



EUROPEAN COMMISSION  
DIRECTORATE GENERAL FOR HEALTH AND FOOD SAFETY

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

<b>Minutes</b> <b>Expert Group on Veterinary Import Controls Legislation</b> Tuesday, 7 November 2023, 9:30 – 13:30 Skype for business  Chair: Bruno Saimour, Unit G4		
<b>1</b>	<b>Introduction</b>	<p>COM reminded Member States that AOB points must be limited to general issues about implementation of official controls.</p> <p>For specific questions, Member States are invited to address them to the import controls functional mailbox, as usually done on a daily basis.</p> <p>The next meeting, in spring 2024, will be held face-to-face in Brussels.</p>
<b>2</b>	<b>Certex</b>	<p>COM presented the state of play on the EU CSW-CERTEX programme, which interconnects the IT systems of MS customs authorities with TRACES system for automated real time verification of CHED documents. The MSs were informed where the quantity management records from customs can be viewed in TRACES system. Some lessons learned were presented and discussed with the MS.</p>
<b>3</b>	<b>Delivery certificate in TRACES</b>	<p>COM reminded the MSs that, according to Article 2(1) of Regulation (EU) 2019/2128, the official certificate for goods delivered to vessels leaving the Union and intended for ship supply or consumption by the crew and passengers, or to NATO or a United States' military bases, may be issued in paper format or electronically through IMSOC. COM clarified that until integration in TRACES is achieved, it is compulsory to use the paper format.</p>
<b>4</b>	<b>IOC issues</b>	<p>COM presented a statistical analysis of IOC requests submitted by MSs during the year and underlined the increased number of IOC requests in the last 6 months.</p> <p>COM highlighted the high rejection rate of IOC requests and the reasons for rejection. COM reminded the MSs of the mandatory information to be provided with the request, including the legal basis of the non-compliance and the nomenclature group.</p>
<b>5</b>	<b>Frequency rates of physical checks in TRACES</b>	<p>COM explained that the modules related to 'rejection rates' and 'frequency of physical checks' in TRACES NT have been successfully tested and the full implementation of Article 5(3) of Regulation (EU) 2019/2129 will start in April 2024.</p> <p>Every 6 months, COM will calculate the rejection rates based on the history of the last 12 months, and adjust the frequencies of physical checks of the concerned third countries for the next 6 months. It means that the calculation of rejection rates and data processing will occur in March and September each year, to implement the new frequency rates from April to September and from October to March respectively.</p> <p>COM presented an Excel file with the simulation of frequency rates to be</p>

		<p>raised based on the results of rejection rates at EU BCPs, calculated over the first semester of 2023 and classified according to the product categories listed in Annex I to Regulation (EU) 2019/2129.</p> <p>COM clarified that the frequency rates will be raised directly in TRACES without need for amending any legal act. The applicable frequency rates will be available for all TRACES users through a specific function in the menu.</p>
<b>6</b>	<b>Animal separation in BCP</b>	<p>At the request of certain MSs, COM proposed to remove the separation requirements in BCP facilities between ungulates, registered Equidae and other animals and to extend the derogation allowing official controls of live invertebrates in BCPs designated for animal products.</p> <p>The project was welcomed by all the MSs and COM will propose an amendment of Regulation (EU) 2019/1014.</p>
<b>7</b>	<b>Transit to NATO bases</b>	<p>COM took stock of the current discussions with the US Command of NATO concerning the certification issues on products of animal origin and the required official controls for their transit to military bases. COM is still considering a solution for the transit certification of composite products.</p> <p>Meanwhile, the current recommendation concerning application of flexibility for the certification of goods in transit to NATO bases is valid until further notice, provided that consignments in transit can be properly channelled from the BCP of entry to the military base of destination.</p>
<b>8</b>	<b>Windsor Framework</b>	<p>COM shared the latest developments related to the Windsor Framework. In particular, it gave an overview of the implementing acts adopted following the provision of written guarantees by the UK and based on the empowerments of Regulation (EU) 2023/1231. These implementing acts entered into force on 1 October 2023.</p>
<b>9</b>	<b>CIRCABC</b>	<p>COM presented the purpose of the import controls group in the online library of CIRCABC together with a statistical analysis of the CIRCABC membership per MS.</p> <p>COM reminded the MSs the rules applying to CIRCABC membership.</p>
<b>10</b>	<b>AOB</b>	<p>At the request of Germany, COM clarified that the new substance grouping of pharmacological active substances and contaminants required under the Delegated Regulation (EU) 2022/931 and Delegated Regulation (EU) 2022/1644 is now reflected in TRACES.</p> <p>France expressed its concerns about the strict application of re-entry requirements for EU goods rejected at third country borders, especially next year when the UK will begin border controls on goods exported from the EU.</p>