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DIRECTORATE-GENERAL FOR HEALTH AND FOOD SAFETY

Crisis preparedness in food, animals and plants  
**Food hygiene and fraud**

## **IMPORT OF COMPOSITE PRODUCTS INTO THE EU**

### **QUESTIONS & ANSWERS**

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<b>CHANGES COMPARED TO VERSION OF 15 March 2021</b>
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**Revised questions:**

- 1.12
- 2.3

**New questions:**

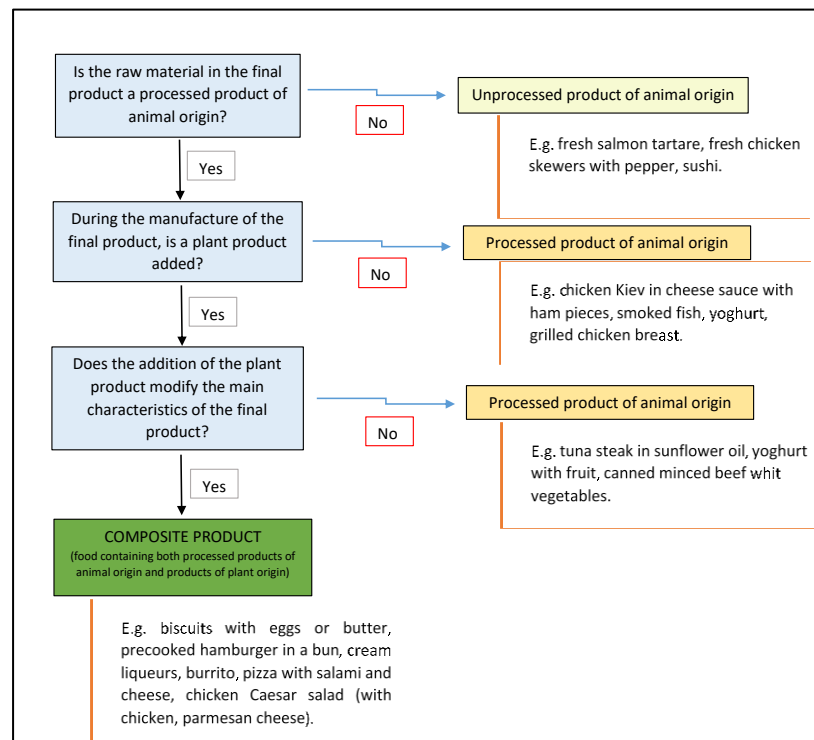
- 1.19 to 1.20
- 2.13
- 4.9 to 4.20
- 5.5

## 1. GENERAL

### 1.1. What is a composite product?

A composite product is a food containing both processed products of animal origin and products of plant origin.

It is necessary to distinguish between composite products, processed products of animal origin (PPAO) and products, which could erroneously be considered as composite products. Though the decision should be made in the case by case basis, the following decision tree helps making a first assessment



### 1.2. Are there differences in the categories of composite products intended to be exported to the EU after 21 April 2021?

Yes. Article 12 of Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) 2019/625 establishes three categories of composite products:

- (1) non shelf-stable composite products,
- (2) shelf-stable composite products that contain any quantity of meat products, except gelatine, collagen and highly refined products, and
- (3) shelf-stable composite products that do not contain meat products, except gelatine, collagen and highly refined products

The requirements on the country of origin and the guarantees accompanying the composite products depend on their category. However, the requirements applicable to processed products of animal origin contained in the composite products are the same for the three categories.



**1.3. What is the difference between a non shelf-stable and a shelf-stable composite product?**

A non shelf-stable composite product needs to be transported or stored under controlled temperature. It is not the case for shelf-stable composite products which can be kept at ambient temperature.

**1.4. What is not a composite product?**

The addition of a product of plant origin during the processing defined in Article 2(1)(m) of Regulation (EC) No 852/2004 of an animal product does not automatically mean that the resulting food falls within the definition of composite products. If such addition does not modify the main characteristics of the final product, the latter is not a composite product. It can be to add special characteristics or necessary for the manufacture of the product of animal origin (Article 2(1)(o) of Regulation (EC) No 852/2004).

For instance, a cheese to which herbs are added or a yogurt to which fruit is added remain dairy products. Similarly, canned tuna to which vegetable oil is added remains a fishery product. These foodstuffs must be produced in approved establishments in accordance with Regulation (EC) No 853/2004.

**1.5. What percentage of a processed product of animal origin makes a food subject to the rules applicable to composite products?**

What makes foodstuff subject to the rules applicable to the composite products is the fact that it is made by both products of vegetable origin and processed products of animal origin. The percentage of processed product of animal origin included in the composite product is irrelevant.

**1.6. What is the main change to the rules applicable to the import of composite products into the EU from 21 April 2021 onwards?**

Import requirements are no longer based on the percentage of the processed products of animal origin in the composite product but rather on the animal health or public health risk linked to those ingredients of animal origin and on the need to transport or store composite products under controlled temperature conditions.

**1.7. The composite product I manufacture contains very small amounts of processed products of animal origin, essentially present for technological reasons. Does it have to fulfil all of the relevant requirements for composite products?**

Yes. The percentage of ingredients of animal origin in the composite product is irrelevant when determining which rules apply to a composite product.

**1.8. Are confectionery products composite products?**

Not necessarily. Only those confectionery products that contain both products of vegetable origin and processed products of animal origin are composite products.

### **1.9. Where can I find the legal requirements applicable to composite products?**

The hygiene requirements for the production of composite products are set in Articles 3 to 6 of Regulation (EC) No 852/2004.

The conditions applicable to the import of composite products are set in Articles 12 to 14 of Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2019/625.

The official certificate and the private attestation which must accompany the composite products, according to their categories, are laid down in, respectively, chapter 50 of Annex III and Annex V to Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2020/2235.

The relevant list of third countries from which composite products may enter the EU is read in the context of the list establishing third countries authorised to export to the EU meat products, fishery products, dairy and colostrum based products and egg products. In addition, Commission Decision 2011/163/EU is relevant with regard to the monitoring of residues in animal products and such animal products, when processed, end up in composite products.

In the case of composite products presenting a lower risk, Commission Implementing Regulation [C/2021/899] grants an exemption from official controls of those composite products at border control posts; such controls should be performed at the place of destination, the point of release for free circulation, or the warehouses or premises of the operator responsible for the consignment of the composite product.

### **1.10. Why were the control requirements currently applicable to composite products (based on the percentage of processed products of animal origin) changed?**

The rules for the composite products were adapted using a more “risk-based approach” relying on principles such as shelf-stability and the presence of meat in the products (which poses an animal health risk). This approach takes into account the conclusions of a 2012 EFSA opinion on the risk represented by composite products<sup>1</sup>.

### **1.11. What is meant by “controlled temperature”?**

“Controlled temperature” means that the products have been produced in a way that does not allow their transport and storage at ambient temperature.

If the choice is made to transport or store a shelf-stable composite product under controlled temperature, for instance to preserve its quality, the requirements for a shelf-stable composite product remain applicable.

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<sup>1</sup> EFSA Journal 2012; 10(5):2662 <https://efsa.onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/epdf/10.2903/j.efsa.2012.2662>

**1.12. What if my composite product does not fall under the combined nomenclature (CN) codes listed in Article 12 of Commission Regulation (EU) 2019/625?**

For composite products not listed under the CN codes referred to in Article 12 of that Regulation, the requirements of that Regulation do not apply to them. The list will be updated as necessary.

**1.13. I mix an unprocessed product of animal origin and technological ingredients derived from a processed product of animal origin (e.g. albumin binder), do I make a composite product?**

No. The final product is not a composite product for two reasons: 1) it does not contain any product of plant origin and 2) it contains an unprocessed product of animal origin.

**1.14. Is it required to only include processed products of plant origin in a composite product?**

No. A composite product contains both products of plant origin and processed products of animal origin, but there is no requirement to use only processed products of plant origin in the manufacture of the composite product.

**1.15. Am I allowed to use unprocessed products of animal origin to manufacture a composite product?**

You are allowed to start the manufacture of a composite product from an unprocessed product of animal origin as long as the processing of the product of animal origin is part of the manufacture of the final product. In that case, the establishment manufacturing the composite product must be approved in accordance with Regulation (EC) No 853/2004.

**1.16. How can I differentiate processed products of animal origin with vegetable content from composite products containing processed products of animal origin?**

The addition of a product of plant origin to a processed product of animal origin does not automatically mean that the resulting food falls within the meaning of Article 1(2) of Regulation (EC) No 853/2004 or within the definition of composite products. If such an addition does not modify the main characteristics of the final product, then the latter is not a composite product. E.g. cheeses to which herbs are added or yogurts to which fruit is added remain dairy products. They must be manufactured in accordance with Regulation (EC) No 853/2004.

This is a case by case decision considering the use variety of products recipes. In case of doubt, the operator will have to provide details to border control post staff to allow conclusion whether the product is a composite product or not. The product may need to be subjected to a physical inspection to assist in the determination.

**1.17. If I mix unprocessed products of animal origin and products of plant origin, do I make a composite product?**

No. This is not a composite product as it contains an unprocessed product of animal origin.

**1.18. I am adding a plant compound to a processed animal product. Is the final product always considered as a composite product?**

Not necessarily. The addition of a product of plant origin during the processing (defined in Article 2(1)(m) of Regulation (EC) No 853/2004) of an animal product does not automatically mean that the resulting food falls within the definition of a composite product. If such an addition does not modify the main characteristics of the final product, then the latter is not a composite product.

**1.19. My product made with 100% plant origin ingredients requires the use of processing aids during its manufacture, including processing aids obtained from foods of animal origin. Does it make it a composite product?**

No it is not a composite product as according to the EU definition of processing aids, they are not present in the final product at all or are present only as unintentional but technically unavoidable residues.

**1.20. A coffee pod product includes both coffee and dairy in the same pod. Is it considered to be a composite product?**

If they are in the same pod, it is a composite product. However as the corresponding CN code is not listed in Article 12 of Regulation (EC) No 2019/625, this product is not subject to the importing conditions for composite products.

Should the products be presented in two separate pods, one for coffee and another for dairy, the dairy component should be considered as any other dairy product and respect the rules for that commodity.

## **2. REQUIREMENTS FOR PROCESSED PRODUCTS OF ANIMAL ORIGIN CONTAINED IN THE COMPOSITE PRODUCT**

### **2.1. Am I allowed to use processed products of animal origin from any source in the composite products I manufacture?**

No. Article 1(2) of Regulation (EC) No 853/2004, which has been applying since 2006, clearly spells out that the processed products of animal origin used to prepare composite products are to be obtained and handled in accordance with the requirements of that Regulation. This implies that the processed products of animal origin are to be obtained from EU-approved establishments located either in the EU Member States or in third countries. These third countries must be listed in the relevant EU list and the establishments must be approved by the competent authority in the third country (as complying with EU hygiene rules) and duly listed in the Commission's Trade Control and Expert System (TRACES). Furthermore, the third country must be listed in the Annex to Decision 2011/163/EU (approved residue monitoring plans).

### **2.2. Why am I asked to now use in my composite products, processed products of animal origin from EU-listed establishments?**

This is an existing requirement since 2006. Whilst Regulation (EC) No 853/2004 excludes composite products from its scope, it makes it clear that such products can only be manufactured with ingredients of animal origin coming from EU-approved establishments.

### **2.3. If my country imports fishery products or processed fishery products from EU-listed establishments in third countries and these products are reprocessed to make composite products, does the establishment reprocessing those fishery products have to be EU-approved?**

Yes, it is compulsory. The requirement is laid down in Article 5 of Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) 2019/625. Approval as a processing establishment is required if the fish ingredient is processed or reprocessed in the establishment prior to its use in the manufacture of the composite product.

Such processing or reprocessing of the ingredient of animal origin to be used in the composite product should be distinguished from the processing necessary to the manufacture of the composite product.

### **2.4. When a composite product is made with a vegetable extract (plant origin) and a negligible amount of a fishery product (or another processed product of animal origin), are both establishments required to be EU-approved in order for the composite to be exported to the EU?**

No, in this case, only the establishments manufacturing the products of animal origin must be EU-approved and listed in the Commission's Trade Control and Expert System (TRACES).

The establishments dispatching, obtaining or preparing consignments of goods detailed in Article 5 of Commission Regulation (EU) 2019/625 are to appear on lists drawn up and kept up-to-date in accordance with Article 127(3)(e)(ii) and (iii) of Regulation (EU) 2017/625.

**2.5. If my establishment is located in a third country and sources meat products from EU-approved facilities for use in the manufacture of a composite product, is the composite product allowed for export to the EU?**

If the composite product is non shelf-stable and contains meat products as well as other processed products of animal origin, the country where the establishment manufacturing the composite product is located has to be authorised to export to the EU, meat products as well as the other products of animal origin contained in the composite product.

If the composite product is shelf-stable and contains meat products and possibly other products of animal origin, the third country where the establishment manufacturing the composite product is located has to be authorised to export meat products to the EU.

The sourcing of processed meat products included in the composite product is conditioned to the provisions of additional guarantees as regards the monitoring of residues in, and the animal health status of, the country of origin of such processed meat products.

For residues, the country where the composite product is manufactured has to be listed in Commission Decision 2011/163/EU for each product of animal origin contained in the composite product. In case of sourcing a processed product of animal origin from a third country already listed in Commission Decision 2011/163/EU, the country where the composite product is manufactured must inform the Commission in writing of this intention, in order to be listed in that Decision with a footnote indicating that it intends to source the processed product of animal origin in question.

Furthermore, such composite products may only enter the EU if the processed products of animal origin contained in the composite products comply with all of the relevant animal health requirements for entry into the EU of products of animal origin laid down in Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) 2020/692 and they (the processed products of animal origin) have been obtained either:

- a) in the same listed third country of origin of the composite product manufacture;
- b) in the EU; or
- c) in a third country which is listed for entry into the EU of those products without them undergoing a specific risk-mitigating treatment, if the third country where the composite product is produced is also listed for entry into the EU under the same conditions.

**2.6. Is lactose to be considered as a processed product of animal origin?**

Yes. This is a processed product of animal origin and must therefore be obtained in an EU-approved establishment and originate from a third country allowed to export dairy products to the EU. The raw milk from which the lactose is derived must have been subject to residue monitoring and the country listed for milk in the Annex to the residues Decision (2011/163/EU).

**2.7. Do all establishments producing processed products of animal origin contained in the composite product have to be EU-approved regardless of the percentage of ingredient of animal origin (even if the content is less than 1%)?**

Yes. Each processed product of animal origin must come from an EU-approved establishment, independent of their percentage in the composite product. This has been required since 2006, when the EU food hygiene legislation (Regulation (EC) No 853/2004) became applicable.

**2.8. For the manufacture of a composite product in my establishment, I would like to buy processed products of animal origin from a food-processing establishment in my country which has not yet been listed as EU-approved. Is this possible? If not how do I make it possible?**

It is not possible. The establishments dispatching, obtaining or preparing consignments of processed products of animal origin that you would intend to use in the manufacture of your composite product have to first be approved by the competent authority in your country to export to the European Union. This requirement is laid down in Regulation (EC) No 853/2004 and has been applicable since 2006.

In order to approve the establishment, the competent authority must inspect it to verify that the operator can produce the product of animal origin in compliance with EU rules. When the competent authority is satisfied that this is the case, it has to inform the Commission and the establishment can then be listed in the Commission's database, TRACES.

**2.9. My country wants to export a non shelf-stable composite product with processed products of animal origin obtained in an EU-approved establishment. What else do I need to export my composite product to the European Union?**

Non shelf-stable composite products may enter the EU only if they come from a third country listed for entry into the EU of each of the products of animal origin contained in those composite products.

In addition, such composite products may enter the EU only if the processed products of animal origin contained in the composite products comply with all of the relevant animal health requirements for entry into the EU of products of animal origin laid down in Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) 2020/692. Such processed products of animal origin must have been obtained either in the same third country of manufacture of the composite products, in the EU or in a third country listed for entry into the EU of those processed products of animal origin without them undergoing a specific risk-mitigating treatment, if the third country where the composite product is produced is also listed for entry into the EU under the same conditions.

**2.10. Are there animal health obligations applicable to dairy or egg products included in a composite product?**

Yes, there are.

Non shelf-stable composite products may enter the EU only if they come from a third country listed for entry into the EU of each of the products of animal origin contained in those composite products. In addition, such composite products may enter the EU only if the processed products of animal origin contained in the composite products comply with all of the relevant animal health requirements for entry into the EU of products of animal origin laid down in Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) 2020/692. Such processed products of animal origin must have been obtained either in the same third country of manufacture of the composite products, in the EU or in a third country listed for entry into the EU of those processed products of animal origin without them undergoing a specific risk-mitigating treatment, if the third country where the composite product is produced is also listed for entry into the EU under the same conditions.

In the case of shelf-stable composite products containing only dairy or egg products, they may enter the EU if the processed dairy products and the processed egg products contained in the composite products have been subjected to a risk mitigation treatment:

- composite products that contain dairy products that have been treated with one of the two treatments referred to in column B of Annex XXVII to Commission Delegated Regulation(EU) 2020/692.
- composite products that contain egg products that have been treated with one of the treatments referred to in Annex XXVIII to Commission Delegated Regulation(EU) 2020/692.

**2.11. My country wants to export a shelf-stable composite product containing meat made with processed products of animal origin obtained in an EU-approved establishment. What else do I need to export my composite product to the European Union?**

Shelf-stable composite products containing meat products may enter the EU only if they come from a third country listed for entry into the EU of the meat product contained in those composite products.

The meat products contained in the composite products must comply not only with the public health requirements but also with all of the relevant animal health requirements for entry into the EU of products of animal origin laid down in Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) 2020/692. The country from which the processed product of animal origin originates must also be listed in Decision 2011/163/EU with an approved residue monitoring plan for the species in question.

**2.12. My composite product is made with a processed product of animal origin sourced from another third country eligible to export this animal product to the EU. Must my country have an approved residues monitoring plan?**

Yes. The third country manufacturing the composite product must have an approved residues monitoring plan and therefore be listed in Commission Decision 2011/163/EU for each of the animal species/commodities from which the processed products of animal origin contained in the composite product have been derived.



**2.13. Are animal derived food additives processed product of animal origin?**

Yes. They must therefore be obtained in an EU-approved establishment and originate from a third country allowed to export such processed products to the EU.

### 3. REQUIREMENTS APPLICABLE TO THE COUNTRIES OF ORIGIN OF THE COMPOSITE PRODUCTS

The general rules and requirements applicable to the countries of origin of the composite products can be summarised as follows:

**Non-shelf-stable** composite products shall originate from countries authorised for entry into the European Union, in the relevant legislation on animal health, public health and residues <sup>2</sup>, for each processed product of animal origin contained in the composite product;

**Shelf-stable** composite products that **contain processed meat** shall originate from countries authorised for the entry into the European Union for the meat products contained in the composite product (including for the control of residues <sup>2</sup>);

**Shelf-stable** composite products **that do not contain processed meat** shall originate from countries authorised for the entry into the European Union of meat products **or** dairy products/colostrum-based products **or** fishery products **or** egg products, including for the respective control of residues <sup>2</sup>.

**Moreover, some animal health rules are applicable for certain composite products and certain ingredients:**

Composite products containing meat products and composite products containing dairy products or egg products which have not been processed to become shelf-stable will only be permitted to enter the EU if they come from a third country or a territory or zone thereof, which is listed for entry into the EU of the specific product of animal origin contained in those composite products. In addition, such composite products will only be permitted to enter the EU if the processed products of animal origin contained in the composite products comply with all of the relevant animal health requirements for entry into the EU of products of animal origin laid down in Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) 2020/692 and they (the processed products of animal origin) have been obtained either:

- (1) in the *same* listed third country or territory of origin or zone thereof of the composite product manufacture;
- (2) in the EU; or
- (3) in a third country or territory or zone thereof which is listed for entry into the EU of those products without them undergoing a specific risk-mitigating treatment if the third country or territory or zone thereof where the composite product is produced is *also* listed for entry into the EU under the same conditions.

**Shelf-stable composite products containing dairy or egg products** will be permitted to enter the EU if the dairy products and the egg products contained in the composite products have been subjected to a risk mitigation treatment:.

- composite products that contain dairy products that have been treated with one of the two treatments referred to in column B of Annex XXVII to Commission Delegated Regulation(EU) 2020/692.

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<sup>2</sup> Commission Decision No 2011/163/EU of 16 March 2011 on the approval of plans submitted by third countries in accordance with Article 29 of Council Directive 96/23/EC OJ L 70, 17.3.2011, p. 40

- composite products that contain egg products that have been treated with one of the treatments referred to in Annex XXVIII to Commission Delegated Regulation(EU) 2020/692.

**3.1. My country wants to export a shelf-stable composite product not containing meat made with processed products of animal origin obtained from an EU-approved establishment. What else do I need to export my composite product to the European Union?**

Such composite products can only use processed products of animal origin sourced from the EU countries or from third countries authorised (for animal health purposes) for the entry into the European Union of either meat products or dairy/colostrum-based products or fishery products or egg products, including for the respective control of residues.

Furthermore, the third country *manufacturing* the composite product must also be listed in the residues Decision (2011/163/EU) for the commodity of animal origin present in your composite product.

**3.2. My country is only authorised to export honey to the EU. Am I allowed to export shelf-stable composite products to the EU?**

No. Only countries listed by the EU for the export of meat products or fishery products or dairy products/colostrum-based products or egg products are allowed to export shelf-stable composite products that do not contain meat to the EU.

**3.3. My country is authorised to export fishery products to the EU. Am I allowed to export any shelf-stable composite products that do not contain meat products to the EU?**

Yes. Shelf-stable composite products that do not contain processed meat must originate from countries authorised for the entry into the EU of meat products or dairy products/colostrum-based products or fishery products or egg products, having an approved residue monitoring plan and being listed in Decision 2011/163/EU for the corresponding products.

**3.4. My country is authorised to export fishery products to the EU. Am I allowed to export shelf-stable composite products containing meat to the EU?**

No. Shelf-stable composite products containing processed meat must originate from third countries authorised for the entry into the European Union for the meat products contained in the composite product (including for the control of residues).

**3.5. My country is authorised to export meat products to the EU. Am I allowed to export non-shelf stable composite products containing dairy to the EU?**

No. Non shelf-stable composite products must originate from countries authorised for entry into the European Union, in the relevant legislation on animal health, public health and residues, for each processed product of animal origin contained in the composite product.

**3.6. As long as the processed products of animal origin contained in my composite product come from EU-approved establishments, can I export any composite product to the EU?**

No. Additional conditions apply. If the composite product is non shelf-stable, its (third) country of production must be listed for each ingredient of animal origin contained in the composite products.

For instance, for a frozen pizza, the salami, the anchovies and the cheese must come from a third country listed for meat products and fishery products and dairy products respectively.

If the composite product is shelf-stable and does not contain meat products, the country of production must be listed for the export to the EU of either meat products or fishery products or dairy products or egg products. Such an authorisation includes the control of residues and the country where the establishment manufacturing the composite product is located has also to be listed in Commission Decision 2011/163/EU for each of the animal species/commodities from which the processed products of animal origin contained in the composite product have been derived.

**3.7. When a third country manufactures ice cream using dairy products from EU-approved establishments, will it be able to export such ice cream from 21 April 2021 onwards?**

Yes. If that country is listed among the third countries authorised to export dairy products to the EU (for animal/public health and for residues), then it can export ice cream.

**3.8. If a third country is authorised to export dairy products, fishery products or egg products to the EU, is this country eligible to export shelf stable composite products to the EU, regardless of the processed product of animal origin for which this country is authorised, and provided that the processed product of animal origin contained in the final composite product come from the EU listed establishment?**

Yes, under the condition that the shelf-stable composite products intended to be exported to the EU do not contain meat products.

The export of shelf-stable composite products that contain meat is allowed only if the third country manufacturing the composite products is authorised to export to the EU the meat products contained in the composite products.

**3.9. My country wants to export a composite product. What are the requirements on residues?**

The third country where the composite products are manufactured must be listed in Commission Decision 2011/163/EU for each of the animal species (e.g. bovine, ovine, porcine etc.) or raw commodity (e.g. milk, eggs etc.) from which the processed products of animal origin contained in these composite products are derived. Thus if the composite contains processed dairy products, processed egg products and processed bovine meat, the third country should be listed in the above Decision with an approved residue monitoring plan for bovine animals, milk and eggs.

The third country manufacturing the composite product needs to be listed in that Decision even if the processed animal products are sourced from another approved third country or from an EU Member State. In that case the third country manufacturing the composite product will be listed in the Decision with a footnote. To be so listed, the country must inform the Commission in writing of its intention to source the processed animal products as described above.

For composite products to be allowed to enter the EU, they must come from a country authorised to export certain products of animal of origin to the EU. The higher the risk posed by the composite product, the more requirements for its country of origin. The authorisation of a third country to export to the EU a given product of animal origin encompasses both animal and public health requirements, including the monitoring of residues, as clearly stated in Article 12 of Regulation (EU) No 2019/625. As a consequence, being listed only in the texts referred to in your question is not sufficient for your country to export composite products.

**3.10. My third country is on a list of third countries authorised to export fishery products to the EU and has an approved residue monitoring plan for fishery products (of aquaculture origin), but not for dairy/egg products. If my third country sources dairy or egg products contained in shelf-stable composite products from an EU Member State or from an EU listed establishments in another listed third country, is my third country eligible to export such composite products to the EU?**

Yes, provided that your country is listed in Commission Decision 2011/163/EU for each of the processed products of animal origin contained in these composite products. Such listing implies that your country has a residue monitoring plan approved for those products or that it intends to source them from an EU Member State or a third country which is listed in this Decision for those commodities. In the case it intends to source the processed products, the third country manufacturing the composite product must inform the Commission in writing of its intention in order to also be listed in Decision 2011/163/EU but with a footnote indicating such sourcing.

**3.11. Is the EU planning to list establishments manufacturing composite products in third countries?**

No. Establishments in a third country which are manufacturing composite products should be *registered* by the responsible competent authority. They do not need to be *approved* by the competent authority and listed in TRACES. However, the establishments processing the products of animal origin contained in the composite product must be EU-approved and listed in TRACES. In the event that an establishment in a third country manufacturing composite products was also processing products of animal origin it would need to be EU-approved and listed in TRACES.

**3.12. If all of the processed products of animal origin contained in the shelf-stable composite products manufactured in my country are sourced from an EU Member State or from an EU-approved establishment located in a listed third country, must my country also be listed in the Annex to Decision 2011/163/EU?**

Yes. The requirement to monitor the residues of chemical substances stays. Should your country not have an approved residue monitoring plan for each ingredient of animal origin contained in the composite product (i.e. your country is not currently listed in Decision 2011/163/EU), it remains possible to source such ingredients from EU Member States and other listed third countries (listed for both animal health AND residues for the species/commodities in question). The ingredients must come from EU-approved establishments in those third countries. To be so listed, your country must inform the Commission in writing of its intention to source the processed animal products as described above. In such a case, your country will not be able to export the composite product until it is listed in that Decision (with a footnote).

**3.13. What is the procedure for my country to be listed in Decision 2011/163/EU to allow the sourcing of processed products of animal origin from a different country?**

Your country must send a letter to the European Commission asking for such listing.

**3.14. Will the EU establish a specific list of third countries authorised to export composite products to the EU?**

Yes but the procedure will require time. Pending establishment of the list, the requirements will be based on the nature (shelf stability, meat content) of the composite product and the existing lists of countries authorised for the import into the EU of the processed products of animal origin contained in the composite products.

#### **4. GUARANTEES ACCOMPANYING THE COMPOSITE PRODUCTS AT IMPORT INTO THE EU**

##### **4.1. Must a shelf-stable composite product not containing meat always be accompanied by a private attestation? Could such an attestation be made available only regularly?**

A private attestation must accompany every consignment of shelf-stable composite products not containing meat.

##### **4.2. Who has to sign the documents accompanying the composite products?**

For those composite products for which an official health certificate is required, the animal health requirements must be signed by an official veterinarian and the public health requirements must be signed by a certifying officer.

The private attestation must be signed by the representative of the importing food business operator.

##### **4.3. Who checks the private attestation accompanying shelf-stable composite products not containing meat? Where does this check happen?**

The checks on shelf-stable composite products not containing meat are carried out on entry to the EU at an EU border control post, unless the composite product is listed in accordance with Article 48(h) of Regulation (EU) 2017/625 as presenting a lower risk. For the latter, the Member States' competent authorities may carry out the controls/checks at the place of destination, the point of release for free circulation, or the warehouses or premises of the operator responsible for the consignment of the product in accordance with their national control plans.

##### **4.4. What is the penalty in the absence of a private attestation accompanying the composite product?**

In case of non-compliance with EU rules when entering the Union, the Member State competent authorities must place the consignment under official detention in accordance with Art. 66 of Regulation (EU) 2017/625.

##### **4.5. Implementing Regulation (EU) 2020/2235 sets down a model animal health/official certificate for the entry into the EU of composite products. In the case of non shelf-stable products containing fresh meat (or meat preparations) but not *processed* animal products, how should such products be certified?**

A product containing fresh meat is not a composite product. The certificate for composite products is therefore not to be used in such cases. In the above example, the model certificates relevant for fresh meat or meat preparations must accompany the consignment.

**4.6. I want to export to the EU a shelf-stable composite product that contains gelatine. What health certificate should accompany the product?**

Shelf-stable composite products that contain meat products must be accompanied by an official health certificate to provide guarantees notably with regard to animal health risks.

However, in the case where the shelf-stable composite product only contains gelatine as the meat product ingredient, an official health certificate is no longer required as the processes applied for the production of gelatine mitigate the animal health risk. For this reason, a private attestation as set out in Annex V to Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2020/2235, will suffice. This is also valid for collagen and highly refined products of meat origin.

**4.7. My country wants to export to the EU a non shelf-stable composite product that contains gelatine (or collagen or highly refined product) and other meat products. Which certificate is required?**

Non-shelf-stable composite products must be accompanied by an official health certificate, the model for which is laid down in Chapter 50 of Annex III to Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2020/2235. This certificate must be signed by the competent authorities of the country where the composite product is manufactured. It specifies the guarantees on public health, animal health and residues with which the competent authority certifies compliance.

**4.8. My country is exporting to the EU a composite product that is listed in accordance with Art 48(h) of Regulation (EU) 2017/625. Which guarantees must accompany it?**

Whilst those composite products listed in accordance with the above Article are exempted from official controls at border control posts, they must however comply with all import conditions and requirements set out in EU legislation and must be accompanied by a private attestation. Checks on the products and the accompanying attestations may be carried out by the Member State competent authorities at the point of destination of the product.

**4.9. Does the private attestation need to be uploaded in TRACES?**

It does not need to, but it can be uploaded in TRACES instead of a paper presentation at the Border Control Post where border controls are required.

**4.10. Does the private attestation need to be provided at the border control post on paper?**

Yes, for composite products controlled at the Border Control Post, except if the document is uploaded in TRACES. For CP exempted from official controls at the BCP, the private attestation shall accompany the products at the time of the placing on the market.



**4.11. Can the private attestation be e-signed?**

No. A scanned version of the signed document can be uploaded in TRACES. But it cannot be electronically signed in TRACES as certain certificates could.

**4.12. Is it necessary to indicate in the private attestation the code of the farm producing the milk, even if this farm is in the EU?**

No. Only the processing establishments are to be mentioned.

**4.13. Regarding composite products that require a private attestation, is it necessary to supplement the private attestation with an official certificate for the dairy ingredients contained in the composite products?**

No. The private attestation provides the necessary guarantees.

**4.14. Are composite products containing gelatine required to have an official certificate?**

If the composite product is shelf-stable and does not contain any other meat product than gelatine, collagen or highly refined products derived from meat, an official certificate is not required. The private attestation provides the necessary guarantees.

**4.15. With a view to protect intellectual property, is it possible to group the information on the percentage of ingredients contained in the composite products when described in the private attestation?**

Yes. For instance, the percentage of all dairy ingredients could be grouped, or the percentage of all plant ingredients could be grouped. Only ingredients belonging to the same category can be grouped.

**4.16. Is the private attestation required for each product or each consignment?**

The approach is similar as to that applicable to certificates. The necessary information has to accompany the products as prescribed by the legislation. A private attestation must accompany each batch.

**4.17. If a composite product is manufactured from composite products itself, do they need to be listed on the private attestation?**

If the final product is a composite product in accordance with Article 12 of Regulation (EU) 2019/625, it has indeed to be accompanied by a private attestation, providing the details on the origin of the processed products of animal origin contained in the composite product used as ingredient to manufacture the final composite product.

**4.18. My composite product is shelf stable and does not contain meat. It is listed among the products presenting a lower risk. Do I need to provide a certificate to prove that animal health risks have been addressed through proper mitigating treatments?**

No. The private attestation provides the necessary guarantees notably on those treatments.

**4.19. What are the obligations for import/export from TC to the EU of composite food trade samples and display items, trade samples imported for taste testing, lab samples containing POAO? Will they require a PA for each consignment?**

Regulation (EU) 2019/625 shall not apply to goods intended for human consumption for the purpose of samples for product analysis and quality testing without being placed on the market. In those cases is not required the private attestation.

**4.20. Is it correct that only private attestation is required for chocolate confectioneries (shelf stable, no meat) classified under the codes 1806, that are produced in European Union and exported to a TC where they are stored, and then re-exported to the EU?**

Yes, it is correct.

## **5. CONTROLS AT THE BORDER**

### **5.1. Which composite products are subject to official controls at the entry into the EU?**

All composite products are subject to veterinary controls at the Border Control Posts upon entry into the EU, apart from those composite products that, due to their lower risk, are listed in accordance with Art 48(h) of Regulation (EU) 2017/625 and for which controls are carried out at the point of destination.

### **5.2. Could the list of composite products eligible to a derogation from the control at the EU border be modified?**

Yes. The Commission can adapt the list in accordance with Article 48(h) with a Delegated Act.

### **5.3. Are all composite products eligible to be accompanied by a private attestation exempted from the checks at the border?**

No. Only those composite products listed in accordance with article 48(h) of Regulation (EU) 2017/625 are exempted from the checks at the EU borders. Controls may be carried out at the place of destination, the point of release for free circulation in the Union or the warehouses or the premises of the operator responsible for the consignment.

### **5.4. Will the requirements that come into effect after 21 April 2021 affect the lower risk composite products specified in Commission Decision 2007/275/EC?**

Yes. The list of composite products presenting a lower risk established in Annex II to Commission Decision 2007/275/EC will be substituted by a revised list established in accordance with Art 48(h) of Regulation (EU) 2017/625.

The composite products included in that (new) list will be exempted from official controls at border control posts but controls will be carried out at the place of destination, the point of release for free circulation in the Union or the warehouses or the premises of the operator responsible for the consignment.

Those composite products will have to be accompanied by a private attestation. It remains compulsory that the processed products of animal origin included in those composite products must originate either from EU Member States or from EU-approved establishments in third countries authorised to export them to the Union (and listed accordingly for animal health and residues).

### **5.5. What will be the frequency of checks at borders for shelf-stable composite products not containing meat?**

Documentary checks are compulsory for all composite products. Identity and physical checks are based on the national control plans elaborated by the competent authorities in the Member States.