

About this dossier

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Application Form

Country	Greece	Year	2020
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Part I of Annex**1. Introduction**

Food safety: In the year 2020, the number of official controls (OCs) in the food sector fluctuated around the same levels as in 2019. Despite the difficulties posed by the Covid-19 pandemic and the significant reduction of human resources of the CAs at regional-local level, the necessary adjustments to OCs methodology and techniques (remote controls) and planning adjustments have resulted in improvement of their performance. The compliance rate of food business companies without serious differences is 94.4%. The infringements mainly concern general hygiene issues related to deviations in the operating procedures and issues of application of self-control systems. Also, the percentage of non-compliances (NC) in relation to the volume of import cargo remains low. Laboratory testing of biological and chemical risk factors as well as quality parameters, showed NC rates improved compared to previous years, with a total NC of 2.8%. GMOs : Greece has been exempted from GMO cultivation and a rigorous testing scheme is being applied. The level of compliance in Greece is extremely high. There are no reports in year 2020 of deliberate release into the environment of GMO's for the purpose of food and feed production and all related stakeholders have complied with current legislation. Feed and feed safety: The level of the establishment compliance is satisfactory for the registered establishments and less satisfactory for the approved establishments. The level of the product compliance is satisfactory for labelling, undesirable substances, GMO, pesticides and less satisfactory for feed additives. Animal health : In 2020, the main priorities of the OC plan on animal health were fulfilled and corrective actions were taken upon NC detected therein. Overall, OC actions and activities, in conjunction with the issuance of Ministerial Decisions, updated manuals and related recommendations at the level of the CCA have contributed to the effective function of the OC system in the field of animal health and in the activation of action plans for the correction of NC. In addition, targeted national and union programs on training and collaboration with CAs and bodies, as well as on program management, were implemented, adjusted according to the COVID-19 situation. The observed discrepancies in the number of OCs were mainly due to: a) the COVID-19 pandemic restrictions, b) the lack of staff and resources, situation to be resolved until the end of the year with the recruitment of new staff (ongoing procedure), c) the increased workload imposed on the CAs in the Regions/Regional Units. ABP: The implemented OCs

on ABP management plants for 2020 were slightly reduced than the previous year due to covid situation. The level of compliance achieved was satisfied. Animal welfare : The number of OCs performed in all fields of animal welfare legislation for 2020 has decreased due to the COVID-19 pandemic which hindered physical on site inspections. Isolation measures as well as extremely high number of incidents of COVID -19 in workers which are still continuing has contributed to these results. In general terms, the levels of compliance are similar to those of previous years. Protective measures against pests of plants : Since 14/12/2019 the Greek NPPO implements the new phytosanitary framework. In Greece there are no authorized operators for the issuance of plant passports. The plant passports are issued by the regional phytosanitary services (public institutions) according to paragraph 2 of article 84 of Commission Reg. 2016/2031. A large number of inspections and exams took place during the year 2020 for the issuance of plant passports (although we had the covid-19 situation). We can support that a good level of plant health is in place. Regarding the WPM operators, they are all comply with the relevant phytosanitary legislation. Organic products: An integrated control system is implemented that covers all stages of production, manufacture and distribution of organic products. Effective and efficient audits are carried out in companies, which cover all relevant aspects, including a systematically carried out mass balancing (inputs - outputs) in all types of businesses for the entire period between inspections. There is adequate communication, coordination and cooperation between the competent authorities of the inspection bodies and the companies, which allows the exchange of information, if necessary, and the taking of appropriate actions in cases of NC detection. Sanctions are effective, proportionate and dissuasive. The system generally provides adequate guarantees that EU rules and national organic production legislation are complied with. ELGO- "DIMITRA" as the Competent Supervisory Authority of the control system for organic products carried out both administrative and on-site inspections in Control and Certification Organizations as well as in integrated companies. The Control and Certification Bodies have found irregularities or infringements at a rate of only 1 % of all traders. The irregularities were mainly related to the detection of residues of unauthorized substances that do not comply with Reg. (EC) 834/2007 & Reg. (EC) 889/2008 as well as the use of conventional feed in the diet of animals, resulting in the non-issuance of a certificate compliance. Therefore the control system is considered to be functioning satisfactorily and also the controls and precautionary measures are considered to be effective. PDO and PGI: Taking into account the remarks on OCs, it is concluded that the number of companies that did not take measures to remedy the NC is small (8 companies) compared to the number of companies that were audited (300 companies). The overall conclusion on the level of compliance achieved by the controlled operators is 97.3%.

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 2020, a risk-based approach for the frequency of the official controls has been established, especially in the food sector. The new approach considers the overall compliance of the establishment during the previous three years. New checklists with scoring have been implemented to define the risk category of the establishment and the standard frequency of regular official controls. Several workshops were conducted informing the local competent authorities and the stakeholders about the change of the official control procedure and the implementation of the new EU legislation (Regulations 2017/625, 2019/624, 2019/625, 2019/627). Finally, training courses are developed by the CCAs in cooperation with the Training Institute of the National Centre for Public Administration and Local Government.

3. Amendments to the Multi-Annual National Control Plan

The revised new MANCP plan of the Ministry of Rural Development and Food of Greece for a period of five years 2020-2024 has been finalized and is ready for submission to the competent body of the European Commission following Ministerial approval. The new plan intergrades all the legislative requirements of the Official Audits as set out on OCR. Moreover, the revised MANCP is based on Commission notice on the Guidance document on the implementation of the requirements for the Multi Annual National Control Plans as set out in articles 109-111 of Regulation 2017/625.

4. Fees or charges

Attachments

Yes

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