

Electronic Certification as an Instrument of Effective Veterinary Control in the Turnover of Animal Origin Products

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Abstract—This article regards the problem topicality of goods traceability which State Veterinary Supervision controls within the territory of Russian Federation, this article regards the advantages of issuance electronic veterinary certificates by the Federal State Information System «Mercury». This article considers the legal aspects of the system mentioned above, analyzes offences which are identified by the Supervisory Authorities during the moving of the animal origin products.

Keywords— *veterinary certification, Information System «Mercury», food safety, Federal Service of Veterinary and Phytosanitary Supervision (Rosselkhozadzor), veterinary supervision*

I. INTRODUCTION

The society is always interested in food quality and safety. Problematic issues concerning the food safety are regularly covered at all the government levels. Almost every consumer worries about the safety of the products he uses.

The conception of the food safety is identified in the article 1 of Federal Law «About the food safety and quality» dated 02.01.2000 №29-FL. Food safety is a state of reasonable confidence that the food under normal conditions of use is not harmful and unsafe for the health of current and future generations [1].

Federal Service of Veterinary and Phytosanitary Supervision oversees the implementation of the veterinary and sanitary requirements on the safety of animal products [2].

In order to ensure the veterinary and sanitary safety of goods controlled by the State Veterinary Supervision, the Ministry of Agriculture has approved the Veterinary Rules of work organization for veterinary accompanying documents registration, electronic veterinary accompanying documents registration and paperwork of veterinary accompanying documents registration [3].

Since January 1, 2018 veterinary accompanying documents are registered in electronic form. Veterinary accompanying documents are registered in electronic form using the Federal State Information System in veterinary medicine «Mercury» [4].

The goals of creating the automated system «Mercury» are as follows: reducing time spent on drafting and issuing veterinary accompanying documentation (VAD) due to the

automation of the process; automating record of the received and dispatched bulk of products; automating data input and storing of the information on the collected samples for the purpose of examination and testing of the imported products; achieving traceability and monitoring of the cargo movements on the territory of the Russian Federation, also in case deconsolidation takes place; reducing labor, material and financial costs on the issuance of the VAD as the copy-proof VAD paper forms are replaced with their e-versions; minimizing human errors as the ready-made forms for the data input are introduced and the checking option of the data put in by the users is available; creating one centralized database for faster access to the up-to-date information, report generation and data analysis [5].

II. EXPERIMENTAL

The research is based on the data collected from the veterinary accompanying documents issued in the federal state information system VetIS, systems component Mercury. The subsystem was entered from the personal account. The studied materials contain the information on the errors made when issuing electronic veterinary accompanying documents. The research material includes the data provided by the monitoring groups from 52 local offices of the Federal Service of Veterinary and Phytosanitary Supervision in the third quarter of 2019.

III. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The creation of this kind of system has a lot of advantages both for business and for the Supervisory Authorities of veterinary medicine. Respectable entrepreneurs has received the opportunity to work in fair competition, to minimize the expenses of paper veterinary accompanying documents [6]., and the Supervisory Authorities (the Federal Service of Veterinary and Phytosanitary Supervision, its territorial Departments and executive authorities of Russian Federation in veterinary medicine) has obtained an additional instrument allowing to identify offences and take actions timely without interfering in the production processes and product turnover.

Veterinary accompanying documents registration at each stage at the particular product turnover during its production and movement allows the supervision authorities to identify unscrupulous participants of controlled production turnover without carrying out scheduled or unscheduled inspections.

According to the analysis results detected by the territorial administrations of the Federal Service of Veterinary and Phytosanitary Supervision during the product turnover controlled by the State Veterinary Supervision we have discovered the following.

Officials of the Federal Service of Veterinary and Phytosanitary Supervision systematically detect the facts of falsification of animal origin products, the movement of products with the expired expiration date, identify «phantom» manufacturers of animal origin products. The production of these kinds of producers is dangerous because it is not undergone by the compulsory laboratory tests and may contain pathogenic microorganism, antibiotics and salts of heavy metals.

The main violations include:

1. Issuing electronic veterinary accompanying documents for the goods subject to the state veterinary control if such are past their sell-by date (Rosselkhoznadzor regional offices for Voronezh and Lipetsk Regions, Rosselkhoznadzor regional office for Primorsky Krai and Sakhalin Region, Rosselkhoznadzor regional office for Krasnoyarsk Krai, Rosselkhoznadzor regional office for the Komi Republic, Rosselkhoznadzor regional office for Novosibirsk Region). Such food products cannot be sold as they are declared defective and dangerous and, thus, should be disposed of or destroyed.

2. Missing information on the marking of goods in the veterinary accompanying documents, which makes it impossible to identify the products for which the documents have been issued (Rosselkhoznadzor regional office for Primorsky Krai and Sakhalin Region).

3. Misinformation of customers (fraud) (Rosselkhoznadzor regional office for Belgorod Region).

4. Violation of the veterinary sanitary rules of collection, disposal and destruction of biological waste (Rosselkhoznadzor regional offices for Rostov, Volgograd and Astrakhan Regions and the Republic of Kalmykia).

Due to the monitoring results of registered veterinary accompanying documents in the Federal State Information System «Mercury» the officials of Southern Interregional Department of the Federal Service of Veterinary and Phytosanitary Supervision have identified the facts of coming into the market of butter produced by nonexistent producers in socially significant objects of the Crimean Republic. Information received from the Federal Service of Veterinary and Phytosanitary Supervision Department in Rostov, Volgograd and Astrakhan Regions and Republic of Kalmykia has confirmed the absence of dairy production by the enterprises of Mikl World LLC and IP Mikhno A.V. at the addresses shown in the electronic veterinary accompanying documents. Another similar pseudo-producer has been identified in Altai Krai — Quant LLC [7, 8].

The Federal Service of Veterinary and Phytosanitary Supervision Department in Voronezh and Lipetsk Regions during the monitoring of the FSIS «Mercury» has set the facts of offences for drawing up of electronic veterinary accompanying documents for milk and dairy products by the veterinarians in Lipetsk Region. There have been registered

twenty-five electronic veterinary accompanying documents in the FSIS «Mercury» at lactic acid products in assortment for IE Yeghiazaryan R.P. The producer has not got any documents confirming the origin of raw materials, there has not been any information about the implementation of preventive measures and livestock laboratory researches [9].

The Federal Service of Veterinary and Phytosanitary Supervision Department in Amur Region has set the facts of electronic veterinary accompanying documents registration for finished products of animal origin with expired expiration date of perishable products using the inventory (this way extends artificially the expiration date of goods); the absence of information about the producer in the electronic veterinary accompanying documents [10].

The Federal Service of Veterinary and Phytosanitary Supervision Department in Kamchatka Region and Chukotka Autonomous Okrug due to the daily monitoring of the FSIS «Mercury» has identified twelve «phantom» enterprises selling salmon caviar [11].

The Mercury System also assists the controlling organs in taking collective actions. For instance, when working within the frame for inter-agency cooperation with the servicemen of the Border Service of the Federal Security Service of the Russian Federation for Altai Krai, the representatives of Rosselkhoznadzor regional office for Altai Krai and the Altai Republic stopped a vehicle in Kulundinsk District which was transporting horses to the Republic of Kazakhstan.

The inspector of the regional office found that two vehicles with trailers were transporting 77 horses from the Tyva Republic. The shipping carrier provided Form 1 of the veterinary certificate (a paper form) and a specification list for 80 heads. Such documents are issued in case there is no access to the Internet, however, the duplication of the data in the Mercury System is compulsory. The inspection and analysis of the data from the Mercury Information System showed that no electronic documents were issued on behalf of the person stated in the papers; the business entity mentioned in the accompanying documents is not registered in the Mercury System and the person with the last name as stated in the paper veterinary accompanying document is not listed as a staff of the veterinary service.

Taking into account the circumstances and the fact of document forgery, the information was sent to the Kulundinsky intermunicipal division of the Ministry of Internal Affairs of the Russian Federation, the Investigative Committee of the Russian Federation for the Tyva Republic and the regional office of Rosselkhoznadzor for further investigation.

For the time being, the animals are isolated and kept under the surveillance of the veterinary service of Altai Krai. Proper examination and the necessary tests have to be carried out in order to decide the fate of the animals. In compliance with part 2 of article 10.8 of the Code of the Administrative Offences of the Russian Federation, the shipping carriers incurred administrative liability and were fined [12].

IV. CONCLUSION

The field-to-market control is the principle that was proclaimed years ago by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the UN and the World Organization for Animal Health, and today its relevance is evident for everyone involved in trade. Apparently, one of the most urgent needs in Russia today is the implementation of the system allowing the traceability and monitoring of the food products along the complete food production chain and of their movements up to the point of sale. First of all, such a system will allow preventing consumption of defective and dangerous products, thus, protecting the nation from the economic and social threats. Secondly, this will make the work of the controlling organs transparent and their anti-fraud measures and activities effective. Thirdly, this will create favorable environment for the development of honest businesses in the conditions of fair competition. The major role in creating such a mechanism is played by the veterinary certification which appears to be absolutely outdated in the form as it exists now. Annually, tens of millions of paper documents are issued using costly paper forms, which not only became a serious loss for the national budget, but also caused a number of international scandals for it did not take the fraudsters much effort to forge them [13].

Analyzing all the identified offences we can prove that the registration of the electronic veterinary accompanying documents gives to the State Supervisory Authorities an effective instrument allowing not only to trace the controlled goods through the whole turnover chain but also to detect unscrupulous manufacturers, dangerous and low-quality products and react quickly.

The Mercury Information System allows finding the faults or violations without carrying out scheduled or unscheduled inspections of the legal entities and self-employed entrepreneurs.

The Mercury Information System allows controlling and monitoring the products subject to the state veterinary control and accompanied by paper documents, even without access to the Internet by means of keeping record of the veterinary accompanying documents issued on paper. Thus, keeping record of all the veterinary documents allows minimizing the turnover of illegally obtained live animals.

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