

**Voluntary Report** – Voluntary - Public Distribution

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**Report Name:** EU Import Controls on Food and Feed of Plant Origin

**Country:** European Union

**Post:** Brussels USEU

**Report Category:** FAIRS Subject Report, Sanitary/Phytosanitary/Food Safety

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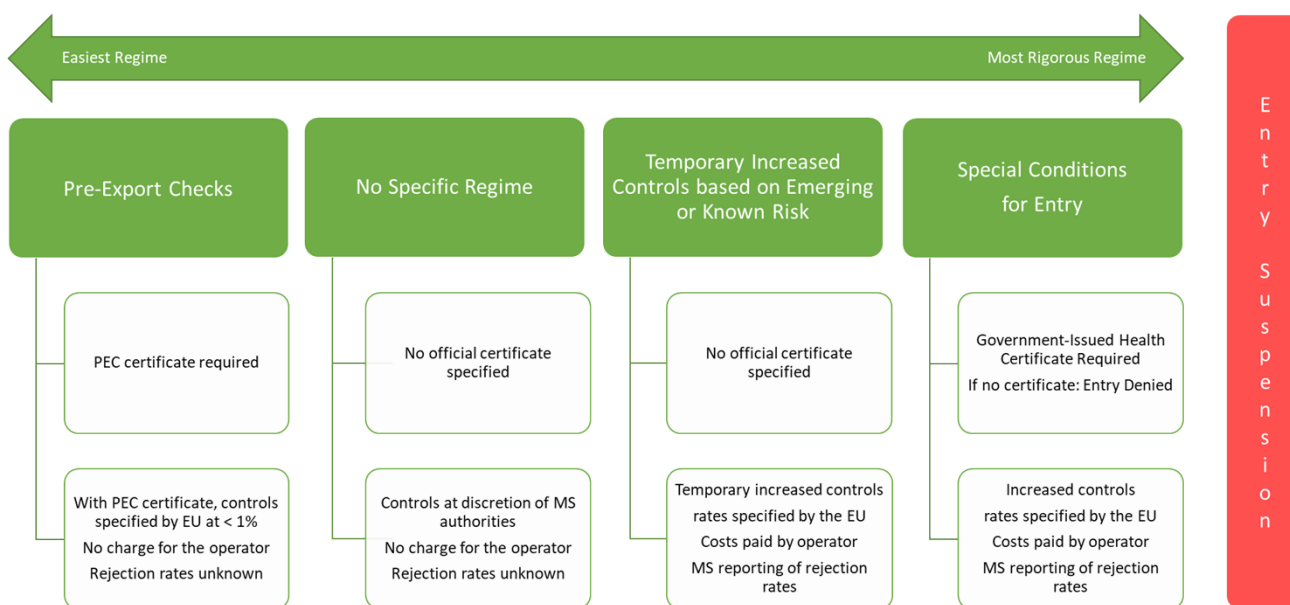
**Approved By:** Lisa Allen

**Report Highlights:**

Regulation (EU) 2017/625 is the legislative framework for the rules applicable to official controls on in the agri-food sector. The basic provisions for the EU import control systems on food and feed of plant origin are included in this comprehensive regulation while further implementing regulations provide additional details on the controls for specific hazards. Controls vary depending on the risk linked to origin of the food and feed related as perceived by the European Union. This report provides details on the different control regimes in place.

The European Union, as a major importer, applies extensive controls on imported food and feed in order to verify compliance with relevant EU requirements. The EU applies different import control system regimes depending on the perceived level of risk. Three regimes, outlined under [Commission Implementing Regulation 2015/949](#) and [Commission Implementing Regulation \(EU\) 2019/1793](#), have a series of very specific provisions, including on the testing levels for the goods upon import and on the applicable certificates. If a country/product combination does not fall into one of the regimes outlined by these regulations and its import is not explicitly prohibited, then it falls under no specific regime.

## Import Control Regimes



### Pre-Export Checks (easiest regime/lowest risk)

[Regulation 2015/949](#) approves the pre-export checks carried out on certain food by certain third countries as regards the presence of certain mycotoxins.

This regime is in place if a third country's control system is accepted under Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2015/949. For the product/origin combinations that have been included, the regulation requires that import authorities subject the consignments to less than a 1% physical control level at the border if they are accompanied by the appropriate pre-export check certificate. This document must be issued by the competent authority in the exporting country's Government and include the sampling and laboratory analysis results. This documentation (Government issued certificate plus sampling/analysis

data) is not a pre-condition for import; however, in absence of this documentation Member States are not required to apply the reduced testing levels upon import. Under this system, there is no charge for the operator for testing and the rejection rates are not specifically tracked or reported.

### No Specific Regime

Before physically entering the EU, all products may be checked for compliance with EU rules, including those that are not mentioned in one of the specific import regimes. When this situation applies, there is no specific health certificate linked to the import of the product. Controls at the port are at the discretion of the Member State authorities. There is no charge for the operator and the rejection rates are unknown.

### Temporary Increase of Official Controls

When a country is listed under temporary increased controls for a specified hazard under [Regulation 2019/1793](#), no specific health certificate is required. The increased testing rates are specified by the EU and testing is paid for by the operator. Member States report the rejection rates to the European Commission. This application of this import regime is a serious indication that the EU has concerns with the control regime at origin, but does not currently consider these concerns or the available data to be sufficient to impose special conditions for entry.

### Special Conditions for Entry

As outlined in [Regulation 2019/1793](#), under this regime, a government-issued health certificate including laboratory test results for the specified hazard is required as a pre-condition for import of the product and any further processed products specified in the regulation. If no certificate is included, the shipment is denied entry. There is also increased testing at a rate specified by the EU that is paid for by the operator. Member States report the rejection rates to the European Commission. This import regime is the most stringent regime under which goods can continue to enter the EU.

### Suspension of Entry

Finally, where it is evident that food or feed imported from a third country is likely to constitute a serious risk to human health and that such risk cannot be contained satisfactorily, the EU may suspend imports of the food or feed in question from the concerned third country. The list of suspended products from specific origins is also published in [Regulation 2019/1793](#).

The EU's use of import controls systems depends on the perceived risk related to the contamination with specific hazards of identified product/origins. The below table provides an overview of the EU's application of its different control system on different hazard in food and feed of plant origin.

### Import Control Regime and Regulation by Hazard

Import Control Regime	Pre-Export	No Specific Regime	Temporary Increase Of Controls	Special Entry Conditions	Suspension of Entry
Import Control Regulation	<a href="#">Regulation 2015/949</a>		<a href="#">Regulation 2019/1793 Annex I</a>	<a href="#">Regulation 2019/1793 Annex II</a>	<a href="#">Regulation 2019/1793 Annex IIa</a>
Mycotoxins Including Aflatoxins	X	X	X	X	
Pesticide Residues		X	X	X	X
Pentachlorophenol/ Dioxins		X		X	
Microbiological Contamination		X	X	X	X
Miscellaneous Other Chemicals		X	X		

**Attachments:**

No Attachments.