



EUROPEAN COMMISSION
DIRECTORATE GENERAL FOR HEALTH AND FOOD SAFETY

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

Minutes Expert Group on Veterinary Import Controls Legislation Thursday, 7 November 2024, 9:30 – 13:30 Skype for business Chair: Bruno Saimour, Unit G4		
	Introduction	This meeting was held remotely. The next meeting, in spring 2025, will be held face-to-face in Brussels.
1	Intensified official controls (IOC)	<p>The Commission (COM) presented the statistical analysis of IOCs submitted by Member States (MSs) in the last six months. COM explained the reasons for IOC rejections and reminded MSs of the mandatory information to be provided with the requests.</p> <p>COM reminded the MSs that Art. 3(2) of Regulation 2019/1873 provides the legal basis to implement IOCs on processed animal proteins (PAPs), despite the special procedure laid down in Regulation 142/2011, Annex XIV, chapter I, section 2. Therefore, IOCs for the detection of <i>Salmonella</i> and <i>Enterobacteriaceae</i> can be activated for PAPs.</p>
2	Survey on veterinary border control webpage	COM presented the results of the survey on the veterinary border controls webpage carried out between July and September 2024, highlighting the proposals made by the MSs that will lead to upcoming improvements in the webpage.
3	Re-certification of products of animal origin	<p>Unit G2 provided a summary of the animal health requirements related to entry into the Union of products of animal origin, in particular for re-certification and sourcing. As a general principle, re-certification of products of animal origin by a third country different from the country where these products have been produced is not allowed when animal health guarantees apply.</p> <p>Unit G2 also indicated that relevant amendments to Part IV of Reg. (EU) 2020/692, in relation to requirements for dairy products, egg products and shelf-stable composite products containing dairy products and egg products are envisaged and being discussed within the framework of a relevant expert group.</p>
4	Update on Brazil meat	<p>COM informed the MSs that the final report (2023-7857) of the audit on poultry meat that took place in Brazil in November 2023 is published at https://ec.europa.eu/food/audits-analysis/audit-report/details/4750</p> <p>The report concludes that there is an adequate official control system in place covering the production chain of poultry meat and products derived therefrom for export to the EU, however some recommendations still need to be addressed.</p> <p>COM informed the MSs that this topic could be discussed in a meeting with Brazil, the SPS mechanism, to be scheduled in the coming months and for which MSs were kindly requested to liaise with colleagues in charge of export to Brazil to make sure COM receives the relevant information.</p> <p>Latest information regarding the SPS mechanism is available in the Market Access Data Base and export colleagues have been informed through Roosendaal and Potsdam Council working groups.</p> <p>COM confirmed that the applied frequency of physical checks for poultry meat from</p>

		Brazil (fresh meat, meat preparations and meat products) is still set at 100% and 20% for analysis at EU BCPs. At the request of MS, this applied frequency of physical checks is not reflected in TRACES.
5	Frequency of physical checks in TRACES	<p>COM presented an update on the frequency of physical checks in TRACES informing the MSs about the second implementation exercise of Article 5(3) of Regulation (EU) 2019/2129 concerning the modification of the frequency rate of physical checks for certain goods from certain third countries.</p> <p>Additionally, COM presented a statistical analysis of the modification of frequencies during the last 6 months and shared its plan for the improvement of the search tool available in TRACES.</p> <p>COM informed MSs that it had sent an official letter to third countries reminding them about the application of Article 5(3) of Regulation (EU) 2019/2129.</p>
6	Option “Local use” in box II.12 of CHEDs	<p>MSs were reminded of the communication sent by e-mail on 31 May 2024 to all experts concerning the use of the option “Local use” in box II.12 of CHED-As and CHED-Ps. COM explained that this option implements the provisions of Articles 7 to 9 of Reg. (EU) 2019/2126, applying to consignments entering the Union from third countries through authorised points of entry of certain Greek islands and certain French territories for ‘local use’ only (not in free circulation in the Union).</p> <p>A proposed amendment to the IMSOC Regulation includes a reference to this legal basis in the explanatory notes for boxes I.18 and II.12 of the CHEDs.</p>
7	AOB	<p>Reminder on Commission’s role as regards MS’ questions: COM reminded MSs of their primary responsibility of applying and implementing Union law. COM has no power to provide individual authorisations, derogations or even to annul decisions made by MSs competent authorities, in particular in relation to consignments detained at the border as it is up to MSs to take a decision.</p> <p>Listing of ABP establishments in the correct sections: MSs were reminded of the communication sent by e-mail on 30 September 2024 to all experts concerning the listing of non-EU ABP establishments manufacturing fish feed from derived products (fish oil and fish meal, intended for feeding farmed animals) in Section IV ‘processing plants’, based on the technical specifications* for the format for the lists of approved or registered establishments.</p> <p>* https://food.ec.europa.eu/document/download/cf578ce7-3e32-4eb9-93de-6e5a4fac9089_en?filename=animal-products_approved-establishments_abp_tech-specs.pdf</p> <p>Difference of weight in certificates, CHEDs and customs declarations: COM informed the MSs of statements exchanged with DG TAXUD in the context of the CERTEX project. While it is possible, in specific cases, to accept differences of net weights for the same consignment between import certificates and CHEDs, this difference is not acceptable between CHEDs and customs declarations. In the latter case, where such discrepancy is reported, one of the two declarations must be corrected.</p> <p>New attestation of compliance with the requirements of Regulation (EU) 2019/6 and Regulation (EU) 2023/905: COM reminded the MSs that the attestations of compliance with the requirements of Reg. (EU) 2019/6 and Reg. (EU) 2023/905 on antimicrobial medicinal products, which have been added to the official certificate models for PAO and live animals by Reg. (EU) 2024/399, need to be either crossed out or deleted until 3 September 2026, date of entry into application of Reg. (EU) 2023/905.</p> <p>Legal basis for crossing out/deleting these attestations is laid down in Art. 5(1)(b) of</p>

		Reg. (EU) 2020/2235 and Art. 4(1)(b) of Reg. (EU) 2021/403.
		<p>Certification of compound products: some MSs have requested COM to lay down a single, complete model certificate for compound products (mixed products of animal origin) which would avoid asking several certificates for the same consignment. COM reminded the MSs that the requirement of several certificates for compound products is in line with EU legislation. This is also possible in TRACES, even if some technical functionalities can be improved. However, the point needs to be discussed in the relevant Working Group in charge of certification policy.</p>
		<p>Transit to NATO bases: COM informed the MSs that it is still engaged in discussions with the US Command and NATO authorities concerning the certification issues on products of animal origin in transit to military base.</p>
		<p>Application of ID mark on honey: in reply to a question from MSs as regards the new requirements on listed establishments for honey, COM confirmed that no identification mark is required on honey pots, as there are no specific requirements for honey in Annex III to Reg. (EC) No 853/2004.</p>