

Sanitary and Phytosanitary (SPS) requirements for fresh fruits and berries

PROGRESS regional training webinar

**“Strengthening the capacity of fruit and berry producers in the
Eastern Partnership (EaP) to access the EU market”**

23-24 June 2026

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OUTLINE

- SPS Regulatory framework - from international to EU requirements
- Certification of plants and plant products
- Key challenges and practical solutions



SPS Regulatory framework – International level

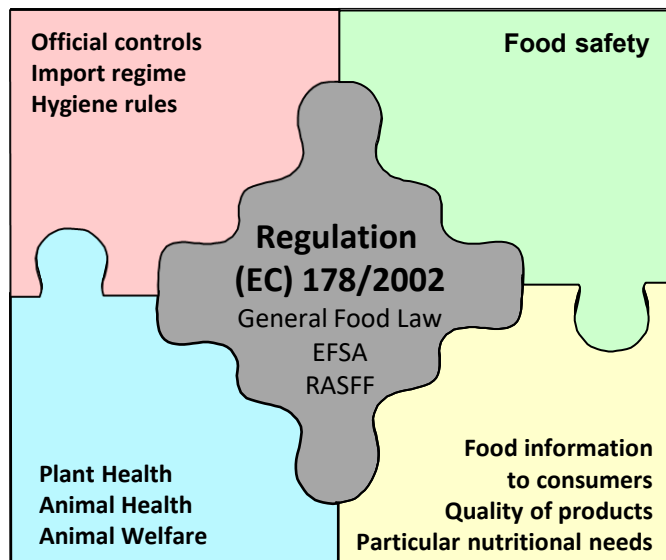
The "Three Sisters"

WTO SPS Agreement based on standard-setting organizations:



SPS Regulatory framework – Europe

Harmonised EU Food Safety and SPS Legislation



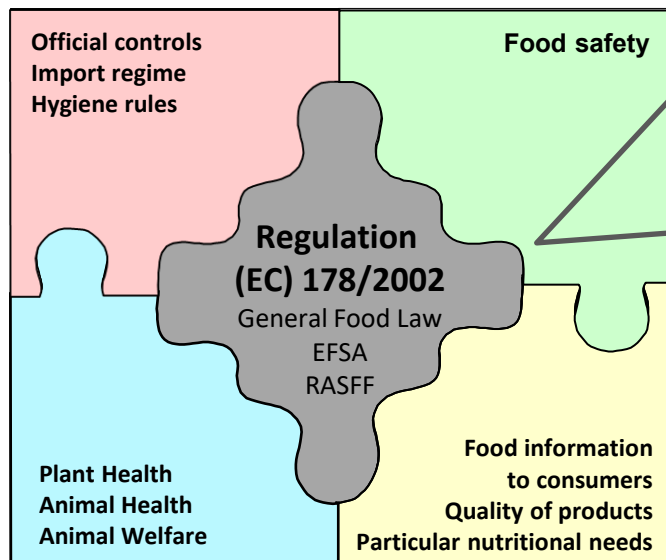
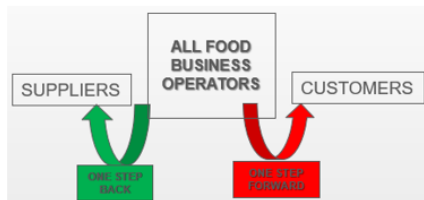
*Courtesy of Prof. Patrick Deboyser,
European College of Parma*

SPS Regulatory framework – Europe

Amended by
Regulation (EU)
2019/1381

APPLICABLE since 27 March 2021

➤ Traceability



The EU Food Law

Regulation (EC) No 178/2002

- **General principles** of food law
 - RISK ANALYSIS
- **General requirements** of food law
 - KEY OBLIGATIONS
- **General obligations** of food trade
 - FOOD TRADE
- ❖ European Food Safety Authority
 - EFSA
- ❖ Rapid Alert System for Food and Feed
 - RASFF
- ❖ Crisis management and emergency procedures
 - PRECAUTIONARY PRINCIPLE

PROGRESS

Promoting Green Deal Readiness in
the Eastern Partnership Countries

Interconnected SPS requirements within a single system

Hygiene

- EU Legislation
- HACCP
- GAP, GMP, GDP

Official controls

- EU legislation
- Enforcement by Member States
- European Commission audits

Import regime

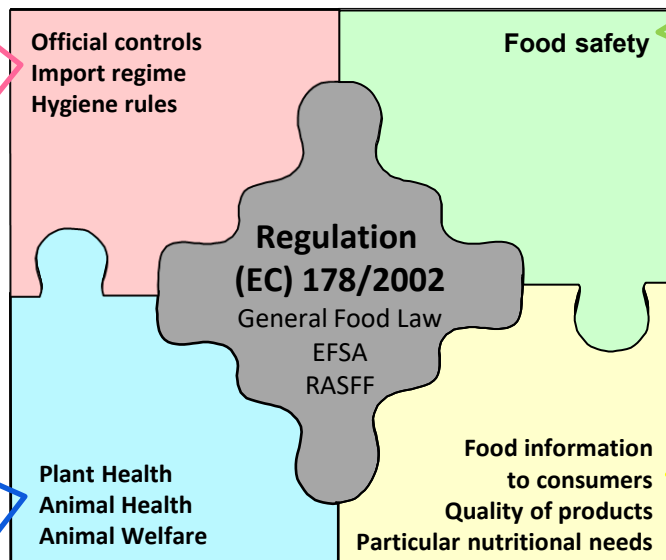
- Products of animal origin
- Products of plant origin
- Controls at imports

Animal welfare

Animal health

Plant health

- Movement of plants and plant products within the EU
- Introduction of plants and plant products into the EU
- Eradication and containment measures in case of outbreaks



Food improvement agents

- Additives
- Flavourings
- Enzymes

Residues

- Pesticides
- Veterinary medicines
- Hormones

Contaminants

- Mycotoxins
- Heavy metals
- Dioxin and PCBs

Microbiological criteria

- Listeria
- Campylobacter
- Salmonella

Food information

- Mandatory labelling
- Nutrition labelling
- Nutrition and Health Claims

Quality of Products

- The 'breakfast Directives
- Organic production
- Geographic indications

Particular nutritional needs

- Food for Specific Groups (FSG)
- Food fortification and food supplements

Non-Regulatory Requirements / Private Standards

Market-driven standards and private certification schemes

Retailer and industry standards (e.g. GLOBALG.A.P., BRCGS, IFS) defining the commercial requirements of buyers and retailers

Voluntary but often de facto *mandatory* for export

Focus on:

- Quality assurance
- Traceability systems
- Sustainability and environmental practices
- Social compliance



EU entry requirements



ENTRY CONDITIONS

To be met
prior to dispatch

Requirements to plants and plant products

Two pillars of SPS compliance for fresh fruit and berries:

PLANT HEALTH

Regulation (EU) 2016/2031
of the European Parliament and of the Council
of 26 October 2016
on protective measures against pests of plants

Regulation (EU) 2019/2072
Implementing act with lists of regulated pests, regulated
commodities, import & movement requirements, etc



FOOD SAFETY

Food Safety Requirements:

Pesticide residues(MRLs)
Contaminants
Hygiene Traceability

**Temporary increased official controls and
emergency measures**

ENTRY CONDITIONS

To be met
prior to dispatch

Key features of the new regime

- ❖ Sets up an '**open regime**' :
 - The introduction and movement within the EU are authorized provided that...
 - ... specific restrictions and requirements are met (examples : unscathed provenance/appropriate treatment)
- ❖ Conform with international agreements (WTO – SPS – IPPC)
 - ISPM No 20 (2004) - Guidelines for a phytosanitary import regulatory system
- ❖ Prioritization of **harmful organisms (HO)** on the basis of clear criteria. **HO** are divided in new categories.
- ❖ The **Phytosanitary Certificate (PC)** becomes compulsory for the importation of plants and plant products (exceptions : pineapple, coconut, durian, bananas, dates - - Annex II of Regulation 2018/2019).

The image shows a complex phytosanitary certificate form. It includes sections for 'Plant Health Inspection', 'Origin', 'Treatment', and 'Inspection'. There are numerous checkboxes and text fields. A QR code is visible in the top right corner. The form is titled 'PHYTOSANITARY CERTIFICATE' and 'EUROPEAN UNION'. It also mentions 'ISPM No 20 (2004)'.

ENTRY CONDITIONS

To be met
prior to dispatch

Regulated products



Plants for planting, including seeds



Plants (all live plant material: fruits & vegetables, cut flowers, scions, ...)



Listed plant products (e.g. coniferous wood)



Listed other products (e.g. wood packaging material)

ENTRY CONDITIONS

To be met
prior to dispatch

Categories of harmful organisms

Quarantine Pests	Not present or not widely distributed in a given territory and its establishment would have unacceptable impact	230
Priority Pests	Not present or not widely distributed in the EU and its establishment in the EU would have unacceptable impact in the EU	20
Regulated Non-Quarantine Pests (RNQP)	Widely present in the EU but its presence on certain reproductive plant material would have unacceptable impact in the EU	209

ENTRY CONDITIONS

To be met
prior to dispatch

Priority pests

- *Agrilus anxius*
- *Agrilus planipennis*
- *Anasprepha ludens*
- *Anoplophora chinensis*
- *Anoplophora glabripennis*
- *Anthonomus eugenii*
- *Aromia bungii*
- *Bactericera cockerelli*
- *Bactrocera dorsalis*
- *Bactrocera zonata*
- *Bursaphelenchus xylophilus*
- *Candidatus Liberibacter spp*
- *Conotrachelus nenuphar*
- *Dendrolimus sibiricus*
- *Phyllosticta citricarpa*
- *Popillia japonica*
- *Rhagoletis pomonella*
- *Spodoptera frugiperda*
- *Thaumatotibia leucotreta*
- *Xylella fastidiosa*



ENTRY CONDITIONS

To be met
prior to dispatch

Phytosanitary certification



Regulation on imports

- ❖ Phytosanitary certificate + specific conditions
- ❖ Harmonized checks at Border Control Posts
- ❖ More risk-based controls (IMSOC database)
- ❖ Precautionary approach for high-risk plants
- ❖ Same restrictions for travelers



OFFICIAL CONTROLS

Carried out
Upon arrival in the EU

EU official controls

What type of official controls for plants and plant products?

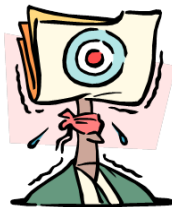
PLANT
HEALTH

FOOD
SAFETY

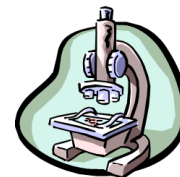
Upon entry into the EU, each consignment is subject to:



A **documentary** check



An **identity** check



As appropriate, a **physical** check

OFFICIAL CONTROLS

Carried out
Upon arrival in the EU

EU official controls



Competent authorities
of the non-EU
exporting country

NPPO

☐ Export certificates to the EU:

- ❖ phytosanitary certificate (TRACES-Phyto, ePhyto, or paper) + declarations
- ❖ food and feed of non-animal origin certificate (FFNAO - Regulation 2019/1793, Annex II)



Competent authorities of the
EU Member State of entry



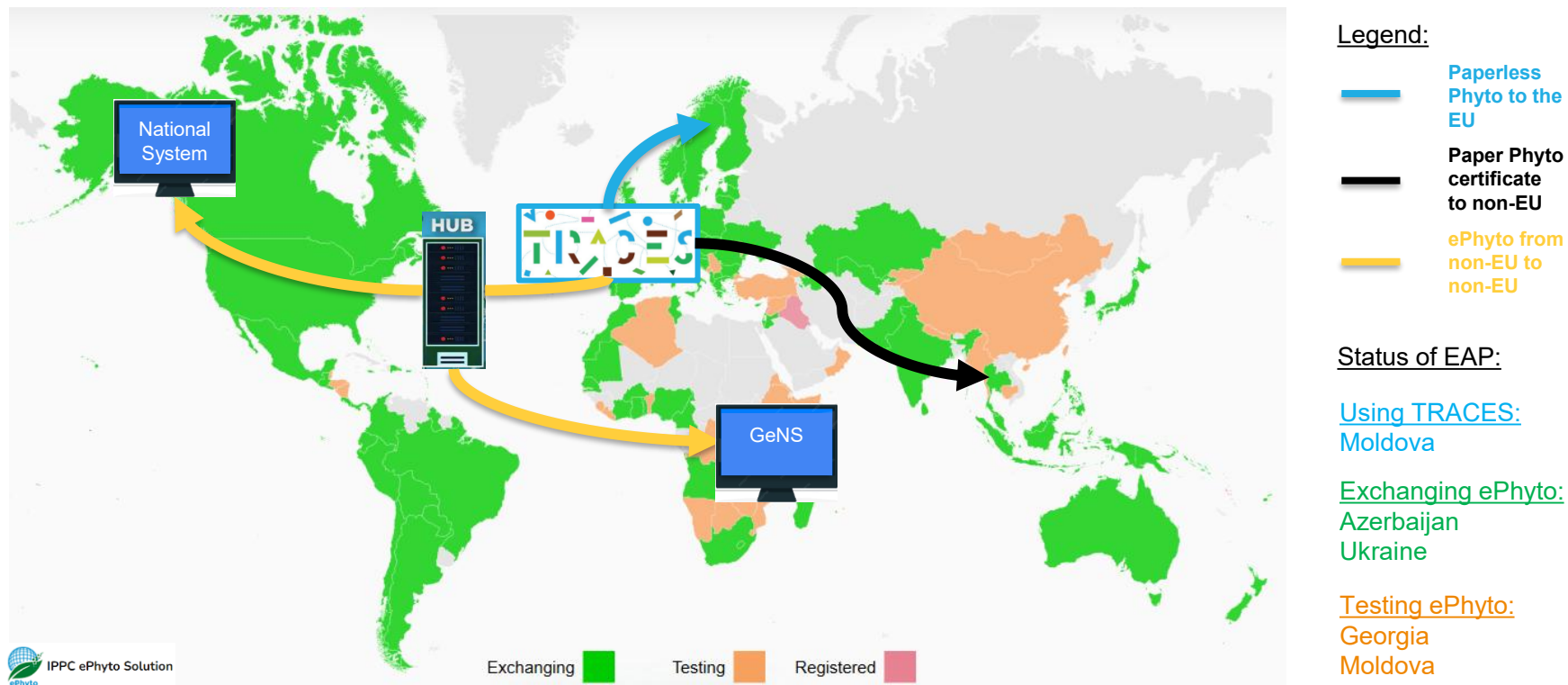
☐ Common Health Entry Document (CHED)

☒ CHED-PP ☐ CHED-P ☐ CHED-A ☒ CHED-D ☐ NOA

PLANT
HEALTH

FOOD
SAFETY

IPPC ePhyto solution & TRACES Interplay



Key challenges for small-holders

Challenge

Limited compliance capacity

Understanding SPS requirements, traceability, documentation and certification procedures

High compliance costs

Testing, certification, audits and documentation can be expensive for individual producers

Fragmented production systems

Small and dispersed farms complicate monitoring and traceability

Limited access to export markets

Difficulties connecting with buyers and complying with market requirements

Practical approaches

- Training and extension services
- Practical guidance from competent authorities
- Technical support through cooperatives, exporters and producer organizations
- **Group certification schemes**
- Shared laboratory testing and advisory services
- Public support programmes and donor-funded capacity building
- Producer organizations and cooperatives
- Internal Control Systems (ICS)
- Common record-keeping and traceability tools
- Contract farming arrangements
- Partnerships with exporters and packhouses
- Compliance with recognized private standards (e.g. GLOBALG.A.P.)

Collective approaches and group certification

Market access is blocked by compliance capacity, not production capacity

1. Shared Compliance Capacity

Collective training, technical support and internal control systems help producers understand and comply with SPS and certification requirements



2. Reduced Compliance

Certification costs, audits, laboratory testing and administrative costs are shared among group members, making compliance more affordable

4. Enhanced Market Access

By aggregating volumes and demonstrating collective compliance, producer groups can better access export markets and engage with buyers

3. Improved Traceability and Consistency

Harmonized production practices, record-keeping and internal monitoring facilitate compliance and strengthen market confidence

*Strengthening the Capacity of Smallholders in Berry Production in **Moldova** - TCP/MOL/3608 and TCP/MOL/3801*

Collective approaches and group certification



Organised Producer Group

Cooperative, association or exporter-led farmer network
Clearly defined membership and responsibilities



Internal Control System (ICS)

Common procedures and production standards
Internal inspections of member farms
Corrective actions for non-compliance



Collective approaches and group certification



Harmonized Record-Keeping

Farm registers and production records
Input and pesticide use records
Traceability from farm to shipment



External Certification Audit

Certification body audits the group and its Internal Control System
Only a sample of member farms is inspected
Certificate issued to the group rather than to individual farmers
Strengthened coordination with competent authorities



Collective approaches and group certification

FAO analytical references on SPS & market access



For [berry crops](#) in Serbia

[!\[\]\(ef62519991500c3a77af2e8766280b93_img.jpg\) Download here](#)



For [berry crops](#) in Mongolia

[!\[\]\(45508b8427911c5831891e2446b8470d_img.jpg\) Download here](#)



Agrifood Products Promotion

[!\[\]\(0cbaa733e8381d79b89648437341d27b_img.jpg\) Download here](#)



Export certification for NPPO

[!\[\]\(23f1ea6e477fa2c36c36829628ca89ec_img.jpg\) Download here](#)