

DG Health and Food Safety

Food and veterinary audits

Programme 2027



Further information on the Health and Food Safety Directorate-General is available on the internet at:
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1. Introduction

The Directorate-General for Health and Food Safety (DG SANTE) develops and implements the Commission's policies on food and feed safety, animal health and welfare, plant health, import controls and public health. It has a Directorate located in Ireland, that notably monitors the implementation and enforcement of its policies by conducting audits and other controls in EU Member States and in third countries exporting or wishing to export plants, animals and food to the EU. This is essential for ensuring that EU policy objectives are met and for citizens to be confident that their interests are protected.

This document provides the programme of audits and other controls on food and feed safety, animal health and welfare, plant health and import controls for 2027.

2. Objectives and role of controls performed



In the EU, **operators** in the agri-food chain (such as farms, slaughterhouses, food-processing establishments and importers) have the primary responsibility for ensuring compliance with EU safety standards.

In turn, competent authorities in the **Member States** are responsible for checking operators' compliance, by means of official controls. Member States also have to set up a system to assure themselves that they carry out their official controls effectively and consistently.

Competent authorities in **third countries** exporting to the EU are also responsible for performing effective official controls to guarantee that their exports to the EU meet Union's health, safety, and quality standards.

Commission audits verify the effectiveness of official control systems in the Member States and third countries exporting food, feed, animals or plants to the EU. They also play a central role in the authorisation of a third country to export animals and animal products to the EU market.

The Commission publishes an audit report after each audit ⁽¹⁾, which may include recommendations to the competent authority to address systemic or significant non-compliances identified. Also published is the competent authority action plan addressing the recommendations.

Besides audits, the Commission also carries out

- assessments in the context of the ongoing **EU pre-accession negotiations**, to evaluate the progress of the candidate country with the implementation of the *acquis* regarding food safety, veterinary and phytosanitary policy in view of future accession to the EU.
- fact-finding visits in anticipation of the applicability of legal requirements, or in areas where the Commission needs to complete its knowledge about the operation of legislation. The results of these visits support evidence-based policy review or development, guidance to assist Member States, and the preparation of subsequent audit series. The approach is very similar to that used for audits.
- overview reports providing a summary of how a particular sector or piece of legislation is implemented based on the outcome of audits, fact finding visits, or desk-based surveys.

⁽¹⁾ <https://ec.europa.eu/food/audits-analysis/audit-report>

3. Audit priorities for 2027

The programme of audits takes account of the risks posed in the various policy areas and aligns with the Commission political priorities, notably the priority area of ‘Food security, water and nature’ ⁽²⁾ and the Commission’s 2025 [Vision for Agriculture and Food](#).

In 2027, the Commission plans to perform 144 audits in the areas of food and feed safety, animal health, animal welfare, plant health and import controls. In addition, 8 fact-finding visits will be programmed. The proportion of audits of Member States amounts to 45%, a decrease compared to previous years, as a result of an increased focus on trade-related audits and support to pre-accession.

The programme of audits for 2027 is designed to meet Commissioner Várhelyi’s commitment to reinforce controls on products imported into the EU, with the objectives of increasing (i) the number of audits of third countries by 50% to verify that they provide sufficient guarantees that their exports meet EU standards, and (ii) the number of audits on EU border control posts by 33%, to verify that Member States carry out border inspections in line with EU requirements. Both increases are relative to 2025.

Of the 144 audits, the objective for 2027 is to perform, on the ground, 58 export related audits of third countries. This represents an increase of 107% compared to the number performed in 2025. Furthermore, with eight audits planned in 2027, the number of audits on import controls at European Border Control Posts increases by 60% compared to 2025.

Support to the pre-accession process remains a priority for the programme of audits 2027, with 12 audits planned to candidate countries.

The 2027 programme will continue to contribute to One Health, with four specific fact-finding visits planned for advancing the ‘One Health’ approach, in addition to the numerous planned audits bearing a One Health dimension.

The prioritisation of topics and countries takes account of legal requirements, food safety and health risks (associated with products, their origin, production or trade volumes, evidence of non-compliance, and the outcome of past audit activities) and policy considerations.

The 2027 programme is presented in the following annexes:

- Annex 1 for third countries,
- Annex 2 for Member States,
- Annex 3 for candidate countries,
- Annex 4 by scope.

The programme can be adapted to circumstances (such as emerging risks or crises, new political priorities, or security issues).

⁽²⁾ [Political Guidelines 2024-2029](#), page 21.

Annex 1

Audits of third countries planned in 2027

Country		Scope
Code	Name	
ARG	Argentina	Food safety – residues and contaminants (animals and animal products)
		Food safety – residues and contaminants (aflatoxins in peanuts)
		Food safety – plant products (notably berries)
		Food safety – meat (poultry)
AUS	Australia	Food safety – meat
BOL	Bolivia	Food safety – irradiation ⁽¹⁾
BRA	Brazil	Food safety – residues and contaminants (pesticides in fruit and vegetables)
		Food safety – meat (poultry)
CAN	Canada	Food safety – residues and contaminants (animals and animal products)
CHE	Switzerland	Food safety – dairy products
CHL	Chile	Animal health – bovine, ovine and porcine
		Food safety – residues and contaminants (animals and animal products)
CHN	China	Food safety – plant products
		Food safety – irradiation ⁽¹⁾
ECU	Ecuador	Food safety – fishery products (tuna)
		Food safety – residues and contaminants (pesticides in fruit and vegetables)
FJI	Fiji	Food safety – fishery products
GBR	United Kingdom	Antimicrobial resistance – veterinary medicinal products (prohibition of use)
		Food safety – residues and contaminants (animals and animal products) (Northern Ireland)
		Food safety – meat and meat products
GTM	Guatemala	Food safety – fishery products
HND	Honduras	Food safety – residues and contaminants (animals and animal products)
IDN	Indonesia	Food safety – fishery products
		Food safety – residues and contaminants (animals and animal products)
IND	India	Food safety – residues and contaminants (animals and animal products)
		Food safety – residues and contaminants (pesticides in fruit and vegetables)
ISR	Israel	Plant health – plants and plant products (false codling moth)
JPN	Japan	Antimicrobial resistance – veterinary medicinal products (prohibition of use)
		Food safety – fishery products (highly and ultra processed)
		Food safety – food contact materials (from recycled plastic)
KOR	Republic of Korea	Animal health – bovine (foot and mouth disease) ⁽¹⁾

⁽¹⁾ Audit related to a market access request

Country		Scope
MAR	Morocco	Antimicrobial resistance – veterinary medicinal products (prohibition of use)
		Food safety – residues and contaminants (pesticides in fruit and vegetables)
		Plant health – plants and plant products
NAM	Namibia	Animal health – bovine (foot and mouth disease)
		Food safety – fishery products
		Food safety – residues and contaminants (animals and animal products)
		Food safety – meat (beef)
NCL	New Caledonia	Food safety – fishery products
NIC	Nicaragua	Food safety – residues and contaminants (animals and animal products)
NZL	New Zealand	Animal health – bovine and ovine (including raw milk)
PER	Peru	Food safety – residues and contaminants (pesticides in fruit and vegetables)
		Plant health – plant products (bacterial wilt in ginger)
PRY	Paraguay	Food safety – plant products (notably sesame seeds)
SUR	Suriname	Food safety – fishery products
TWN	Taiwan	Food safety – residues and contaminants (animals and animal products)
TZA	Tanzania	Food safety – fishery products
THA	Thailand	Antimicrobial resistance – veterinary medicinal products (prohibition of use)
		Food safety – live bivalve molluscs
		Food safety – meat (poultry)
		Plant health – plant products (bacterial wilt; curcuma and ginger)
UGA	Uganda	Food safety – fishery products
URY	Uruguay	Antimicrobial resistance – veterinary medicinal products (prohibition of use)
USA	United States	Food safety – fishery products
		Food safety – plant products (notably almonds)
		Food safety – dairy products
		Plant health – plant products (wood)
VEN	Venezuela	Food safety – fishery products
VNM	Viet Nam	Animal by-products – feed of insect origin ⁽²⁾
		Food safety – fishery products (highly and ultra processed)
		Food safety – plant products (notably black pepper)
ZAF	South Africa	Food safety – fishery products (highly and ultra processed)
		Food safety – food contact materials (from recycled plastic)
ZMB	Zambia	Plant health – planting material (quality of seeds) ⁽²⁾

⁽²⁾ Audit related to a market access request

Annex 2

Audits of Member States planned in 2027

Country	Scope
Belgique/België (Belgium)	Animal health – movement of animals
	Animal welfare – on-farm (broilers)
България (Bulgaria)	Feed safety – medicated feed
	Plant protection – sustainable use of pesticides
Danmark (Denmark)	Animal health – status monitoring (bovine viral diarrhoea and category C ruminant diseases)
	Animal welfare – slaughter (pigs)
	Animal health – contingency planning (category A diseases)
Deutschland (Germany)	Animal health – emergency measures (avian influenza)
	Animal health – zoonotic influenza virus (One Health approach) ⁽¹⁾
	Antimicrobial resistance – veterinary medicinal products (use)
	Feed safety – feed hygiene
	Import controls – live animals and animal products
Eesti (Estonia)	Animal health – emergency measures (African swine fever)
Éire/Ireland	Animal health – emergency measures (avian influenza)
	Food safety – fishery products (highly and ultra processed) ⁽¹⁾
	Import controls – live animals, plants and their products
Ελλάδα (Greece)	Animal health – vector borne diseases (One Health approach) ⁽¹⁾
España (Spain)	Animal health – movement of animals
	Feed safety – medicated feed
	Food safety – poultry (microbiological contamination/animal health)
	Food safety – poultry (microbiological contamination/public health)
	Food safety – food contact materials (from recycled plastic)
	Food safety – fishery products (highly and ultra processed) ⁽¹⁾
	Import controls – live animals and animal products
	Import controls – plants and plant products
	Plant protection – sustainable use of pesticides
France	Animal health – emergency measures (lumpy skin disease)
	Antimicrobial resistance – veterinary medicinal products (use)
	Food safety – residues and contaminants (animals and animal products)
	Import controls – live animals and animal products
	Import controls – plants and plant products

⁽¹⁾ Fact-finding visit

Country	Scope
Hrvatska (Croatia)	Animal health – emergency measures (African swine fever)
	Antimicrobial resistance – veterinary medicinal products (use)
	Food safety – residues and contaminants (animals and animal products)
	Genetically modified organisms – trials, seed, feed and food
	Plant health – movement of plants
Italia (Italy)	Animal health – status monitoring (brucellosis)
	Animal welfare – on-farm (broilers)
	Food safety – food contact materials (from recycled plastic)
	Food safety – fishery products (highly and ultra processed) ⁽²⁾
	Plant health – movement of plants
	Plant protection – sustainable use of pesticides
Κύπρος (Cyprus)	Import controls – live animals, plants and their products
Latvija (Latvia)	Antimicrobial resistance – veterinary medicinal products (use)
Lietuva (Lithuania)	Food safety – fishery products (highly and ultra processed) ⁽²⁾
Magyarország (Hungary)	Animal health – emergency measures (avian influenza)
	Animal health – emergency measures (foot and mouth disease)
	Animal welfare – slaughter (pigs)
Malta	Import controls – live animals, plants and their products
Nederland (Netherlands)	Food safety – poultry (microbiological contamination/animal health)
	Food safety – poultry (microbiological contamination/public health)
	Food safety – fishery products (highly and ultra processed) ⁽²⁾
	Plant protection – sustainable use of pesticides
Österreich (Austria)	Animal welfare – slaughter (pigs)
	Animal health – contingency planning (category A diseases)
	Plant protection – sustainable use of pesticides
Polska (Poland)	Animal health – status monitoring (brucellosis)
	Animal welfare – on-farm (broilers)
	Plant health – emergency measures (potato ring rot)
Portugal	Animal health – status monitoring (Aujeszky's disease)
	Animal health – vector borne diseases (One Health approach) ⁽²⁾
	Plant protection – sustainable use of pesticides
România (Romania)	Antimicrobial resistance – veterinary medicinal products (use)
	Animal health – emergency measures (sheep pox; peste des petits ruminants)
	Plant protection – sustainable use of pesticides
Slovensko (Slovakia)	Antimicrobial resistance – veterinary medicinal products (use)
	Food safety – poultry (microbiological contamination/animal health)
	Food safety – poultry (microbiological contamination/public health)

⁽²⁾ Fact-finding visit

Annex 3

Audits of candidate countries planned in 2027

Enlargement related audits⁽¹⁾

Country	Scope
Crna Gora/Црна Гора (Montenegro)	EU enlargement – animal health
	EU enlargement – food safety
	EU enlargement – import controls (live animals, plants and their products)
	EU enlargement – plant protection (sustainable use of pesticides; residues)
Republica Moldova (Moldova)	EU enlargement – import controls (live animals, plants and their products)
	EU enlargement – plant health
Shqipëria (Albania)	EU enlargement – animal health; animal welfare; animal by-products
	EU enlargement – food safety
	EU enlargement – import controls (live animals, plants and their products)
Україна (Ukraine)	EU enlargement – plant protection (sustainable use of pesticides; residues)

Export related audits

Country	Scope
Северна Македонија (North Macedonia)	Animal health – poultry (meat)
Türkiye	Food safety – live bivalve molluscs

⁽¹⁾ Commission assessments carried out in the context of EU accession to evaluate the progress of the candidate country in the implementation of the legislative *acquis* on food safety and on veterinary and phytosanitary policy.

Annex 4

Audits planned in 2027 by scope

Third countries exporting to the EU

<i>Domain</i>	<i>Scope</i>	<i>Country</i>
Animal health		
Live animals and animal products	Bovine, ovine and porcine	Chile
	Bovine	Namibia
	Poultry	North Macedonia
	Bovine and ovine	New Zealand
	To be decided	To be decided
Plant health		
Plants and plant products	False codling moth	Israel
		Morocco
	Ginger (bacterial wilt)	Peru
		Thailand
	Wood	United States
Food safety		
Residues and contaminants	Animal products	Argentina, Canada, Chile, Honduras, India, Indonesia, Namibia, Nicaragua and Taiwan
		Desk-based assessment of residue control plans of 30 non-EU countries (estimate)
	Pesticides in fruit and vegetable	Brazil, Ecuador, India, Morocco and Peru
	Aflatoxins in peanuts	Argentina
Fish and fishery products		Fiji, Guatemala, Indonesia, Namibia, New Caledonia, Suriname, Tanzania, Uganda, United States and Venezuela
	Highly and ultra processed	Japan, South Africa and Vietnam
	Tuna	Ecuador
Live bivalve molluscs		Thailand and Türkiye
Meat and meat products	Red meat	Australia
	Poultry	Argentina, Brazil and Thailand
	Beef	Namibia
		United Kingdom
Dairy	Dairy products	United States
Plant products	Microbiological contamination	Argentina (notably berries), China, Paraguay (notably sesame seeds), United States (notably almonds) and Vietnam (notably black pepper)
Food contact material	Made of recycled plastics	Japan and South Africa
Antimicrobial resistance		
Veterinary medicinal products	Prohibition of use	Japan, Morocco, Thailand, United Kingdom and Uruguay

Third country requesting access to the EU market

<i>Domain</i>	<i>Scope</i>	<i>Country</i>
Animal health		
Live animals and animal products	Bovine	Republic of Korea
Plant health		
Seeds	Quality of seeds	Zambia
Food safety		
	Irradiation	Bolivia and China
	Animal products	Two countries to be decided
Animal by-products		
Feed	Feed of insect origin	Viet Nam

Candidate countries preparing accession to the EU ⁽¹⁾

<i>Scope</i>	<i>Country</i>
EU enlargement	
Animal health	Montenegro
Animal health, animal welfare and animal by-products	Albania
Plant health	Moldova Two other countries to be decided
Plant protection (sustainable use of pesticides; residues)	Montenegro and Ukraine
Food safety	Albania and Montenegro
Import controls (live animals, plants and their products)	Albania, Montenegro and Moldova

⁽¹⁾ Commission assessments carried out in the context of EU accession to evaluate the progress of the candidate country in the implementation of the legislative *acquis* on food safety and on veterinary and phytosanitary policy.

Member States

<i>Domain</i>	<i>Scope</i>	<i>Country</i>
Animal health		
Emergency measures	African swine fever	Estonia and Croatia
	Avian influenza	Germany, Ireland and Hungary
	Lumpy skin disease	France
	Foot and mouth disease	Hungary
	Sheep pox & peste des petits ruminants	Romania
Status monitoring	Category B & C diseases	Denmark (bovine viral diarrhoea and category C ruminant diseases)
		Italy (brucellosis)
		Poland (brucellosis)
		Portugal (Aujeszky's disease)
Movement of animals		Belgium and Spain
Contingency planning	Category A diseases	Denmark and Austria
One Health approach	Vector borne diseases	Greece and Portugal (fact-finding visits)
	Zoonotic influenza virus	Germany (fact-finding visit)
Animal welfare		
Slaughter	Pigs	Denmark, Hungary and Austria
On farm	Broilers	Belgium, Italy and Poland
Plant health		
Plant health	Emergency measures	Poland (potato ring rot) Two other Member States to be decided
	Movement of plants	Croatia and Italy
Plant protection		
Pesticides	Sustainable use	Bulgaria, Spain, Italy, Netherlands, Austria, Portugal and Romania
Genetically modified organisms		
GMOs	Trials, seeds, feed and food	Croatia
Food safety		
Residues and contaminants	Animals and animal products	France, Croatia and United Kingdom (Northern Ireland) ⁽¹⁾
		Desk-based assessments of residue control plans of EU Member States and Northern Ireland ⁽¹⁾
Fishery products	Highly and ultra processed fishery products	Ireland, Spain, Italy, Lithuania and Netherlands

¹ To verify that the United Kingdom in respect of Northern Ireland complies with EU requirements in the context of its obligations pursuant to the Ireland/Northern Ireland protocol to the withdrawal agreement between the UK and the EU (as amended by the Windsor Framework)

<i>Domain</i>	<i>Scope</i>	<i>Country</i>
Food safety		
Dairy products		Switzerland ⁽²⁾
Poultry	Microbiological contamination (public health)	Spain, Netherland, Slovakia
	Microbiological contamination (animal health)	Spain, Netherlands, Slovakia
Food contact material	Made of recycled plastic	Spain and Italy
Feed safety		
Feed	Medicated feed	Bulgaria and Spain
	Feed hygiene	Germany
Import controls		
Border control posts	Live animals and animal products	Germany, Spain and France
	live animals, plants and their products	Ireland, Cyprus and Malta
	Plants and plant products	Spain and France
	Border control posts assessments	On-site controls, before designation
Antimicrobial resistance		
Veterinary medicinal product	Use	Germany, France, Croatia, Latvia, Romania, Slovakia One more to be decided

² In accordance with Annex 11 of the Agreement between the European Community and the Swiss Confederation on trade in agricultural products (OJ L 114, , pp. 132) ELI: [http://data.europa.eu/eli/agree_internation/2002/309\(4\)/oj](http://data.europa.eu/eli/agree_internation/2002/309(4)/oj)

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