Simplification of rules on release of checked plant products by border control posts

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European Commission proposes to allow border control posts to split consignments of plant products for speedier release

Proposal for a Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council amending Regulations (EC) No 999/2001, (EC) No 1829/2003, (EC) No 1831/2003, (EC) No 852/2004, (EC) No 853/2004, (EC) No 396/2005, (EC) No 1099/2009, (EC) No 1107/2009, (EU) No 528/2012, (EU) 2017/625 as regards the simplification and strengthening of food and feed safety requirements

Update

Currently, consignments of plants and plant products that are controlled by European Union (EU) border control posts cannot be released until the entire consignment has been checked. As a consignment may contain various plant products, each requiring different lengths of time, there is a risk of delays which could lead to damage or loss of perishable products.

The European Commission proposes to allow border control posts to split consignments of plant products before completing official controls, so that each part can be released as soon as controls have been finalised.

This is one of several simplifications of food and feed law proposed as part of an initiative referred to as the “EU Food and Feed Safety Omnibus” (for an overview see, Simplification of EU food and feed safety rules).

This proposal has been notified to the World Trade Organization Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures (WTO SPS) Committee (G/SPS/N/EU/911) and has been published on Have your say (the EU platform for consultations).

What is changing?

Currently, consignments of plants and plant products that are controlled by EU border control posts cannot be released until control of the entire consignment has been completed (Regulation 2017/625, Art. 50(3)). This means that border control posts cannot release part of a consignment until all the other parts have undergone all checks, including laboratory testing where required.

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The European Commission proposes to allow border control posts to split consignments of plants and plant products, and to immediately release parts of a consignment that have already completed official controls.

Why?

Different types of products in a consignment may have different types of controls, some of which may take longer than others. These delays can damage perishable products or make them unmarketable. EU control bodies and businesses have requested flexibility to avoid unnecessary delays and economic damage.

Timeline

This proposal has entered a process of discussion and adoption by the Council of the EU (Member States) and the European Parliament, a process that can take up to 2 years.

Recommended Actions

Competent authorities of countries that are members of the WTO can submit comments on the EU's proposal by emailing the EU SPS Enquiry Point until **30 March 2026**.

All interested stakeholders are invited to give feedback via Have your say platform until **14 May 2026** (but may be extended).

Stakeholders wishing to respond must be registered. Those who do not already have an account will first need to Create an EU login account, then register their organisation on the EU Transparency register.

Resources

Regulation (EU) 2017/625 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

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Sources

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