



EUROPEAN COMMISSION
DIRECTORATE GENERAL FOR HEALTH AND FOOD SAFETY

Crisis preparedness in food, animals and plants
Unit G.4 Official controls

Minutes
Working Group (C20402)
"Official Controls Regulation (EU 2017/625)"

Tuesday 14 February 2023, **9H30 – 12H30**
Skype call

WORKING GROUP

1 **9:30 – 10:30** **Article 47:** Implementation of import controls on organics, including fees for border checks

The Commission presented the results of the data collection in TRACES on the implementation rate of the COI-CHED link requirement (May-Sept and Oct -Dec 2022) and its main conclusions. Two Member States shared as good practice the cooperation among all competent authorities involved in organic and SPS official controls and the collaboration with stakeholders, such as dedicated meetings. Six Member States indicated they will assess the data and provide comments in writing to the Commission. One Member State referred to difficulties related to the fact that organic checks need to be finalised before the CHED is finalised. The Commission called on the Member States to take action to ensure/enhance the implementation of the COI-CHED link and to ensure registration in TRACES as PRFFCs of those BCPs where organic checks are carried out on products exempted from BCP checks. The Commission informed that the raw data will be communicated to each MS shortly. Furthermore, the Commission presented the outcome of the Member States' consultation on the financing of organic checks carried out at BCPs in accordance with Article 47(1)OCR. Member States have different interpretations of the scope of Article 79(5) OCR, with the majority of Member States in favour of flexibility for the financing of such BCP checks. The Commission indicated that the issue will be re-assessed at a later stage, in light of the experience of the Member States with the implementation of the rules on

			organic checks carried out at BCPs and with the financing of such checks.
2	10:30– 11:15	Guidance on several provisions of the OCR – exchange of views on new elements	<p>The Commission presented for discussion new elements for an update of the Commission Notice on the implementation of Regulation (EU) 2017/625 (2022/C 467/02), regarding in particular clarifications of provisions in Articles 10, 14, 17-18, 28-33, 41, 69, 91 and 140 of the OCR, as well as regarding official controls of e-commerce activities.</p> <p>The Commission replied to questions on:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. the controls of the competent authorities in the context of the delegation of control tasks: the Commission clarified that competent authorities should grant the delegation of official control tasks to candidate delegated bodies, also in the case of provisional delegation, after performing on-site controls of these candidate delegated bodies. According to Art. 33 (a), the audits for accreditation purposes should be taken into account in the organisation of audits and inspections by the competent authorities, avoiding duplication. However, these types or controls are distinct and competent authorities must not rely exclusively on audits of the national accreditation bodies, especially at the outset of the delegation. 2. the accreditation requirements of the control bodies in the area of spirit drinks: the Commission clarified that where a product specification body carries out verification of compliance with the product specification before placing the product on the market, this body shall be accredited in accordance with European standard ISO/IEC 17065:2012 or any applicable future revision or amended version thereof, according to Art. 38 (5) of Reg. (EU) 2019/787.
3	11:15– 11:40	Articles 62 and 63: withdrawal and suspension of the designation of border control posts	<p>The Commission presented ongoing work for the finalisation of two simplified workflows in relation to BCP notifications involving DG SANTE and the Member States: (1) the update of BCP lists and BCP structure in TRACES following BCP notifications; (2) the removal or suspension of an inspection centre without a change in the scope of designation of the BCP. The Commission further informed</p>

			Member States on the ongoing update of the 'notification of a BCP' template and on the related 'assessment table'. Finally, the Commission presented new features in TRACES to enhance information of users on BCP status (valid/suspended/deleted) and of changes in that status (via a dedicated message on the TRACES Welcome page). The Commission indicated that Member States will be informed on the finalisation of said workflows and features as well as on the date of their application.
4	11:40-12:10	Common Health Entry Document in case of national rules (new CHED-N)	The Commission presented for a first exchange of views an initiative to introduce a new CHED type in TRACES ('CHED-N') for the purpose of managing border controls on goods entering the Union which are checked at the external border based on a decision of the competent authority of a Member State. The Commission invited Member States to communicate their views and needs as regards the implementation of this new CHED type.
5	12:10-12:20	Article 124: information on third country controls in Member States	The Commission reminded Member States of their obligation to notify to the Commission planned controls by third country authorities in the Member States in accordance with Article 124 of the OCR, and of the dedicated CIRCABC group created to facilitate such notifications.
6	12:20-12:30	Updates on ongoing work on implementation of the OCR	The Commission presented the current state of use by Member States of the database of official laboratories created on the EU Survey platform, which aims to facilitate the identification of designated official laboratories in the Member States for the purpose of cross-border designations. In addition, the Commission informed about the state of play of ongoing preparations for new legal acts.