

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: 2024

Part I of Annex

Country	Northern Ireland	Year	2024
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1. Introduction

This Annual Report on Official Controls (AROC) for Northern Ireland covers the calendar year from 1 Jan 2024 to 31 December 2024. 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 Brian Doher – 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

Prior to EU Exit the UK Multi Annual National Control Plan (MANCP) on official controls including related annual reporting was led by the FSA. In January 2020 formal responsibility for the MANCP in GB was transferred to Defra. The last MANCP covering NI and GB expired in March 2023. Since March 2023 the EU have been aware that NI has no current MANCP but has allowed a transition period to publish. DAERA has begun to develop the new Multi Annual National Control Plan for Northern Ireland (MANCP) and is due to publish in 2026.

4. Fees or charges

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

Attachments	No
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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** 2024

Have you any data to report in this period ? Yes

1.1 Overall conclusion on the level of compliance achieved

For the 2024 reporting period, the FSA (central competent authority) issued bi-annual return forms to district councils (DC) (competent authorities) in Northern Ireland (NI) to capture data on the DCs delivery of official controls (OCs) against the expectations of them, as set out in the Food Law Code of Practice (the Code). At the start of April 25, DCs introduced a new risk-based approach for the delivery of food standards official controls. The DCs Management Information Systems (MIS), were amended to facilitate recording of the new approach and existing data was migrated to the new version. This IT process may have impacted the accuracy of data output in their April 2025 returns. The Code enables DCs to prioritise their resources at the higher-risk establishments. The approach also reflects the changing business landscape with 2266 new food businesses registered or approved between 1 April 2024 and 31 March 2025. The April 25 data shows that there is a relatively small number (3.1%) of food establishments registered/approved with DCs, which fall into the highest food hygiene risk (A and B categories). This is based on the inherent and compliance risk scores calculated by DCs, in accordance with the Code, following each OC intervention.

OCs in FSA approved establishments are carried out on behalf of FSA by DAERA under a Service Level Agreement. These include slaughterhouses, cutting plants, game handling establishments, egg packing and certain dairy establishments. Primary production holdings (dairy farms and raw drinking milk suppliers) are also included. The delivery of official controls is set out in the Manual for Official Controls, and monitored at monthly, quarterly and annual frequencies by FSA. OCs and other official activities in approved meat establishments (requiring permanent presence of the competent authority) continued in compliance with Regulation (EU) 2017/625. All animals and birds presented for slaughter for the food chain received ante mortem and postmortem inspection. Site visits (announced and unannounced) to standalone meat establishments continued throughout the reporting period. More detail on these official controls can be found in the body of the report.

Overall FBO compliance in FSA approved meat establishments remained at a high level during the period all establishments were in either the 'good' or 'generally satisfactory' category and no critical non-compliances were detected during audits. There were no meat establishments in the 'improvement necessary' or 'urgent improvement necessary' categories. Of the 29 sites audited, 1 audit outcome was better than previous, 22 outcomes were the same as previous and 5 outcomes were worse. There was 1 new food business audited for the first time. All non-compliances were addressed within agreed risk based timeliness. However, judicial measures are currently being considered following the detection of a number of non-compliances during an intelligence-led investigation in one establishment.

A total of 1153 primary production hygiene inspections were carried out on dairy farms during the reporting period. 745 (64.7%) outcomes were 'good', 400 (34.6%) were 'generally satisfactory' and 8 (0.7%) outcomes were 'improvement necessary'.

A total of 126 dairy hygiene inspections were carried out during the reporting period. Compliance at dairy hygiene inspections also continued at a very high level with 78 (61.9%) inspection outcomes from visits in the 'good' category, 45 (35.7%) in the 'generally satisfactory' category and only 3 (2.4%) visits returning an 'improvement necessary' outcome.

Explanatory Notes regarding table 1.2 data:

The data populated in table 1.2 regarding the number of approved activities is the collective total for FSA and DC establishments taken from the published EU list. Establishments approved under more than one category are included in each of those categories.

The FSA data capture from DCs does not request the number of food establishments within each specific premises registration type as listed in table 1.2. However, on 30 September 2024, the total number of establishments registered with DCs was 20,549. The number of registered establishments was obtained in the form of FSA monitoring categories, which are similar but not exactly the same as the specific establishment types requested. Furthermore, DCs record their registered establishments electronically by main activity only and therefore any additional activities carried out by any one establishment is not available. There would, however, only be a relatively small number of registered establishments carrying out more than one activity. In addition to the registered figures provided in the table for 'retail', 'food and beverages' and 'food contact material' establishments, there was also 495 primary producers, 1114 manufacturers and packers, 62 importers and exporters and 487 distributors and transporters registered.

The number of OCs performed populated in table 1.2 refer to FSA/DAERA OCs and the figures provided for 'retail', 'food and beverages' and 'food contact material' establishments were carried out by DCs. While the FSA data capture from DCs did not request the number of OCs specific to each of the establishment categories as listed in table 1.2, the figures obtained show that DCs carried out a total of 19,087 OCs in all establishment categories. This included the figures which have been included in table 1.2 for 'retail', 'food and beverages' and 'food contact material' establishments and also 388 OCs in approved establishments, 166 in registered primary producers, 1273 in manufacturers and packers, 35 in importers and exporters and 293 in distributors and transporters. Between 1 April 2024 and 31 March 2025, DCs completed 100% of their planned food hygiene and 96% of their standards interventions in A risk rated establishments. They also completed 99% of planned food hygiene and 75% of planned food standards interventions in B risk rated premises.

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)	125	48
Meat of domestic ungulates	43	1829
Meat from poultry and lagomorphs	19	70
Meat of farmed game	3	4
Wild game meat	6	8
Minced meat, meat preparations and mechanically separated meat (MSM)	66	50
Meat products	76	30
Live bivalve molluscs	15	0
Fishery products	62	0
Colostrum, raw milk, colostrum-based and dairy products	33	222
Egg and egg products	65	17
Frogs' legs and snails	0	0
Rendered animal fats and greaves	2	0
Treated stomach, bladders and intestines	11	2
Gelatine	1	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	26190	2201
Hunting	0	0
Fishing	0	0
Aquaculture	32	838
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	4129	3546
Transport and storage	0	0
Food and beverage service activities	14255	13380
Others	0	0
Establishments producing food contact materials	7	2

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	14	2858705	26292
Meat from poultry and lagomorphs — slaughterhouses	6	145553124	1845198
Meat of farmed game — slaughterhouses	1	780	0
Wild game meat — Game-handling establishments	3	1018	0

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	ESFA Data	Additional	Total	ESFA Data	Additional	Total	ESFA Data	Additional	Total			
1. Dairy products	566	1870	2436	0	743	743	0	153	153	0	0	0	0	61	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	0	0	0	0
3. Fats and oils and fat and oil emulsions	0	5	5	0	1594	1594	0	0	0	0	0	0	79	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
4. Edible ices	0	983	983	0	789	789	0	0	0	0	0	0	52	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
5. Fruit and vegetables	319	9350	9669	0	7179	7179	0	17	17	0	0	0	136	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
6. Confectionery	0	48	48	0	0	0	0	12	12	0	0	0	262	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
7. Cereals and cereal products	0	1457	1457	0	41172	41172	24	205	229	0	0	0	117	0	2	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
8. Bakery wares	194	1051	1245	0	0	0	0	170	170	0	0	0	809	0	6	6	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	6	6	0	0
9. Fresh meat	5	742	747	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	315	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1

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						
10. Minced meat, meat preparations and MSM	138	1768	1906	0	0	18	0	0	18	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	29	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
11. Meat products	131	11475	11606	0	769	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	1	
12. Fish and fisheries products	150	1056	1206	0	2311	296	2370	2666	0	174	174	76	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Live bivalve molluscs	0	10	10	0	0	0	7	7	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	821	0	
13. Eggs and egg products	0	1667	1667	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	20	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	84	84	0	0	
14. Sugar, syrups, honey and table-top sweeteners	0	20	20	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	49	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
15. Salts, spices, soups, sauces, salads and protein products	378	3303	3681	0	3231	6	459	465	0	0	0	219	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	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	14	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
17. Beverages	43	315	358	0	2370	2	562	564	0	0	0	279	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	32	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	Sante Data	Additional	Total				
18. Ready-to-eat savouries and snacks	0	256	256	0	2384	2384	0	60	60	0	0	0	0	23	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		
19. Desserts excluding products covered in categories 1, 3 and 4	0	709	709	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	60	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 402/45/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	21	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	1836	9182	11018	0	0	0	1	9	10	0	85	85	1087	0	0	6	6	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	5		
22. Others – foods not covered by categories 1 to 21	0	54	54	0	0	0	0	6	6	0	0	0	45	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		
23. Food contact materials																										0		

1.5 Comment box

Explanatory Notes regarding table 1.4 data:

The DC sample test data provided in table 1.4 includes samples procured at the ports. Samples subject to a labelling assessment were recorded as one assessment. Each sample tested for pesticides will have been subject to several individual pesticide tests which has contributed to some of the relatively large values.

Verification by the competent authority of FBO microbiological sampling as follows.

- Salmonella – domestic ungulates (3005 FBO samples) and poultry (376 FBO samples)
- Campylobacter – broilers (650 FBO samples)
- Trichinella – pigs (1,318,218 FBO samples and 1138 CA samples) and wildlife (310 CA fox samples)

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 93.02 FTE professional officers allocated to food control by DCs on 31 September 2024 with 88.9% of that compliment being occupied. Some DCs have reported some difficulty with recruitment and reallocation of resource to other core functions.

In addition to the planned OC work, DCs also carried out 2047 revisits and responded to 1687 complaints from 1 April 24 to 31 March 25. They also responded to requests for service and delivered food safety training and various other food safety promotion and educational activities.

During the reporting period inspection, verification and audit (including outcomes) official controls by activity were as follows.

- General activities – 48 official controls included 21 full FBO audits (18 good, 3 generally satisfactory), 1 partial FBO audit and 26 unannounced inspections
- Domestic ungulates – 1829 official controls included 25 full FBO audits (22 good, 3 generally satisfactory), 1 partial FBO audit, 29 unannounced inspections, 156 slaughter hygiene verifications, 1460 SRM removal verifications and 158 microcriteria verifications.
- Poultry and lagomorphs – 70 official controls included 9 full FBO audits (8 good, 1 generally satisfactory), 16 Unannounced inspections, 52 slaughter hygiene verifications and 40 microcriteria verifications.
- Farmed game – 4 official controls included 2 full FBO audits (2 good), and 2 unannounced inspections.
- Wild game – 8 official controls included 3 full FBO audits (2 good, 1 generally satisfactory), 3 unannounced inspections and 2 slaughter hygiene verifications.
- Minced meat, meat preparations, MSM) – 50 official controls included 23 full FBO audits (18 good, 5 generally satisfactory), 1 partial audit and 26 unannounced inspections
- Processed Products – 30 official controls included 13 full FBO audits (10 good, 3generally satisfactory) 1 partial audit and 13 unannounced inspections
- Treated stomachs, bladders and intestines – 2 official controls included 2 full FBO audits (2 good)
- Eggs & egg products – 17 official controls included 17 inspection visits.

In addition to above the following official controls were carried out

- Raw drinking milk – 15 hygiene inspections
- Dairy farm hygiene – 1283 inspections
- Milk purchasers, hauliers, on-farm pasteurisers, suppliers, distribution centres, processors and milk products premises – 119 inspections.
- Primary production hygiene (non-dairy) – 918 inspections

During the reporting period sampling official controls were as follows

- 74 pasteurised milk
- 14 raw drinking milk
- 1 water

Resources (DAERA) - In addition to the existing compliment of staff a further 18 officials (4 official veterinarian and 3 primary production hygiene inspectors and 11 official auxiliaries) were authorised to carry out official controls under Regulation (EU) 2017/625 on behalf of FSA

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)	205	0	0	20	0
Meat of domestic ungulates	263	43	25	21	
Meat from poultry and lagomorphs	103	19	9	2	
Meat of farmed game	19	3	2	0	
Wild game meat	31	6	3	0	
Minced meat, meat preparations and mechanically separated meat (MSM)	241	0	0	22	
Meat products	148	0	0	14	
Live bivalve molluscs	0	0	0	0	
Fishery products	0	0	0	0	
Colostrum, raw milk, colostrum-based and dairy products	0	0	0	0	
Egg and egg products	0	0	0	0	
Frogs' legs and snails	0	0	0	0	
Rendered animal fats and greaves	0	0	0	0	
Treated stomach, bladders and intestines	28	0	0	9	
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	9
Animal production	0	0	0	0	
Mixed farming	0	0	0	0	
Hunting	0	0	0	0	
Fishing	0	0	0	0	
Aquaculture	0	0	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	2115	4129	0	2115	
Transport and storage	0	0	0	0	
Food and beverage service activities	7817	14255	0	7817	
Others	0	0	0	0	
Establishments producing food contact materials	2	7	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	11	0	0	11	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	6	0	0	6	
4. Edible ices	0	0	0	0	17	0	0	17	
5. Fruit and vegetables	0	0	0	0	53	0	0	53	
6. Confectionery	0	0	0	0	37	0	0	37	
7. Cereals and cereal products	0	5	0	0	33	0	0	38	
8. Bakery wares	0	0	0	0	156	0	0	156	
9. Fresh meat	24	0	3	0	40	0	0	40	
10. Minced meat, meat preparations and MSM	0	0	0	0	189	5	0	194	
11. Meat products	0	0	0	0	98	0	0	98	
12. Fish and fisheries products	0	0	1	0	24	0	0	25	
Live bivalve molluscs	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
13. Eggs and egg products	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	
14. Sugar, syrups, honey and table-top sweeteners	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	
15. Salts, spices, soups, sauces, salads and protein products	0	1	2	0	53	0	0	56	
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	7	0	0	7	
17. Beverages	0	0	0	0	95	0	0	95	
18. Ready-to-eat savouries and snacks	0	1	0	0	12	0	0	13	
19. Desserts excluding products covered in categories 1, 3 and 4	0	0	0	0	13	0	0	13	
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	9	0	0	9	
21. Processed foods not covered by categories 1 to 17, excluding foods for infants and young children	0	0	0	0	292	0	1	293	
22. Others – foods not covered by categories 1 to 21	0	0	0	0	7	0	0	7	

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

DCs have reported investigations of potential fraudulent and deceptive practices including: unfit meat (smokies) discovered in a retailer which was investigated by the DC and the FSA Food Crime Unit; a food business has been successfully prosecuted for placing food on the market which was not of the substance demanded by the purchaser and falsely describing food; an allegation of alcohol substitution is under investigation with formal samples to be taken; an allegation of illegal slaughter at a registered butcher was investigated but found to be unsubstantiated; and a warrant was obtained to enter and search a domestic property which was unregistered but operating as a caterer. .

FSA/DAERA received intelligence regarding non-compliance with food safety and hygiene rules in an approved cutting plant. Investigation by competent authorities identified unapproved activities, traceability failures and labelling irregularities. Judicial action is being prepared.

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 11,104 administrative enforcement actions. These actions include written warnings and a range of enforcement notices and actions. This figure includes the data populated in the table for 'retail', 'food and beverages' and 'food contact material' establishments and also 213 issued on approved establishments, 11 on primary producers, 799 on manufacturers and packers, 12 on importers and exporters and 135 on 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.

The DC sample data includes tests and non-compliances of samples procured at the ports.

Samples subject to a labelling assessment were recorded as one assessment and, as appropriate, one non-compliance. 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. The data provided regarding 'non-compliances related to horizontal rules' is based on sample data only. Any non-compliances detected during other OCs are not recorded in an electronically retrievable format. Furthermore, any samples relating to novel foods are not specifically coded to distinguish between unauthorised and labelling issues.

Other Information:

During audits of food business operators (approved slaughterhouses, cutting plants and game handling establishments) a total of 306 minor non-compliances were detected across 29 establishments audited where 98 activities were ongoing. In addition, there were 7 major non-compliances detected. Compliance was achieved in all cases using the hierarchy of enforcement. However, judicial measures are currently being considered following the detection of a number of non-compliances during an intelligence-led investigation in one establishment.

The competent authority verifies FBO micro testing under Regulation 2073/2005 for domestic ungulates and poultry, a total of 71 FBO samples (2%) out of a total of 3655 were found to be non-compliant with Regulation 2073/2005. 1038 slaughter hygiene verification checks detected 5 non-compliances which required administrative action. 30 non-compliances were detected during 1460 checks verifying the removal, storage and handling of specified risk material. As above, compliance was achieved in all cases of minor non-compliance using the hierarchy of enforcement without the need for judicial action. All samples analysed for Trichinella (1,317,908 domestic swine and 310 wildlife) were negative.

In addition to above, during 2024 the following enforcement action was taken due to non-compliance.

- 5 warning letters and 252 guidance letters were issued relating to dairy hygiene.
- 4 guidance letters were issued relating to egg hygiene.
- 18 warning letters were issued relating to primary production hygiene.

Also

- 1 sample of pasteurised milk (out of 74) was found to be non-compliant.
- 4 raw milk samples (out of 14) were found to be non-compliant.
- 0 water samples (out of 1) were found to be non-compliant.

Attachments

No

About this dossier

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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** 2024
Have you any data to report in this period ? Yes

2.1 Overall conclusion on the level of compliance achieved

N/A – No GM crops approved for cultivation in Northern Ireland

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	

Fraudulent and deceptive practices

0

2.5 Comment box

No comments

Attachments No

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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** 2024

Have you any data to report in this period ? Yes

3.1 Overall conclusion on the level of compliance achieved

Comprehensive

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 183/2005 of the European Parliament and of the Council	61	1091
Primary producers approved in accordance with Article 10 of Regulation (EC) No 183/2005	62	27
Establishments registered in accordance with Article 9 of Regulation (EC) No 183/2005, with the exclusion of primary production	461	65
Primary producers registered in accordance with Article 9 of Regulation (EC) No 183/2005 and complying with provisions in Annex I to that Regulation	14	9
Operators (farmers) using feed	22524	918
Operators manufacturing and/or trading medicated feeding stuffs	105	58

By horizontal rule	Number of official controls performed
Labelling of feed	207
Traceability of feed	89
Additives in feed (Regulation (EC) No 1831/2003 of the European Parliament and of the Council)	21
Undesirable substances in feed (Article 2 of Directive 2002/32/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council)	341
Prohibited materials in feed (Annex III to Regulation (EC) No 767/2009 of the European Parliament and of the Council)	0
Medicated feeding stuffs (Council Directive 90/167/EC)	29
Pesticides in feed	57
GMOs in feed	2

3.3 Comment box

No comments

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	73	0	0	73	0
Primary producers approved in accordance with Article 10 of Regulation (EC) No 183/2005	23	0	0	23	
Establishments registered in accordance with Article 9 of Regulation (EC) No 183/2005, with the exclusion of primary production	217	0	0	217	
Primary producers registered in accordance with Article 9 of Regulation (EC) No 183/2005 and complying with provisions in Annex I to that Regulation	10	0	0	10	
Operators (farmers) using feed	174	0	0	174	
Operators manufacturing and/or trading medicated feeding stuffs	90	0	0	90	

By horizontal rule	Number of non-compliances found	Administrative	Judicial
Product non-compliance: Labelling/traceability of feed placed/to be placed on the market	16	16	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)	3	3	
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)	0	0	
Medicated feeding stuffs (Council Directive 90/167/EC)	0	0	
Pesticides in feed	1	1	
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

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Part II, Section 4 - Animal health requirements

Country Northern Ireland **Year** 2024

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	20934	776	1656228	106155
Identification and registration of ovine and caprine animals	13197	546	1341667	98751

	Number of holdings/ establishments	Number of official controls performed
Approved assembly centres (bovine, ovine, caprine, porcine, equine)	45	32
Approved dealers (bovine, ovine, caprine, porcine)	0	0
Control posts (Council Regulation (EC) No 1255/97)	1	1
Approved bodies, institutes and centres (Council Directive 92/65/EEC)	0	0
Establishments approved for EU trade of poultry and hatching eggs	139	145
Bird quarantine establishments	0	0
Approved aquaculture establishments	40	428
Approved fish aquaculture establishments	22	421
Approved live bivalve molluscs aquaculture establishments	18	7
Approved crustacean aquaculture establishments	0	0
Authorised aquaculture animals processing establishments	0	0
Semen collection centres	5	7
Semen collection centres, Bovine	1	2
Semen collection centres, Porcine	3	4
Semen collection centres, Ovine/caprine	1	1
Semen collection centres, Equine	0	0
Semen storage centres	9	7
Semen storage centres, Bovine	7	6
Semen storage centres, Ovine/caprine	1	1
Semen storage centres, Equine	1	0
Embryo collection / production teams	5	4
Embryo collection / production teams, Bovine	4	3
Embryo collection / production teams, Porcine	0	0
Embryo collection / production teams, Ovine/caprine	1	1
Embryo collection / production teams, Equine	0	0

4.3 Comment box

In addition, there are 54 other aquaculture establishments with an approval number (currently inactive). These were initially authorised establishment numbers carried over from previous legislation under the Aquatic Animal Health Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2009. Official Controls are only carried out on 40 active approved establishments.

Regarding establishments approved for EU Trade of poultry and hatching eggs, during 2024 6 previously active members ceased to be part of the scheme. However, 6 official controls had been performed prior to their leaving, hence number of official controls exceeds number of holdings.

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	220	129	67	342	10	0	0	187	1

	Actions/measures		
	Number of holdings/ establishments with non-compliances	Administrative	Judicial
Identification and registration of bovine animals	220	187	1
Identification and registration of ovine and caprine animals	356	0	
Approved assembly centres (bovine, ovine, caprine, porcine, equine)	0	0	
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	9	0	
Approved fish aquaculture establishments	6	6	
Approved live bivalve molluscs aquaculture establishments	3	3	
Approved crustacean aquaculture establishments	0	0	
Authorised aquaculture animals processing establishments	0	0	
Semen collection centres	0	0	
Semen storage centres	0	0	
Embryo collection / production teams	0	0	

Fraudulent and deceptive practices

IRM - no fraudulent and deceptive practices.

Aquaculture - no fraudulent and deceptive practices.

Control posts - no fraudulent and deceptive practices.

Assembly Centres - no fraudulent and deceptive practices.

Semen/Embryo - Artificial Insemination - no fraudulent and deceptive practices.

4.5 Comment box

No comments

Attachments

No

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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** 2024

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	204	225
Establishments or plants registered in accordance with Article 23 of Regulation (EC) No 1069/2009	638	55

By horizontal rule	Number of official controls performed
Labelling and traceability of animal by-products/derived products	280

5.3 Comment box

Inspections are slightly up for 2024 but still greatly below expected level due to staffing levels and prioritising work in other areas (Brexit)

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	17	204	16	17	0
Establishments or plants registered in accordance with Article 23 of Regulation (EC) No 1069/2009	3	55	3	3	

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	
Product non-compliance: safety of animal by-products/derived products. Categories 1 and 2	0	0	
Product non-compliance: safety of animal by-products/derived products. Category 3	0	0	

Fraudulent and deceptive practices

N/a

5.5 Comment box

No comments

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Part II, Section 6 - Welfare requirements for animals

Country Northern Ireland **Year** 2024

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 a 93% compliance rate for on farm welfare inspections and 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.

In all abattoirs in NI, an official veterinarian is present whilst animals are being slaughtered. They are authorised to deal immediately with any non compliances detected under 1099/2009, to protect animal welfare. In the reporting period, zero non compliances were detected.

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)	955	7	0	1	4	13
Laying hens (as defined in the Council Directive 1999/74/EC)	514	459	0	2	0	
Chickens (as defined in the Council Directive 2007/43/EC)	614	29	0	0	0	
Calves (as defined in the Council Directive 2008/119/EC)	13682	155	0	33	27	
Other (specify)						
Cattle (except calves)	20963	230	0	38	67	
Sheep	19389	149	0	4	10	
Goats	1110	8	0	0	0	
Ratites	11	0	0	0	0	
Ducks	1273	3	0	0	0	
Geese	578	0	0	0	0	
Turkeys	442	0	0	0	0	

6.3 Analysis and action plan for animal welfare on farms

Northern Ireland classifies 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 2024, non-compliances occurred most frequently in categories feed, water and other substances and buildings and accommodation and were mostly relating to cattle. The number of production sites inspected in 2024 (1040) was lower than 2023 (1279). There has been a decrease in the number of most serious breaches (scored C).

Training sessions are held 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. Those responsible for farmed animals, or who employ or engage others, are required by law to ensure that those attending to their animals are familiar with and have access to the relevant Codes of Practice. In cases where non-compliance relates 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	352	12	0	1	0	0	0	16	3
Porcine animals	27	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Ovine/caprine	905	6	0	0	0	8	0	6	
Equidae	2998	2	3	1	0	16	1	24	
Poultry	23485	1	0	1	0	0	0	1	
Other species									
Canine	1548	2	2	2	0	18	2	19	
Alpaca	10	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Small fur animals	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Birds	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Bongo	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Capybara	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Cats	6	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Giraffe	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Pudu	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Other animals	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	

6.5 Analysis and action plan for animal welfare during transport

The number of inspections carried out in 2024 are slightly lower than 2023. The number of livestock inspections has decreased due to a general decrease in numbers of exports. There is a decrease in the number of non-compliances, this is mostly in relation to both equidae and canines.

Overall, the number of non-compliances is less than 1% of the total inspections carried out.

The "Paws for Thought" initiative continues to help combat puppy smuggling, with DAERA carrying out routine and targeted inspections at two Northern Ireland ferry terminals; this has resulted in further reduction in the number of dogs being transported to Great Britain. These inspections are carried out in partnership with other statutory agencies such as local councils and the Police Service of Northern Ireland.

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

The reporting period had zero recorded non-compliances under the animal welfare at the time of killing (Council Regulation (EC) No 1099/2009 (18)).

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** 2024
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	252	6165
Operators authorised to apply the mark (wood packaging material, wood or other objects)	19	19

7.3 Comment box

Official controls include registration 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	18	181	6	18	0
Operators authorised to apply the mark (wood packaging material, wood or other objects)	0	0	0	0	

Fraudulent and deceptive practices

N/A

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** 2024

Have you any data to report in this period ? Yes

8.1 Overall conclusion on the level of compliance achieved

The recruitment of Pesticide Enforcement Officers to undertake Official Controls for PPPs had not advanced in 2024, therefore 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	1	0
Packers/re-packers/re-labellers	4	0
Distributors/wholesalers/retailers - professional and/or amateur use PPPs	51	2
Storage depots/transport operators/logistics companies	0	0
Authorisation/parallel trade permit holder	0	0
Others	3	3

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	23967	250
Agriculture users outside the scope of CC controls	21524	918
Other Professional users	113	4
Others	2	2

8.3 Comment box

The Department continues to promote the requirement to register for inclusion on our list of operators (LoO) across all sectors. Despite this the uptake remains significantly lower than we would wish. In 2024 we saw a very small increase in registrations of both supply chain businesses and professional users. We anticipate that the numbers will not improve significantly until our Official Controls Programme commences.

As in previous years we are reporting on the following inspection regimes and data sources:

- Controls on the marketing of PPPs – Distributors/wholesalers/retailers - data from the 2024 independent Store Inspection Scheme run by BASIS who annually audit distributors on their scheme register (currently 51 NI premises). In 2024 resourcing constraints reduced the number of stores inspected by DAERA staff from the Northern Ireland Environment Agency to 2 premises, chosen on a risk basis. 1 premises was found to be in non-compliance due to inadequate bunding of the chemical storage. Advice was given and operator is taking measures to meet the storage requirements.
- Controls on the marketing of PPPs – Others – controls data recorded under this heading relates to whistleblower cases investigated in 2024 on retailers advertising and selling to the amateur market.

• 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 basic 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 in 2024 includes 250 programmed inspections. 1 farm business was found to be in non-compliance and received advice and a financial penalty under cross-compliance rules

Primary Producer Hygiene Inspections (recorded on the line titled "Agriculture users outside the scope of CC controls*" but please note many 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 - Due to resources no official controls programme was carried out on any user registered on our LoO. However as noted in 8.5 below we had four whistleblower cases involving professional users in the amenity sector.

• Controls on users of PPP – Others – This relates to whistleblower cases investigated in 2024 on agricultural users outside of the schemes listed above.

Controls of the marketing of PPPs – Entry points – We have no long-term plan to carry out checks at the 'Point of Entry', rather our future controls will focus on the point of distribution/sale to end user.

Controls of the marketing of PPPs – Manufacturers/formulators – Checks of authorisation holders are carried out at a UK national level by the National Regulator the Health and Safety Executive's, Chemical Regulation Division.

Controls of the marketing of PPPs – Authorisation/parallel trade permit holder – Checks of authorisation holders are carried out at a UK national level by the National Regulator the Health and Safety Executive's, Chemical Regulation Division.

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	1	2	1	1	
Storage depots/transport operators/logistics companies	0	0	0	0	
Authorisation/parallel trade permit holder	0	0	0	0	
Others	3	3	3	3	

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	250	1	1	
Agriculture users outside the scope of CC controls	22	918	18	18	
Other professional users	0	4	0	0	
Others	0	2	0	0	

Fraudulent and deceptive practices

No fraudulent or deceptive practices were identified

8.5 Comment box

Non-compliance detected during official controls at:

Controls on the marketing of PPPs - Distributors/wholesalers/retailers — professional and/or amateur use PPPs: The BASIS programme of inspections focuses on PPP storage only and the risk to the water environment. Non-compliance identified:

- 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; and the capacity of the store and whether or not it is overstocked in terms of having adequate containment in the event of a spill.

Controls on the marketing of PPPs – Others – Non-compliance identified included:

- Advertising professional products for sale to amateurs
- Advertising products with label claims of moss control which brought products within scope of the regulations.

In all cases advice letters were issued to the business.

- 2 cases resulted in the duty holders getting back to compliance.
- 1 case requires future follow up action by Pesticides Enforcement Officers.

Agricultural users: The main areas of non-compliance within the farming sector detected during this year's programmes, included:

- Product not approved for the intended method of application - Handheld equipment used instead of tractor mounted sprayer.
- Use of PPPs without a specified training certificate
- PPPs not being stored in areas that are constructed in such a way as to prevent unwanted releases.
- Out of date PPPs stored on the premises.

There were also two whistleblower cases (included under "Others") which were forwarded to HSENI in their capacity of Competent Control Authority for SMR10, to investigate whether the farmers had failed to use a plant protection product in line with the principles of good plant protection practice as set out in the code of practice, in that application had not been confined to the target area.. HSENI determined that there was insufficient evidence of a breach in both cases to apply any penalty.

Other professional users: Although we had no official programme of inspections in 2024 covering professional users in the amenity sector we had four whistleblower cases. Concerns raised included:

- Permitting an employee, working without supervision, to use a plant protection product authorised for professional use without undergoing the appropriate training and achieving a specified certificate of competence – health concerns were raised.
- Failure to keep the application of PPPs confined to the target area, (overspraying of grass verges) resulting in the impact on species in roadside verges and neighbouring protected habitats.

These cases were forwarded to other regulators who deemed that due to resourcing and the lack of information to go on, they would not take forward the complaints.

We continue to educate and support all PPP operators to achieve and maintain compliance with the legislation through the provision of advice and guidance, either directly to users or via our PPP advice pages on the Departmental website. DAERA Staff within the College of Agriculture, Food and Rural Enterprise (CAFRE) provide technical support and training in the sustainable use of PPPs, and we work with our partners and stakeholders to disseminate advice on the safe use of PPPs and good agricultural practice.

Attachments

No

About this dossier

Output on: 2025/11/25 13:54 (Europe/Luxembourg)

Status: closed (submitted)

Created: 2025/06/27 10:30

Last updated: 2025/08/26 13:20

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

Country	Northern Ireland	Year	2024
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Have you already reported data for this period to DG Agriculture & Rural Development (AGRI) through the Organic Farming Information System (OFIS)?	Yes
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Comment box

For the last number of years there have been ongoing issues with accessing OFIS to upload reports. This has been raised previously with the Commission. NICA and the Commission have been content for the attached standard model form to be submitted with our returns.

Attachments

File Name:	2025_NI_Standard_Model_Form_-_Section_9_of_Part_II_of_Regulation_(EU)_2021-1935.docx
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About this dossier

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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** 2024

Have you any data to report in this period ? Yes

10.1 Overall conclusion on the level of compliance achieved

No conclusion can be reached as data is unavailable. However, there is no evidence of significant breaches.

10.2 Official controls

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

10.3 Comment box

No comments

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

0

10.5 Comment box

Data unavailable but no evidence of significant breaches

Attachments No