

II

(Acts whose publication is not obligatory)

COMMISSION

COMMISSION DECISION

of 20 October 2003

amending Decision 93/402/EEC as regards imports of fresh meat from Argentina

(notified under document number C(2003) 3827)

(Text with EEA relevance)

(2003/758/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 807/2003 ⁽²⁾, and in particular Article 14(3) 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 ⁽³⁾ and in particular Article 8(4),

Whereas:

- (1) 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⁾, as last amended by Decision 2003/658/EC ⁽⁵⁾, applies to Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Paraguay and Uruguay.
- (2) The Commission was informed of an outbreak of foot and mouth disease in Argentina in the department of General José de San Martín in the province of Salta and Decision 2003/658/EC was taken to suspend the importation of boned and matured bovine meat from the departments of General José de San Martín, Rivadavia, Orán, Iruya, and Santa Victoria in the province of Salta and from the department of Ramón Lista in the province of Formosa.

- (3) However, the Argentinean veterinary authorities have informed the Commission Services on 19 September 2003 that they have enlarged the area under restriction in order to prevent a further spread of the disease in other parts of Argentina, and to create a buffer zone along the borders with other countries.
- (4) The new area put under restriction by the Argentinean veterinary authorities covers the departments of Matacos and Bermejo in the province of Formosa, the department of Almirante Brown in the province of Chaco and the department of Patiño in the province of Formosa.
- (5) From the information requested from and provided by the Argentinean veterinary authorities, it is not possible to fully assess the situation in the concerned areas because it is not clear exactly what measures are applied to the animals in these territories and what are the results of the sampling being carried out.
- (6) In view of this uncertainty and in order to safeguard the animal health situation in the European Community it is prudent to temporarily suspend importation of boned and matured bovine meat on a regional basis from the whole territory of the provinces of Formosa, Chaco and Salta and in addition the province of Jujuy because of its geographical position.
- (7) However, in the absence of clear evidence of disease in these additional areas of Argentina, the importation into the Community of boned and matured bovine fresh meat for human consumption and boned meat and offal for petfood slaughtered, produced and certified before the 8 October 2003 should be permitted.

⁽¹⁾ OJ L 302, 31.12.1972, p. 28.

⁽²⁾ OJ L 122, 16.5.2003, p. 36.

⁽³⁾ OJ L 18, 23.1.2002, p. 11.

⁽⁴⁾ OJ L 179, 22.7.1993, p. 11.

⁽⁵⁾ OJ L 232, 18.9.2003, p. 59.

- (8) Decision 93/402/EEC should be amended accordingly.
- (9) The measures provided for in this Decision are in accordance with the opinion of the Standing Committee on the Food Chain and Animal Health,

Article 2

The Member States shall amend the measures they apply to imports so as to bring them into compliance with this Decision and they shall give immediate appropriate publicity to the measures adopted. They shall immediately inform the Commission thereof.

HAS ADOPTED THIS DECISION:

Article 3

This Decision is addressed to the Member States.

Article 1

Decision 93/402/EEC is amended as follows:

Done at Brussels, 20 October 2003.

1. Annex I is replaced by the text in the Annex I to this Decision,
2. Annex II is replaced by the text in the Annex II to this Decision.

For the Commission

David BYRNE

Member of the Commission

ANNEX I

'ANNEX I

Description of territories of South America established for animal health certification purposes

Country	Territory		Description of territory
	Code	Version	
Argentina	AR	1/2001	Whole country
	AR-1	5/2002	The Provinces of Buenos Aires, Catamarca, Córdoba, Corrientes, Entre Ríos, La Pampa, La Rioja, Mendoza, Misiones, Neuquen, Rio Negro, San Juan, San Luis, Santa Fe, Santiago del Estero and Tucuman
	AR-3	1/2002	Chubut, Santa Cruz and Tierra del Fuego
	AR-4	1/2003	The Provinces of Chaco, Formosa (except the territory of Ramón Lista), Jujuy, Salta (except the departments of General José de San Martín, Rivadavia, Orán, Iruya and Santa Victoria
Brazil	BR	1/1993	Whole country
	BR-1	2/2001	The States of: Rio Grande do Sul; Parana, Minas Gerais (except regional delegations of Oliveira, Passos, São Gonçalo de Sapucaí, Setelagoas and Bambuí), São Paulo, Espírito Santo, Mato Grosso do Sul (except for the municipalities of Sete Quedas, Sonora, Aquidauana, Bodoquena, Bonito, Caracol, Coxim, Jardim, Ladario, Miranda, Pedro Gomes, Porto Murtinho, Rio Negro, Rio Verde of Mato Grosso and Corumba), Santa Catarina Goiás 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
	BR-2	1/2002	Mato Grosso do Sul municipality of Sete Quedas
Chile	CL	1/1993	Whole country
Colombia	CO	1/1993	Whole country
	CO-1	1/1993	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	1/1993	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	1/1993	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	1/1993	Whole country
	PY-1	1/2002	Chaco central and San Pedro areas
Uruguay	UY	1/2001	Whole country'

ANNEX II

ANNEX II

Animal health guarantees requested on certification ⁽¹⁾

Country	Territory	Model certificate for fresh meat excluding offal				Model certificate for offal								
		Species				of bovine animals					of ovines		soliped	
		Bovine	Ovine/ caprine	Porcine	Soliped	HC	MP				PF	HC		PF
1	2						3	4						
Argentina	AR	—	—	—	D	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	D
	AR-1	A ⁽⁴⁾	—	—	D	—	—	—	—	—	F ⁽⁵⁾	—	—	D
	AR-3	B ⁽⁶⁾	B ⁽⁶⁾	—	D	B ⁽⁶⁾	B ⁽⁶⁾	B ⁽⁶⁾	B ⁽⁶⁾	B ⁽⁶⁾	B ⁽⁶⁾	B ⁽⁶⁾	B ⁽⁶⁾	D
	AR-4	A ⁽¹⁰⁾	—	—	D	—	—	—	—	—	F ⁽¹⁰⁾	—	—	D
Brazil	BR	—	—	—	D	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	D
	BR-1	A ⁽³⁾	—	—	D	—	—	—	—	—	F ⁽³⁾	—	—	D
	BR-2	A ⁽⁸⁾	—	—	D	—	—	—	—	—	F ⁽⁹⁾	—	—	D
Chile	CL	B	B	H	D	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	D
Colombia	CO	—	—	—	D	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	D
	CO-1	A	—	—	D	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	D
	CO-2	—	—	—	D	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	D
	CO-3	A	—	—	D	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	D
Paraguay	PY	—	—	—	D	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	D
	PY-1	A ⁽⁷⁾	—	—	D	—	—	—	—	—	F ⁽⁷⁾	—	—	D
Uruguay	UY	A ⁽²⁾	C ⁽²⁾	—	D	—	—	—	—	—	F	—	G	D

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.

- (1) The letters (A, B, C, D, E, F, G and H) appearing in the table, refer to the models of animal health guarantees as described in part 2 of Annex III, to be applied for each product and origin in accordance with Article 2; a dash (—) indicates that imports are not authorised.
- (2) Only to be used for boned meat from animals slaughtered after 1 November 2001.
- (3) In the case of Rio Grande do Sul only to be used for boned meat from bovine animals and offal for pet food from animals slaughtered after 30 November 2001.
- (4) Only to be used for boned meat from bovine animals slaughtered after 31 January 2002 — except in the cases of La Pampa and Santiago del Estero for which the date is 8 March 2002 and of Córdoba for which the date is 26 March 2002.
- (5) Only to be used for offal for pet food from bovine animals slaughtered after 31 January 2002 except in the cases of La Pampa and Santiago del Estero for which the date is 8 March 2002 and of Córdoba for which the date is 26 March 2002.
- (6) Only to be used for fresh meat (including offal) from ovine, caprine and bovine animals slaughtered after 1 March 2002 in the provinces of Chubut, Santa Cruz, and Tierra del Fuego.
- (7) Only to be used for boned meat for human consumption and boned meat and offal for pet food from bovine animals slaughtered, produced and certified after 1 September 2002 and before 20 February 2003 and en route to the Community prior to the 20 February 2003.
- (8) Only to be used for boned meat from bovine animals slaughtered before 31 October 2002.
- (9) Only to be used for offal for pet food from bovine animals slaughtered before 31 October 2002.
- (10) Only to be used for boned meat for human consumption and boned meat and offal for pet food from bovine animals slaughtered, produced and certified before 8 October 2003.'
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