



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 8 October 2024, **10H30 – 13H00**  
**Hybrid meeting**

**Chair: Tim Gumbel, Deputy Head of Unit**

**WORKING GROUP**

1	10:30-11:30	Exchange of views on a <b>draft Commission Implementing Regulation amending Implementing Regulation (EU) 2019/1014</b> on requirements for border control posts	<p>The Commission presented the draft Regulation amending Implementing Regulation (EU) 2019/1014 and the recent changes made on the basis of Member States' comments.</p> <p>More specifically, a provision was added to allow for the performance of checks of hatching eggs in Border Control Posts (BCPs) designated for animals.</p> <p>The Commission also explained the reasons for not accepting other comments concerning the requirements for drainage, the handling of the plant protection products in BCPs and the inclusion of sawn wood in the derogation for unloading areas to be covered by a roof.</p> <p>On the latter several Member States expressed their concerns regarding specific large volume goods and goods in bulk arriving at BCPs.</p> <p>The Commission will further discuss this issue internally and inform the Member States.</p>
2	11:30-12:30	Exchange of views on amendments to the <b>guidance on the Official Controls Regulation</b>	<p>The Commission presented a non-paper regarding the request of Member States to enable a 'partial decision' function in the TRACES system.</p> <p>This would be used for the selective handling of the consignments undergoing phytosanitary controls when these controls are carried out for part of the consignment but the other part is detained until the completion of the laboratory analysis.</p> <p>The Commission clarified that such a practice is not in line with OCR for the following reasons:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. a partial decision can only be followed by a partial rejection under Article 66(4) of the OCR, after the completion of the official controls and in relation to established non-compliances;</li> <li>b. the part of the consignment that would be</li> </ol>

			<p>released would be dissociated from the phytosanitary certificate accompanying it; a CHED in copy would be created that would not be linked to the initial CHED.</p> <p>New topics on the interpretation of the OCR guidance were presented to the Member States. These topics had been identified internally and had been raised either following interservice consultation or after exchange of communication with Member States during the past six months. As some Member States proposed more topics to be included in the guidance, the Commission has asked to send any new proposals by the end of October.</p> <p>Member States were invited to participate in the EU survey database with designated laboratories, which was created in order to facilitate the cross-border designation of official laboratories in accordance with Article 37(2) of the OCR, and to allow Member States to share information. The database contains data from designated official laboratories and basic information on the type of activities carried out (area of expertise, available analyses, accreditation). It allows also the input of information on designated National Reference Laboratories. In order to submit information on laboratories, a survey page has to be filled in and submitted. The results of the survey can be accessed and downloaded.</p>
3	12:30–12:45	Exchange of views on a draft <b>Commission Regulation amending Implementing Regulation (EU) 2021/632</b> on CN codes	The Commission presented views on the amendment of Regulation (EU) 2021/632. In particular, which CN codes were to be included into this amendment.
4	12:45-13:00	Updates on ongoing work for the implementation of the OCR Regulation (e.g. on e-commerce)	The second meeting of the e-commerce sub-group of the Working Group on “Official controls” will take place on 19 <sup>th</sup> of November 2024. Member States are encouraged to nominate their expert(s) to join this sub-group, which has as a scope official controls in the areas referred to under Article 1(2) of the Official Controls Regulation (OCR), where those controls concern e-commerce activities. The intention is to provide a forum for exchanges on best practices for the enforcement of agri-food chain rules in the e-commerce sector. The Commission intends to support Member States by providing clarifications and guidance where needed and to facilitate exchanges of views in other relevant areas (e.g. Digital Services Act). There is a need to discuss more on enforcement actions on e-commerce activities by food authorities and financial issues related to these actions.