

Announcement no. 2 of Chief Veterinary Officer about hamburgers containing bovine meat illegally mixed with horsemeat

Referring to Announcement no. 1 and information provided by Mr. Simon Coveney, Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine of Ireland, I would like to inform that the notification was indeed sent by e-mail on **Saturday** afternoon by Chief Veterinary Officer of Ireland, and the next e-mail was sent on **Sunday**. However, Chief Veterinary Officer of Poland was not informed about it neither by phone nor by a text message.

Chief Veterinary Officer was officially informed about the messages by the Irish party via the RASFF system by phone on **Saturday**, 26 January 2013. He promptly notified Dr. Krzysztof Jażdżewski, Deputy Chief Veterinary Officer, and Dr. Marcin Kozłowski, Director of Food Safety Office, and ordered them to arrive at work on Sunday, 27 January 2013.

With regard to the received information on 27 January 2013 (Sunday) a crisis center was established at the General Veterinary Inspectorate. On the same day inspections were ordered to be performed in 2 regions within the territory of which there operate 3 establishments supplying raw material, i.e. frozen beef trimmings, to the Irish establishment where the fact of illegal mixing of horsemeat and beef had been discovered. Moreover, Dr. Krzysztof Jażdżewski contacted Mr. M. Blake, CVO of Ireland, on 27 January 2013 in order to obtain additional information regarding the case under consideration.

Deputy Chief Veterinary Officer checked on **Sunday**, 27 January 2013, whether Poland received any RASFF notifications. In the system there was no notifications that Mr. Simon Coveney, Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine of Ireland, informed about at a press conference on Saturday.

On 28 January 2013, having been informed by the Irish authorities about other establishments that had been selling meat to the cutting and processing plant sending it to the Irish establishment, 4 regional veterinary officers were instructed to conduct inspections at 5 slaughterhouses which had been supplying the meat.

On 29 January 2013, the next press conference with Irish authorities concerning the case in question was held.

On the same day 14 samples were taken at the establishment that had been shipping beef directly to Ireland in order to confirm the presence of horsemeat in bovine meat. The samples were then transferred to be tested to the National Veterinary Institute - National Research Institute in Puławy. **Results obtained on 1 February 2013 did not confirm the presence of horse DNA.**

On 1 February 2013, an additional question was addressed to the Irish veterinary authorities about the material the samples of which were collected in order to carry out the tests. On the same day, late in the evening, a representative of the Irish

authority informed that samples come from raw material supplied, in the opinion of the Irish party, by the Polish establishment.

On 4 February 2013, information was gathered from particular regions and analyzed. It follows from the analysis that none of the inspected establishments had sent meat other than beef to the entity consigning meat to Ireland neither within the analyzed period nor prior to it.

On 5 February 2013, in the next message Irish authorities informed about the discovery of 75% of horsemeat in beef originating from the Polish slaughterhouse which had been supplying raw material to the establishment shipping it to Ireland.

With regard to the Irish standpoint that hamburgers contain horsemeat illegally added to beef, the Polish Veterinary Inspection is performing inspections in all slaughterhouses, horsemeat cutting and processing plants, during which cross-verification of documentation is being conducted.

It is also worth noticing that the establishment shipping bovine meat has requested the Irish authorities to allow for collecting replicate samples of the questioned consignment at the Irish establishment as well as to conduct a visual inspection of the considered blocks of frozen meat in order to determine whether the labels and the manner of packaging are congruent with the rules obeyed at the establishment. Irish authorities refused to take such samples and conduct the on-site inspection. Taking the above into account, today (6 January 2013) Chief Veterinary Officer requested the Irish authorities to allow to take replicate samples in the presence of the representatives of both establishments and the Polish Veterinary Inspection.

Additionally, in his letter of 6 January 2013 Chief Veterinary Officer of Poland once again requested the Irish veterinary authorities to provide whole documentation of the questioned consignment, starting from commercial documents: HDI, CMR, etc., and including results of testing samples taken from a specific pallet of the given consignment and photo documentation of labels affixed on the specific commodity pallet.