



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, 24 February 2021, **9H30 – 12H30 Brussels time**  
WebEx

**WORKING GROUP of MEMBER STATES on OFFICIAL CONTROLS**

1	9:30 – 9:50	Welcome by the Commission and information on general state of play	<p>The Commission informed about the finalisation of a proposal for amending Regulation (EU) 2017/625 (inclusion of Art. 118 of Regulation (EU) 2019/6 into the scope) and about ongoing discussions regarding checks on imported consignments for compliance with organics legislation.</p> <p>The Commission also informed about ongoing work on two Commission acts for specific official controls in the animal health area. Those acts aim to replace some specificities in existing rules and to lay down minimum frequencies of controls in establishments approved pursuant to Regulation (EU) 2016/429 (e.g. establishments of germinal products, aquaculture etc.) and also linked to identification and registration of bovine, ovine and caprine animals.</p>
2	9:50 – 10:15	<b>Article 90:</b> First amendment to official certificates (transitional period for intra-EU certificates)	<p>The Commission presented the draft Implementing Regulation amending Implementing Regulations on certificates. The draft Regulation provides a transitional period for the use of certificates established in current legislation for movements of consignments of animals and goods within the Union.</p> <p><u>Follow-up:</u> presentation for PAFF vote on 15/16 March, written procedure and expected adoption end of March or early April 2021.</p>
3	10:20 – 11:00	<b>Article 37:</b> Access to information on official laboratories	<p>The Commission presented a set of different options for the listing of official laboratories.</p> <p><u>Follow-up:</u> Member States asked for comments by 5 March 2021.</p>
4	11:00 – 11:30	<b>Preparation of overall guidance on OCR:</b> presentation of state of play	<p>The Commission provided an update on the preparation of the part of the guidance concerning intensified official controls under Article 65 of Regulation (EU) 2017/625 and Implementing Reg. (EU) 2019/1873 and informed about further work on this part with the Import Controls Expert Group; regular updates on the progress will be provided during forthcoming OCR meetings.</p> <p>The Commission also gave an overview of the feedback from Member States received after the first presentation of the plans to create an overall guidance document for the OCR in the WG meeting on 27 January 2021. The Commission shared a draft guidance on Art. 92-101 and presented the state of play for guidance on Art. 65.</p>

			<p><u>Follow-up:</u> Member States are asked to provide feedback on 1) areas of the OCR that may require guidance, 2) the draft guidance on Art. 92-101 and 3) their willingness to participate in smaller working groups preparing guidance on specific topics.</p>
5	11:30 – 11:45	Any other business	<p>The Commission presented an update on on exempted composite products from BCP controls and on the draft Commission Implementing Regulation on lists of animals and goods subject to BCP checks. Clarification was provided with regards to different control procedures to be applied from 21 April 2021 for composite products that will be exempted from BCP checks and for composite products that will be subject to BCP checks.</p>
6	11:45 – 12:30	Articles 66 and 67: exchange of views on a harmonised understanding of both provisions	<p>The Commission continued the discussion concerning the need to harmonise the implementation of Article 66(3) and 67 of the OCR. A proposal was presented for the structure of an Implementing Act, which may be accompanied by a guidance document, aiming at providing a common methodology for competent authorities to take measures on consignments presenting a risk in most common or recurring situations.</p> <p><u>Follow-up:</u> Member States asked for written comments.</p>
7	12:30	Concluding remarks	<p>The Commission announced that the next meeting would be organized in the first half of April 2021.</p>