

Directive 2003/99/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 17 November 2003 on the monitoring of zoonoses and zoonotic agents, amending Council Decision 90/424/EEC and repealing Council Directive 92/117/EEC

CHAPTER IV

FOOD-BORNE OUTBREAKS

Article 8

Epidemiological investigation of food-borne outbreaks

1 Member States shall ensure that, when a food business operator provides information to the competent authority pursuant to Article 19(3) of Regulation (EC) No 178/2002, the foodstuff involved, or an appropriate sample of it, is preserved in order not to impede its investigation in a laboratory or the investigation of any food-borne outbreak.

2 The competent authority shall investigate food-borne outbreaks in cooperation with the authorities referred to in Article 1 of Decision No 2119/98/EC. The investigation shall provide data on the epidemiological profile, the foodstuffs potentially implicated and the potential causes of the outbreak. The investigation shall include, as far as possible, adequate epidemiological and microbiological studies. The competent authority shall transmit to the Commission (which shall send it to the European Food Safety Authority) a summary report of the results of the investigations carried out, containing the information referred to in Part E of Annex IV.

3 Detailed rules concerning the investigation of food-borne outbreaks may be laid down in accordance with the procedure referred to in Article 12(2).

4 Paragraphs 1 and 2 shall apply without prejudice to Community provisions on product safety, early warning and response systems for the prevention and control of communicable human diseases, food hygiene and the general requirements of food law, in particular those concerning emergency measures and procedures for withdrawing food and feed from the market.