



EUROPEAN COMMISSION  
DIRECTORATE GENERAL FOR HEALTH AND FOOD SAFETY

Crisis preparedness in food, animals and plants  
Unit G.3 Official controls

**Minutes**  
**"Expert group on Veterinary Imports Controls Legislation"**

Wednesday, 30 March 2022, 09H30 – 13H00 Brussels time  
Skype for Business  
Chair: Bruno Saimour, Unit G3

1	<b>Guidance on IOC</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- COM reminded MSs to promptly submit any final comments on the IOC guidance document.</li> <li>- COM informed MSs that the IOC guidance document will be incorporated into a wider OCR guidance document to be published as a Commission Notice in the Official Journal.</li> </ul>
2	<b>Current IOC issues</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- COM gave MSs a summary of the common reasons for rejection of IOC requests, notably: when a consignment is already part of another IOC, when lab results are not entered or finalised in the CHEDP triggering the IOC request, or in cases when there is no legal basis, clear criteria for an IOC.</li> <li>- COM gave a general summary of the operational performance of active, imposed and fulfilled IOCs in the last four months.</li> <li>- Confirmation and explanation were given on the legal basis for IOCs triggered where SEM (nitrofurans) are detected and the application of the precautionary approach for such infringements.</li> </ul>
3	<b>Update on EU-UK relations</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- COM reminded the MS that the NILT (Northern Ireland Liaison Team) with 6 SNEs has been deployed on long term mission in NI. Positions are still open and candidates are invited to contact their Permanent Representations in Brussels, responsible for collecting applications.</li> <li>- COM reminded MS of what is prohibited in the framework of triangular trade based on the principle that for fresh meat/milk, the exporting country can certify to the EU only if animals were slaughtered/ milk was collected on its territory; for meat and dairy products, the exporting country can certify only if processed on its territory.</li> <li>- For the purpose of a harmonised approach on GB imports at EU borders, a number of Q&amp;A documents were circulated to the UK, to the MS and to stakeholders (last document No 20).</li> </ul>
4	<b>Russia's invasion of Ukraine</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Given the exceptional circumstances, COM recalled the flexibilities which were agreed with the MS on transit from/to Ukraine and Moldova, and on humanitarian aids.</li> <li>- COM updated the MS on the temporary changes of BCP designations on the Ukraine border.</li> <li>- MS are also invited to facilitate imports from Ukraine with acceptance of copies/scanned copies of certificates.</li> </ul>
5	<b>Issues on TC establishments lists</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- COM enquired MS' opinion about:             <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. removing the Aq mark.</li> <li>b. accepting that third countries have duplication of their establishment numbers in different lists (example of Canada).</li> </ol> </li> <li>- MS are invited to send their comments promptly in writing.</li> </ul>

6	<b>Withdrawal of the procedure for temporary admission (horses)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The procedure of temporary admission has disappeared with the implementation of AHL (21.04.2021) but there are still interactions with the customs procedure of temporary admission, which is based on different grounds and different purposes.</li> <li>- Boxes I.26 and II.15 for temporary admission are deactivated in TRACES and they must not be used in CHEDA.</li> <li>- In order to avoid any confusion, MS agreed that BCPs should accept imports of horses for "internal market" with no involvement in possible customs procedure of temporary admission.</li> </ul>
7	<b>AOB</b>	<p>List of authorised TCs for ABPs</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Regulation (EU) No 142/2011 lays down the lists of third countries from which entry into the Union of animal by-products and derived products is permitted. In Annex XIV, Tables 1 and 2 mostly refer to the already established lists for imports of live animals and products of animal origin.</li> <li>- As Regulations (EU) 2021/404 and 2021/405 repealed and replaced several lists of third countries, a new reference in the ABP legislation is supplemented with instructions on which part of the above Regulations apply. Certain parts, e.g. a reference to a certificate or definition in the food legislation, are not applicable to imports of ABP, it is therefore necessary to follow instructions in Tables 1 and 2.</li> </ul> <p>Transition period for certificates</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- COM recalled that through the infonote of 21 December 2021, MS were invited to be flexible until end of April 2022 in the implementation of the deadlines provided for by Regulation (EU) 2021/1329. The extension to end of April 2022 should be understood for both deadlines, certificate signature (15/1/2022) and consignment presentation (15/3/2022).</li> <li>- This approach was agreed by MS at the Committee of 13 January 2022.</li> </ul> <p>RMP issues</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Commission Implementing Decision (EU) 2021/2315 last amended the Annex to Residue Decision 2011/163/EU, and divided the category ‘aquaculture products’ into four sub-categories, ‘Finfish’, ‘Product of finfish (e.g., caviar)’, ‘Crustaceans’ and ‘Molluscs (bivalve molluscs, echinoderms, tunicates and marine gastropods)’.</li> <li>- Third countries previously listed for ‘aquaculture’, and exporting caviar of aquaculture origin, were no longer listed to export caviar to the EU. In the Committee on 16 February 2022, a new amendment to Residue Decision obtained a favourable opinion to relist certain third countries under the column ‘products of finfish (e.g. caviar). With the info note of 16 February 2022, Member States were invited to apply the agreed measures before the legal text is formally adopted.</li> <li>- Triangular trade of crustaceans and molluscs for some countries is no longer possible due to a missing footnote (prawns from Thailand destined to Ireland via GB; oyster sauce from China). A new amendment to the Residue Decision will be adopted before summer.</li> </ul> <p>Establishments in box I.27 of model certificates</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- COM raised several issues about the completion of box I.27: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o “Date of collection/production”: to be understood as the latest (oldest) date of the production chain.</li> <li>o “Manufacturing plants”: despite the discrepancies of wording/columns between the various model certificates, MS should be flexible when accepting certificates provided that the listed establishments involved in the production chain are all indicated in box I.27, especially for the categories of meat, meat products and fishery products.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

	<p>Listing of approved warehouses</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- COM informed MS that the lists of approved warehouses on COM webpage will be removed, as these approved warehouses must be registered in TRACES.</li></ul>
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