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Import Controls at the EU borders

These slides accompany the explanation of the acquis to Albania and North Macedonia and can only be used for that purpose. Their content is subject to further development of the acquis and interpretation by the Court of Justice of the European Union

DG SANTE D2

Explanatory Meeting on the Acquis

19/02/2019

Health and Consumers

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The main objectives of border controls

Import legislation was developed to ensure and assist safety in the single market

EU Directives and Regulations are binding on all 28 Member States from the date of their adoption and subsequent implementation

EU Border Controls - Imports

Imports of all animals and products of animal origin undergo mandatory official controls at approved EU Border Inspection Posts (BIPs)

Approval procedures for BIPs are set down in EU law:

- **Requirements for live animals are set down in Council Directive 91/496/EEC (will be repealed by Regulation 2017/625 from 14/12/2019)**
- **Requirements for products of animal origin are set down in Council Directive 97/78/EC (will be repealed by Regulation 2017/625 from 14/12/2019)**

A modernised system for border controls (Reg (EU) 2017/625)

A common, risk based framework for border controls on all animals and goods entering the EU

Border Control Posts (BCPs)
replace
- Border Inspection Posts (BIPs)
- Designated Points of Entry (DPEs)

Minimum requirements for

facilities - equipment - staff

Common Health Entry Document (CHED) single standard document for the prior notification of consignments

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

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EU Border Controls - Imports

266 BIPs in 28 Member States

23 BIPs in 2 EEA Countries (Iceland + Norway)

2 BIPs in Faroe Islands

2 BIPs in Switzerland

Border inspection posts/Border control posts

What are BIPs(BCPs)?

- *A place and the facilities belonging to it, designated by a Member State for performance of the official controls*
- *Legal requirements for location, infrastructure, equipment, trained personnel, documentation, registration and IT systems*
- *BCPs shall be notified to the Commission and they are subject to regular audits by DG SANTE Directorate F (Health and Food Audits and Analysis in Grange, Ireland)*

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Detailed rules on minimum facilities at BCPs (Art 64(4) of Regulation 2017/625)

- BCP infrastructure
- BCP equipment and documentation
- Specific requirements for BCP designated for animals
- Specific requirements for BCP designated for POAO, ABP, etc.

The principle requirements

What are the principle requirements for imports of animals and animal products to the EU ?

For animals/products of animal origin:

- *Approved third country*
- *Harmonised animal and public health certification*
- *Approved establishments*
- *Approved residues control plan*

DG SANTE Directorate F caries out audits in third countries and establishments

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Border Control Process

What is happening at the BIPs ?

- *Pre-notification with the Common Veterinary Entry Document (CVED) (from 14/12/2019 - Common Heath Entry Document (CHED)) of all consignments through TRACES (IMSOC)*
- *Official controls of all consignments at the BIP to determine if import/transit conditions are met*
- *Decision concerning the consignment*
- *Follow-up of specific consignments, e.g. rejection, transit, channelling, products for ship supply*

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Border control process

Prior notification and exchange of information

CHED, IMSOC

Presentation and controls at the BCP

Mandatory documentary checks, but risk based identity and physical checks

Decision and follow-up on the consignment

CHED, IMSOC, customs' single window

Official controls at BIPs/BCPs

What official controls are carried out at BIPs ?

- *Documentary check on all consignments*
- *Identity check on all consignments*
- *Physical checks on consignments as set down in the EU legislation with the specific minimum frequency for harmonised product groups*
- *Safeguard provisions are additional to the above*

Documentary checks - certification – public and animal health:

- *Original document/certificate*
- *Approved third country, residue control plan*
- *Approved establishment*
- *All correct attestation requirements according to model EU certificates*
- *Written in one of the required language of the Member State of destination and of the BIP/BCP as set down in EU law*
- *Bear a unit code (number)*
- *Authentic, accurate, signed and stamped*
- *CVED/CHED presented prior to arrival of the consignment on EU territory to the BIP/BCP*

Requirements for health certificates :

- *Certification to be completed before consignment leaves the country of dispatch is a legal requirement (Annex VI to Regulation (EC) No 854/2004 will be replaced with the requirements in Implementing Regulation from 14/12/2019))*
- *All boxes in health certificate to be completed before dispatch where appropriate*
- *Unused options to be invalidated or can be left out, if indicated as appropriate in the footnotes*
- *Each certificate is a single entity and must be signed by an authorised official when he is in control of the consignment*
- *In case of administrative errors, the replacement certificate may be requested*
- *Voluntary access to TRACES/IMSOC to issue the health certificate electronically for direct dispatch to the BIP*

What do identity checks consist of ?

- *Correspondence between animal/product and health certificate*
- *Container seals, ear tags, leg rings, microchips on animals*
- *Health mark on label on package*
- *Approved third country or region of a third country*
- *Approved/registered establishment*
- *Transport temperature*
- *Packaging and labelling*
- *Animal welfare checks*

Physical checks – public and animal health requirements

- *Physical checks on samples throughout the consignment*
- *Organoleptic*
- *Visual*
- *Laboratory samples for various examinations, including blood samples for live animals*

in specific cases :

- *Microbiological*
- *Chemical*
- *Environmental contamination*
- *Residues and heavy metals*
- *Other checks*

Physical checks – public and animal health requirements:

- *For the random sampling programme laboratory tests are taken and the consignment may be released prior to the results*
- *For consignments for which laboratory testing is required due to suspicion or safeguard measures/RASFF, these may not be released from the border until satisfactory test results are available at the BIP*

What happens if conforming to all EU conditions?

- *Common Veterinary Entry Document (CVED)/ Common Health Entry Document (CHED) is issued*
- *Fees paid for any inspection costs*
- *Consignment allowed free movement in the EU*
- *Technical/animal feed/pharmaceutical use under channelling arrangements*
- *Animals to specific approved bodies under channelling arrangements, e.g. institutes or centres approved under Directive 92/65/EC or to approved quarantine centres*
- *Original health certificate remains at BIP/BCP*

What happens if not-conforming to EU conditions?

Consignments are rejected and options are:

- *re-dispatch outside of the Community to the third country of origin or under specified arrangement to another third country,*
- *destruction – in case of animals slaughter/euthanasia,*
- *subjected to a specified special treatment – in case of animals quarantine.*

These are all options and are at the discretion of the Member State in discussions with the importer or owner of the load.

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In cases of serious or repeated infringements of EU legislation safeguard measures may be taken against third countries by way of Commission Decisions which:

- *Apply re-enforced controls with specific sampling criteria at the entry into EU*
- *Ban imports from a third country or region*
- *Ban imports from an establishment*

Information tools

Currently used in order to keep all parties notified and up to date:

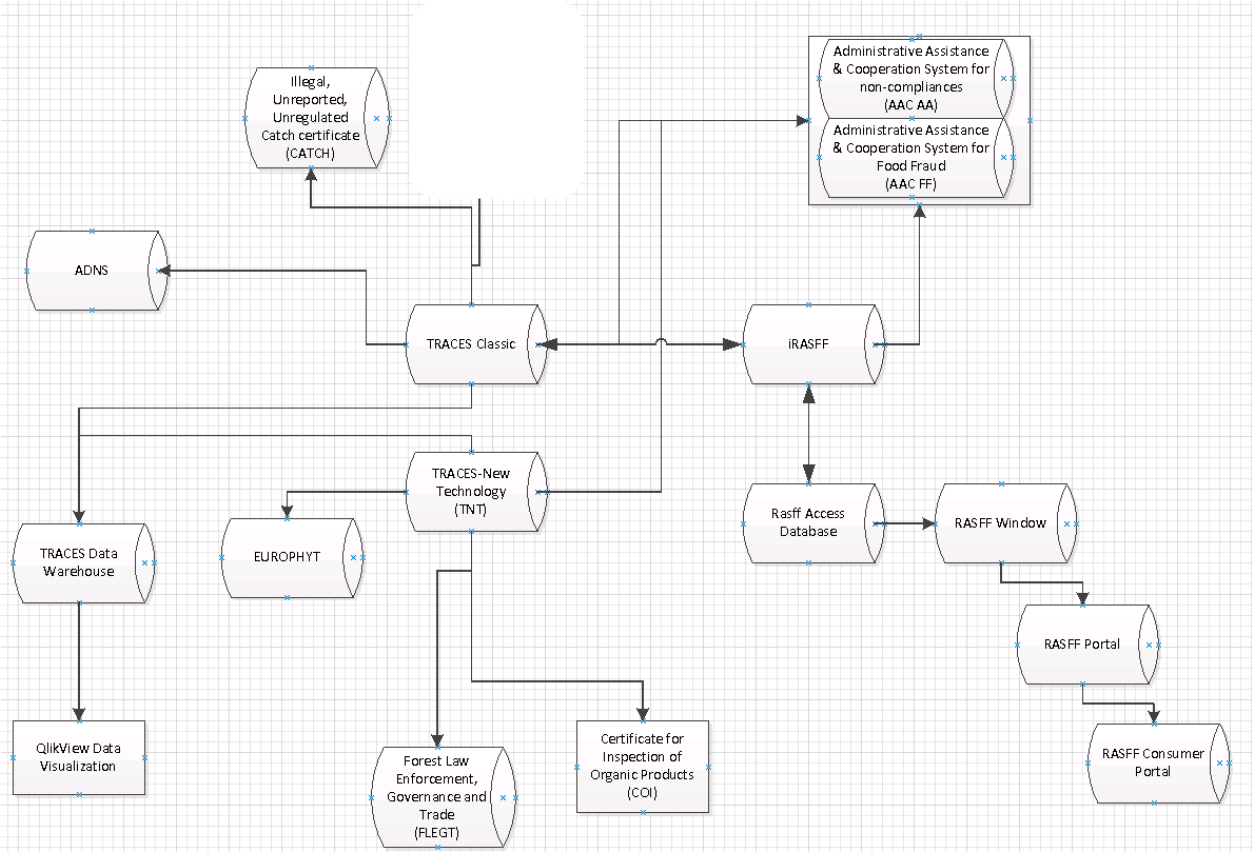
- *Rapid Alert System for Food and Feed: Notifications on rejected and non-complying consignments*
- *DG SANTE Directorate F audits and reports: Verification of application of EU legislation in third countries and Member States*
- *TRACES*

TRACES (TRAde Control and Expert System):

- *One computerised system for all BIPs in the EU*
- *Ensures communication between BIPs and competent authorities*
- *Enables the traceability of all consignments entering the EU*
- *Used for transmitting health certificates from certain third countries and issuing the CVED/CHED*
- *Used for the management of re-enforced physical checks at BIPs*
- *Establishment of Single Window with Customs IT systems*

IMSOC and its system components (overview)

- Administrative Assistance and Cooperation (AAC): Public health, Non compliances and Fraud suspicion
- Certification (Animal, Animal products, Organic, Plants, Timber, Fish Catches …)
- Alerts (Humans, Plants, Animals)
- Identification (e.g. bovine)



Re-enforced physical checks

- *Triggering of RASFF notification on non-compliance*
- *TRACES initiates re-enforced control (REC) on same product from same origin*
- *Relevant consignments are sampled and detained at the border until results of laboratory tests available*
- *TRACES monitors EU wide calculation of favourable and unfavourable test results*
- *TRACES lifts REC in case of 10 favourable results*
- *Further measures initiated in case of unfavourable results*

EU Border Controls

Checks on personal luggage carried by travellers from third countries

- *Checks on designated entry points – can be any border crossing point to a third country*
- *Responsibility for checks and agreements with customs*
- *Targeted checks on all types of luggage, postal mail, parcels, internet sales*
- *Adequate information to all persons involved and travellers*
- *Adequate equipment (e.g. scanners, sniffer dogs) and sanctions*

https://ec.europa.eu/food/animals/animalproducts/personal_imports_en

EU Border Controls

Checks on accompanied pet animals from third countries

- *Checks on designated entry points – can be any border crossing point to a third country*
- *Max 5 dogs, cats, ferrets, birds or others*
- *Responsibility for checks and agreements with customs*
- *Adequate information to all persons involved*
- *Adequate equipment and sanctions*

https://ec.europa.eu/food/animals/pet-movement_en

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Checks on catering waste from means of transport operating internationally

- *Catering waste (Regulation (EC) No 1069/2010 and Regulation (EU) No 142/2011)*
- *High risk material: Category 1 animal by-product*
- *Specific requirements for identification, unloading, transportation, destruction and documentation*
- *Either under supervision of the BIP or the local veterinary unit*
- *Adequate information to all persons involved*

Training

- *The Commission Better Training for Safer Food Programme has been running for a number of years and includes training on BIP procedures.*
- *Since 2006 in place for BIPs*
- *Training sessions for ports, airports, road and rail BIPs*
- *Mixture of presentations and practical work shops*

https://ec.europa.eu/food/safety/btsf_en

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Veterinary Border control website

- *Introduction and legislation*
- *EU approved Border Inspection Posts*
- *Hyperlinks to national legislation (contact details of BIPs, specially approved warehouse lists, lists of entry points for travellers)*
- *Guidance documents and FAQs, etc*

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

European

European Commission > Food, farming, fisheries > Food Safety > Animals >

Animals

VETERINARY BORDER CONTROL

- Legislation
- EU Approved Border Inspection Posts (BIP)
- Contact details of BIPs
- Approved warehouses/ship suppliers
- Reports and Guidelines
- Special Import Conditions
- Expert group
- Training
- FAQ
- Useful links

ALL TOPICS

Veterinary border control

The veterinary border control is a key factor to ensure that the live animals and animal products entering to the European Union are safe and meeting the **specific import conditions** laid down in the Union legislation.

The imported live animals and animal products present the highest level of risks as they can transmit serious human and animal diseases. Therefore it is necessary to subject them to specific controls at their point of entry, so called **Veterinary Border Inspection Posts** (BIPs).

A consignment of live animals or animal products can only enter into the EU, if it has satisfactorily undergone the specific checks and a Common Veterinary Entry Document (CVED) is issued from **TRACES (TRAde Control and Expert System)**.TRACES is a centralised database which allows the monitoring of consignments of live animals and animal products checked at the BIPs. TRACES may automatically exchange data on import controls with customs authorities, which has enabled DG TAXUD and DG SANTE to develop an EU CVED Single Window project.

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RELATED LINKS

- Official Controls on Imported Products
- CVED form

RELATED DOCUMENTS

- **28 February 2018**: Technical expert seminar on the preparation of the UK withdrawal in the SPS area - Border Controls

QUICK LINKS

- European Food Safety Authority (EFSA)
- Health and food audits and analysis
- Trade Control & Expert System (TRACES)
- Travelling with pets
- Better Training for Safer Food (BTSF)
- E-News
- Press Releases
- Events
- Videos
- Infographics and factsheets
- Food Fraud

EU Border Import Controls

Useful websites:

General import conditions such as listing of the third countries:
https://ec.europa.eu/food/safety/international_affairs/trade_en

Veterinary border control:
https://ec.europa.eu/food/animals/vet-border-control_en

Food establishment listing:
https://ec.europa.eu/food/safety/biosafety/food_hygiene_en

Animal By-products:
https://ec.europa.eu/food/safety/animal-by-products/approved-establishments_en

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EU Border Import Controls

Thank you for your attention !

Any Questions??

DG SANTE – Unit D2

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