



EUROPEAN COMMISSION  
DIRECTORATE GENERAL FOR HEALTH AND FOOD SAFETY

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

**Minutes**

**"Official Controls Regulation (EU) 2017/625"**  
Wednesday, 5 May 2021, 9H30 – 10H30 Brussels time  
Skype for Business  
Chair: Tim Gumbel, Deputy Head of Unit, Unit G3

**Expert Group of Member States on Official Controls**

1	9:30 – 9:35	Welcome by the Commission and information on general state of play	
2	9:35 – 10:30	<b>Article 48:</b> exemption of organic products from BCP checks (and link to DG AGRI texts), including presentation on TRACES	<p>The Commission presented the changes made to the draft compared to the version discussed in the meeting of 19 April 2021 and replied to written comments sent by Member States following that meeting. In particular, it clarified the reasoning concerning the legal basis for this initiative, the requirements applicable to the extension of the scope of designation of BCPs and control points other than BCPs (CPs) to organic and in-conversion products, the link between the results of organic checks recorded in the certificate of inspection (COI) and the decision on the consignment recorded in the CHED. This was followed by a presentation on TRACES, illustrating how the changes can materialise in a future version of the system, including an overview of some new proposed facilities in the CHED and COI to help operators and authorities apply the new rules.</p> <p>In the discussion that followed, the Commission provided further clarifications on the aforementioned issues. In addition, it provided clarifications in relation to the place where documentary checks may be performed, to the provisions concerning onward transportation established in CDR 2019/2124.</p> <p><u>Follow-up:</u> Member States were invited to send comments by 7 May 2021. The Commission indicated that further clarifications will be sent in writing concerning BCP and CP designation. In addition clarifications will be sent bilaterally concerning the impact of non-compliance with organic rules recorded in the COI on the coordinated performance of intensified controls pursuant to CIR 2019/1873 and the impact on status of a product recorded in the COI as organic, of a decision in the CHED to release the consignment as non-organic further to analysis for pesticide residues.</p>