

About this dossier

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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: 2023

Country

Greece

Year

2023

1. Introduction

Food and Food Safety: In the year 2023, the number of controls in the food sector increased compared to those performed in 2022. Planning and priorities of the official controls were based in a risk analysis approach and care was taken to prevent fraudulent practices and fraud. The main effort has been intensified for more rational management with proportional coverage of companies in all stages of production, processing and distribution of food. The compliance rate of food businesses remained stable compared to previous years, with an overall compliance of 96.80 %. Laboratory testing of biological and chemical risk factors including quality parameters revealed significantly reduced non-compliance rates compared to the previous year (a total non-compliance rate of 3.9 % in 2023).

GMO: Greece is still exempted from GMO cultivation and official controls are carried out on the seed lots for the adventitious presence of GM seed admixtures. There are no reports for the year 2023 of deliberate release into the environment of GM propagating material for the purpose of food and feed production. The level of compliance remains extremely high. More specifically, out of the 831 official controls carried out, 4 seed lots were found positive (0.48%) on adventitious admixtures and none of those had been released on the environment. In conclusion, this high level of compliance contributes to the achievement of strategic objectives 2 and 4 of Greek multi-annual national control plan.

Feed and Feed Safety: As regards the establishments, the 2023 compliance rates are satisfactory for registered establishments and less satisfactory for the approved ones. As regards the level of compliance of the products, it is satisfactory for labelling, undesirable substances, pesticides and GMO's and less satisfactory for feed additives. Detailed results of the official controls are referred to Section 3 of Part II.

Animal Health: In 2023, the main priorities of the official control plan regarding the animal health requirements were fulfilled and corrective actions were taken upon non compliances detected therein. Overall, official control actions and activities, in conjunction with the issuance of Ministerial Decisions, revised manuals and related recommendations at the level of the Central Competent Authority have contributed to the effective function of the official control system in the field of animal health and in the sector of action plans for the correction of non-compliances.

Animal by-products : The overall results of the official controls in the ABP management units is considered acceptable for the year 2023. Administrative sanctions were mainly imposed by the competent authorities on the controlled ABP establishments with non-compliances depending on the type of non-compliance.

Animal Welfare: Official controls were performed in mixed sheep and goat farms. As far as welfare in slaughterhouses is concerned, regional veterinary services use the joint inspection protocol template for welfare and hygiene sectors during a slaughterhouse audit which in effect since 2021. Finally higher stocking densities, lack of complying with journey times quoted in documents, bad maintained vehicles with unsuitable drinkers and unprofessional behavior of drivers at road checks remain the most frequent non compliances in transports with destination to Greece from other neighboring Member States.

Protective measures against pests of plants: In Greece there no authorized operators for the issuing of plant passport. Greece makes use of article 84(2) Regulation 2016/2031. No authorized operators exist. Plant passports are issued by the regional phytosanitary authorities according to P.D. 37/2021 The number of administrative sanctions imposed during 2023 is 12 which is due to the absence of plant passport on internal movement official checks.

Requirements for the placing on the market and use of plant protection products: In the context of the official controls carried out in 2023 and described in detail in the tables of Section 8 of Part II, certain non- compliances were detected, and actions / measures were taken (administrative and judicial based 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 official inspections in Organizations, bodies and other companies. All the aggregated results of official controls and non-compliances are recorded in the attached excel files in section 9 of Part II.

Use and labeling of protected designations of origin, protected geographical indications and traditional specialties guaranteed: It is concluded that non-compliance was found in 78 companies out of a total of 460 audited companies (16.95%). From the 433 on-site evaluation and surveillance checks, it was found that three (3) companies (0.69%) did not send appropriate corrective actions, resulting in the non-renewal of the certification. According to the above, it is concluded that: a) the effectiveness of the control and certification system is established in terms of identifying cases of non-compliance and b) that the percentage of non-compliance is low. Detailed results of official reports 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 2023, 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 considers the overall compliance of the establishment / company over the previous three years. Revised ranked checklists have been implemented to determine the risk category of the establishment and the consistent frequency of regular official inspections. Training seminars for the 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 of the Public-School Administration and other bodies.

3. Amendments to the Multi-Annual National Control Plan

During the year 2023 there was no amendments to the revised 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

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Attachments

Yes

File Name:

4_Fees_or_charges_GR_AROC_23.pdf

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