



Official Controls Regulation (2017/625)

OCR Expert Group (plant health sub-group)

29 May 2017

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Replacing Regulation 882/2004

15 June 2016: Political agreement

19 December 2016: Council common position

15 March 2017: European Parliament adoption

7 April 2017:

Official Journal
of the European Union





Entry into force and application

Entry into force:

27 April 2017

Main date of application:

14 December 2019

(Rules on EURLs: 29 April 2018)

Key principles

Simplification

Harmonisation

Efficiency

Transparency

The risk based approach is maintained



The risk based approach (Art. 9)

Controls to be performed "regularly,
on a risk basis and with appropriate frequency"

Own controls,
including private
quality schemes

Risks associated
with animals and
goods, activities,
location...and the
likelihood that
consumers might
be misled

Operator's past
record

Scope of the OCR (Art. 1.2)

Food and
food
safety

Feed and
feed
safety

GMOs

Animal
health

Animal
welfare

Animal
by-
products

Plant
health

Plant
protection
products

Organic
production

PDOs,
PGIs,
TSGs

Specific needs: e.g. plant health

The Commission is empowered to establish detailed rules to cater for the specific needs of the plant health sector

E.g. uniform frequency of controls performed on operators authorised to...

...issue plant passports

...apply the mark on wood packaging material, wood etc

...issue official attestations

Documentary checks on consignments of plants and plant products may be performed at a distance from a BCP



Obligations of the authorities (Art. 5)

Ensure the effectiveness, impartiality and quality of official controls and other official activities (Art. 5)

Perform official controls in accordance with documented procedures; draw up written records of every control (Art. 13)



Obligations of the operators (Art.15)

Provide information on their name, legal form and specific activities

Give access to computers and premises, to the extent necessary

Assist and cooperate with the staff of the competent authorities

Official attestation (Art. 91)

Authentic and accurate and allow for the verification of the link between the official attestation and that consignment or lot

Impartial and free from any conflict of interest, and have received appropriate training

Regular official controls to verify compliance and that the attestation is based on relevant, correct and verifiable facts and data

No empowerments!

Financing

⇒ **Adequate resources for all types of controls!**

Mandatory fees:

- Slaughterhouses
- Cutting plants
- Milk products
- **Fishery products**

- BCPs**
- Animals
 - Products of animal origin, germ. prod, ABP
 - Plant + plant protection prod.
 - Request of operators
 - Follow-up non-compliance safeguard measures

Fees in Annex

Flat rate

Actual costs

- Cost elements:**
- Staff salary
 - Facilities + equipment
 - Consumables
 - Services of delegated bodies
 - Continuous training
 - Travel
 - Sampling + testing

TRANSPARENCY:

Make public e.g. the method and data used to establish fees, and the amount charged to each category of operators; stakeholders to be consulted on the general methods of calculation

Optional fees: To cover costs

(No fees = covered by states' general expenses/budget/tax)

Modernised system for border controls

A common, risk based framework for border controls on all animals and goods entering the EU

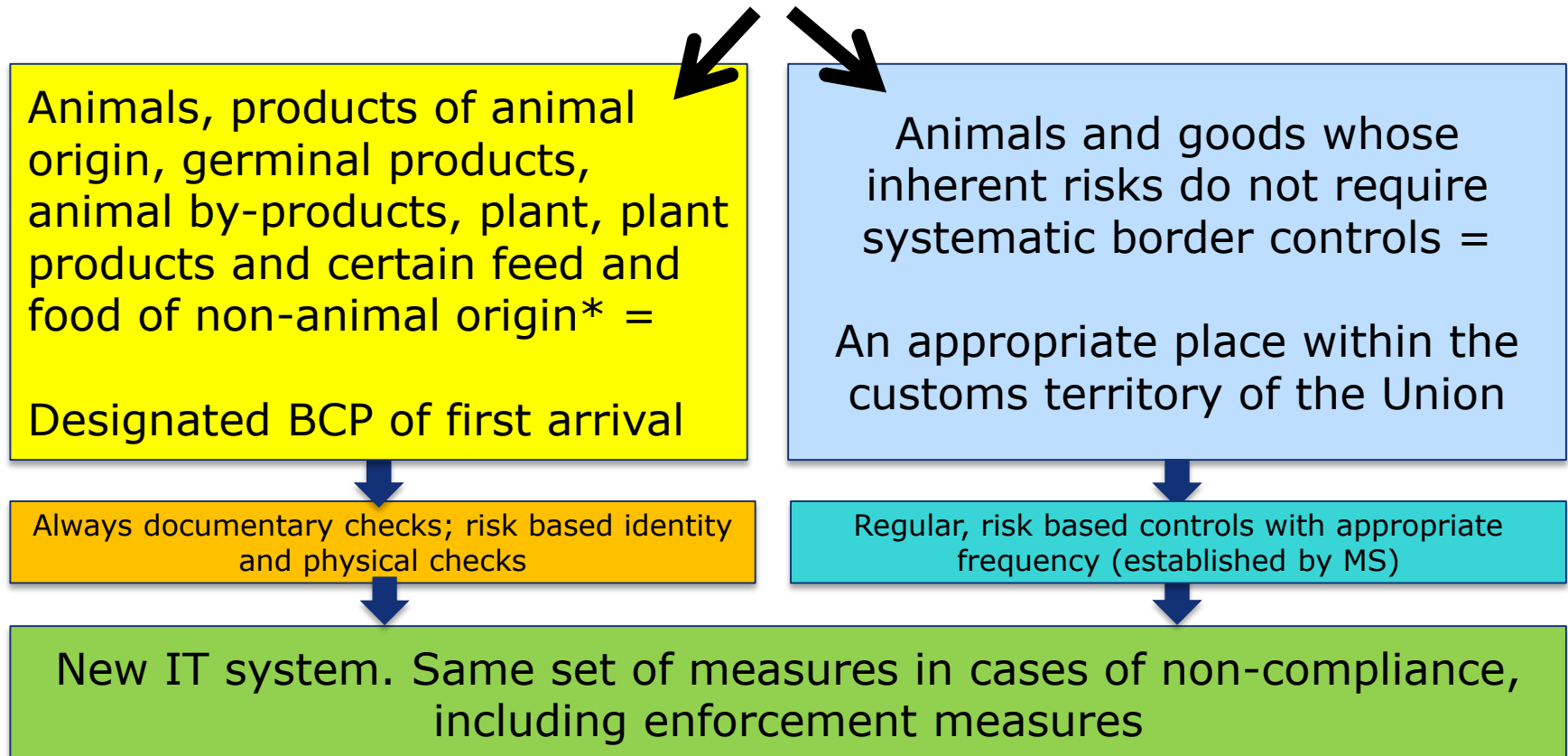
Border Control Posts (BCPs) will replace the different Border Inspection Posts (BIPs) and Designated Points of Entry (DPEs)

Minimum requirements for facilities, equipment and staff qualifications will apply throughout all BCPs.

A single standard document (CHED) will be used by operators for the prior notification of consignments

Transmitted to the BCP through IMSOC which will allow for the integration of existing computerised systems (including Europhyt)

Entry into the Union – main rules

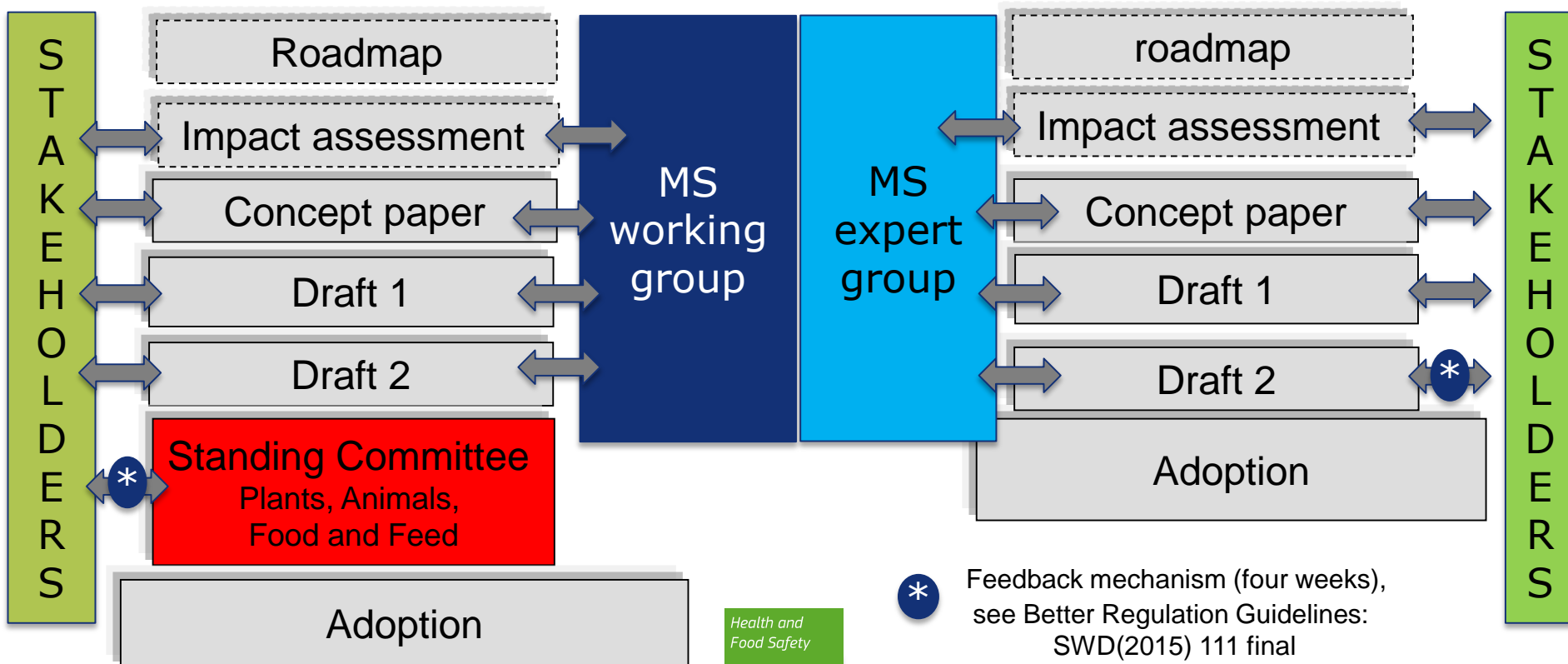


* A list with CN codes to be established

Process and consultations

Implementing Act

Delegated Act





Sampling and analysis (Art. 34 + 37)

Off. laboratories to be accredited; ISO/IEC 17025
(for plant health: by 29 April 2022)

Cascade of methods to be used for sampling,
analysis, tests and diagnosis

Taken, handled and labelled in such a way to
ensure legal, scientific and technical validity



EURLs shall be established and where... (art 92)

...the effectiveness of official controls depends on the quality, uniformity and reliability of methods and results of analysis, and

...there is a recognised need to promote uniform practices in relation to the development or use of the methods

The Commission shall review their mandate regularly



Selection and designation of an EURL

COM launch call to all MS for selection of a EURL, describing specific:

Functions
and duties

Selection
and
preference
criteria

Eligibility
and
exclusion
criteria

Practical
instructions

Public selection process

Designation by Commission (Article 92)

Responsibilities and tasks of EURLs

Methods
of analysis
and tests
to NRLs

Proficiency
testing

Reference materials to NRLs

Scientific and technical assistance to
COM and NRLs (including Training
Courses)

To assist actively in the
diagnosis of outbreaks in
MS of pests of plants

To collaborate with labs of
third countries and with EFSA



Further information

DG Health and Food Safety website:

http://ec.europa.eu/food/safety/official_controls/legislation_en

Questions & answers:

http://ec.europa.eu/food/sites/food/files/safety/docs/oc_qa_oregulation_20170407_en.pdf