



Minutes from the Working Group meeting with Member States

**"Official Controls on animals and goods (including plants) entering the EU:
Implementing acts under Regulation EU 2017/625"**

Thursday 28 February 2019, 09H30 – 12H15

Chair: Tim Gumbel, Deputy Head of Unit G3, European Commission (COM)

Members: EU Member States (MS): AT, BE, BG, CZ, DE, DK, EE, ES, FI, FR, HR, IE, IT, LT, LU, LV, MT, NL, PL, SE, SI, SK, UK

	TOPIC	BACKGROUND
1	<p>Art. 54.3: Frequencies of BCP controls (animal and plant health)</p> <p>COM presented a revised version of a draft concerning rules for frequency rates of identity and physical checks on consignments of animals, plants, plant products and other objects.</p> <p>Discussions primarily focused on the proposed 6-months period to review the list of animals, plants, plant products and other objects for which reduced frequency rates of identity and physical checks would apply and on the reduction of frequency rates. MS asked for clarifications on the words “operators” and “raw animal by products”.</p> <p>In particular, as regards to the review period, a number of MS were of the opinion that the list should be reviewed only once a year to allow any necessary adjustment to their control systems. COM pointed out that concerning Plant Health, a three years’ transition period is provided which would still allow to find solutions for this 6-months review. In relation to the reduction of frequency rates, COM pointed out that, the risk-based approach for frequency rates depends on the nature of the products and that any increase in the frequency rates would be possible. To the demand of some MS to clarify what the terms “operator” and “raw animal by products” meant, the COM explained the legal and technical aspects linked to the concept of “operators”; “raw animal by products” could be redefined as “unprocessed animal by products”.</p> <p>COM highlighted the fact that today’s discussions made clear that the frequencies for identity and physical checks are fixed and that every MS should apply the frequency calculated by IMSOC at their BCPs.</p> <p>COM invited MS to submit comments by 15th March 2019.</p>	<p>Draft document shared with Member States ahead of the meeting</p>

2	<p>Art 77.3.a: Certificates-details and technicalities</p> <p>COM presented a draft document on the preparation of an implementing regulation. The focus was placed on the Annex containing the proposed certificate form and the items modified.</p> <p>In the discussion that followed, several MS expressed their satisfaction with the changes made, as well as, suggested further modifications in order to streamline and clarify the process. Technical comments were made with regard to the responsibility for completing the document and the proposition to fill only one certificate for container with several consignments from BSP to vessels. MS suggested to delete the section “means of transport” as it cannot be satisfied before the arriving of the consignments.</p> <p>COM provided clarifications to the MSs questions and explained that the issue of one certificate from BCP to vessels will be reflected in the DA on transit and transshipment (empowerment of Article 51 and 77(1)(c) of OCR)</p> <p>Written comments are expected from MS by 15th March 2019</p>	Draft document shared with Member States ahead of the meeting
3	<p>Art. 52: Details of BCP controls (Annex III, plant health)</p> <p>COM presented an updated version of Annex III of Art. 52, on detailed rules on operations to be carried out during physical checks on goods referred in Art. 4(6), which was welcomed by most MS.</p> <p>MS highlighted the fact that visual inspection for seeds is not relevant therefore, it could be moved to point 6 or deleted. The monitoring plan (point 7) was well received by the MS but some technical comments were made. COM will get back to the MS for a clearer explanation.</p> <p>Written comments are expected from MS.</p>	Draft document shared with Member States ahead of the meeting
4	<p>Ongoing items: Feedback from LS on different items, ISC, CN codes, etc.</p> <p>COM presented the state of play of the draft Implementing Regulation under Article 47(2)a of the OCR (list of animals and goods to be subject to BCP controls). MS were informed that once the inter-service consultation ends by the 14th March 2019, the draft will be submitted to a technical vote in PAFF before the on-line public consultation is launched. Hopefully, this Implementing Regulation will be adopted before the summer.</p> <p>In addition, MS were informed that COM has initiated the process towards the adoption of a delegated act under Article 149/165 of the OCR, in order to establish the 14th of December 2019 as date of application of the Implementing Regulation (as no period of transition is needed), with the exception of composite products for which a new list will apply as of 21 April 2021 when the new import conditions will start to apply.</p>	
	<p>Conclusion, end of the meeting</p>	

