

**Organisation and implementation of training activities on
Veterinary and Food Safety Import Controls in Border Control Posts (BCPs) –
Contract 2020 96 05**

under the “Better Training for safer Food” Initiative

1. Course objectives

General objective

The objective of the training is **to disseminate best practices for import control procedures, improving knowledge of this complex area of work and ensuring consistent and high implementation standards across the Union.**

Specific objectives

- To **facilitate transition to the new scheme** represented by the OCR and the comprehensive set of rules built around it;
- To **go deep into the legal requirements and procedures relating to official border controls**, covering theoretical content and legal requirements but including a practical approach to ensure a good understanding of the current framework;
- To **facilitate the development of a harmonised approach to official controls at BCPs**, offering an environment and atmosphere where delegates can share their experiences & problems encountered during their daily work;
- To **put on the table common problems and experiences to find common solutions**, best practice and encounter alternative and improved ways of working more effectively and efficiently;
- To **provide the participants with the necessary tools and materials to disseminate the knowledge** gained through the training course to colleagues in their home countries;
- To **promote relationships between BCPs**;

2. Selection criteria for participants

- Participant must:
1. Fulfil the eligibility criteria
 2. Meet the minimum requirements
 3. Be selected using the evaluation criteria

1. Eligibility criteria for the BTSF Course on Veterinary and Food Safety Import Controls in Border Control Posts (BCPs) – Contract 2020 96 05

- Official control staff from relevant competent authorities operating or involved in Border Control Posts (seaport, airport and road/rail) control systems.

Participants must meet the minimum requirements below to ensure they can follow and fully participate in this course. Participants who do not meet the minimum requirements should not be proposed for the training.

2. Minimum requirements for the BTSF Course on Veterinary and Food Safety Import Controls in Border Control Posts (BCPs) – Contract 2020 96 05	Yes/No
<p>Participant must be:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Newcomer participants with a basic knowledge of border official controls and at participants with a working knowledge of border official controls, all of them working in a BCP or working at local or central level with responsibilities in import controls. • Participants should register for the type of course (Food of animal origin and composites products or Live animals) they are interested in whatever the type of Border Control Post (Airport/Seaport/Road/Rail) they work in or are experienced. • In a position to provide training to other colleagues and share the experience following their attendance to the training. • Able to understand and speak English in order to participate actively in the training session 	

The evaluation criteria should be used as a tool to prioritise participation (higher score indicates higher priority), but there is no minimum score necessary.

3. Evaluation criteria for the BTSF Course on Veterinary and Food Safety Import Controls in Border Control Posts (BCPs) – Contract 2020 96 05		Enter Score
a)	<p>Current working experience in a BCP or working at local or central level with responsibilities in import controls.</p> <p><u>Scoring</u></p> <p>less than 3 years = 0 points; ≥ 3 years = 5 points; 5 - 10 years = 10 points; > 10 years = 12.5 points</p>	
b)	<p>During the course, participants will be provided with a training package to be used as support dissemination material. Commitment to disseminate the knowledge received is a prerequisite for course participation.</p> <p><u>Scoring</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Commitment to distribute the training material among their colleagues = 5 points; 2. Point 1 plus preparing and giving presentations based on the training material for the staff of national competent authorities/uploading training material to national competent authorities' intranets/websites = 10 points 3. Points 1, 2 plus preparing informative articles in the professional national journals = 15 points 4. no commitment = 0 points 	
Maximum total score		50

3. Country allocations

Information on the country allocations for the whole course to follow. Please refer to attachment for information on distribution of seats available for VC1 and VC2.

4. Training dates

Taking into account the evolution of the COVID-19 pandemic throughout the world, the variability in epidemiological and vaccine status across different geographical zones, and the developments in the Commission's Digital Covid Certificate, this course will consist of a combination of Virtual classrooms and Face-to-face training sessions.

The virtual classrooms will be held with the videoconferencing tool ZOOM whereas the face-to-face sessions will be organised in Paris, Antwerp, Algeciras and Amsterdam.

As the evolution of the pandemic is currently still difficult to predict for the next months and in order to give the possibility to a large number of countries to attend easily, this course will start in on-line format, with a first virtual classroom session in October 2021 and a second virtual classroom session in December 2021 (VCs are still likely to be organised until December 2021). Face-to-face training sessions could be expected to take place again from January 2022 onwards.

Please find below the dates of the two first Virtual Classroom training sessions. Information regarding the type and dates of the following sessions will follow.

Table 3: Training dates

Year	Training session	Proposed dates	Location	Course Title
2021	VC1	25 October to 3 November 2021	ZOOM	Import controls on food of animal origin and composite products
	VC2	6 to 15 December 2021	ZOOM	Import controls on live animals

Annex 1: Background and main topics covered in training

Background

Official border controls are a key factor in ensuring that incoming trade relating to the entire agri-food chain is safe and meets the specific import conditions laid down in Union legislation. The current legal framework dealing with official controls -including official border controls - was recently updated with the entry into force of the new Official Control Regulation, Reg. (EU) 2017/625 (OCR).

The OCR brings together within one regulation the rules for the performance of official controls which were previously to be found in several other pieces of legislation. Together with the comprehensive set of implementing and delegated regulations built around it, the OCR contains the necessary tools & measures to verify compliance with food and feed law and legislative requirements in the fields of animal health and welfare, organic products, plant health and plant protection products genetically-modified organisms, and animal-by products amongst others. As such, the new OCR offers a more integrated, harmonised and

coherent approach than previously and also reduces legal fragmentation, (e.g. Regulation (EC) 854/2004 and Regulation (EC) 882/2004 are both repealed but their main principles are kept and improved in the new legislation).

In a scenario of increasing globalization, international trade constitutes a key risk factor in spreading animal disease and other hazards. For that reason and in order to achieve a high level of protection of animal and public health, the EU has a well-recognized border control system which requires that incoming consignments must meet at least EU requirements or equivalent, being particularly relevant in those areas where harmonization has been achieved as happens extensively within the veterinary sector (live animals, products of animal origin and animal by-products). Consistent with this basic requirement, the new OCR also creates a common and improved framework for official border controls on animals and goods entering the EU. Following a more risk-based approach, the new control system benefits from years of experience gained and lessons learnt from the enforcement of earlier legislation covering the undertaking of veterinary checks at former border inspection posts.

As a general principle, unless exemptions or specific checks are applicable, official border controls are carried out at Border Control Posts (BCPs) which replaced Border Inspection Posts (BIPs) and Designated Points of Entry (DPEs). Official border controls increasingly follow a risk-based and targeted approach. This is particularly true for the entry in the Union of live animals, products of animal origin and animal by-products. Such animals and commodities represent a high level of risk due to the possibility that they could transmit serious animal diseases to the animal population of the EU but also present public health risk either in the form of zoonoses or due to the presence of contaminants, residues of pharmacologically-active substances, either banned or above permitted levels, and for other reasons such as the presence of biotoxins, unapproved additives, radioactivity and also due to fraudulent or deceptive practices. Therefore, it is necessary to subject such animals and products to specific border controls, relevant to the type of animals or products concerned, at their point of entry to the EU so that non-compliant consignments can be immediately detected and handled at the border minimizing and limiting the risk they represent to animals or people in the EU/EEA. Such checks must be carried out only at a BCP with the necessary facilities and approval to handle the animals or products concerned so that official border controls can be carried out in a consistent, efficient and safe manner. Although zero risk is unlikely to be achievable, BCPs can be considered as a sanitary filter to ensure that international trade does not negatively impact on the sanitary status of the EU/EEA.

In the above context, a consignment of live animals or products of animal origin can enter the EU only once it has satisfactorily undergone border checks at the BCP and a Common Health Entry Document (CHED) has been issued. BCP staff are required to implement mandatory official border controls on animals or products. Ensuring such checks are undertaken in accordance with legislative requirements and in a consistent, harmonised and effective manner in all BCPs is key to controlling risks to animal and public health in the EU/EEA. Further, a common official border control system is a very valuable tool to prevent distortion of trade and 'BCP shopping' (traders moving their trade to BCPs where they feel a more flexible or less stringent control system is in operation). Such practices can be effectively eliminated by ensuring there is a consistent official control system at EU borders where BCP officials are properly trained in the enforcement of Union rules, including the detection of fraudulent or deceptive practices.

The new OCR mandates training on official controls as a general obligation for Competent Authorities (art. 5) but also dedicates an entire chapter (Chapter III, art. 130) to the requirements for training official control

staff to be organized by the Commission.

The implementation of official border controls requires a high level of competence and expertise in staff responsible of such controls. In line with these requirements, the integration of training activities on official border controls at BCPs in the BTSF initiative is a means both to satisfy the requirements of the OCR and to promote the upgrading of border inspectors' skills, aiming to improve the effectiveness and harmonization of official controls. Further, in this training course participants can also be updated with relevant developments, outcomes of safeguard measures, common findings from audit of BCPs (Directorate F audits and reports) and EFSA opinions among others.

The objective of the training is to ensure awareness, knowledge of the EU acquis in the field of official border controls, ensuring their correct enforcement but also dissemination of best practices to ensure an efficient and uniform enforcement of EU law. All these elements will contribute to the maintenance and improvement of the border control system in place.

Main topics covered in the training

- **Selected aspects of EU legislation, especially where interpretation can be difficult, for example:**
Rules on animal welfare and other environmental fields (CITES, invasive alien species), world of equidae, non-commercial entry of pets, non-harmonized animals, rules on composite products, personal consignments (luggage, postal/courier parcels), monitoring plans, samples, destruction of kitchen waste and other waste animal products from vessels and other means of transports
- **Practical aspects of implementation procedures (best practices) for controls on imports/transits of products (documentary checks, re-entry of Union consignments, channelling, sampling of consignments, laboratory tests, re-enforced checks, non-conforming consignments etc.);**
- **Cooperation with customs services, intelligence gathering, risk assessment procedures and information exchange with other competent authorities (e.g. road feeder traffic);**
- **Use of IT systems (TRACES);**
- **Discussion groups or common problems concerning veterinary checks and on their solution, particularly with regard to infringement detections, decisions to be taken and their enforcement;**

Annex 2: Legislation and guidance

- **The new OCR and the “comprehensive set of rules built around it, particularly”**
 - **Regulation (EU) 2017/625** of 15 March 2017 on official controls and other official activities performed to ensure the application of food and feed law, rules on animal health and welfare, plant health and plant protection products;
 - **Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2019/2129** of 25 November 2019 establishing rules for the uniform application of frequency rates for identity checks and physical checks on certain consignments of animals and goods entering the Union;
 - **Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2019/2128** of 12 November 2019 establishing the model official certificate and rules for issuing official certificates for goods which are delivered to vessels leaving the Union and intended for ship supply or consumption by the crew and passengers, or to NATO or a United States' military base;

- **Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2019/2130** of 25 November 2019 establishing detailed rules on the operations to be carried out during and after documentary checks, identity checks and physical checks on animals and goods subject to official controls at border control posts;
- **Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2019/2007** of 18 November 2019 laying down rules for the application of Regulation (EU) 2017/625 of the European Parliament and of the Council as regards the lists of animals, products of animal origin, germinal products, animal by-products and derived products and hay and straw subject to official controls at border control posts and amending Decision 2007/275/EC;
- **Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2019/1873** of 7 November 2019 on the procedures at border control posts for a coordinated performance by competent authorities of intensified official controls on products of animal origin, germinal products, animal by-products and composite products;
- **Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2019/1715** of 30 September 2019 laying down rules for the functioning of the information management system for official controls and its system components (the IMSOC Regulation);
- **Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2019/1014** of 12 June 2019 to lay down detailed rules on minimum requirements for border control posts, including inspection centres, and for the format, categories and abbreviations to use for listing border control posts and control points;
- **Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2019/1013** of 16 April 2019 on prior notification of consignments of certain categories of animals and goods entering the Union;
- **Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2019/628** of 8 April 2019 concerning model official certificates for certain animals and goods and amending Regulation (EC) No 2074/2005 and Implementing Regulation (EU) 2016/759 as regards these model certificates;
- **Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2019/627** of 15 March 2019 laying down uniform practical arrangements for the performance of official controls on products of animal origin intended for human consumption in accordance with Regulation (EU) 2017/625 of the European Parliament and of the Council and amending Commission Regulation (EC) No 2074/2005 as regards official controls;
- **Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2019/626** of 5 March 2019 concerning lists of third countries or regions thereof authorised for the entry into the European Union of certain animals and goods intended for human consumption, amending Implementing Regulation (EU) 2016/759 as regards these lists;
- **Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2020/1478** of 14 October 2020 amending Implementing Regulation (EU) 2015/1375 as regards sampling, the reference method for detection and import conditions related to Trichinella control;
- **Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) 2019/2124** of 10 October 2019 supplementing Regulation (EU) 2017/625 of the European Parliament and of the Council as regards rules for official controls of consignments of animals and goods in transit, transshipment and onward transportation through the Union, and amending Commission Regulations (EC) No 798/2008, (EC) No 1251/2008, (EC) No 119/2009, (EU) No 206/2010, (EU) No 605/2010, (EU) No 142/2011, (EU) No 28/2012, Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2016/759 and Commission Decision 2007/777/EC;
- **Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) 2019/2126** of 10 October 2019 supplementing Regulation (EU) 2017/625 of the European Parliament and of the Council as regards rules for specific official controls for certain categories of animals and goods, measures to be taken following the performance of such

controls and certain categories of animals and goods exempted from official controls at border control posts;

- **Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) 2019/2122** of 10 October 2019 supplementing Regulation (EU) 2017/625 of the European Parliament and of the Council as regards certain categories of animals and goods exempted from official controls at border control posts, specific controls on passengers' personal luggage and on small consignments of goods sent to natural persons which are not intended to be placed on the market and amending Commission Regulation (EU) No 142/2011;
- **Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) 2019/2122** of 10 October 2019 supplementing Regulation (EU) 2017/625 of the European Parliament and of the Council as regards certain categories of animals and goods exempted from official controls at border control posts, specific controls on passengers' personal luggage and on small consignments of goods sent to natural persons which are not intended to be placed on the market and amending Commission Regulation (EU) No 142/2011;
- **Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) 2019/2123** of 10 October 2019 supplementing Regulation (EU) 2017/625 of the European Parliament and of the Council as regards rules for the cases where and the conditions under which identity checks and physical checks on certain goods may be performed at control points and documentary checks may be performed at distance from border control posts;
- **Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) 2019/2074** of 23 September 2019 supplementing Regulation (EU) 2017/625 of the European Parliament and of the Council as regards rules on specific official controls on consignments of certain animals and goods originating from, and returning to the Union following a refusal of entry by a third country;
- **Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) 2019/1666** of 24 June 2019 supplementing Regulation (EU) 2017/625 of the European Parliament and of the Council as regards conditions for monitoring the transport and arrival of consignments of certain goods from the border control post of arrival to the establishment at the place of destination in the Union;
- **Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) 2019/1602** of 23 April 2019 supplementing Regulation (EU) 2017/625 of the European Parliament and of the Council concerning the Common Health Entry Document accompanying consignments of animals and goods to their destination;
- **Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) 2019/1081** of 8 March 2019 establishing rules on specific training requirements for staff for performing certain physical checks at border control posts;
- **Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) 2019/1012** of 12 March 2019 supplementing Regulation (EU) 2017/625 of the European Parliament and of the Council by derogating from the rules on the designation of control points and from the minimum requirements for border control posts;
- **Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) 2019/624** of 8 February 2019 concerning specific rules for the performance of official controls on the production of meat and for production and relaying areas of live bivalve molluscs in accordance with Regulation (EU) 2017/625 of the European Parliament and of the Council;
- **Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) 2019/625** of 4 March 2019 supplementing Regulation (EU) 2017/625 of the European Parliament and of the Council with regard to requirements for the entry into the Union of consignments of certain animals and goods intended for human consumption;
- **Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) 2019/2090** of 19 June 2019 supplementing Regulation (EU) 2017/625 of the European Parliament and Council regarding cases of suspected or established non-compliance with Union rules applicable to the use or residues of pharmacologically active substances

authorised in veterinary medicinal products or as feed additives or with Union rules applicable to the use or residues of prohibited or unauthorised pharmacologically active substances;

- **Additional incoming acts and further repealed acts;**
- The **Hygiene Package**: Regulation (EC) No 853/2004 and Regulation (EC) No 853/2004 and the **General Food Law Regulation**: Regulation (EC) 178/2002
- In the **New Animal Health Law**, particularly:
 - **Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) 2020/692** of 30 January 2020 supplementing Regulation (EU) 2016/429 of the European Parliament and of the Council as regards rules for entry into the Union, and the movement and handling after entry of consignments of certain animals, germinal products and products of animal origin;
 - **Additional incoming acts and further repealed acts;**
- Document “**Overview of references Import Controls on Live Animal, Food of Animal Origin and Composite Products, Animal by-products and Genetics**”

Annex 3: Agenda

Please find the agenda of the training session attached with this invitation letter.

Annex 4: Technical requirements

The VC sessions will be organised with the use of the Zoom web conferencing tool. The participants will take part in a short Zoom test training session in the weeks before the actual session. The Zoom test training will help participants to become familiar with the Zoom platform. They will also receive some general information on the course and have the opportunity to ask questions.

The participants should have *a computer with a working camera and audio system (speaker and microphone) as well as a good internet connection.*

To avoid delays, the registered participants will be contacted for a technical test of their equipment a few days before the training sessions. This will allow participants to test their equipment and view the main features of the VC application platform. During this brief test, participants will have the chance to learn all the tools of the VC platform.

During this meeting, the Event Manager and Assistant Event Manager will also go through the main aspects of the agenda and different sessions that are foreseen. Additionally, in the morning of Day 1 of the VC, time will be dedicated to a technical session to refresh participants on the main features of the platform, and ensure connections are working properly.

Annex 5: Training material, outcomes and dissemination activities

Training material

All participants will receive the training material well in advance of the training. The material will include additional pre-recorded material for offline studies. Preparatory videos will introduce the specific topic and provide background information to participants.

Dissemination questionnaire

Two to three months after the respective training session, participants will receive a standard questionnaire requesting information on the dissemination activities of the participant after the training, and details on

differences in the approach adopted in day-to-day work following the training.

Self-assessment test

Furthermore, the programme will include an anonymous knowledge test to be carried out at the beginning and at the end of each training session in order to measure the impact of the training on the understanding of the participants of the subjects taught.

Participants are expected to agree to carry out the above tests and to reply to the surveys and questionnaires. Participant agree to be registered in the BTSF Academy and agree to be recorded during Virtual Classroom Training sessions and to take a group photo of the participants and tutors at the end of the training. Videos and photo will be published in the BTSF Academy in the corresponding Training course section and will be visible only to the registered participants in that Training course.

Please find more information regarding data protection here:

<https://btsfacademy.eu/training/mod/page/view.php?id=417>

Annex 6: Contractor contact details

The project is managed by JVL Consulting s.a.

Training Coordinator is Juan Calvo Iglesias

Project Manager is Fabiana Quadu

Separate notifications will be sent to National Contact Points for each course and will contain the names and contact details of the Event Manager and Assistant Event Manager as well as logistical details on the event.

All official communication between National Contact Points and the project will be maintained through the functional e-mail address **20209605BCP@jvl-c.com** or by phone to + **32 81 32 79 96**.