



European Union Reference laboratory for
monitoring bacteriological and viral
contamination of bivalve molluscs

The Centre for Environment, Fisheries & Aquaculture
Science
Weymouth Laboratory,
Barrack Road,
The Nothe,
Weymouth,
Dorset DT4 8UB UK
Tel: +44 (0) 1305 206600, Fax +44 (0) 1305 206601
Email: fsq@cefass.co.uk <http://www.crlcefass.org>

The Application of Sanitary Surveys in EU Member States. Version 3; October 2011.

Regulation (EC) No 854/2004¹ states that if the competent authority decides in principle to classify a production or relaying area, it must:

- (a) make an inventory of the sources of human and animal origin likely to be a source of contamination for the production area;
- (b) examine the quantities of organic pollutants which are released during the different periods of the year, according to seasonal variations of both human and animal populations in the catchment area, rainfall readings, waste-water treatment etc;
- (c) determine the characteristics of the circulation of pollutants by virtue of current patterns, bathymetry and the tidal cycle in the production area;

and

- (d) establish a sampling programme of bivalve molluscs in the production area which is based on the examination of established data, and with a number of samples, a geographical distribution of the sampling points and a sampling frequency which must ensure that the results of the analysis are as representative as possible for the area considered.

Articles (a) – (c) constitute a sanitary survey and (d) represents the output of such a survey- the sampling plan.

This paper sets out the activity with respect to the application of sanitary surveys in EU Member States updated following the 9th and 10th workshops of National Reference Laboratories (NRL) for monitoring bacteriological and viral contamination of bivalve molluscs and

Country	No. of full sanitary surveys carried out to May 2010	Surveys carried out according to the GPG ²
Belgium	0 ^a	n/a
Denmark	0 ^b	n/a
France	21 ^c	yes ^c
Germany	^d 1 completed, 3 almost completed 1 desk study in progress	yes
Greece	not known	n/a
Iceland	1 ^e desk based studies completed	n/a
Ireland	1 complete, all other desk based ^f	n/a
Italy	no further information ^g	n/a
The Netherlands	new areas only	yes
Norway	mixture of old and new ^k	in part
Portugal	desk studies only	yes
Romania	1 ^h	no
Slovenia	all areas to be checked	n/a
Sweden	0 ⁱ	n/a
Spain	No further information	n/a
United Kingdom	42 ^j	yes

^a Only one established production area no sanitary surveys carried out.

^b Do not currently undertake sanitary surveys. The intention was to begin sanitary surveys on new production areas in 2009.

^c French guidelines have been written based on the GPG and taking into account the Water Framework Directive. 11 new surveys to May 2011, 21 in total.

^d Sanitary surveys are the responsibility of the Federal States. The CA's trained Local authority's (LA) in June 2008. Starting first on new

production areas.

^e CA is responsible for carrying out sanitary surveys. To date carried out on wild shellfish only following the GPG guidance. Applications for 10 – 20 locations from producers. One new area in 2008.

^f The CA decided to perform sanitary surveys on new harvesting areas only. To date no new production areas had been identified. However desk based studies have been carried out on several existing areas. There were plans for full studies to be carried out on 2 areas on the border of Northern Ireland.

^g Organised meeting with the different regions. Two regions had already plans in place to survey areas. Other regions are in the process of planning protocols, intent was to survey all areas.

^h Four production areas classified under the Shellfish Waters Directive. Only one aquaculture area. Sanitary survey had been carried out on the aquaculture area but not according to the GPG.

ⁱ No sanitary surveys had been carried out to date. No resources allocated.

^j Four autonomous regions. Both new and existing areas with priority given to new areas. To date submitted to 42 reports to the CAs covering 124 production areas. Half of the reports triggered by new areas but also try to cover existing areas where possible.

^k Classification is carried out at local CA level, guidelines have been produced and distributed.

There is a lack of harmonisation with respect to the approach to sanitary surveys across the EU. The absence of a systematic approach will result in monitoring programmes that are not based upon scientific principles and may jeopardise public health.

¹ REGULATION (EC) No 854/2004 OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND OF THE COUNCIL of 29 April 2004 laying down specific rules for the organisation of official controls on products of animal origin intended for human consumption L226/83 25.06.2004.

² Microbiological monitoring of bivalve mollusc harvesting areas, Guide to Good Practice:Technical; Application. Issue 3: Feb 2007.