



EUROPEAN COMMISSION
 DIRECTORATE GENERAL FOR HEALTH AND FOOD
 SAFETY

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

Minutes

"Import Controls"

Thursday, 25 February 2021, **9H30 – 12H30 Brussels time**

WebEx

Chair: Bruno Saimour, Unit G3

EXPERT GROUP of MEMBER STATES on VETERINARY IMPORT CONTROLS

1	<p>Migration from REC (re-enforced checks – Art. 24 of Dir. 97/78/EC) to IOC (intensified official controls – Art. 65(4) of Reg. (EU) 2017/625)</p>	<p>COM updated MSs on the closure of access to CVEDP module in Traces Classic on 2 March 2021 and the subsequent transfer of the “series rankings” within active REC’s in Traces Classic to “planned control numbers” in Traces NT. IOCs will therefore be fully functional and operationally managed in Traces NT as from 2 March, marking the end of the usage of the term Re-enforced checks. In the IOC module in TRACES NT, the “planned controls number” will be updated and of course as per EU Regulation 2019/1873, the planned weight parameter will also be entered. Due to the complete change of process between Classic and NT, historical data cannot be migrated into NT but they will be available for consultation in Classic. COM insisted on the importance of the Comment box of the IOC, through which key information will be provided.</p>
2	<p>Guidance document on IOC</p>	<p>COM updated MSs on the state of play of the IOC guidance document which forms part of an overall OCR guidance document. MSs were also presented with detailed information and step by step procedures for submission of new IOC request notifications in TRACES NT</p>
3	<p>Monitoring plans in BCPs</p>	<p>MS’s were reminded briefly of 2020 discussions on monitoring plans for AMR, residues, contaminants and resultant coordination between the various SANTE Units, to ensure any set sampling rates at BCPs are compatible with the frequencies of physical checks noting that this has been reached. E2 also provided an update on the control plans for veterinary medicines and contaminants. Currently, COM is discussing a Commission Delegated Regulation with MSs as regards the import requirements for the import of products of animal origin as regards</p>

		veterinary medicines and also a control plan in an Implementing Regulation on uniform, practical arrangements for the MANCP (multi annual national control plan).
4	Poultry meat from Brazil	COM provided an update and exchanged views with the MS on the state of play regarding the specific measures to be carried out on imports of meat and meat products originating from Brazil
5	Assessment tables for BCP facilities	COM (Directorate F) gave a detailed summary on the use of the template that facilitates the assessment of information accompanying Member States notifications of intended designations for new border control posts (BCP) or change in infrastructure or organisation of a BCP, or an inspection centre within that post against the minimum and detailed rules on minimum requirements for border control posts. COM informed MS's that, mainly due to Brexit preparedness, there have been an increased number of notifications compared with previous years. Noting also that, due to the COVID pandemic, the assessment table template has been used to facilitate remote audits within the import sector
6	BCPs facilities for high volume bulk liquids	COM gave a summary on the interpretation of Article 3(10) of Regulation (EU) 2019/1014, in particular storage facilities for high volume bulk liquids and transfer equipment from the vessels/means of transport to the storage tanks.
7.	Publication of BCP lists (Art. 60 OCR)	MS's were reminded to send links to their national webpages where their lists of CPs and BCPs can be found. In the near future, all the lists presented in online PDF documents will be removed from the Commission website as they should be replaced by web links to national webpages. MSs were also reminded that their list of approved warehouses must be kept up-to-date in TRACES, as provided for in Article 25 of Regulation (EU) 2019/2124. Therefore the corresponding webpage in the Commission website will be removed to avoid possible discrepancies with TRACES recordings.
8.	Circulation of information from third countries to MS's	MS's were informed of the formation of a secure members only group on the platform CIRCABC entitled "import controls: communications on third country certification" for the purposes of more efficient distribution of third country signatories listings and of information on details of listing of retrospective health certification both of which some third countries often send out of courtesy. MS's will also put forward email addresses of appropriate staff at BCPs to have secure access to such a group information to assist in the everyday operations such as documentary checks at BCPs.

9.	Brexit issues	<p>COM gave MS's an update on Brexit issues which have been requiring attention since the end of the transition period in terms of exporting and importing SPS goods to and from Great Britain. Information was given on the UK Border Operating Model which plans a progressive approach for import certification and import controls in the UK(GB).</p> <p>MS's were updated on the discussions that take place in "task force" attended by MS's most affected by Brexit and in regular CVO's meetings. For the purpose of harmonised approach in the EU, COM is circulating a number of Q/A documents to the MS and stakeholders.</p>
10.	AOB	<p>There was a MS question on net weight for glazed fishery products for health certification completion and inclusion of such information in the notes for the relevant fishery certificate laid out in EU Regulation 2020/2235. COM reminded that the glaze must be considered as the packaging of the product as the net weight is always exclusive of the glaze noting that this clarification was already historically clarified on the SANTE website in FAQs.</p> <p>Another MS question was asked to clarify if the specific ABP procedure for re enforced checks on processed animal protein could be integrated in the IOC procedure of Art. 65(4) OCR. COM answered that this would first need an amendment in ABP regulation, what remains to be discussed in Unit G2 Working Groups.</p>