



EUROPEAN COMMISSION
DIRECTORATE-GENERAL FOR HEALTH AND FOOD SAFETY

Food chain: stakeholder and international relations
Multilateral international relations

Brussels, 05. February 2020
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**Subject: Summary Report of the Expert Group meeting veterinary import controls
2 December 2019**

Participants:

- Representatives from the Member States (MS)
- Representatives from Norway and Switzerland
- Representatives from EFTA surveillance authority: Diana Quiliquini, Craig Simpson
- European Commission (DG SANTE): B Saimour (D2, Chairman), S Phillips (D2), L Skaringer (A4), P Rosado Martin (G2), C Juliusson (G3), R Kliucinskas (G3), I Celms (G3) E Marin (G4), P Caricato (G4)

1. Welcome:

COM welcomed MS's to the meeting, presented the agenda as enclosed, and added some other points (AOB).

2. TRACES: data migration 14 December 2019

COM updated on the state of play of Traces NT readiness and imminent move from use of CVEDs to CHEDs. COM presented the issues caused by the necessary migration of data from Traces Classic to Traces NT.

The CVEDs created in Traces Classic and which will still be "in progress" on 14 December will not be transferred in Traces NT, meaning that they will have to be re-entered from scratch in the new system.

Therefore the operators should be recommended, where possible, not to enter pre-notifications in Traces Classics in the few days before 14 December.¹

Concerning the non-conforming goods stored in warehouses before 14 December, COM presented the two options on use of initial CVEs in Traces Classic to be transformed into subsequent CHEDs in Traces NT.

3. OCR: new CHEDs

COM presented on the various cases and conditions concerning use of the CHED (Article 50 (4)) including rules on quantity management for split consignments, and the different cases where a full traceability would be registered or not in Traces

COM presented on the Implementing Act (2019) 7000 establishing the model official certificate and rules for issuing official certificates for goods which are delivered to vessels leaving the EU and intended for ship supplies or to a NATO or to a US military base. COM developed on what is required in the scenarios of one consignment or several consignments moving from a BCP to vessel, from warehouses to vessels or to NATO/US military bases. In addition, COM clarified that the official certificate for delivery will not be available in Traces NT until mid-2020 as some further developments are still necessary in the system.

4. OCR: Frequencies of physical checks

COM presented on the rules for frequency rates for physical checks. COM explained that Traces NT will propose candidate consignments for physical checks but MS's will be able to exercise flexibility regarding the selection of other consignments of the same category and origin. COM reiterated the baseline frequency rates for each risk category, and the two mechanisms for modification of such frequencies. One based on information collected by COM and outcome of controls performed by COM and the second, based on information recorded in IMSOC

5. OCR: intensified official controls

COM presented on the principle matters and changes between current re-enforced check system (REC) and the move to Intensified Official Controls (IOC). COM clarified the main changes of the new regime:

- MS will directly notify their proposals of IOC in Traces, either from border or market controls.
- The ranking of consignments in the series will be determined according to the entering date of laboratory results (and not according to the date of arrival of the consignments).
- New rules on consignments weight will apply as regards the calculation of the necessary number of favourable results to lift the measures.

¹ On 11 December 2019, it has been decided to maintain the CVE-P module in Traces Classic over the deadline of 14 December 2019.

- MS will self-manage the consignments which need to be exempted from IOC measures.

COM explained that the migration of the ongoing RECs from Traces Classic into IOCs in Traces NT will stand for a significant challenge as they need to be properly synchronised in the new system.

6. OCR: BCP design/re-designation

COM gave an update on BCP re designation and made reference to the letter of 7 November 2019 sent out by COM to all MS's regarding the re-designation of BCPs and CPs in particular the paragraph on BCPs designated for the categories of animals and goods referred to in Article 47(1) (a) and (b) of the OCR.

Based on Art. 60 OCR, COM proposed to publish all the BCP lists on SANTE webpage. In this respect, MS must provide their list under PDF format, or their national web link where to find such list, by 14 December 2019.

7. Food fraud policy

COM gave a detailed presentation on COM and MS's role and the state of play with actions to tackle food fraud. A summary of a RASFF-AAC weekly report and detailed discussion on specific examples of food fraud interceptions were presented. In particular, the recent cases of Chlorate detection in frozen Pangasius from Vietnam. COM raised issues such as the timeframe for when should one take action on suspicion. MS's were asked to consider ways of how best to inform the EU borders on Agri-food fraud suspicions, more especially concerning goods which are not submitted to mandatory controls in border control posts. MS asked about the potential for integration of RASFF, Traces NT and the AAC. COM informed that the IOC could be utilised to broaden out detection of non-compliances and cover fraud.

8. Pets accompanying travellers

There was a presentation by Finland with follow up discussion on concerns regarding titres below 0,5 IU/ml for Rabies in rescue dogs *imported* to Finland from Russia. Finland has raised this as a strong concern and to alert all MS's to these events and finding. COM will progress communication with Russian authorities to highlight, reiterate and explain the facts Finland has uncovered.

9. Composite products, future import requirements

COM presented on composite products and the potential residue strategy changes. COM distributed a decision tree summarising the new conditions of Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) 2019/625 to be applied as from 21 April 2021. . COM raised discussion on triangular trade and on the future requirements which might apply to the third countries using animal ingredients from other third countries in their composite products. MS's were informed of other fora such as the residues forum expert group as potential routes for MS to coordinate their say on this issue.

10. Transfer of EU fish in third countries

COM gave brief update to MS's on complaints from Ivory Coast and Seychelles regarding requests at EU borders for certification that is not required. COM reminded MS that the model certificate of Regulation (EU) 2017/1973 (EU fishery products transferred in third countries) only applies to fish which are physically landed in third country territories.

11. Delisting of third country vessels

COM updated on the recent administrative measure to remove from the list of Chinese establishments the vessels that were not flying the flag of China. COM requested for MS's to inform on any information on cases similar to this

12. Listing of production areas for live bivalve molluscs

Live Bivalve Molluscs and the listing of production areas was briefly discussed due to the incident of (temporary) removal of the zone classification in TRACES in July, which was premature, as the BCPS need this information in terms of verification of import health certificates. An official letter was sent to Third Countries to inform them that they do not need to update the zone classifications in Traces lists if they accept to mention, case-by-case, the classifications in the export certificate. In conclusion, for all imported consignments of LBMs presented to EU BIPs there could be two scenarios, if the classification is entered on the certificate (box I.8) then BIPs must disregard the classification provided on the lists in TRACES. If the classification is not mentioned in the certificate then BIPs must use the information provided in the lists in TRACES.

13. Amendment of Article 27 of Regulation (EU) 142/2011 on importation of research and diagnostic samples

Article 27 of Regulation (EU) No 142/2011 on importation of research and diagnostic samples was amended by the Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) 2019/2122 regulating certain categories of animals and goods to be exempted from official controls at BCPs with effect from 14th December 2019. This delegated act repealed paragraph 2 of Article 27 of Regulation (EU) No 142/2011 and it will provide new provisions in Article 4. Concretely, the current conditions that apply only to samples destined to a MS other than the MS of introduction will be extended to samples destined to the same MS.