

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: Northern Ireland

Concerns activity during year: 2022

Part I of Annex

Country

Northern Ireland

Year

2022

1. Introduction

This Annual Report on Official Controls (AROC) for Northern Ireland covers the calendar year from 1 Jan 2022 to 31 December 2022 and is based on the Multi- Annual Control Plan for the United Kingdom (UK) April 2019 to March 2023. DAERA (Department for Agriculture & Environment Northern Ireland) is the Competent Authority for Animal Health and Animal Welfare Policy, Plant Health Policy and facilitates trade through the delivery and enforcement of sanitary and phytosanitary controls. The Food Standards Agency Northern Ireland (FSA-NI) is the Central Competent Authority for Food and Feed Hygiene; DAERA delivers official controls in approved establishments on behalf of FSA-NI in line with a formal Service Level Agreement and agreed procedures detailed in the Manual for Official Controls. DAERA employs approximately 3000 staff who are located throughout Northern Ireland and is made up of 5 business areas: • Veterinary Service Animal Health Group (VSAHG) - Deputy Secretary Dr Robert Huey - NI Chief Veterinary Officer • Central Services and Contingency Planning Group • Environment, Marine & Fisheries Group (including Northern Ireland Environment Agency • Rural Affairs, Forest Service & Estates Transformation (RAFSET). VSAHG has responsibility for animal health, animal welfare and public health and delivers a holistic service through its programmes of work. Forest Service Plant Health Division within RAFSET implements plant health policy through delivery of a programme of official controls at points of entry, in registered premises and in open countryside. The UK left the European Union (EU) on the 31 January 2020 and at the end of the transition period (31 December 2020) Northern Ireland was aligned with EU rules on Sanitary and Phytosanitary eligible goods and animal trade in accordance with the terms of the Northern Ireland Protocol. Despite this the overall level of checks and compliance remained satisfactory.

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

Inspection and verification procedures were in place for all SPS programmes of work including a continuum of appropriate enforcement action ranging from administrative warnings, the re-export of commodities through to prosecution. DAERA has a comprehensive internal audit Programme and a VSAHG Welfare enforcement Branch which facilitates prosecutions. All staff performing official control duties were equipped with the requisite legal powers e.g. to enter premises and carry out an inspection/enforcement action, all staff are qualified and underwent regular training updates, all staff were assessed to ensure there is no conflict of interest in performing their duties. Excellent cooperation exists between all the Competent authority programmes delivering Official Controls and regular Contingency exercises were held bringing together representatives from those programmes for epizootic outbreak preparedness.

3. Amendments to the Multi-Annual National Control Plan

This Annual Report on Official Controls (AROC) for Northern Ireland covers the calendar year from 1 Jan 2022 to 31 December 2022 and is based on the Multi- Annual Control Plan for the United Kingdom (UK) April 2019 to March 2023. This MANCP was updated in December 2019 to take account of the introduction of the new Official Controls Regulation (EU) 2017/625 on 14 December 2019, which repealed and replaced Regulation (EC) No 882/2004. This MANCP runs until March 2023.

4. Fees or charges

<https://www.food.gov.uk/business-guidance/charges-for-controls-in-meat-premises>

Attachments

No

About this dossier

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Part II, Section 1 - Food and food safety, integrity and wholesomeness at any stage of production, processing and distribution of food, including rules aimed at ensuring fair practices in trade and protecting consumer interests and information, and the manufacture and use of materials and articles intended to come into contact with food

Country Northern Ireland **Year** 2022

Have you any data to report in this period ? Yes

1.1 Overall conclusion on the level of compliance achieved

Please see attachment.

1.2 Official controls on operators / establishments

Approved establishments	Number of establishments	Number of official controls performed
General activity establishments (cold stores, re-wrapping and re-packing establishments, wholesale markets, reefer vessels)	112	58
Meat of domestic ungulates	43	74
Meat from poultry and lagomorphs	19	33
Meat of farmed game	3	3
Wild game meat	3	3
Minced meat, meat preparations and mechanically separated meat (MSM)	66	69
Meat products	76	32
Live bivalve molluscs	15	0
Fishery products	84	0
Colostrum, raw milk, colostrum-based and dairy products	26	108
Egg and egg products	65	94
Frogs' legs and snails	0	0
Rendered animal fats and greaves	3	0
Treated stomach, bladders and intestines	8	6
Gelatine	2	0
Collagen	0	0
Highly refined chondroitin sulphate, hyaluronic acid, other hydrolysed cartilage products, chitosan, glucosamine, rennet, isinglass and amino acids (HRP)	0	0
Honey	0	0
Sprouts	2	0

Registered operators/establishments	Number of operators/establishments	Number of official controls performed
Growing of crops	0	0
Animal production	0	0
Mixed farming	0	0
Hunting	0	0
Fishing	0	0
Aquaculture	31	1111
Processing and preserving of fruit and vegetables	0	0
Manufacture of vegetable oils and fats	0	0
Manufacture of grain mill products, starches and starch products	0	0
Manufacture of bakery and farinaceous products	0	0
Manufacture of other food products	0	0
Manufacturers of beverages	0	0
Wholesale	0	0
Retail	4301	3047
Transport and storage	0	0
Food and beverage service activities	15438	10338
Others	3084	1359
Establishments producing food contact materials	7	1

1.3 Official controls requiring continuous or regular presence of staff or representatives of the competent authorities on the operator's premises

Types of operators' premises	Number of establishments	Number of official controls performed (number of carcasses or weight in tonnes)	Rejections
Meat of domestic ungulates slaughterhouses	13	2930278	10999
Meat from poultry and lagomorphs slaughterhouses	5	127427110	2422920
Meat of farmed game slaughterhouses	1	1045	3
Wild game meat - Game-handling establishments	2	1311	7

1.4 Official controls on products/goods by horizontal rule and food category

By horizontal rule / By food category	Microbiological criteria			Pesticides in food			Contaminants in food			Residues of veterinary medicinal products in food			Labelling, nutritional and health claims	Genetically Modified Organisms (GMOs) in food	Improvement agents (additives, enzymes, flavourings, processing aids)			Irradiation			Contamination by/migration of food contact materials			Others
	ESFA Data	Additional	Total	ESFA Data	Additional	Total	ESFA Data	Additional	Total	ESFA Data	Additional	Total			ESFA Data	Additional	Total	Sante Data	Additional	Total	Sante Data	Additional	Total	
1. Dairy products	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
2. Dairy alternatives	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
3. Fats and oils and fat and oil emulsions	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
4. Edible ices	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
5. Fruit and vegetables	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
6. Confectionery	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
7. Cereals and cereal products	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
8. Bakery wares	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
9. Fresh meat	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	

By horizontal rule / By food category	Microbiological criteria			Pesticides in food			Contaminants in food			Residues of veterinary medicinal products in food			Labelling, nutritional and health claims			Genetically Modified Organisms (GMOs) in food			Improvement agents (additives, enzymes, flavourings, processing aids)			Irradiation			Contamination by/migration of food contact materials			Others
	ESFA Data	Additional	Total	ESFA Data	Additional	Total	ESFA Data	Additional	Total	ESFA Data	Additional	Total	ESFA Data	Additional	Total	ESFA Data	Additional	Total	ESFA Data	Additional	Total	ESFA Data	Additional	Total	ESFA Data	Additional	Total	
Domestic ungulates	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3936
Poultry and lagomorphs	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	810
10. Minced meat, meat preparations and MSM	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
11. Meat products	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
12. Fish and fisheries products	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Live bivalve molluscs	0	24	24	0	0	0	0	0	7	7	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1211
Fishery products	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	37	37	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
13. Eggs and egg products	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
14. Sugar, syrups, honey and table-top sweeteners	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

By horizontal rule / By food category	Microbiological criteria			Pesticides in food			Contaminants in food			Residues of veterinary medicinal products in food			Labelling, nutritional and health claims	Genetically Modified Organisms (GMOs) in food	Improvement agents (additives, enzymes, flavourings, processing aids)			Irradiation			Contamination by/migration of food contact materials			Others
	ESFA Data	Additional	Total	ESFA Data	Additional	Total	ESFA Data	Additional	Total	ESFA Data	Additional	Total			ESFA Data	Additional	Total	ESFA Data	Additional	Total	ESFA Data	Additional	Total	
15. Salts, spices, soups, sauces, salads and protein products	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
16. Foods intended for particular nutritional uses as defined by Regulation (EU) No 609/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
17. Beverages	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
18. Ready-to-eat savouries and snacks	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
19. Desserts excluding products covered in categories 1, 3 and 4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
20. Food supplements as defined in point (a) of Article 2 of Directive 402/46/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council excluding food supplements for infants and young children	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
21. Processed foods not covered by categories 1 to 17, excluding foods for infants and young children	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
22. Others - foods not covered by categories 1 to 21	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
23. Food contact materials																								

1.5 Comment box

Explanatory Notes regarding table 1.4 data:

DC data is not currently available in the specific format which would enable completion of table 1.4 in full. However, from the data that was captured and subsequently obtained by FSA, the DCs procured 8325 official samples between 1 April 2022 and 31 March 2023. The analysis of these samples were categorised as follows: 6074 subject to microbiological examination (pathogens and indicator organisms), 631 analyses categorised as 'other contamination' (allergens, contamination, radioactivity, undesirables), 573 analyses categorised as 'labelling and presentation', 1274 analyses categorised as 'composition' (additives, composition, constituent, nutritional component, and substitution), and 40 analyses categorised as 'other' (i.e. samples not included in the other specified categories).

Verification activities in approved slaughterhouses (others)

FBO Salmonella and Campylobacter testing required by Reg 2073/2005 is verified in accordance with Articles 35&36 of Reg 2017/625. A total of 3543 samples (2733 domestic ungulates and 810 poultry) were taken by FBOs and verified by the CA.

In NI in 2022 1203 muscle samples from domestic swine were examined for Trichinella spp as part of a surveillance scheme funded by FSA, all were negative. In addition, 302 wildlife (fox) samples were examined during 2022 and all were negative for Trichinella spp.

During 2022 a total of 1,898,894 muscle samples were tested for Trichinella in laboratories designated by the Food Standards Agency (FSA) in Northern Ireland in accordance with the derogation provided in Article 40 of Regulation (EU) 2017/625. All were negative. Verification checks were carried out by the CA.

Slaughter hygiene (finished product, processes, HACCP and micro) was verified in all approved slaughterhouses by the CA through a series of checks in each slaughterhouse on a monthly basis. A total of 865 checks were carried out by the CA.

The microbiological sample figure provided for LBM is FSA official control microbiological samples taken for Class A and Seasonal Class A production areas to ensure product meets microbiological criteria as per 2073/2005 (ready to eat products). The LBM figure provided in the 'other' column includes FSA official control samples for microbiological sampling of Class B/Class C and seasonal beds (i.e. not ready to eat product), biotoxin sampling and phytoplankton sampling.

Other Information:

There was a total compliment of 90.31 FTE professional officers allocated to food control by DCs on 31 March 2023 with 86% of that compliment being occupied. Some Councils have reported some difficulty with recruitment and one DC had to temporarily reallocate resource to their Port Health unit.

In addition to the routine planned and reactive work, DCs have engaged in other beneficial activities including: bespoke work on food allergen controls and declarations, carried out a survey on CBD products, a survey on the nutritional composition of children's meals, alcohol authenticity sampling work and delivered food safety training.

During the reporting period a total of 33 full audits and 3 partial audits of approved slaughterhouses, cutting plants and game handling establishments were completed. All of these audits were completed either by site visit or by a hybrid model of remote assessment and on-site visits for Covid reasons. 26 audit outcomes were in the 'good' category and 7 were in the 'generally satisfactory' category. There were no outcomes in either the 'improvement necessary' or 'urgent improvement necessary' categories. In addition, 46 unannounced inspections were completed.

Resources (DAERA) - In addition to the existing compliment of staff a further 27 officials (5 official veterinarian, 19 official auxiliaries and 3 primary production hygiene inspectors) were authorised to carry out official controls under Regulation (EU) 2017/625.

In relation to official controls regarding primary production hygiene, dairy hygiene and egg hygiene:

- a total of 1359 hygiene inspections of dairy farms were completed of which 567 were follow up visits (categorisation of outcomes as follows, 789good, 562generally satisfactory, 8 Improvement necessary and 0 Urgent improvement necessary)
- 1147 of the above were at premises approved under a third-party assurance scheme
- 102 hygiene inspections of liquid milk suppliers (including on-farm pasteurisers, intake at product establishments, liquid milk distributors and hauliers) of which 12 were unscheduled.
- 6 hygiene inspections of establishments approved for the supply of raw drinking milk of which 0 were unscheduled
- 94 hygiene inspections of egg establishments of which 5 were unscheduled

In addition, a total of 261official control samples were taken in these sectors (180 pasteurised milk, 46 raw drinking milk and 35water).

1.6 Non-compliances and Actions/measures

Approved establishments	Detected during official controls performed	Total number of controlled operators/establishments	Number of controlled operators/establishments where non-compliances were detected	Administrative	Judicial
General activity establishments (Cold stores, re-wrapping and re-packing establishments, wholesale markets, reefer vessels)	6	0	0	6	0
Meat of domestic ungulates	8	43	0	8	
Meat from poultry and lagomorphs	6	19	5	6	
Meat of farmed game	0	3	0	0	
Wild game meat	0	3	0	0	
Minced meat, meat preparations and mechanically separated meat (MSM)	9	66	8	9	
Meat products	4	0	0	4	
Live bivalve molluscs	0	0	0	0	
Fishery products	0	0	0	0	
Colostrum, raw milk, colostrum-based and dairy products	0	26	0	0	
Egg and egg products	0	65	0	0	
Frogs' legs and snails	0	0	0	0	
Rendered animal fats and greaves	0	0	0	0	
Treated stomach, bladders and intestines	0	0	0	0	
Gelatine	0	0	0	0	
Collagen	0	0	0	0	
HRP	0	0	0	0	
Honey	0	0	0	0	
Sprouts	0	0	0	0	

Registered operators/establishments	Detected during official controls performed	Total number of controlled operators/establishments	Number of controlled operators/establishments where non-compliances were detected	Administrative	Judicial
Growing of crops	0	0	0	0	0
Animal production	0	0	0	0	
Mixed farming	0	0	0	0	
Hunting	0	0	0	0	
Fishing	0	0	0	0	
Aquaculture	0	31	0	0	
Processing and preserving of fruit and vegetables	0	0	0	0	
Manufacture of vegetable oils and fats	0	0	0	0	
Manufacture of grain mill products, starches and starch products	0	0	0	0	
Manufacture of bakery and farinaceous products	0	0	0	0	
Manufacture of other food products	0	0	0	0	
Manufacturers of beverages	0	0	0	0	
Wholesale	0	0	0	0	
Retail	0	0	0	0	
Transport and storage	0	0	0	0	
Food and beverage service activities	0	0	0	0	
Others	0	0	0	0	
Establishments producing food contact materials	0	0	0	0	

	Non-compliances of food							Actions/measures	
	Non-compliances detected during official controls performed							Administrative	Judicial
	Microbiological criteria	Pesticides in food	Contaminants in food	Residues of veterinary medicinal products in food	Labelling, nutritional and health claims	Improvement agents (additives, enzymes, flavourings, processing aids)	Others		
1. Dairy products	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
2. Dairy alternatives	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
3. Fats and oils and fat and oil emulsions	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
4. Edible ices	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
5. Fruit and vegetables	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
6. Confectionery	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
7. Cereals and cereal products	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
8. Bakery wares	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
9. Fresh meat	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Domestic ungulates	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Poultry and lagomorphs	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
10. Minced meat, meat preparations and MSM	11	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
11. Meat products	41	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
12. Fish and fisheries products	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Live bivalve molluscs	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	5	
Fishery products	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	
13. Eggs and egg products	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
14. Sugar, syrups, honey and table-top sweeteners	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
15. Salts, spices, soups, sauces, salads and protein products	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
16. Foods intended for particular nutritional uses as defined by Regulation (EU) No 609/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
17. Beverages	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
18. Ready-to-eat savouries and snacks	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
19. Desserts excluding products covered in categories 1, 3 and 4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
20. Food supplements as defined in point (a) of Article 2 of Directive 2002/46/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council excluding food supplements for infants and young children	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
21. Processed foods not covered by categories 1 to 17, excluding foods for infants and young children	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
22. Others - foods not covered by categories 1 to 21	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	

Non-compliances related to horizontal rules		Actions/measures	
	Non-compliances detected during official controls performed	Administrative	Judicial
GMOs in food:			
Unauthorised GMOs	0	0	0
Labelling of GMOs	0	0	

Non-compliances related to horizontal rules		Actions/measures	
	Non-compliances detected during official controls performed	Administrative	Judicial
Irradiation	0	0	0
Novel foods	0	0	0
Food contact materials	0	0	0

Fraudulent and deceptive practices

One DC carried out an investigation into the illegal slaughter of two pigs. A search of a property was undertaken, and pork seized. The meat was condemned by a JP. Another DC applied for a search warrant of a domestic dwelling to investigate allegations of illegal slaughter. However, the complaint was not substantiated.

1.7 Comment box

Explanatory Notes regarding table 1.6 data:

DC data is not currently available in the format which would enable full completion of table 1.6. However, from the data that was captured electronically by DCs and obtained by FSA, DCs issued a total of 10,029 administrative enforcement actions. These actions include written warnings and a range of enforcement notices and actions. The figure includes the data populated in the table for 'retail', 'food and beverages' and 'food contact material' establishments and also 207 issued on approved establishments, 43 on primary producers, 883 on manufacturers and packers, 17 on importers and exporters and 118 in distributors and transporters. The number of 'non-compliances' identified by DCs during OCs are not recorded in a format which enable electronic counting and reporting. However, each enforcement action will be in response to at least one non-compliance. DCs reported 565 micro samples and 1116 chemical samples as non-compliant. However, the micro figures will include unsatisfactory results e.g. presence of indicator organisms which are above public health guidelines but do not technically breach legislative requirements. Also, a significant proportion of chemical samples were non-complaint which can be attributed to the DCs proactively targeting their chemical sampling at suspected/known non-compliant products.

Furthermore, the data captured provides that a total of 1756 food and premises complaints were investigated by DCs. Please note that data is not available on the percentage of these complaints which were substantiated following investigation.

Total number of controlled operators/establishments have been left blank as the total number of the official controls carried out, identified in 1.2 was more than the number of controlled operators/establishments.

Please note that several sections of the 5 non-compliances recorded for live bivalve molluscs were samples

from Class A and/or Seasonal A production areas that exceeded the maximum value 700 MPN/100 g of flesh and intravalvular liquid. From 1 Jan 22- 31 Dec 22 there were no prohibited sample results from active production areas.

The 1 non-compliance recorded for fishery products were 'Nephrops Norvegicus', that exceeded the maximum level of 0,50 mg/kg in mercury.

Other Information:

On-site visits to establishments where there was not a permanent presence by officials from the competent authority continued to be affected by Covid restrictions in the early part of the reporting period. However, by the end of the reporting period, site visits had resumed.

During audits of food business operators (approved slaughterhouses, cutting plants and game handling establishments) a total of 334 minor non-compliances were detected across 33 establishments audited. In addition, there were 8 major non-compliances detected. Compliance was achieved in all cases using the hierarchy of enforcement without the need for administrative or judicial action.

During verification checks (micro testing, Trichinella, slaughter hygiene) by the CA a total of 52 samples (11 Salmonella and 41 Campylobacter (of 3543)) were found to be non-compliant with Reg 2073/2005. Minor non-compliance was detected in 286 (of 865) slaughter hygiene verification checks. As above, compliance was achieved in all cases using the hierarchy of enforcement without the need for judicial action. In addition to above, during the period from 1 April 2022 to 31 March 2023 due to non-compliance

- 38 warning letters and 195 guidance letters were sent relating to dairy hygiene
- 9 guidance letters were sent relating to egg hygiene
- 4 warning letters were sent relating to primary production hygiene
- 32 samples of pasteurised milk (out of 180) were found to be non-compliant
- 4 raw milk samples (out of 46) were found to be non-compliant
- 2 water samples (out of 35) were found to be non-compliant

Attachments

Yes

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Part II, Section 2 - Deliberate release into the environment of GMOs for the purpose of food and feed production

Country Northern Ireland **Year** 2022

Have you any data to report in this period ? No

2.1 Overall conclusion on the level of compliance achieved

No comments

2.2 Official controls

	Number of official controls performed
Commercial cultivation of GMOs for the purpose of food and feed production (Part C of Directive 2001/18/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council)	0
Experimental releases of GMOs related to food and feed (Part B of Directive 2001/18/EC)	0
Seeds and vegetative propagating material for the purpose of food and feed production	0

2.3 Comment box

No comments

2.4 Non-compliances and Actions/measures

	Detected during official controls performed	Total number of controlled operators	Number of controlled operators where non-compliances were detected	Administrative	Judicial
1. Commercial cultivation of GMOs for the purpose of food and feed production (Part C of Directive 2001/18/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council)	0	0	0	0	0
2. Experimental releases of GMOs related to food and feed (Part B of Directive 2001/18/EC)	0	0	0	0	
3. Seeds and vegetative propagating material for the purpose of food and feed production	0	0	0	0	
3.1 Unauthorised GMOs in seeds and vegetative propagating material	0	0	0	0	
3.2 Labelling of GMOs in seeds and vegetative propagating material	0	0	0	0	

2.5 Comment box

No comments

Attachments No

About this dossier

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Part II, Section 3 - Feed and feed safety at any stage of production, processing and distribution of feed and the use of feed, including rules aimed at ensuring fair practices in trade and protecting consumer health, interests and information

Country Northern Ireland **Year** 2022

Have you any data to report in this period ? Yes

3.1 Overall conclusion on the level of compliance achieved

Overall compliance good.

3.2 Official controls

By establishments	Number of establishments	Number of official controls performed
Establishments approved in accordance with Article 10 of Regulation (EC) No 1831/2005 of the European Parliament and of the Council	62	1365
Primary producers approved in accordance with Article 10 of Regulation (EC) No 1831/2005	66	21
Establishments registered in accordance with Article 9 of Regulation (EC) No 1831/2005, with the exclusion of primary production	512	193
Primary producers registered in accordance with Article 9 of Regulation (EC) No 1831/2005 and complying with provisions in Annex I to that Regulation	22	9
Operators (farmers) using feed	26077	1302
Operators manufacturing and/or trading medicated feeding stuffs	112	40

By horizontal rule	Number of official controls performed
Labelling of feed	194
Traceability of feed	247
Additives in feed (Regulation (EC) No 1831/2003 of the European Parliament and of the Council)	26
Undesirable substances in feed (Article 2 of Directive 2002/32/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council)	380
Prohibited materials in feed (Annex III to Regulation (EC) No 767/2009 of the European Parliament and of the Council)	1
Medicated feeding stuffs (Council Directive 90/167/EC)	22
Pesticides in feed	70
GMOs in feed	2

3.3 Comment box

N/A

3.4 Non-compliances and Actions/measures

By establishment	Detected during official controls performed	Total number of controlled establishments	Number of controlled establishments where non-compliances were detected	Administrative	Judicial
Establishments approved in accordance with Article 10 of Regulation (EC) No 183/2005	38	0	0	38	0
Primary producers approved in accordance with Article 10 of Regulation (EC) No 183/2005	24	0	0	24	
Establishments registered in accordance with Article 9 of Regulation (EC) No 183/2005, with the exclusion of primary production	69	0	0	69	
Primary producers registered in accordance with Article 9 of Regulation (EC) No 183/2005 and complying with provisions in Annex I to that Regulation	3	0	0	3	
Operators (farmers) using feed	316	0	0	316	
Operators manufacturing and/or trading medicated feeding stuffs	39	0	0	39	

By horizontal rule	Number of non-compliances found	Administrative	Judicial
Product non-compliance: Labelling/traceability of feed placed/to be placed on the market	26	26	0
Product non-compliance: Safety of feed placed/to be placed on the market	0	0	
Additives in feed (Regulation (EC) No 1831/2003 of the European Parliament and of the Council)	5	5	
Undesirable substances in feed (Article 2 of Directive 2002/32/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council)	4	4	
Prohibited materials in feed (Annex III to Regulation (EC) No 767/2009)	1	1	
Medicated feeding stuffs (Council Directive 90/167/EC)	0	0	
Pesticides in feed	0	0	
Unauthorised GMOs in feed	0	0	
Labelling of GMOs in feed	0	0	

Fraudulent and deceptive practices

none detected.

3.5 Comment box

No comments

Attachments

No

About this dossier

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Part II, Section 4 - Animal health requirements

Country Northern Ireland **Year** 2022

Have you any data to report in this period ? Yes

4.1 Overall conclusion on the level of compliance achieved

Satisfactory level of compliance.

4.2 Official controls

	Number of holdings/ establishments	Number of official controls performed	Number of animals registered	Number of animals checked
Identification and registration of bovine animals	21655	1003	1654600	127551
Identification and registration of ovine and caprine animals	13359	572	1358096	102661

	Number of holdings/ establishments	Number of official controls performed
Approved assembly centres (bovine, ovine, caprine, porcine, equine)	41	9
Approved dealers (bovine, ovine, caprine, porcine)	0	0
Control posts (Council Regulation (EC) No 1255/97)	2	0
Approved bodies, institutes and centres (Council Directive 92/65/EEC)	0	0
Establishments approved for EU trade of poultry and hatching eggs	0	0
Bird quarantine establishments	0	0
Approved aquaculture establishments	99	298
Approved fish aquaculture establishments	46	193
Approved live bivalve molluscs aquaculture establishments	53	105
Authorised aquaculture animals processing establishments	1	0
Semen collection centres	7	7
Semen collection centres, Bovine	6	6
Semen collection centres, Porcine	1	1
Semen storage centres	14	16
Semen storage centres, Bovine	11	11
Semen storage centres, Equine	2	3
Embryo collection / production teams	6	6
Embryo collection / production teams, Bovine	6	6

4.3 Comment box

There were 2 controls posts in 2022 but only one was used. Out of 41 Approved assembly centres (bovine, ovine, caprine, porcine, equine) 2 are temporary (1 Bovine & 1 Ovine).

4.4 Non-compliances and Actions/measures

	Actions/measures								
	Number of holdings/ establishments with non-compliances	Restriction of movements of individual animals - Affected animals	Restriction of movements of individual animals - Affected holdings	Restriction of movements of all animals - Affected animals	Restriction of movements of all animals - Affected holdings	Destruction of animals - Affected animals	Destruction of animals - Affected holdings	Administrative	Judicial
Identification and registration of bovine animals	344	289	78	980	14	4	1	296	5

	Actions/measures		
	Number of holdings/ establishments with non-compliances	Administrative	Judicial
Identification and registration of bovine animals	0	0	0
Identification and registration of ovine and caprine animals	375	3	
Approved assembly centres (bovine, ovine, caprine, porcine, equine)	1	1	
Approved dealers (bovine, ovine, caprine, porcine)	0	0	
Control posts (Council Regulation (EC) No 1255/97)	0	0	
Approved bodies, institutes and centres (Council Directive 92/65/EEC)	0	0	
Establishments approved for EU trade of poultry and hatching eggs	0	0	
Bird quarantine establishments	0	0	
Approved aquaculture establishments	4	0	
Approved fish aquaculture establishments	1	1	
Approved live bivalve molluscs aquaculture establishments	2	2	
Authorised aquaculture animals processing establishments	0	0	
Semen collection centres	2	0	
Semen collection centres, Bovine	2	0	
Semen storage centres	1	0	
Semen storage centres, Bovine	1	0	
Embryo collection / production teams	2	0	
Embryo collection / production teams, Bovine	2	0	

Fraudulent and deceptive practices

Nil fraudulent and deceptive practices.

4.5 Comment box

No comments

Attachments

No

About this dossier

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Part II, Section 5 - Prevention and minimisation of risks to human and animal health arising from animal by-products and derived products

Country Northern Ireland **Year** 2022
Have you any data to report in this period ? Yes

5.1 Overall conclusion on the level of compliance achieved

The findings of the inspections overall reflect a satisfactory level of compliance.

5.2 Official controls

By establishment/plant	Number of establishments/plants	Number of official controls performed
Establishments or plants approved in accordance with Article 24 of Regulation (EC) No 1069/2009 of the European Parliament and of the Council	196	200
Establishments or plants registered in accordance with Article 23 of Regulation (EC) No 1069/2009	578	34

By horizontal rule	Number of official controls performed
Labelling and traceability of animal by-products/derived products	234

5.3 Comment box

Inspectins are slightly up for 2021but greatly below expected levels due to covid.

5.4 Non-compliances and Actions/measures

By establishments/plants	Detected during official controls performed	Total number of controlled establishments/plants	Number of controlled establishments/plants where non-compliances were detected	Administrative	Judicial
Establishments or plants approved in accordance with Article 24 of Regulation (EC) No 1069/2009	4	196	4	4	0
Establishments or plants registered in accordance with Article 23 of Regulation (EC) No 1069/2009	1	0	0	1	

By horizontal rule	Number of non-compliances found	Administrative	Judicial
Product non-compliance: labelling and traceability of animal by-products/derived products	0	0	0
Product non-compliance: labelling and traceability of animal by-products/derived products. Categories 1 and 2	0	0	
Product non-compliance: labelling and traceability of animal by-products/derived products. Category 3	0	0	
Product non-compliance: safety of animal by-products/derived products	0	0	

Fraudulent and deceptive practices

No concerns regarding fraudulent or deceptive practices

5.5 Comment box

Total number of controlled operators/establishments section for row

Please note that the

Establishments or plants registered in accordance with Article 23 of Regulation (EC) No 1069/2009 has been left blank as the total number of the official controls carried out, identified in 1.2 was more than the number of controlled operators/establishments.

Attachments

No

1.11.1

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About this dossier

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Part II, Section 6 - Welfare requirements for animals

Country Northern Ireland **Year** 2022

Have you any data to report in this period ? Yes

6.1 Overall conclusion on the level of compliance achieved

Overall, there is a high level of compliance with welfare requirements for animals. There is an 83% compliance rate at on farm welfare inspections and over 99% compliance rate for welfare of animals in transport.

In NI, any farm animal non-compliances are referred to the Area Based Schemes Payment Agency and a notice or cover letter is served. Non-compliances in transport also receive a notice. Serious incidents in all cases are referred for investigation with a view to potential prosecution and we also have the option to suspend / revoke transporter authorisations in cases of persistent offenders. There has been good compliance with Welfare of Animals at Time of Killing Regulations Council Regulation (EC) No 1099/2009

6.2 Official controls, non-compliances and actions/measures on animal welfare on farms

Animals kept for farming purposes (animal category)	Number of production sites	Number of official controls performed	Non-compliances		Actions/measures	
			Total number of controlled production sites	Number of controlled production sites where non-compliances were detected	Administrative	Judicial
Pigs (as defined in the Council Directive 2008/120/EC)	1115	29	0	0	0	5
Laying hens (as defined in the Council Directive 1999/74/EC)	432	407	0	1	1	
Chickens (as defined in the Council Directive 2007/43/EC)	544	61	0	0	0	
Calves (as defined in the Council Directive 2008/119/EC)	14173	269	0	89	8	
Other (specify)						
Cattle (except calves)	21392	352	0	113	50	
Sheep	18740	246	0	40	22	
Goats	1140	12	0	0	0	
Ratites	12	0	0	0	0	
Ducks	1412	6	0	0	0	
Geese	642	2	0	0	0	
Turkeys	489	10	0	0	0	

6.3 Analysis and action plan for animal welfare on farms

NI classify the outcomes of inspections as A, B or C in accordance with Commission Decision 2006/778/EC. Non-compliances scored as C are therefore considered the most serious. In 2022, non-compliances occurred most frequently in categories inspection and feed, water and other substances and were mostly relating to cattle and sheep. The number of production sites inspected in 2022 (1394) was higher than in 2021 (1000). There has been a decrease in the number of most serious breaches (scored C). Many of these have been incurred by a small number of keepers and steps have been taken to address this including increased inspection visits and commencement of investigations with a view to prosecution and potential disqualification from keeping animals.

Training sessions are held annually to refresh staff knowledge and train new staff. Following inspections, a notice is issued providing details of any non-compliance and the action needed to reach compliance. Follow up inspections are carried out to ensure compliance. Farmers can also avail of codes of practice relating to the welfare of farmed animals and these are under review. In cases where non compliances related to persistent offenders, evidence is gathered and cases compiled with a view to prosecution. This process takes some time but is done with the aim of reducing serious non-compliance.

6.4 Animal welfare during transport

Protection of animals during transport (by species)	Number of official controls performed	Number and category of non-compliances						Actions/measures	
		Fitness of animals	Transport practices, space allowance, height	Means of transport	Water, feed, journey and resting times	Documents	Other	Administrative	Judicial
Bovine	1374	32	3	3	0	13	0	45	14
Porcine animals	146	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Ovine/caprine	1625	1	1	0	0	13	0	6	
Equidae	3278	5	6	1	0	66	1	95	
Poultry	21047	0	1	0	0	1	0	3	
Other species									
Canine	2569	7	8	3	1	74	2	96	
Deer & Alpaca	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Small fur animals	12	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Mixed Species	22	0	1	2	0	3	0	6	

6.5 Analysis and action plan for animal welfare during transport

The number of inspections carried out in 2022 are on a par with 2021. Overall, the number of non-compliances is less than 1% of the total inspections carried out. There is an increase in the number of non-compliances in relation to both equidae and canine. This is reflective of increased numbers transporting through NI ports following EU Exit and DAERA are working closely with other agencies to address this. Training sessions are conducted to refresh staff knowledge and train new staff. Following inspections, a notice is issued providing details of any non-compliance and the action needed to reach compliance. A large amount of guidance is available for transporters on the DAERA website. In cases of serious non-compliance, evidence is gathered and cases compiled with a view to prosecution with the aim of reducing serious non-compliance. In cases where non-compliances related to persistent offenders, evidence is gathered and cases compiled with a view to suspend Transporter Authorisation.

6.6 Animal welfare at the time of killing

In Food Standards Agency Approved Establishments in Northern Ireland all operatives slaughtering animals are trained in accordance with Regulation (EC) 1099/2009 requirements. Certificates of Competence (CoCs) are issued by DAERA and operatives undergo regular on-site monitoring checks by Official Veterinarians during the hours that the Approved premise is undertaking slaughtering operations. In 2022 DAERA issued 91 temporary Certificates of Competence and 51 Certificates of Competence. In 2022 there were no Certificates of Competences or temporary Certificates of Competencies revoked by DAERA for contraventions of EC regulation 1099/2009

6.7 Comment box

No comments

Attachments

No

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Part II, Section 7 - Protective measures against pests of plants

Country Northern Ireland **Year** 2022
Have you any data to report in this period ? Yes

7.1 Overall conclusion on the level of compliance achieved

High level of compliance achieved.

7.2 Official controls

	Number of operators	Number of official controls performed
Operators authorised to issue plant passports	199	5242
Operators authorised to apply the mark (wood packaging material, wood or other objects)	18	18

7.3 Comment box

Official controls include registration inspections and growing season inspections.

7.4 Non-compliances and Actions/measures

	Detected during official controls performed	Total number of controlled operators	Number of controlled operators where non-compliances were detected	Actions/measures	
				Administrative	Judicial
Operators authorised to issue plant passports	38	199	0	0	0
Operators authorised to apply the mark (wood packaging material, wood or other objects)	0	18	0	0	

Fraudulent and deceptive practices

None

7.5 Comment box

Corrective action was taken by operators to resolve non-compliances identified during official controls.

Attachments No

About this dossier

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Part II, Section 8 - Requirements for the placing on the market and use of plant protection products and the sustainable use of pesticides, with the exception of pesticides application equipment

Country Northern Ireland **Year** 2022
Have you any data to report in this period ? Yes

8.1 Overall conclusion on the level of compliance achieved

As advised in our report for 2021, the Official Controls (Plant Protection Products) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2020 only came into operation on 31/12/2020, we do not have our Official Controls programme in place yet and operational targets have not yet been set on which to measure the level of compliance within each sector and across the PPP regulatory regime.

8.2 Official controls

On marketing of plant protection products (PPPs)	Number of operators	Number of official controls performed
Entry points	0	0
Manufacturers/formulators	0	0
Packers/re-packers/re-labellers	4	0
Distributors/wholesalers/retailers - professional and/or amateur use PPPs	51	16
Storage depots/transport operators/logistics companies	0	0
Authorisation/parallel trade permit holder	0	0
Others	16	16

On use of PPPs and sustainable use of pesticides	Number of operators	Number of official controls performed
Agricultural users	0	0
Applicants under the EU Basic Payment Scheme or Rural Development schemes, subject to Cross Compliance (CC) controls	24490	256
Agriculture users outside the scope of CC controls	22614	957
Other Professional users	85	0
Others	0	0

8.3 Comment box

Registration of PPP Operators with the Department is ongoing. The registration portal has been developed and launched within the statutory time frames set by The Official Controls (Plant Protection Products) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2020. Uptake is slow but the Department and stakeholder organisations continue to proactively promote the requirement to register across all sectors.

The NI PPP Official Controls programme regarding the marketing of PPP is still being developed with premises inspections to be focused on the point of sale (distributors and retailers).

Controls of the marketing of PPPs – Entry points – We have no current plans to carry out checks at the Point of Entry, rather our controls will focus on the point of sale.

Controls of the marketing of PPPs – Manufacturers/formulators - There are no registered manufacturers/formulators with premises in Northern Ireland (NI).

Controls of the marketing of PPPs – Packers/re-packers/re-labellers – we have currently 4 businesses registered as processors (re-packers/re-labellers).

Controls of the marketing of PPPs – Distributors/wholesalers/retailers - For 2022 we are reporting on data from an independent Store Inspection Scheme run by an organisation BASIS who annually audit distributors on their scheme register (currently 51 NI premises), with Northern Ireland Environment Agency staff physically inspecting 16 premises in 2022, chosen on a risk basis.

Controls of the marketing of PPPs – Storage depots/transport operators/logistics companies – We have no current plans to carry out checks at this type of premises.

Controls of the marketing of PPPs – Authorisation/parallel trade permit holder - There are no registered businesses with premises in Northern Ireland (NI).

Controls on the marketing of PPPs – Other - We are also reporting on controls that were carried out on online retailers of PPP to the amateur user market focusing on advertisement of sales from NI businesses on their own online store or their storefronts on Amazon UK and eBay UK. These were identified through whistle-blowers reporting to the National Regulator and random online searches.

Controls on users of PPP - Agricultural users: Data has been included on inspections carried out on farm businesses under the following regimes:

- Cross Compliance (CC) controls under SMR10. Total Number of Farm Businesses subject to Cross Compliance inspections equate to the total number of farms in receipt of basis payments. Not all will be subject to inspections under SMR10 (i.e. not all will be pesticide users). The total number of SMR10 inspections carried out includes 254 programmed inspections plus 2 whistle-blower inspections.
 - Primary Producer Hygiene Inspections (recorded on the line titled “Agriculture users outside the scope of CC controls*” but please note some of these PPH operators may also be subject to cross-compliance controls). Total Number of Farm businesses subject to PPH rules is based on farm census figures and quality assurance scheme membership. A risk assessment is conducted using the inspection frequencies of between 1% - 25% depending on the producer type to determine the total number of inspections which Inspectors will undertake.
- Controls on users of PPP - Other professional users: The NI PPP Official Controls programme regarding other professional users is still being developed and resource allocation agreed, therefore we have no controls data for 2022. Currently we have 85 non-agricultural PPP businesses, organisations/sole traders registered with the Competent Authority. Targeted letter drop campaign is ongoing to reach amenity users involved in the sports sector.

8.4 Non-compliances and Actions/measures

On marketing of PPPs	Detected during official controls performed	Total number of controlled operators	Number of controlled operators where non-compliances were detected	Actions/measures	
				Administrative	Judicial
Entry points	0	0	0	0	0
Manufacturers/formulators	0	0	0	0	
Packers/re-packers/re-labellers	0	0	0	0	
Distributors/wholesalers/retailers - professional and/or amateur use PPPs	7	16	3	0	
Storage depots/transport operators/logistics companies	0	0	0	0	
Authorisation/parallel trade permit holder	0	0	0	0	
Others	14	16	9	0	

On use of PPPs and sustainable use of pesticides	Detected during official controls performed	Total number of controlled operators	Number of controlled operators where non-compliances were detected	Actions/measures	
				Administrative	Judicial
Agricultural users	0	0	0	0	0
Applicants under the EU Basic Payment Scheme or Rural Development schemes, subject to Cross Compliance (CC) controls	1	256	1	0	
Agriculture users outside the scope of CC controls	25	957	19	0	
Other professional users	0	0	0	0	
Others	0	0	0	0	

Fraudulent and deceptive practices

No fraudulent or deceptive practices were found.

8.5 Comment box

The BASIS programme of inspections focuses on PPP storage only and the risk to the water environment. 4 of the non-compliances related to the integrity of the storage structure in that remedial works were identified to ensure that the stores were constructed in such a way as to prevent unwanted releases. The remaining 3 non-compliance issues identified raised concerns around the precautions being taken to ensure storage and handling operations did not endanger the environment. Advice on remedial action was provided and store keepers have complied.

2022 Online sales audit identified the following non-compliance issues:

- Advertising for sale unauthorised PPP
- Placing on the market unauthorised PPP advertised as pesticide free but which contain at least one approved active substance
- Advertising for sale professional PPP's to the amateur (home garden) user

We have identified a particular issue of online retailers splitting large packs of Sulphate of Iron (Ferrous Sulphate), repackaging and relabelling, advertising and selling the product as "Moss Killer" which brings the product within the scope of the PPP Regs.

In all cases of written warnings setting out the offence and advising what needed to be done to bring the businesses back into compliance were issued in all cases identified.

Non-compliance issues identified, amongst professional users included:

- Lack of training and certificate of competence in pesticide use
- Inadequate PPP storage – lack of containment to prevent unwanted releases of PPP into the environment.
- No spray records.
- Use of an unauthorised PPP.
- Use of a PPP not in accordance with conditions of use specified on the label.

We continue to educate and support all PPP operators to achieve and maintain compliance with the legislation. In 2022, we updated our PPP user guidance on the DAERA website. DAERA Staff within the College of Agriculture, Food and Rural Enterprise (CAFRE) provide technical support and training in the sustainable use of PPP's and we work with industry and environmental stakeholders to disseminate advice on the safe use of PPP and good agricultural practice.

Attachments

No

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Part II, Section 9 - Organic production and labelling of organic products

Country Northern Ireland **Year** 2022

Have you already reported data for this period to DG Agriculture & Rural Development (AGRI) through the Organic Farming Information System (OFIS)? Yes

Comment box

NI Competent Authority advised the data has not yet been submitted on OFIS as they are having difficulty submitting this due to access issues and are speaking with the EU about this.
It is hoped that they will get this submitted as soon as they get advice from the EU Commission which is likely to be in September due to Summer Recess.

Attachments Yes

File Name: Standard_Model_Form_-_Section_9_of_Part_II_of_Regulation_(EU)_2021-1935.docx

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Part II, Section 10 - Use and labelling of protected designations of origin, protected geographical indications and traditional specialities guaranteed

Country Northern Ireland **Year** 2022
Have you any data to report in this period ? Yes

10.1 Overall conclusion on the level of compliance achieved

Audits were carried out on Lough Neagh Pollan (PDO) and Lough Neagh Eels (PGI). The Department has not been notified of any enforcement activity over the 12 month period. Based on this limited data, compliance is believed to have been achieved.

10.2 Official controls

	Number of official controls performed
Pre-market	0
Conventional market	2
Electronic commerce	0

10.3 Comment box

No enforcement necessary following the 2 audits. No notifications of ad-hoc enforcements over the 12 month period.

10.4 Non-compliances and Actions/measures

	Detected during official controls performed	Total number of controlled operators	Number of controlled operators where non-compliances were detected	Actions/measures	
				Administrative	Judicial
Pre-market	0	0	0	0	0
Conventional market	0	0	0	0	
Electronic commerce	0	0	0	0	

Fraudulent and deceptive practices

None.

10.5 Comment box

No comments

Attachments No