



EUROPEAN COMMISSION
DIRECTORATE GENERAL FOR HEALTH AND FOOD SAFETY

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

Minutes
Working Group
"Official Controls Regulation (EU 2017/625)"

Thursday 9 June 2022, **9H30 – 12H30**
(Skype for Business call)

WORKING GROUP

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| 1 | 9:30 – 10:00 | Article 47: Implementation of official controls on organics | <p>The Commission presented the state of play, including in relation to developments in TRACES and the designation of BCPs and registration in TRACES of points of release for free circulation. It further clarified that the inter-service consultation for the related Commission Guidance document (Q&A) is to be closed shortly, to be followed by adoption by the Commission. The Guidance document was modified to enhance clarity, with few changes on substance brought to the delegates' attention.</p> <p>Further to questions from the Member States, the Commission clarified that there is ongoing work in TRACES to allow the endorsement of the certificate of origin (COI) in case only identity checks are recorded in box 29 thereof and that the revision of that box along the lines of the Common Health Entry Document (CHED) format is envisaged by DG AGRI services. The Commission further clarified that, pending interservice discussions, the validation of the CHED as 'acceptable for internal market' remains possible in TRACES if the consignment is maximum residue levels for pesticide residues (MRL) compliant and the inspector responsible for sanitary/phytosanitary border checks informs the organic authority of MRL exceedance relevant for the organic status in view of a possible COI update.</p> |
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| 2 | 10:00– 10:40 | Guidance on several provisions of the OCR | The Commission presented version 1.0 of the draft OCR guidance with amendments based on feedback from Member States and SANTE technical units. A consultation of Commission services will be launched shortly. Adoption and publication of v1.0 in Q4 2022 is envisaged. The Commission presented possible new topics to be inserted in a future update of the guidance which included the definitions described in Article 3 of the OCR and the rules for the delegation of tasks provided for in Articles 28-33 of the OCR. |
| 3 | 10:40– 11:20 | Article 70: application of Articles 66, 67 and 68 | The Commission presented an updated draft implementing act on the basis of Article 70 of the OCR, with amendments based on feedback received from Member States. The Commission will discuss several points raised by Member States during the meeting with technical units within DG SANTE. |
| 4 | 11:20- 11:35 | Article 37: presentation of EU survey | The Commission presented the final version of the EU Survey on designated official laboratories and the practical arrangements for Member States to get access to the survey and to enter information. The resulting database of official laboratories will facilitate cooperation between Member States for cross-border designations in accordance with Article 37(2) of the OCR. |
| 5 | 11:35- 11:50 | Article 71: first reflections on next steps (presentation) | The Commission presented first reflections on a harmonized approach in various areas regarding special treatments as foreseen in Article 71 of the OCR in order to initiate the discussion. A few Member States instantly supported the approach of the Commission. Further discussions with the Member States are planned to follow. |
| 6 | 11:50- 12:00 | Update: amendment to CIR 2021/632 | The Commission presented an updated draft implementing act following interservice consultation and public consultation. The draft implementing act will be put forward for vote in the upcoming Plant Animals Food and Feed Standing Committee in July 2022. |
| 7 | 12:00- 12:30 | Digitalisation of the food chain – exchange of views | The Commission presented a questionnaire in relation to possible future projects on digitalisation of the food chain. Member States were asked to prioritise suggested projects, domains and if necessary provide new ideas and proposals. |