

About this dossier

Output on: 2023/09/13 09:23 (Europe/Luxembourg)

Created: 2023/09/10 10:51

Status: pending

Last updated: 2023/09/10 20:45

EUROPEAN COMMISSION

DIRECTORATE-GENERAL FOR HEALTH AND FOOD SAFETY

Directorate F. -Health and Food Safety Audits and Analysis

Annual Report on Official Controls

Country Name: Greece

Concerns activity during year: 2022

Country

Greece

Year

2022

1. Introduction

Food and Food Safety: In the year 2022, the number of official controls in the field of food and food safety showed some fluctuations within the year but fluctuated around the same levels as in 2021 and 2020 respectively. The planning and priorities in the preparation of the implantation program of the official controls were based on risk analysis and mainly on the practices of prevention of fraud and its related acts. In this effort, the significant over time reduction of available human resources at the regional and local level is noted, as well as the difficulty of responding to multiple responsibilities and tasks. At the same time, of course, important initiatives are taken for the more rational management of the available resources. The compliance rate of food businesses remained stable compared to previous years, with overall compliance at 97%. Laboratory testing of biological and chemical risk factors and quality parameters revealing non-compliance showed an overall non-compliance rate of 8,2%.

Genetically Modified Organisms (GMOs): Greece is still exempt from the cultivation of GMOs by applying a strict regime of control and testing. The level of compliance in Greece remains extremely high. There are no reports in the year 2022 of intentional release into the environment of GMOs and their propagating material for the purposes of food and feed production. More specifically, out of the 980 official controls carried out, 9 seed lots were found positive on adventitious admixtures and none of those had been released on the environment.

Feed and Feed Safety: As regards the establishments, 2022 compliance rates are satisfactory for registered establishments and less satisfactory for approved establishments. Regarding products, the overall level of compliance is considered satisfactory for labelling, undesirable substances, GMOs and pesticides, while less satisfactory for feed additives. Detailed results of the official controls are referred to Section 3 of Part II.

Animal Health: In 2022, the main priorities of the implementation plan for official animal health controls were met, and corrective measures were taken when non-compliances were detected. Overall, the actions and activities in the field of official controls and activities combined with the issuance of Ministerial decisions, updated manuals and relevant recommendations at the level of the Central Competent Authority have contributed to the effective operation of the official control system in the field of animal health. In addition, targeted national and EU training programs as well as management programs in the field of Animal Health requirements were implemented. It is pointed out that the number and effectiveness of official controls were affected by a) the lack of staff and resources which will be addressed with a new staff recruitment program and corresponding available resources and b) the increased workload of the Competent Veterinary Authorities in the Regions and Regional Units of Country.

Animal by-products: The overall results of the official controls in the Animal by-products (ABP) management units is considered acceptable. Administrative and judicial sanctions were imposed by the competent authorities on the controlled ABP establishments with non-compliances depending on the type of non-compliance.

Animal Welfare: In 2022 due to staff shortages in veterinary services and despite the fact that there have been some new recruitments of official vets, there is still a lag in achieving official control targets at local level. Regarding animal welfare on farms, the inspections carried out revealed some non-compliances which led to the reduction of subsidies by various percentages (up to 9%) according to the type of non-compliance. In addition, official checks were carried out on mixed goat and sheep farms. Regarding the official control of welfare in slaughterhouses the competent regional veterinary authorities used a standard common inspection protocol for the welfare and hygiene areas of the slaughterhouse. Finally, higher stocking densities and lack of complying with journey times seen in documents still remain the most frequent non-compliances in transports with destination to Greece from other neighboring MS.

Protective measures against pests of plants: In Greece there are no private bodies that issue phytosanitary passports. The approval and issuance of phytosanitary passports is done only by the official phytosanitary services of the State. In cases of non-compliance, phytosanitary passports are not issued, and the plants are destroyed. During the year 2022, no fraudulent and deceptive practices were detected.

Requirements for the placing on the market and use of plant protection products: In the context of the official controls carried out in 2022 and described in detail in the tables of Section 8 of Part II, certain fraudulent and deceptive practices were found in imported plant protection products mainly from third countries and administrative sanctions were imposed depending on the type of non-compliance.

Organic production and labeling of organic products: An integrated control system covering all stages of production, processing and distribution of organic products is applied. ELGO-DIMITRA, as the Competent Supervisory Authority of the control system of organic products, carried out both administrative and on-site inspections for the official control and certification in Organizations, bodies and other companies. All the aggregated results of official controls and non-compliances are recorded in the attached excel file in section 9 of Part II.

Use and labeling of protected designations of origin, protected geographical indications and traditional specialties guaranteed: According to the total number of audits carried out in 2022 (in 415 companies), non-compliances were detected in 132 companies and 103 of them took appropriate measures to remedy the non-compliances (compliance rate achieved: 78%). On the contrary, 29 companies did not take any measures and resulted in the non-renewal of their certification. Detailed results of the inspections, administrative measures taken and conclusions are reported in Section 10 of Part II.

2. Measures taken to ensure the effective operation of the Multi-Annual National Control Plan, including enforcement action and the results of such measures

In 2022, the established approach and inspection policy based on risk analysis for the frequency of official controls, especially in the food sector, continues to apply. This approach takes into account the overall compliance of the establishment / company over the previous three years.

Updated graded checklists have been implemented to determine the risk category of the establishment and the consistent frequency of regular official inspections.

Training seminars of local competent authorities and stakeholders were held on the changes of the official control process and the implementation of the new EU legislation (Regulations 2017/625, 2019/624, 2019/625, 2019/627).

In addition, training programs were planned and carried out by the Central Competent Authorities in collaboration with Public authorities, the Training Institute of the National Center for Public Administration and other bodies.

3. Amendments to the Multi-Annual National Control Plan

During the year 2022 there was no amendments to the revised new Multi-Annual National Control Plan (MANCP) of official controls of the Hellenic Ministry of Rural Development and Food for the five-year period 2021-2025 which was submitted to the competent body of the European Commission following a ministerial approval. The new MANCP incorporates all the legal requirements of Official Controls as set out in the Relevant European Regulation of Official Controls. In addition, the revised MANCP is based on a Commission guidance document regarding the implementation of the requirements for the Multiannual National Control Plans in accordance with the provisions of the Articles 109-111 of Regulation 2017/625.

4. Fees or charges

www.minagric.gr

Attachments	Yes
File Name:	4_Fees_or_charges_Greece.pdf

DRAFT