

poultry meat and meat products to have a medical certificate has been amended, replacing the old system of annual renewal by a new staff medical check-up scheme, which offers equivalent guarantees (Dir 85/325, 85/326, 85/327).

The hygiene rules to be followed during the trade in offals (liver, kidney, heart) and frozen meat have been laid down in directive 88/288. Provision is made for adjusting health inspections to take account of changes in the prevalence of diseases and environmental health conditions in Member States. Dir 88/289 sets out similar conditions for imports from third countries.

It is now possible for Member States to authorize the importation of glands and organs for use in the pharmaceutical manufacturing industries on a more liberal basis than was previously the case (Dir 87/64).

Finally, Council Decision 88/491 (SHIFT project) enables the Commission to undertake by 1991 a study of the computerization of information applicable to veterinary checks of live animals and animal products, at the point of their entry into the Community. By linking Community frontier posts, the central authorities of Member States and the EC Commission, the rapid exchange of information should enable these checks to be properly and efficiency carried out.

Progress to Date

The Community's aim is that by 1993, most meat and meat products should be produced to common public health standards throughout the Community. Several proposals have been made by the Commission but still await Council adoption. One such proposal suggests measures to prevent the introduction of exotic animal diseases through meat products, produced by meat obtained in third countries (Com(84)530). It proposes that such meat should only be obtained from authorized slaughterhouses and the products manufactured in authorized establishments (i.e., the same requirements as for meat products produced in the Community). Other elements of the proposal include on-the-spot Community inspections, transportation under an animal- and a public-health certificate and provision for co-ordinated emergency procedures should disease break out or spread.

Harmonized charges for health inspections for both red meat and poultry meat are to be introduced in all Member States on January 1, 1991. Where the actual