jardim, Ladario, Miranda, Pedro Gomes, Porto Murtinho, Rio Negro, Rio Verde of Mato Grosso and Corumbá), 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 Garça and Barra do Burges in Mato Grosso.	BOV	A	1 and 2
	BR-2	State of Rio Grande do Sul	BOV	A	1 and 2
	BR-3	State of Mato Grosso do Sul, municipality of Sete Quedas	BOV	A	1 and 2
BW — Botswana	BW-0	Whole country	EQU, EQW		
	BW-1	The veterinary disease control zones 5, 6, 7, 8, 9 and 18	BOV, OVI, RUF, RUW	F	1 and 2
	BW-2	The veterinary disease control zones 10, 11, 12, 13 and 14	BOV, OVI, RUF, RUW	F	1 and 2
BY — Belarus	BY-0	Whole country	—		
BZ — Belize	BZ-0	Whole country	BOV, EQU		
CA — Canada	CA-0	Whole country	BOV, OVI, POR, EQU, SUF, SUW RUF, RUW,	G	
CH — Switzerland	CH-0	Whole country	BOV, OVI, POR, EQU, RUF, RUW, SUF, SUW		
CL — Chile	CL-0	Whole country	BOV, OVI, POR, EQU, RUF, RUW, SUF		
CN — China (People's Republic of)	CN-0	Whole country	—		
CO — Colombia	CO-0	Whole country	EQU		
	CO-1	The zone included within the 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 coast-line to Cabo Tiburón; 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.	BOV	A	2
	CO-3	The zone included within the 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 Córdoba, and from this point to the mouth of the Sinu River along the Atlantic coast.	BOV	A	2

1	2	3	4	5	6
CR — Costa Rica	CR-0	Whole country	BOV, EQU		
CS — Serbia and Montenegro (**)	CS-0	Whole country	BOV, OVI, EQU		
CU — Cuba	CU-0	Whole country	BOV, EQU		
DZ — Algeria	DZ-0	Whole country	—		
ET — Ethiopia	ET-0	Whole country	—		
FK — Falkland Islands	FK-0	Whole country	BOV, OVI, EQU		
GL — Greenland	GL-0	Whole country	BOV, OVI, EQU, RUF, RUW		
GT — Guatemala	GT-0	Whole country	BOV, EQU		
HK — Hong Kong	HK-0	Whole country	—		
HN — Honduras	HN-0	Whole country	BOV, EQU		
HR — Croatia	HR-0	Whole country	BOV, OVI, EQU, RUF, RUW		
IL — Israel	IL-0	Whole country	—		
IN — India	IN-0	Whole country	—		
IS — Iceland	IS-0	Whole country	BOV, OVI, EQU, RUF, RUW		
KE — Kenya	KE-0	Whole country	—		
MA — Morocco	MA-0	Whole country	EQU		
MG — Madagascar	MG-0	Whole country	—		
MK — Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia (***)	MK-0	Whole country	OVI, EQU		
MU — Mauritius	MU-0	Whole country	—		
MX — Mexico	MX-0	Whole country	BOV, EQU		
NA — Namibia	NA-0	Whole country	EQU, EQW		
	NA-1	South of the cordon fences which extend from Palgrave Point in the west to Gam in the east	BOV, OVI, RUF, RUW	F	2
NC — New Caledonia	NC-0	Whole country	BOV, RUF, RUW		
NI — Nicaragua	NI-0	Whole country	—		
NZ — New Zealand	NZ-0	Whole country	BOV, OVI, POR, EQU, RUF, RUW, SUF, SUW		
PA — Panamá	PA-0	Whole country	BOV, EQU		

1	2	3	4	5	6
PY — Paraguay	PY-0	Whole country	EQU		
	PY-1	Chaco central and San Pedro areas	BOV	A	1 and 2
RO — Romania	RO-0	Whole country	BOV, OVI, EQU, RUW, RUF		
RU — Russian Federation	RU-0	Whole country	—		
	RU-1	Region of Murmansk (Murmanskaya oblast)	RUF		
SV — El Salvador	SV-0	Whole country	—		
SZ — Swaziland	SZ-0	Whole country	EQU, EQW		
	SZ-1	Area west of the "red line" fences which extends northwards from the river Usutu to the frontier with South Africa west of Nkalashane	BOV, RUF, RUW	F	2
	SZ-2	The veterinary foot and mouth surveillance and vaccination control areas as gazetted as a Statutory Instrument under legal notice number 51 of 2001	BOV, RUF, RUW	F	1 and 2
TH — Thailand	TH-0	Whole country	—		
TN — Tunisia	TN-0	Whole country	—		
TR — Turkey	TR-0	Whole country	—		
	TR-1	The provinces of Amasya, Ankara, Aydin, Balikesir, Bursa, Cankiri, Corum, Denizli, Izmir, Kastamonu, Kutahya, Manisa, Usak, Yozgat and Kirikkale	EQU		
UA — Ukraine	UA-0	Whole country	—		
US — United States	US-0	Whole country	BOV, OVI, POR, EQU, SUF, SUW, RUF, RUW	G	
UY — Uruguay	UY-0	Whole country	EQU		
			BOV	A	1 and 2
			OVI	A	1 and 2
ZA — South Africa	ZA-0	Whole country	EQU, EQW		
	ZA-1	The whole country except: — the part of the foot-and-mouth disease control area situated in the veterinary regions of Mpumalanga and Northern provinces, in the district of Ingwavuma of the veterinary region of Natal and in the border area with Botswana east of longitude 28°, and — the district of Camperdown, in the province of KwaZuluNatal	BOV, OVI, RUF, RUW	F	2
ZW — Zimbabwe	ZW-0	Whole country	—		

(*) Without prejudice to specific certification requirements provided for by Community agreements with third countries.
(**) Not including Kosovo as defined by United Nations Security Council Resolution 1244 of 10 June 1999.
(***) Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia; provisional code that does not affect the definitive denomination of the country to be attributed after the conclusion of the negotiations currently taking place in the United Nations.
— = No certificate laid down and fresh meat imports are prohibited (except for those species where indicated in the line for the whole country)

Specific conditions referred to in column 6

"1": Geographic and timing restrictions

Code of Territory	Veterinary certificate		Time period/dates for which importation into the Community is authorised or not authorised in relation to dates of slaughter/killing of animals from which the meat was obtained	
	Model	SG		
AR-1	BOV	A	Before and including 31 January 2002	Not authorised
			After and including 1 February 2002	Authorised
AR-2	BOV	A	Before and including 8 March 2002	Not authorised
			After and including 9 March 2002	Authorised
AR-3	BOV	A	Before and including 26 March 2002	Not authorised
			After and including 27 March 2002	Authorised
AR-4	BOV, OVI, RUM, RUF	—	Before and including 28 February 2002	Not authorised
			After and including 1 March 2002	Authorised
AR-5	BOV	A	From 1 February 2002 to 10 July 2003 (inclusive)	Authorised
			After and including 11 July 2003	Not authorised
AR-6	BOV	A	From 1 February 2002 to 4 September 2003 (inclusive)	Authorised
			After and including 5 September 2003	Not authorised
AR-7	BOV	A	From 1 February 2002 to 7 October 2003 (inclusive)	Authorised
			After and including 8 October 2003	Not authorised
AR-8	BOV	A	Before and including 18 March 2005	see AR-5, AR-6 and AR-7 for periods when the specific territories within the area referred to in AR-8 were not authorised
			After and including 18 March 2005	Authorised
BR-2	BOV	A	Before and including 30 November 2001	Not authorised
			After and including 1 December 2001	Authorised
BR-3	BOV	A	Before and including 31 October 2002	Authorised
			After and including 1 November 2002	Not authorised
BW-1	BOV, OVI, RUM, RUF	A	Before and including 7 July 2002	Not authorised
			After and including 8 July to 22 December 2002	Authorised
			After and including 23 December 2002 to 6 June 2003	Not authorised
			After and including 7 June 2003	Authorised
BW-2	BOV, OVI, RUM, RUF	A	Before and including 6 March 2002	Not authorised
			After and including 7 March 2002	Authorised

Code of Territory	Veterinary certificate		Time period/dates for which importation into the Community is authorised or not authorised in relation to dates of slaughter/killing of animals from which the meat was obtained	
	Model	SG		
PY-1	BOV	A	Before and including 31 August 2002	Not authorised
			After and including 1 September 2002 to 19 February 2003	Authorised
			After and including 20 February 2003	Not authorised
SZ-2	BOV, RUF, RUW	A	Before and including 3 August 2003	Not authorised
			After and including 4 August 2003	Authorised
UY-0	BOV, OVI	A	Before and including 31 October 2001	Not authorised
			After and including 1 November 2001	Authorised

"2": Category restrictions

No offal authorised (except, in the case of bovine species, diaphragm and masseter muscles).'