



EUROPEAN COMMISSION
DIRECTORATE GENERAL FOR HEALTH AND FOOD SAFETY

Crisis preparedness in food, animals and plants
Unit G.4 Official controls

Minutes
Working Group
"Official Controls Regulation (EU 2017/625)"

Tuesday 28 March 2023, **9H30 – 12H30**
Skype call (instructions to connect will be circulated separately)
Chair: Tim Gumbel, Deputy Head of Unit G4

WORKING GROUP

1	9:30 – 10:00	Article 47: Implementation of import controls on organic products	<p>The Commission explained how OCR Working Group members could get access to the ‘OCR Communications’ group on CIRCABC to data collected in TRACES on the implementation of the COI-CHED link. Three Member States informed that meetings were scheduled at national level to discuss the implementation of the COI-CHED link and that the Commission will be informed of the outcome thereof. One Member State referred to the need to ensure that operators fill in correctly box 10 of the COI. Furthermore, the Commission presented pending implementation issues under discussion with DG AGRI (CHED linked to several COIs; consignments composed of organic and non-organic batches; a new blocking rule preventing the completion of box 31 of the COI in case a COI is linked to a CHED and the CHED is not yet finalised). Finally, eight Member States requested to have the possibility in TRACES to update the COI in order to ensure an alignment with the decision recorded in the CHED. On this point, the Commission indicated that Member States will receive a reply following discussions between DG SANTE and DG AGRI.</p>
---	--------------	--	---

2	10:00–11:00	<p>Guidance on several provisions of the OCR –exchange of views on new elements</p>	<p>The Commission presented a new Chapter of the Guidance document discussing the definition of ‘consignment’ and the rules on consignments of animals and goods entering the Union – Title II, Chapter V of the OCR.</p> <p>The new text elaborates on:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The definition of consignment and its link with official certificates and attestations and different types of animals and goods entering the Union. 2. Certification rules for products of animal origin and plant and plant products. The issuance of new certificates in the case of a change of the SPS status of the products in the country of dispatch; the link between the CHED and the phytosanitary certificate. 3. Differences between animals and goods entering the Union under Art. 44 and those entering under Art.47 of the OCR. Basic components of documentary, identity and physical checks. Basic acts providing for positive lists by CN codes of those goods undergoing BCP checks. 4. The role of the operators, BCP authorities and custom authorities in the completion of the CHED. 5. Illegal introduction of consignments in the EU. The notification sequence, the communication procedures between separate authorities and the responsible authorities in case the Member State of introduction is different than the Member State of customs declaration. 6. Incorrect declaration of the CN codes by the operator during the prior notification of the arrival of the consignment – coordination between authorities. 7. Non-compliant consignments and different measures provided for in Art. 66& 67 of the OCR. <p>Furthermore, updates of draft guidance</p>
---	-------------	--	---

			<p>chapters were presented and discussed regarding the following topics:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - the listing of operators by competent authorities (Article 10 OCR), - derogations from mandatory laboratory accreditation (Article 41 OCR), - reporting of infringements (Article 140 OCR), - the use of commercial storage facilities by BCPs (Regulation (EU) 2019/1014).
3	11:00– 11:30	Articles 59, 62 and 63: Member State notifications in relation to border control posts	<p>The Commission presented a new template ‘Notification for a Border Control Post or inspection centre thereof’ including in its part III a revised table ‘<i>Assessment against minimum requirements of information provided by competent authorities in relation to the designation of border control posts (BCPs)</i>’. In addition, the Commission presented a simplified workflow for the handling of the notifications for a BCP. The Commission informed that the revised templates and workflow will be transmitted from DG SANTE to CVOs and COPHs shortly, also indicating the implementation date. Several Member States suggested an implementation date after mid-April 2023.</p>
4	11:30- 12:20	New Common Health Entry Document (‘CHED-N’) – exchange of views on the way forward	<p>The Commission presented the outline of the new CHED-N: regulatory work needed for the introduction of CHED-N and its interconnection with CERTEX and new release date (the exact legal construction will be presented to Member States at a later stage); intended scope of CHED-N; mandatory use of CHED-N and possible use of CHED-N for prior notification to local competent authorities.</p> <p>The Member States generally agreed with the proposed actions. In particular, Member States welcomed the work for the interconnection with CERTEX. The Commission provided clarifications on the new date foreseen for the release of CHED-N. With one exception, Member States agreed that the plant health area is outside the intended scope of CHED-N</p>

			<p>while two Member States requested clarifications in relation to the legal requirements on the use of CHED-PP for plants and plant products under Article 73 PHL and WPM, respectively. As regards the application of CHED-N to plant protection products (PPPs), the Commission called on Member States to consider any adjustment of the CHED-N template needed to meet the needs of checks on this commodity. Furthermore, the Commission will further examine whether the intention is to apply CHED-N to all PPPs or only to certain PPPs. The Commission clarified that CHED-N will be used for prior notification of competent authorities at BCPs and that the use for prior notification of local competent authorities could be considered at a later stage.</p> <p>Member States were invited to provide further comments in writing.</p>
5	12:20-12:30	Updates on ongoing work on implementation of the OCR	The Commission informed about the state of play of ongoing preparations for new legal acts.