



EU Regulations - IMPORT CONTROLS

Official controls in the Union on imported food products

Controlli ufficiali nella UE sui prodotti alimentari importati

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Key elements

- Union internal market
- Free circulation of goods, people and services
- High level of protection human health, animal health and welfare, and plant health

DG SANTE mission is to protect the citizens' health and monitor their food making sure it is safe.

DG SANTE is responsible for EU policy on food safety and health and for monitoring the implementation of related laws.

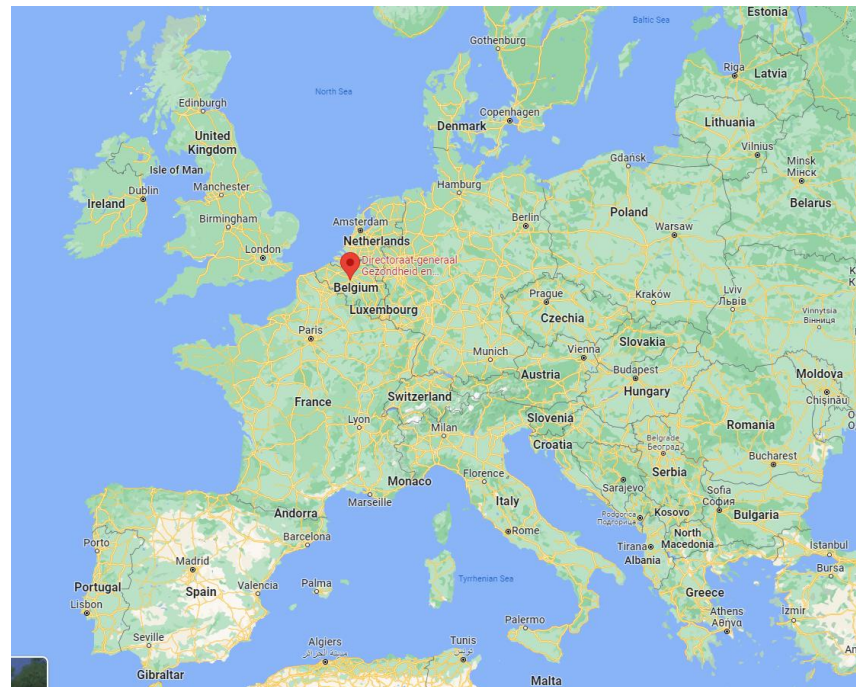
- ✓ harmonised rules for agri-food trade
- ✓ harmonised rules for official controls
 - businesses and products on the market
 - products entering the Union

DG SANTE

European Commission
DG Health & Food Safety
(SANTE)

Directorate G - Crisis
preparedness in food,
animals and plants

Unit G4 - Official
controls



DG SANTE B232/
F101
Brussels

Policy Directorates in Brussels and Luxembourg

Audit Directorate in Grange, Ireland

Integrated official controls

Official Controls
Regulation

Regulation (EU) 2017/625 – Official Controls Regulation
(OCR)
Date of application: 14.12.2019

Animal health
law

Regulation (EU) 2016/429 – Animal Health Law
Date of application: 21.04.2021

Plant health law

Regulation (EU) 2016/2031 – Plant Health Law
Date of application: 14.12.2019

Public health

Public health law and certificates – Regulation (EU) 2019/624,
2019/625, 2020/2235, 2020/2236, 2021/403
Date of application: various

Contaminants,
residues, AMR

Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) 2022/931 and Commission
Implementing Regulation (EU) 2022/932
Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2022/2293
AMR: Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) 2023/905
Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2024/2598



OCR

OCR Tertiary legislation

More than 30 acts adopted.

Examples:

- **Import model certificates**
CIR (EU) 2020/2235, 2020/2236, 2021/403
- **CN positive list** 2021/632
- **Composite products** exempted from BCP controls:
CDR (EU) 2021/630



OCR
85 empowerments for implementing and delegated acts

In preparation / discussion (examples)

- updates and revisions
- update of the IMSOC Regulation

https://ec.europa.eu/food/safety/official_controls/legislation_en

https://ec.europa.eu/food/system/files/2019-12/oc_qa_ocregulation_20191212_delegated_implemented_acts_en.pdf

OCR

Harmonised framework for the organisation of official controls and official activities along the entire agri-food chain, for the verification of compliance with the Union agri-food chain rules, including import controls

Official Controls Regulation (OCR) Regulation (EU) 2017/625

since
12/2019

food

feed

GMOs

animal
health

animal
welfare

animal by-
products

plant
protection
products

plant
health

organics

PDO, PGI,
TSG

OCR

General Principles **Articles 1 – 15**

Subject matter, scope & definitions, Competent Authorities general requirements

Sector Specific Requirements **Articles 16 – 27**

e.g. Products of animal origin, residues, animal welfare, plant health, GMOs, plant protection products, organic production, new risks

Art. 28–33 Delegation of tasks	Art. 34–42 Sampling, analyses, tests + Diagnoses	Art. 43– 77 IMPORT CONTROLS	Art. 78-91 Financing OC + official certification	Art. 92-101 EURLs EURCs	Art. 102–108 Administrative Assistance + Cooperation
Art. 109-115 Planning + Reporting	Art. 116–124 Commission Controls	Art. 125–129 Conditions for entry into the EU	Art. 130 Training (BTSF)*	Art. 131–136 IMSOC	Art. 137– 141 Enforcement

[BTSF](https://better-training-for-safer-food.ec.europa.eu/training/?lang=it)

<https://better-training-for-safer-food.ec.europa.eu/training/?lang=it>



OCR

A harmonised legal framework with high standards

A risk-based approach and science-based risk management

Controls all along the agri-food chain

Trained and impartial official **staff**

Shared responsibilities

Measures taken in case of non compliance, penalties

Fees covering costs of official controls, administrative burden minimised

Imports fulfill the same high standards as products from the EU itself

Coordination, assistance, RASFF, IMSOC

Records and transparency

OCR



THREE LAYERS OF CONTROLS for a very high level of safety for all consumers

The **European Commission** carries out controls, including audits of the national control systems* in EU Member States and countries that export to the EU, and verify that they are effective.

https://food.ec.europa.eu/horizontal-topics/official-controls-and-enforcement/health-and-food-audits-and-analysis_en

27 EU Member States' competent authorities shall perform official controls on all operators.

Primary responsibility for food safety borne **by the food business operator**.

Food-handling businesses and farmers shall comply with Union rules associated with an obligation of own controls, good practices, HACCP

'control system' means a **system comprising the competent authorities and the resources, structures, arrangements and procedures** set up in a Member State to ensure that official controls are performed in accordance with this Regulation and with the rules referred to in Articles 18 to 27 (Art. 3(7) OCR)

Entry into the Union – Main rules

Articles 43 to 72 of the OCR

'High risk'



Animals, products of animal origin, germinal products, animal by-products, plants, plant products and certain feed and food of non-animal origin

=

control at designated BCP of first arrival



Always documentary checks; risk-based identity and physical checks (harmonised frequencies)
Articles 47-64

'Low risk'



Animals and goods which inherent risks do not require systematic border controls

=

control at appropriate place within the customs territory of the Union



Regular, risk-based controls with appropriate frequency (established by Member States)
Articles 44-46

Same set of measures in cases of non-compliance, including enforcement measures
Article 66(1), (3) and (5), Articles 67, 68, and 69, Article 71(1) and (2), Article 72(1) and (2).

Entry into the Union – Main rules



A common risk-based framework for import controls on all animals and goods entering the Union

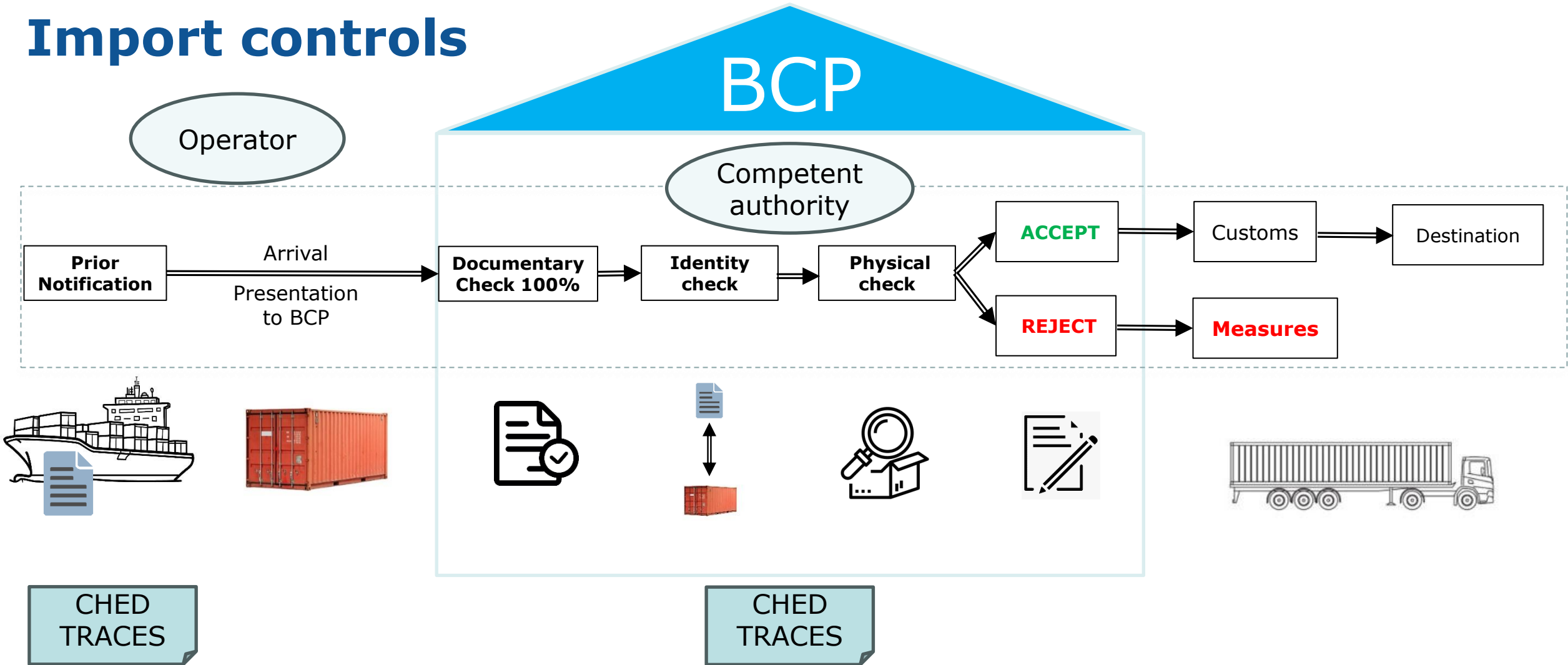
Border Control Posts
(BCPs)
around 300 in the veterinary area

Minimum requirements for
facilities - equipment -
staff

Common Health Entry Document
(CHED) single standard document for
the prior notification of consignments
and recording results of official controls

Data transmitted through
IMSOC = integration of
existing computerised systems
(including TRACES, RASFF,
Europhyt)

Import controls



IMSOC

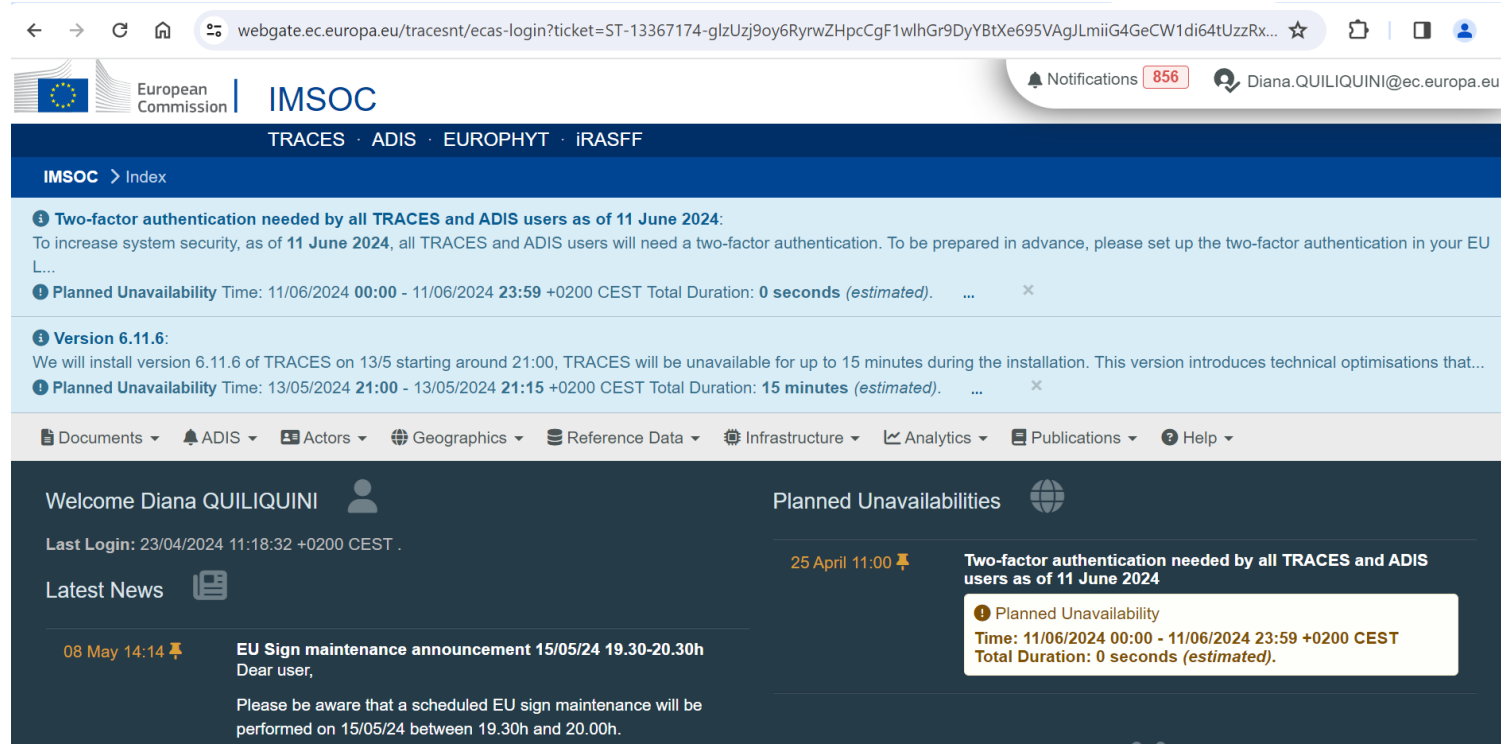
Information Management System for Official Controls
= integration of existing IT systems



*RASFF https://food.ec.europa.eu/food-safety/rasff_en

RASFF Window <https://webgate.ec.europa.eu/rasff-window/screen/search>

Import controls – TRACES and CHED



The screenshot shows the IMSOC (Import Management System of Origin Control) web application. The browser address bar displays the URL: `webgate.ec.europa.eu/tracesnt/ecas-login?ticket=ST-13367174-glzUzj9oy6RyrwZHpcCgF1wlhGr9DyYBtXe695VAgJLmiiG4GeCW1di64tUzzRx...`. The page header includes the European Commission logo and the IMSOC title. A navigation menu lists: TRACES · ADIS · EUROPHYT · iRASFF. A notification banner at the top right shows 856 notifications and the user name Diana.QUILIQUINI@ec.europa.eu. The main content area features several announcements:

- Two-factor authentication needed by all TRACES and ADIS users as of 11 June 2024:** To increase system security, as of 11 June 2024, all TRACES and ADIS users will need a two-factor authentication. To be prepared in advance, please set up the two-factor authentication in your EU L...
- Planned Unavailability** Time: 11/06/2024 00:00 - 11/06/2024 23:59 +0200 CEST Total Duration: 0 seconds (estimated).
- Version 6.11.6:** We will install version 6.11.6 of TRACES on 13/5 starting around 21:00, TRACES will be unavailable for up to 15 minutes during the installation. This version introduces technical optimisations that...
- Planned Unavailability** Time: 13/05/2024 21:00 - 13/05/2024 21:15 +0200 CEST Total Duration: 15 minutes (estimated).

The interface also includes a navigation menu with items: Documents, ADIS, Actors, Geographics, Reference Data, Infrastructure, Analytics, Publications, and Help. The user profile section for Diana QUILIQUINI shows a last login of 23/04/2024 11:18:32 +0200 CEST. A 'Planned Unavailabilities' section lists an event on 25 April 11:00. A prominent yellow warning box states: **Two-factor authentication needed by all TRACES and ADIS users as of 11 June 2024**. Below this, a 'Planned Unavailability' box indicates: Time: 11/06/2024 00:00 - 11/06/2024 23:59 +0200 CEST Total Duration: 0 seconds (estimated). The 'Latest News' section features an article titled 'EU Sign maintenance announcement 15/05/24 19.30-20.30h' dated 08 May 14:14, with the text: 'Dear user, Please be aware that a scheduled EU sign maintenance will be performed on 15/05/24 between 19.30h and 20.00h.'

'TRACES' means the computerised system referred to in Article 133(4) of Regulation (EU) 2017/625 for the purposes of exchanging data, information and documents (Reg. (EU) 2019/1715 – Art. 2(36))

QR CODE	L2	CHED reference	I.1	Consignor/Exporter	
	L3	Local reference		Name	
	L4	Border Control Post		Address	
	L5	Border Control Post code		Country	ISO country code
L6	Consignee/Importer Name Address Country ISO country code		L7	Place of destination Name Address Country ISO country code Registration/Approval No ISO country code	
L8	Operator responsible for the consignment Name Address Country ISO country code		L9	Accompanying documents Type Country Commercial document references Code	
L10	Prior notification	Date	Time		
L13	Means of transport <input type="checkbox"/> Airplane <input type="checkbox"/> Vessel <input type="checkbox"/> Railway <input type="checkbox"/> Road vehicle Identification		L11	Country of origin	ISO country code
			L12	Region of origin	Code
L14	Country of dispatch Country ISO country code	L15	Establishment of origin Name Address Country ISO country code Registration/Approval No Country ISO country code		
L16	Transport conditions <input type="checkbox"/> Ambient <input type="checkbox"/> Chilled <input type="checkbox"/> Frozen				
L17	Container number/Seal Number Container No Seal No Official Seal <input type="checkbox"/>				
L18	Certified as or for: <input type="checkbox"/> Human consumption <input type="checkbox"/> Pharmaceutical use <input type="checkbox"/> Feedstuff <input type="checkbox"/> Technical use		L19		
				Conformity of the goods <input type="checkbox"/> Conforming <input type="checkbox"/> Non-conforming	
L20	<input type="checkbox"/> For transhipments/transfer to:		Details of controlled destinations for L20 to L22 and L24		
L22	<input type="checkbox"/> For transit to:				
L24	<input type="checkbox"/> For non-conforming goods <input type="checkbox"/> Specially approved customs warehouse <input type="checkbox"/> Free zone <input type="checkbox"/> Vessel				
L23	<input type="checkbox"/> For internal market		L25 <input type="checkbox"/> For re-entry		
L27	Means of transport after BCP/storage <input type="checkbox"/> Airplane <input type="checkbox"/> Railway <input type="checkbox"/> Vessel <input type="checkbox"/> Road vehicle Identification:				

Template of CHED-P - Common Health Entry Document for Products

Reg. (EU) 2019/1715 Annex II - Section B Part 2

Part I – Description of the consignment

L29	Date of departure		Date	Time				
L31	Description of consignment							
	CN code	Species	Batch Number	Quantity	No of packages	Net weight(kg)	IAS Permit	Final consumer
								<input type="checkbox"/>
L32	Total number of packages		L33	Total quantity		L34		
						Total net weight/gross weight		
L35	Declaration: I, the undersigned operator responsible for the consignment detailed above, certify that to the best of my knowledge and belief the statements made in Part I of this document are true and complete, and I agree to comply with the requirements of Regulation (EU) 2017/625 on official controls, including payment for official controls, as well as for re-dispatching of consignments, for quarantine or isolation of animals, or costs of euthanasia and disposal where necessary.							
		Date of declaration		Name of signatory		Signature		

In processing the personal data included in the CHEDs, Member States shall comply with Regulation (EU) 2016/679 and Directive (EU) 2016/680 and the Commission with Regulation (EU) 2018/1725.



II.1	Previous CHED	II.2	CHED reference	II.24	Subsequent CHED
II.3	Documentary check EU requirements <input type="checkbox"/> Satisfactory <input type="checkbox"/> Not satisfactory National requirements <input type="checkbox"/> Satisfactory <input type="checkbox"/> Not satisfactory	II.4	Identity check <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Seal check <input type="checkbox"/> Full check	<input type="checkbox"/> Satisfactory	<input type="checkbox"/> Not satisfactory
II.5	Physical check <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Reduced check <input type="checkbox"/> Others <input type="checkbox"/> Satisfactory <input type="checkbox"/> Not satisfactory	II.6	Laboratory test <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No Test: <input type="checkbox"/> Intensified controls <input type="checkbox"/> Required <input type="checkbox"/> Emergency measures <input type="checkbox"/> Random <input type="checkbox"/> Suspicion Test result: <input type="checkbox"/> Pending <input type="checkbox"/> Satisfactory <input type="checkbox"/> Not satisfactory		
Acceptable for (II.9 to II.16):					
II.9	<input type="checkbox"/> Transhipment to	II.13	<input type="checkbox"/> Monitoring		
II.11	<input type="checkbox"/> Transit to:	<input type="checkbox"/> Entry monitoring <input type="checkbox"/> Re-entry monitoring			
II.12	<input type="checkbox"/> Internal market <input type="checkbox"/> Human consumption <input type="checkbox"/> Trade sample <input type="checkbox"/> Feedstuff <input type="checkbox"/> Other <input type="checkbox"/> Pharmaceutical use <input type="checkbox"/> Local use <input type="checkbox"/> Technical use <input type="checkbox"/> Further process	II.14	<input type="checkbox"/> Non-conforming goods <input type="checkbox"/> Specially approved customs warehouse <input type="checkbox"/> Free zone <input type="checkbox"/> Vessel	II.16	<input type="checkbox"/> Not acceptable <input type="checkbox"/> Destruction By (date) <input type="checkbox"/> Re-dispatch <input type="checkbox"/> Special treatment <input type="checkbox"/> Use for other purposes
II.17	Reason for refusal <input type="checkbox"/> Documentary <input type="checkbox"/> Identity <input type="checkbox"/> Physical <input type="checkbox"/> Origin <input type="checkbox"/> Laboratory <input type="checkbox"/> IAS <input type="checkbox"/> Other	II.18 Details of controlled destinations for II.9 to II.16			
II.19	<input type="checkbox"/> Consignment resealed	New seal number			
II.20	Identification of BCP BCP Stamp Control Unit code	II.21 Certifying officer I, the undersigned official veterinarian, certify that the checks on the consignment have been carried out in accordance with the Union requirements and where applicable in accordance with the national requirements of the Member State of destination Name (in capital letters) Date Signature			
II.22	Inspection fees				
II.23	Customs document reference				

Template of CHED-P - Common Health Entry Document for Products

Reg. (EU) 2019/1715 Annex II - Section B Part 2

Part 2 – Controls

Import controls

Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2019/2130 of 25 November 2019 establishing detailed rules on the operations to be carried out during and after documentary checks, identity checks and physical checks on animals and goods subject to official controls at border control posts

DOC. CHECK

Documents

Imports from
authorised
countries

Approved
establishments

examination of official certificates/attestations/
other documents (incl. commercial documents,
required to accompany the consignment

IDENTITY CHECK

Health mark
Reg.(EU)2019/627

Identification mark

visual inspection to verify that
content/labelling of a consignment, including
the marks on animals, seals and means of
transport, correspond to the information in
official certificates, official attestations and
other documents accompanying it

PHYSICAL CHECK

e.g. Temperature requirements
for fishery products, minced
meat and meat preparations

e.g. Limits for certain residues
in gelatine

check on animals or goods, on packaging, means
of transport, labelling and temperature, sampling
for analysis, testing or diagnosis and any other
check necessary to verify compliance with the
rules referred to in Article 1(2)

Official certification based on Art. 90(a) of the OCR and Art. 238(3) AHL



"IA FOOD"

[Commission
Implementing
Regulation \(EU\)
2020/2235](#)

standard model of
certificates,
model certificates and
private attestation for
goods



"IA TERRE"

[Commission
Implementing
Regulation \(EU\)
2021/403](#)

model certificates and
declarations for
terrestrial animals
and germinal
products thereof



"IA AQUA"

[Commission
implementing
Regulation \(EU\)
2020/2236](#)

model certificates and
declaration for aquatic
animals and products
thereof

Physical check

Baseline criteria for determining baseline frequency rates for identity checks and physical checks		Baseline frequency rates that apply to	
Risk category	Category of animals or goods (*)	Identity checks	Physical checks
I	Animals	100 %	100 %
II	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> — Minced meat, mechanically separated meat and meat preparations for human consumption ('HC') — Poultry meat for HC — Rabbit meat, game meat, and their meat products for HC — Eggs for HC — Egg products for HC which are preserved at frozen or chilled temperatures — Milk for HC — Dairy products and colostrum-based products for HC, which are preserved at frozen or chilled temperatures — Fishery products from aquaculture and bivalve molluscs for HC, which are not in hermetically sealed containers intended to render them stable at ambient temperature — Animal by-products and derived products, for feeding of farmed animals 	100 %	30 %
III	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> — Meat other than meat mentioned in risk category II, and meat products derived from such meat, for HC — Rendered animal fat and greaves for HC — Poultry meat products for HC — Egg products for HC, other than those mentioned in risk category II — Dairy products and colostrum-based products for HC other than those mentioned in risk category II — Fishery products other than those mentioned in risk category II — Honey and other apiculture products for HC — Composite products other than those mentioned in risk category IV — Hatching eggs — Organic fertilisers and soil improvers, derived from animal by-products — Frog legs and snails for HC — Insects for HC 	100 %	15 %

IV	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> — Gelatine and collagen for HC — Casings — Semen and embryos — Animal by-products and derived products, other than those mentioned in risk categories II and III — Composite products falling within Article 12(2), point (c), of Delegated Regulation (EU) 2019/625 	100 %	5 %
V	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> — Highly refined products for HC — Hay and straw — Other goods than those mentioned in risk categories II, III and IV 	100 %	1 %

Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2019/2129 of 25 November 2019 establishing rules for the uniform application of frequency rates for identity checks and physical checks on certain consignments of animals and goods entering the Union

Intensified official controls IOCs

OCR Art. 65(4)

4. Where the competent authorities have reasons to suspect fraudulent or deceptive practices by an operator responsible for the consignment or the official controls give grounds to believe that the rules referred to in Article 1(2) have been seriously or repeatedly infringed, they shall, where appropriate, and in addition to the measures provided for in Article 66(3), intensify as appropriate official controls on consignments with the same origin or use.

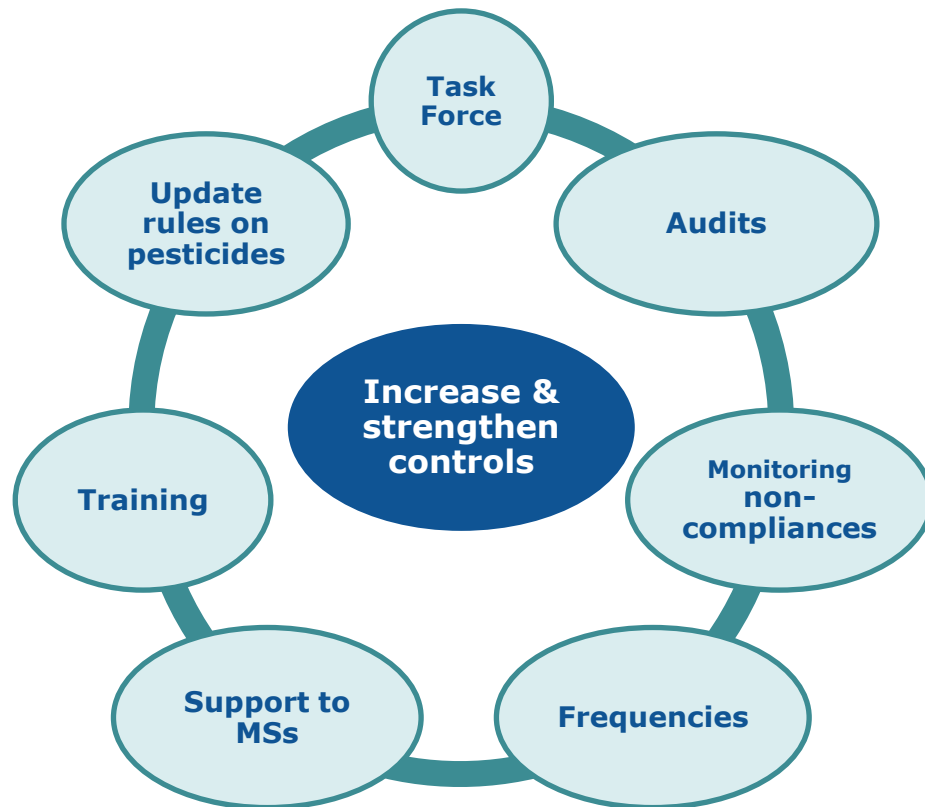
Reg. (EU) 2019/1873 on the procedures at border control posts for a coordinated performance by competent authorities of intensified official controls on products of animal origin, germinal products, animal by-products and composite products

Operational Guidance for application of Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2019/1873

https://food.ec.europa.eu/system/files/2023-07/bips_guidance_eu-reg-2019-1873.pdf

EU Task Force on import controls

Measures to increase and strengthen import controls (9/12/2025)



Objectives

- Improve harmonised implementation of import controls.
- Strengthen cooperation and coordination between Commission and Member States.
- Identify emerging risks requiring joint EU actions.
- Support consistent operational follow-up at EU BCPs.
- Consider targeted administrative or regulatory follow-up.

Useful links

- DG SANTE Webpages

https://food.ec.europa.eu/horizontal-topics/official-controls-and-enforcement/legislation-official-controls_en

https://ec.europa.eu/food/animals/veterinary-border-control_en

- Commission Notice on the Implementation of Regulation (EU) 2017/625 of the European Parliament and of the Council (Official Controls Regulation) [C/2024/7420](#)

<https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/IT/TXT/?uri=CELEX:52024XC06481>

- Operational Guidance for application of Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2019/1873 on the procedures at border control posts for a coordinated performance by competent authorities of intensified official controls on products of animal origin, germinal products, animal by-products and composite products

https://food.ec.europa.eu/system/files/2023-07/bips_guidance_eu-reg-2019-1873.pdf

- Commission work programme 2026

https://commission.europa.eu/strategy-and-policy/strategy-documents/commission-work-programme/commission-work-programme-2026_en

Thank you

Any questions?