Technical Report

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Guidance for reporting the 2026 national control plans for veterinary medicinal product residues

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Abstract

This document should be used for the reporting of samples planned under the national control plans for residues of veterinary medicinal products to EFSA. It provides guidance on how to use the data model for submission to the EU of such data and related information.

Key words: veterinary medicinal product residues, national control plans, animal feed

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1. Introduction

1.1. Background and Terms of Reference

In line with legal requirements established in Regulation (EU) 2017/625[1], EU Member States (MS)[2], Iceland and Norway shall perform national official controls on the use of pharmacologically active substances authorised as veterinary medicinal products or as feed additives and of prohibited or unauthorised pharmacologically active substances and residues thereof (hereinafter referred to as 'VMPR'). Furthermore, the Regulation establishes that the aforementioned controls are to be performed on the basis of a multiannual national control plan ('MANCP').

Additionally, Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) 2022/1644[3] and Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2022/1646[4] lay down the rules and content of the MANCP as regards these substances and residues, which apply to the national control plans from 2023 onward. In particular, Articles 3 and 8 of Regulation (EU) 2022/1646 specify that by 31 March of each year, MS shall submit electronically to the Commission:

a) a 'national risk-based control plan for production in the Member States' (hereinafter referred to as Plan 1)

b) a 'national randomised surveillance plan for production in the Member States' (hereinafter referred to as Plan 2)

c) a 'national risk-based control plan for third-country imports' (hereinafter referred to as Plan 3).

By virtue of Article 116 of Reg. 2017/625 and Article 8 of Regulation (EU) 2022/1646, the European Commission (EC) shall evaluate those plans and shall perform controls and audit activities to verify the implementation of the plans and to investigate and collect information on enforcement practices, problems or emergencies in MS.

Reporting countries (EU MS, Iceland, Norway, Switzerland, United Kingdom (Northern Ireland) and EU pre-accession countries, referred hereinafter to as 'RC') already submit the results of their monitoring plans to EFSA annually using the Standard Sample Description 2 (SSD2) in the frame of the EFSA Chemical Monitoring data collection. To link these results to the three national control plans (hereinafter referred to as 'NCP'), and for making both plan and results available to the involved parties, the Commission requested EFSA to also receive the plan data, to store said data in the EFSA scientific data warehouse

[1] Regulation (EU) 2017/625 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 15 March 2017 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, amending Regulations (EC) No 999/2001, (EC) No 396/2005, (EC) No 1069/2009, (EC) No 1107/2009, (EU) No 1151/2012, (EU) No 652/2014, (EU) 2016/429 and (EU) 2016/2031 of the European Parliament and of the Council, Council Regulations (EC) No 1/2005 and (EC) No 1099/2009 and Council Directives 98/58/EC, 1999/74/EC, 2007/43/EC, 2008/119/EC and 2008/120/EC, and repealing Regulations (EC) No 854/2004 and (EC) No 882/2004 of the European Parliament and of the Council, Council Directives 89/608/EEC, 89/662/EEC, 90/425/EEC, 91/496/EEC, 96/23/EC, 96/93/EC and 97/78/EC and Council Decision 92/438/EEC (Official Controls Regulation); document available at: https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=celex%3A32017R0625

[2] In accordance with the Agreement on the withdrawal of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland from the European Union and the European Atomic Energy Community, and in particular Article 5(4) of the Windsor Framework (see Joint Declaration No 1/2023 of the Union and the United Kingdom in the Joint Committee established by the Agreement on the withdrawal of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland from the European Union and the European Atomic Energy Community of 24 March 2023, OJ L 102, 17.4.2023, p.87) in conjunction with section 24 of Annex 2 to that Framework, for the purposes of this Regulation, references to Member States include the United Kingdom in respect of Northern Ireland.

[3] Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) 2022/1644 of 7 July 2022 supplementing Regulation (EU) 2017/625 of the European Parliament and of the Council with specific requirements for the performance of official controls on the use of pharmacologically active substances authorised as veterinary medicinal products or as feed additives and of prohibited or unauthorised pharmacologically active substances and residues thereof; document available at: https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/FR/TXT/PDF/?uri=CELEX:32022R1644&from=EN

[4] Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2022/1646 of 23 September 2022 on uniform practical arrangements for the performance of official controls as regards the use of pharmacologically active substances authorised as veterinary medicinal products or as feed additives and of prohibited or unauthorised pharmacologically active substances and residues thereof, on specific content of multi-annual national control plans and specific arrangements for their preparation; document available at: https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/PDF/?uri=CELEX:32022R1646&from=EN

(sDWH) and to make both the plan and results data accessible to the EC, European Union Reference Laboratories (EURL) and RC, starting from 2023 onward.

To accommodate these needs, in 2022 a new data model for the collection of national control plan data compatible with that of SSD2 has been developed by EFSA and its use was piloted in collaboration with volunteering MS. The result of the pilot and the new legal requirements stemming from the above-mentioned Regulations have been assessed and considered to further adjust and improve the national control plan data model described in the present document. Moreover, the possibility of future re-uses for the reporting of national plans related to control of other residues than VMPR (e.g., chemical contaminants) were considered during the development. The present reporting guidance provides an overview of the implementation of this data model on the VMPR national control plan data collection (hereinafter referred to as 'NCP data collection'), describing the data elements and the complete set of business rules (BR) applied for data validation. RC have the possibility to transmit eXtensible markup language (XML) data files through the data collection framework web application (DCF) of EFSA. The data model is in accordance with the harmonised terminology of EFSA and, where applicable, with the terminology used in the SSD2 of the annual Chemical Monitoring data collection. This data model should be used for the collection of VMPR NCP from 2023 onwards allowing EFSA to address the Terms of Reference of the mandate as provided by the European Commission[5] and leading to: i) simplification of the NCP submission process through the use of a single platform and a common structure of data, including the indication of the conformity of the entered sampling numbers by MS with the expected minimum sampling frequency; ii) submission and inclusion of VMPR NCP data in the EFSA sDWH with the consequent possibility of benefitting of the EFSA business intelligence tool (MicroStrategy) for expediting assessment of the plans' compliance with the legal requirements and follow-up actions; iii) creation of customised standard and summary queries including both the plan and the result data to facilitate the comparability of what was planned to be tested with what was actually tested and reducing the burden for RC by making use of the data they have already submitted.

Additionally, starting from 2024, a new functionality has been put in place that allows RC to report to EFSA also the additional detailed information as per Regulation 2022/1646 per plan. This information can be inserted in form of free text, and a 'Yes/No/Add Information' option, directly into the dedicated EFSA tool following a specific template, as detailed in section 2.

2. Data model and methodology

2.1. Data model

Regulations (EU) 2022/1644 and 2022/1646 establish the minimum sampling frequency for specific combinations of VMPR substance groups and sub-groups and animal-origin commodity groups. It is further indicated that the NCP shall contain the list of combination of substances and animal species, products and matrices and the analytical methods to be used with performance characteristics. The NCP data model described in this document has been developed to report the number of food producing animals or the number of edible animal-origin products (e.g. eggs, milk and honey) to be tested for group/sub-groups of VMPR substances on a yearly basis by each RC. The data model is conceived to also report the VMPR substances covered in the NCP and the planned number of analyses for each combination of the specific substances per animal matrix tested of each VMPR commodity group. To accommodate these requirements, the data model specifically created for transmitting to EFSA the VMPR NCP designed by each RC is composed of two distinct tables.

[5] Request for technical assistance to the Commission (Article 31 of Regulation (EC) No 178/2002) as regards the receipt of the annual residue monitoring plans from Member States and provision of Commission access to both residue plan data and result data via dedicated tools and standard tables. EFSA Question Number: EFSA-Q-2022-00011; https://open.efsa.europa.eu/questions/EFSA-Q-2022-00011.

Table1 – 'CONTROL_PLAN_DESIGN' contains the NCP designed by substance group/sub-group and animal-origin commodity group; this table is used to describe the sampling frequency planned per animal commodity and substance group. The pieces of information reported in this part of the data model will be used also to verify the correspondence between the designed VMPR NCP and the actual results of the NCP implementation that are reported to EFSA on an annual basis by the same country in the frame of the Chemical Monitoring data collection.

Table2 – 'CONTROL_PLAN_DETAILED' contains the details of the NCP, including information on the analytical methods; this table is used to describe animal matrix intended to be taken under the NCP and the single VMPR (single substances) planned to be analysed in those matrices. For each of these matrices one or more single VMPR can be reported. Further, this part of the data model is also meant to provide information on the analytical methods (types) and on analytical methods decision limit (CCalpha), analytical method detection capability (CCbeta), analytical detection limit (resLOD) and analytical quantification limit (resLOQ). The four latter pieces of information are of interest for the VMPR EURL. When non-target screening methods are used for Plan 2, and the information for the detailed table is not available, only for Plan 2 the submission of this table can be omitted while further detail is requested in the additional information.

In the below tables (Tables 1 and 2) the full list of data elements is provided respectively for data model Table 1 'CONTROL_PLAN_DESIGN' and for data model Table 2 'CONTROL_PLAN_DETAILED'.

Additionally, starting from the 2024 VMPR NCP data collection, EFSA has developed together with the EC an information template to collect the additional content of the plans with the detailed information as per Regulation 2022/1646. The methodology to fill out and report the requested information is explained in Methodology section (2.2).

Templates for additional plan information – Three templates structured to insert the detailed additional information requested for each of the three plans in form of free text in accordance with Article 7 of Regulation 2022/1646, and including further information on sampling strategy, analytical methods and performance characteristics. The pieces of information reported in these templates will be accessible and evaluated by the EC through the dedicated EFSA tool.

In the below tables (Tables 3, 4 and 5), the full list of requested information and available/expected options is provided for each plan. In the cases where the expected short answer to be provided is 'Add Information', the additional information to be provided in terms of free text is mandatory; in the cases where the expected short answer is one among the three options, the free text is required only when the short answer is 'No' or 'Add Information'. The free text has a limitation of 3000 characters and does not allow to insert word/pdf documents.

Table 1 – List of the data elements for Table1 'CONTROL_PLAN_DESIGN'

Element label	Element name	Type	Controlled terminology	Mandatory/Optional	Notes
Record unique identifier	recId	xs:string (100)		**Mandatory**	
Programme legal reference	progLegalRef	xs:string (5)	**LEGREF**	**Mandatory**	Only the new LEGREF code= N371A can be used from the LEGREF catalogue. A BR applies.
Sampling strategy	sampStrategy	xs:string (5)	**SAMPSTR**	**Mandatory**	Codes from SAMPSTR catalogue, but a restricted list can be reported. A BR applies.
Programme type	progType	xs:string (5)	**PRGTYP**	**Mandatory**	Codes from PRGTYP catalogue, but a restricted list can be reported. A BR applies.
Sampling point	sampPoint	xs:string (5)	**SAMPNT**	**Dependent mandatory**	To be reported in all cases except for overall total numbers of commodity groups.
Sampling country	sampCountry	xs:string (2)	**COUNTRY**	**Mandatory**	Country of the reporting organisation.
Sampling year	sampY	xs:integer (4)		**Mandatory**	Year the NCP refers to.
VMPR legislative commodity group	sampMatCode	*CompoundType*	**MTX**	**Mandatory**	Codes from MTX/FoodEx2 catalogue, but a restricted list can be reported. A BR applies.
Production volume	productionVolume	xs:integer(9)		**Dependent mandatory**	Mandatory only for Plan 1.
Measurement unit for the volume of production	productionUnit	xs:string (5)	**UNIT**	**Dependent mandatory**	Mandatory only for Plan 1.
Year of reference for the volume of production	productionY	xs:integer (4)		**Dependent mandatory**	Mandatory only for Plan 1.
Number of consignments	consignmentNum	xs:integer(9)		**Dependent mandatory**	Mandatory only for Plan 3.
Year of reference for the number of consignments	consignmentY	xs:integer (4)		**Dependent mandatory**	Mandatory only for Plan 3.
VMPR residue group and sub-group	paramCode	*CompoundType*	**PARAM**	**Mandatory**	Only codes from *vmprParam* hierarchy can be reported.
Number of events planned per commodity group and substance group	totalEvents	xs:integer(9)		**Mandatory**	Unique value for each combination of progLegalRef/sampStrategy/progType/ sampPoint/sampCountry/sampY/sampMatCode /paramCode
Additional information on the planned number of events	designCom	xs:string (100)		**Optional**	Maximum 100 characters

Table 2 - List of the data elements for Table2 'CONTROL_PLAN_DETAILED'

Element label	Element name	Type	Controlled terminology	Mandatory/Optional	Notes
Record unique identifier	recId	xs:string(100)		**Mandatory**	
Plan design record identifier	planRecId	xs:string(100)		**Mandatory**	This data element should be filled with recId of the DESIGN table
Sample matrix	sampMatCode	*CompoundType*	**MTX**	**Mandatory**	Only codes from the V*etDrugRes* hierarchy can be reported.
VMPR substance	paramCode	*CompoundType*	**PARAM**	**Mandatory**	Only codes from *vmprParam* hierarchy can be reported.
Number of analyses planned per matrix and substance	totalAnalyses	xs:integer(9)		**Mandatory**	
Information on the analytical method	anMethInfo	*CompoundType*	**ANLYMD**	**Mandatory**	Compound field with 2 repeatable attributes (screening/confirmation).
CC alpha	CCalpha	xs:double		**Dependent mandatory**	Mandatory since a confirmation method should always be specified. For substances that can be considered VMPR or pesticides, resLOQ or resLOD can be reported instead of CCalpha.
CC beta	CCbeta	xs:double		**Dependent mandatory**	One among CCbeta, resLOD or resLOQ should be reported when reporting screening method.
Result limit of detection (LOD)	resLOD	xs:double		**Dependent mandatory**	One among CCbeta, resLOD or resLOQ should be reported for screening method.
Result limit of quantification (LOQ)	resLOQ	xs:double		**Dependent mandatory**	One among CCbeta, resLOD or resLOQ should be reported for screening method.
Unit of measurement	resUnit	xs:string(5)	**UNIT**	**Mandatory**	Only codes from *chemUnit* hierarchy can be reported
Type of limit used to assess the result (level of action)	evalLimitType	xs:string(5)	**LMTTYP**	**Mandatory**	Codes from LMTTYP catalogue, but a restricted list are expected to be reported. A BR applies.
Additional information on the detailed plan	detailedCom	xs:string (100)		**Optional**	Maximum 100 characters

Table 3 – Information required for the national risk-based control plan for production in the Member States (Plan 1)

	Information	Short answer expected	Additional information from MS (max length 3000 characters)
1	Please provide information about the competent authorities responsible for the implementation of the three different plans (Plan 1, 2 and 3) (Article 7.1. (c) of Implementing Regulation (EU) 2022/1646), including the name and contact details (address, e-mail and telefone number) of your country´s contact point(s) for residue control. Furthermore, please explain **clearly** which authority / entity is in charge of the IMPLEMENTATION of **each of the plans**.	Add information	Mandatory
2	Are all laboratories involved in testing for the official residue control plans designated by the competent authority as official laboratories in line with the requirements of Article 37 of Regulation (EU) 2017/625?	Yes/No/Add information	Dependent Mandatory
3	Please provide information on the national legislation on the use of pharmacologically active substances and, in particular, on their prohibition or authorisation, distribution and placing on the market and the rules governing their administration, in so far as such legislation is not harmonised **to EU regulations.** (Article 7.1. (b) of Implementing Regulation (EU) 2022/1646). If your legislation is harmonized to EU requirements, please mention this. If your legislation is not harmonised to EU requirements, please provide explanations.	Yes/No/Add information	Dependent Mandatory
4	Please explain the sampling strategy for Plan 1 **for this year** as decided by the Member State in accordance with Annex III to Delegated Regulation (EU) 2022/1644. (Art.4 of Implementing Regulation (EU) 2022/1646). Please do not solely state that the criteria of Annex III were considered but provide details describing **HOW** these were used for this year´s plan plus a few illustrative examples. Please provide as well, where applicable, information on how previous results of Plan 2 were considered in developing **this year's Plan 1.**	Add information	Mandatory
5	Please provide a justification for the selected substances, species, products and matrices included in Plan 1 **for this year** on the basis of the criteria listed in Annex II to Delegated Regulation (EU) 2022/1644, including a justification on how the criteria listed in those Annexes were taken into account, even if no changes were made compared to the plan of the previous year. Please do not solely state that the criteria of Annex II were considered but provide details describing **HOW** these were used for **this year´s Plan 1** plus a few illustrative examples.	Add information	Mandatory
6	Please provide a justification on **HOW** information on non-compliances in the relevant or other Member States of the previous three calendar years was taken into account for optimising **this year's Plan 1**. (Article 7.2. (b) of Implementing Regulation (EU) 2022/1646).	Add information	Mandatory
7	Are all methods used for testing of official residues samples (Plan 1) accredited? (Regulation (EU) 2021/808, Art.37 of Regulation (EU) 2017/625). If any methods are not accredited, please provide details of the current status.	Yes/No/Add information	Dependent Mandatory
8	Are all methods used for testing of official residues samples (Plan 1) fully validated for all species/matrix combinations tested under the residue control plan? (Regulation (EU) 2021/808, Art.37 of Regulation (EU) 2017/625). If any methods are not validated, please provide details of the current status.	Yes/No/Add information	Dependent Mandatory

Table 4 – Information required for the national randomised surveillance plan for production in the Member States (Plan 2)

	Information	Short answer expected	Additional information from MS (max length 3000 characters)
9	Please explain the sampling strategy for Plan 2 as decided by the Member State in accordance with Annex V to Delegated Regulation (EU) 2022/1644 (Art.5 of Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2022/1646). Please do not solely state that the criteria of Annex V were considered but provide details describing **HOW** these were used for **this year´s Plan 2** plus a few illustrative examples.	Add information	Mandatory
10	Are all methods used for testing of official residues samples (Plan 2) accredited? (Regulation (EU) 2021/808, Art.37 of Regulation (EU) 2017/625) If any methods are not accredited, please provide details of the current status. If high resolution mass spectrometry (HRMS) or similar non-targeted quantitative screening methods are used, please reply to questions 12 and 13.	Yes/No/Add information	Dependent Mandatory
11	Are all methods used for testing of official residues samples (Plan 2) fully validated for all species/matrix combinations tested under the residue control plan? (Regulation (EU) 2021/808, Art.37 of Regulation (EU) 2017/625) If any methods are not validated, please provide details of the current status. If high resolution mass spectrometry (HRMS) or similar non-targeted quantitative screening methods are used, please reply to questions 12 and 13.	Yes/No/Add information	Dependent Mandatory
12	If high resolution mass spectrometry (HRMS) or similar non-targeted quantitative screening methods are used, please briefly describe the procedure applied and give a short overview of the reference library of substances used.	Add information	Dependent Mandatory
13	If high resolution mass spectrometry (HRMS) or similar non-targeted quantitative screening methods are used, please give a short description of the interpretation of the results and indicate **HOW** results will be confirmed by an accredited and validated confirmatory method.	Add information	Dependent Mandatory

Table 5 - Information required for the national risk-based control plan for third-country imports (Plan 3)

	Information	Short answer expected	Additional information from MS (max length 3000 characters)
14	Please explain the sampling strategy for Plan 3 as decided by the Member State in accordance with Annex VII to Delegated Regulation (EU) 2022/1644 (Art.6 of Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2022/1646). Please do not solely state that the criteria of Annex VII were considered but provide details describing **HOW** these were used for **this year´s Plan 3** plus a few illustrative examples.	Add information	Mandatory
15	Provide a justification for the selected substances, species, products and matrices included in Plan 3 on the basis of the criteria listed in Annex VI to Delegated Regulation (EU) 2022/1644, including a justification on how the criteria listed in those Annexes were taken into account, even if no changes were made compared to the plan of the previous year. (Art.7(2)(a) of Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2022/1646). Please do not solely state that the criteria of Annex II were considered but provide details describing **HOW** these were used for **this year´s Plan 3** plus a few illustrative examples.	Add information	Mandatory
16	Please provide a justification on **HOW** information on non-compliances in the relevant or other Member States of the previous three calendar years was taken into account for optimising **this year´s Plan 3**. (Article 7.2. (b) of Implementing Regulation (EU) 2022/1646).	Add information	Mandatory
17	Are all methods used for testing of official residues samples (Plan 3) accredited? (Regulation (EU) 2021/808, Art.37 of Regulation (EU) 2017/625). If any methods are not accredited, please provide details of the current status.	Yes/No/Add information	Dependent Mandatory
18	Are all methods used for testing of official residues samples (Plan 3) fully validated for all species/matrix combinations tested under the residue control plan? (Regulation (EU) 2021/808, Art.37 of Regulation (EU) 2017/625). If any methods are not validated, please provide details of the current status.	Yes/No/Add information	Dependent Mandatory

2.2. Methodologies

Each RC will transmit at least two data files: one for Table 1 'CONTROL_PLAN_DESIGN' and one for Table 2 'CONTROL_PLAN_DETAILED' and should cover all three plans. Table 2 'CONTROL_PLAN_DETAILED' is not required for Plan 2 when non-target screening methods are used.

Only one national competent organisation is expected to transmit their files on behalf of its country.

All files shall be prepared in XML format and shall be loaded on the EFSA DCF platform at the following address: https://dcf.efsa.europa.eu/dcf-war/dc. For better navigation, the Google Chrome browser should be used.

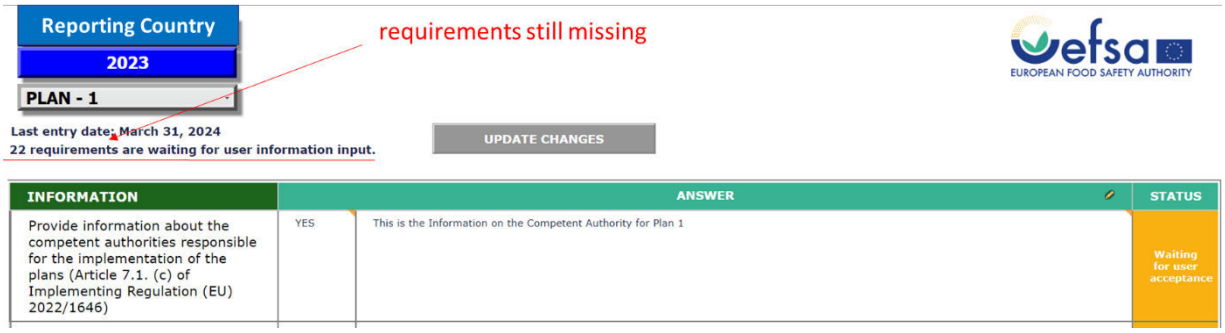
Dedicated business rules (BR) for the incoming data validation apply on the values/codes reported for most data elements; strict BRs are those implemented in the form of 'Error message' and if violated will reject the data, while less strict BRs will only return 'Warning' messages. The BRs are described directly in the document paragraphs relevant to the checked data element and are summarised in Tables 8 and 9.

Only designated data providers can access the dedicated area of the DCF for data upload; more than one national experts from the same reporting country/national organisation can be nominated as data provider.

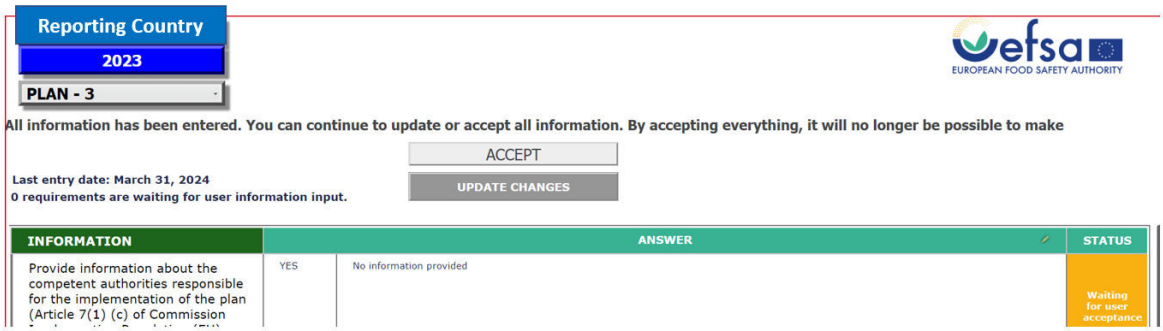
Each year, the NCP data to be transmitted to EFSA are those referring to the same calendar year of control activities. For example, in March 2023, the NCP data to be transmitted are those of calendar year 2023.

The content of the transmitted NCP will be stored in the EFSA sDWH, and their content will be visualised through MicroStrategy reports, specifically set up for this data collection. These reports will be accessible by both EFSA and EC services.

Additionally, the RC should complete the template with the detailed additional information following the structure provided in Tables 3-5. For each plan, when the required information is complete, the 'update changes' box should be clicked, to allow the saving of the inserted information. For each requested information, a maximum of 3000 characters including spaces are allowed. The field does not allow to insert word/pdf documents.



The acceptance box of the text part of the plans in MicroStrategy is enabled to data validators only when all the required information is filled in for all the plans, as shown by the screenshot below:



After acceptance, the text part cannot be modified anymore by the reporting country.

It should be noted that the legal requirement of sending the plans to EFSA by the MS is considered complete when all three plans have been transmitted via DCF to EFSA. This means that for each plan both Table 1 (Design) and Table 2 (Details) should be transmitted; in addition, the template for the text part of each plan should be completed in MicroStrategy as part of the plans' transmission by the agreed deadline.

3. Elements specific for Table 1 ('CONTROL_PLAN_DESIGN')

3.1. Record unique identifier (recId) (mandatory)

This mandatory data element should contain the unique identifier of the transmitted record (row of data table). This identification code is intended to keep track of operations of deleting or updating single records as per data collection protocol (see European Food Safety Authority, 2014. Guidance on data exchange, version 2.0).

This element shall be populated with free text, alphanumerical value.

Additionally, this data element is the key identifier of the specific combination of progLegalRef, sampStrategy, progType, sampPoint, sampCountry, sampY, sampMatCode, paramCode, totalEvents and it should be used to link the correspondent detailed records in Table 2 in the planRecId data element (see section 4.2).

To be noted that there is instead no link between the recId reported in the 'CONTROL_PLAN_DESIGN' table and the recId of 'CONTROL_PLAN_DETAILED' table.

3.2. Programme legal reference (progLegalRef) (mandatory)

This mandatory data element is used to specify the legal framework under which the sampling is planned.

It contains codes linked to the catalogue LEGREF; the only applicable code is:

- **N371A** – *Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2022/1646*.

A BR is implemented to check this condition; the violation of the BR returns an error message.

3.3. Sampling strategy (sampStrategy) (mandatory)

This mandatory data element is used to specify the sampling methodology. Regulation (EU) 2022/1646 lays down the criteria for sampling strategy for each of the three plans: under Plan 1 and Plan 3, sampling shall be targeted at detection of illegal treatment or at controlling the compliance with legal limits, while under Plan 2, sampling shall be random and representative of the production/consumption pattern in RC.

It contains codes linked to the catalogue SAMPSTR; in accordance with the above, the only applicable codes are:

- **ST20A** – *Selective sampling*; this is the code to be used to indicate targeted sampling in Plan 1 and Plan 3;
- **ST10A** – *Objective sampling*; this is the code to be used to indicate random sampling under Plan 2.

A BR is implemented to check this condition; the violation of the BR returns an error message.

To be noted that the identification of Plan 1, Plan 2, and Plan 3 in the data model is based on the combination of the codes reported for the following data elements: progLegalRef, sampStrategy and progType. The combinations allowed for each plan are summarised in Table 3.

3.4. Programme type (progType) (mandatory)

This mandatory data element is used to specify the type of control programme in the framework of which the sampling is planned.

It contains codes linked to the catalogue PRGTYP; the only applicable codes are:

- **K018A –** *Official (National and EU) programme*; this is the code to be used to indicate sampling under Plan 1 and Plan 2;

- **K038A –** *Official (National) programme for Third Country Import; this is the code to be used to indicate sampling under Plan 3.*

A BR is implemented to check this condition; the violation of the BR returns an error message.

The table below (Table 3), summarises the constraints for coding progLegalRef, sampStrategy, and progType when reporting each plan and used by EFSA to classify and show in Microstrategy (MSTR) dashboard data of Plan 1, Plan 2 and Plan 3. The constraints are implemented as BR.

Table 6 – Combinations of codes to be used to describe the type of sampling programmes/programme legal reference/sampling strategy for the three different plans

	progLegalRef = N371A (Regulation (EU) 2022/1646)		
	Plan 1: National risk-based control plan for production in the Member States	**Plan 2: National randomised surveillance plan for production in the Member States**	**Plan 3: National risk-based control plan for third-country imports**
sampStrategy	**ST20A** (Targeted sampling)	**ST10A** (Objective sampling)	**ST20A** (Targeted sampling)
progType	**K018A** (Official (National and EU) programme)	**K018A** (Official (National and EU) programme)	**K038A** (Official (National) programme for Third Country Import)

It should be further noted that these constraints were created considering that the same classification should be used when presenting VMPR results data under Chemical Monitoring data collection starting from 2024 onward. Additionally, according to Regulation (EU) 2022/1646, Annex 1, point m, samples taken for the purposes of other control plans (e.g., on contaminants, on pesticide residues, etc.) may also be used for controls on pharmacologically active substances.

3.5. Sampling point (sampPoint) (dependent mandatory)

This data element is dependent mandatory and is used to specify the point in the food chain where the samples are to be taken. The sampPoint is always mandatory, except when reporting the total overall numbers for a VMPR legislative commodity group.

It contains codes linked to the catalogue SMPNT, though some of the most relevant codes for NCP data collection are:

- **E101A** – *Farm;*
- **E311A** – *Slaughterhouse;*
- **E010A** – *Border Control Posts;*

For Plan 3, the only code to be reported is 'E010A – Border Control Posts'. A BR is implemented to check this condition; the violation of the BR returns an error message.

3.6. Sampling country (sampCountry) (mandatory)

This mandatory data element is used to specify the country where the samples are to be taken and indicates the country the NCP refers to.

It contains codes linked to the COUNTRY catalogue.

The sampCountry must be equal to the country of the reporting organisation. A BR is implemented to check this condition; the violation of the BR returns an error message.

3.7. Sampling year (sampY) (mandatory)

This mandatory data element is used to specify the year the NCP refers to.

It contains a numerical value composed of 4 digits (e.g., 2023).

The sampY must be equal to the calendar year in which the plan is submitted. A BR is implemented to check this condition; the violation of the BR returns an error message.

3.8. VMPR legislative commodity group (sampMatCode) (mandatory)

This mandatory data element is used to describe the food producing animal or animal-origin product (as per VMPR legislative commodity group classification[6]) according to FoodEx2 classification system.

It contains codes linked to the MTX catalogue restricted to the list reported in Table 7.

EFSA has created an algorithm that automatically maps the reported FoodEx2 code to the correspondent commodity group, as defined by legislation. The applicable MTX codes and the mapping to the correspondent commodity groups are reported in Table 7.

VMPR legislative commodity group	FoodEx2 code (MTX catalogue)	FoodEx2 code description
Bovine	A0F1V	Bovinae (bovines = Tribe bovini) (as animal)
Pigs	A0F1X	Suina (as animal)
Sheep and goats	A0F1Y	Caprinae (as animal)
Equine	A0BA3	Equines (as animal)
Poultry	A057Y	Generic poultry (as animal)
Aquaculture	A0BXL	Fish (as animal)
Milk	A02LT	Milk
Eggs	A031F	Whole eggs
Rabbit	A057T	Rabbit (as animal)
Farmed game	A04SF#F21.A07RV	Animals (as animal)#Farmed/cultivated/aquaculture
Honey	A033J	Honey
Insects	A04TF	Insects (as animal)
Reptiles	A04SG	Reptiles (as animal)
Casings	A0F1J	Edible casings
Wild game	A04SF#F21.A07RY	Animals (as animal)#Wild or gathered or hunted

Table 7 – List of applicable codes and mapping between FoodEx2 codes and VMPR legislative commodity groups

A BR is implemented to check that only the above codes are reported; the violation of the BR returns an error message.

To be noted that to report Farmed game and Wild game the explicit F21 facet codes A07RV 'Farmed / cultivated / aquaculture' and A07RY 'Wild or gathered or hunted' must be respectively reported.

[6] Annex II of Regulation (EU) 2022/1644 provides the full list of commodity groups as defined by legislation.

Samples of Farmed games include samples of ostrich, while samples of e.g. pigeons and quails, fall under the Poultry category.

When samples of water or feed given to the animals are to be coded, the code to be selected correspond to one of the codes in Table 7, i.e. to the one corresponding to the animal fed.

Please note that for the commodity group related to 'Sheep and Goats' (i.e. A0F1Y) one single code is made available to reflect both 'Sheep and goats' group as in the EU legislation.

3.9. Production volume (productionVolume) (dependent mandatory)

This data element is dependent mandatory and is used to specify the number, in each RC, of slaughtered animals or of the annual production of animals/animal-origin products described by the sampMatCode data element.

It contains a numerical value composed of up to 9 digits (e.g., 172500).

The productionVolume data element should be populated when reporting Plan 1; a BR is implemented to check this condition; the violation of the BR returns an Error message.

This information is used by EFSA to calculate the minimum sampling frequency according to Annex I of Regulation (EU) 2022/1646.

The productionVolume should contain the same numerical value for each record referring to the same sampMatCode. A BR is implemented to check this condition; the violation of the BR returns an Error message.

3.10. Measurement unit for the volume of production (productionUnit) (dependent mandatory)

This data element is dependent mandatory and used to specify the unit of measurement of the number reported under productionVolume data element. The productionUnit data element should be populated when reporting Plan 1; a BR is implemented to check this condition; the violation of the BR returns an Error message.

It contains codes linked to the UNIT catalogue; the only applicable codes are:

- **G199A** – *Animal*; this is the code to be used to report productionVolume of Bovines, Pigs, Sheep/Goats and Equine;
- **G100A** – *Tonne* (tons); this is the code to be used to report productionVolume of Poultry, Aquaculture, Milk, Eggs, Rabbits, Reptiles, Insects, Honey, Casings, and Farmed Game.

A BR is implemented to check these conditions; the violation of the BR returns an Error message.

3.11. Year of reference for the volume of production (productionY) (dependent mandatory)

This data element is dependent mandatory and is used to specify the year to which the production data refer to. The productionY data element should be populated when reporting Plan 1. A BR is implemented to check this condition; the violation of the BR returns an Error message.

It contains a numerical value composed of 4 digits (e.g., 2022).

In sampling year 'X', the production year can fall within the range 'X-2' to 'X'. For example, in sampling year 2023, production year can be 2021, 2022 or 2023. A BR is implemented to check this condition; the violation of the BR returns an Error message.

The productionY should contain the same numerical value for each record referring to the same sampMatCode. A BR is implemented to check this condition; the violation of the BR returns an Error message. Nevertheless, in case in a RC information on production data concerning different commodity groups are available for different production years, this can still be reported. For example, for sampMatCode=A0F1V (Bovinae (as animal)), productionY=2021 and for sampMatCode=A0F1X (Suina (as animal)), productionY=2022.

3.12. Number of consignments (consignmentNum) (dependent mandatory)

This data element is dependent mandatory and is used to specify the number, in each RC, of imported consignments of animals/animal-origin products described by the sampMatCode data element.

It contains a numerical value composed of up to 9 digits (e.g., 172500).

The consignmentNum data element should be populated when reporting Plan 3; a BR is implemented to check this condition; the violation of the BR returns an Error message.

This information is used by EFSA to calculate the minimum numbers according to Annex III of Regulation (EU) 2022/1646.

The consignmentNum should contain the same numerical value for each record referring to the same sampMatCode. A BR is implemented to check this condition; the violation of the BR returns an Error message.

3.13. Year of reference for the number of consignments (consignmentY) (dependent mandatory)

This data element is dependent mandatory and is used to specify the year to which the consignment data refer to. The consignmentY data element should be populated when reporting Plan 3; a BR is implemented to check this condition; the violation of the BR returns an Error message.

It contains a numerical value composed of 4 digits (e.g., 2022).

In sampling year 'X', the consignment year can fall within the range 'X-2' to 'X'. For example, in sampling year 2023, consignment year can be 2021, 2022 or 2023. A BR is implemented to check this condition; the violation of the BR returns an Error message.

The consignmentY should contain the same numerical value for each record referring to the same sampMatCode. A BR is implemented to check this condition; the violation of the BR returns an Error message.

3.14. VMPR residue group and sub-group (paramCode) (mandatory)

This mandatory data element is used to specify the substance group or sub-group (as per substance groups classification[7]) for which the sampling frequency is planned in a specific commodity.

It contains codes linked to the PARAM catalogue; the only applicable codes are restricted to the hierarchy *vmprParam*. Additionally, only paramCodes corresponding to the group A and group B, and to the sub-groups A1, A1a-A1e, A2, A2a-A2d, A3, A3a-A3g, B1, B1a-B1e, and B2 can be reported. A BR is implemented to check this condition; the violation of the BR returns an error message.

For example, *paramC*ode=RF-00004866-PAR for VMPR 'Group A' or paramCode= RF-00004859-PAR – for VMPR sub-group 'Group A1'.

[7] Annex I of Regulation (EU) 2022/1644 provides the substance classification and the substance groups and sub-groups definition.

3.15. Number of events planned per commodity group and substance group (totalEvents) (mandatory)

This mandatory data element is used to indicate, for the specific combination of substance group and commodity group, the number of events planned for the NCP of the year.

It contains a numeral value composed of up to 9 digits.

To be noted that for each plan (identified by progLegalRef, sampStrategy, progType), and for each combination of sampCountry (only one value expected), sampY (only one value expected), sampPoint, sampMatCode and paramCode, a unique value of totalEvents should be reported. A BR is implemented to check this condition; the violation of the BR returns an error message.

As per articles 4, 5 and 6 of CIR (EU) 2022/1646, for Plan 1, 2 and 3 respectively, the numbers planned events must be reported for each relevant combination of commodity and substance group. EFSA will highlight in MicroStrategy those cases where the expected aggregated information is not provided. EFSA cannot calculate this number by adding up the planned numbers for sub-groups, since this will result in an overestimation, since more samples can be taken from the same animal or analysed across multiple sub-groups.

The total number of events planned for each commodity group should also be reported; in this case the generic paramCode RF-00000001-VET ('Pharmacologically active substances') should be indicated (see the example below to indicate the total number planned for Bovines).

sampMatCode	**ParamCode**	**totalEvents**
A0F1V (Bovines)	RF-00000001-VET	1400

3.16. Additional information on the planned number of events (designCom) (optional)

This optional data element can be used to collect short comments on the planned number of events (maximum 100 characters); for example, it can be used to indicate that the planned number of events is lower compared to the expected minimum sampling frequency because an establishment was closed.

Example	**XML**
Lower number of planned events compared to the minimum required due to low production	<designCom>low production, sampling planned for next year</ designCom >

4. Elements specific for Table 2 ('CONTROL_PLAN_DETAILED')

4.1. Unique record identifier (recId) (mandatory)

This mandatory data element should contain the unique identifier of the transmitted record (row of data table). This identification code is intended to keep track of operations of deleting or updating single records as per data collection protocol (see European Food Safety Authority, 2014. Guidance on Data Exchange version 2.0).

This element shall be populated with free text, alphanumerical value (no catalogue available). To be noted that there is no link between the recId reported by the data provider in the 'CONTROL_PLAN_DESIGN' and in the 'CONTROL_PLAN_DETAILED' tables.

4.2. Plan design record identifier (planRecId) (mandatory)

This mandatory data element is used to link information from the detailed table (Table2) to the design table (Table1); it links the detailed data from Table 2 to the correspondent plan and VMPR legislative commodity from the design. It should be filled with the unique record identifier (recId) of the row of Table1 it refers to. For example:

Table1

progLegalRef	recId	sampStrategy	progType	...	sampMatCode	paramCode	totalEvents
N371A	2023_Eggs_A2b	ST10A	K009A	...	A031F	RF-00013512-PAR	2

Table2

recId	planRecId	sampMatCode	paramCode	...	totalAnalyses
1	2023_Eggs_A2b	A031G	RF-00000511-VET	...	6
2	2023_Eggs_A2b	A031K	RF-00000510-VET	...	4

4.3. Sample matrix (sampMatCode) (mandatory)

This mandatory data element is used to specify information about species and matrix of the samples planned to be analysed according to FoodEx2 classification system.

FoodEx2 codes can be selected from the MTX catalogue using the *VetDrugRes* hierarchy, which includes base terms for food, feed and non-food animal matrices. FoodEx2 requires that a base term is always supplied. If the implicit facets are enough to characterise the matrix sampled (see example below), only a base term needs to be reported. Where the base term chosen has implicit facets, reporting of explicit facets should only be additional ones not already covered by the implicit facets.

Two facets must always be present: the source (F01 facet) and the part nature (F02 facet) (except for the special case of feed and water samples coding and processed-composite food as detailed in the paragraphs below). In most cases, these are already pre-assigned in the codes present in the reporting hierarchy as implicit facets. The implicit facets can be visualised through the FoodEx2 catalogue browser.

Wild and farmed game sampling coding

To encode samples related to wild animals, the code A07RY='Wild, gathered or hunted' from facet F21 on the production method list must always be added to the base term by the data provider (explicit facet); this is particularly important to code wild game samples under the VMPR domain.

In the case of Farmed Game, it is recommended to use the facet F21 (production method) to indicate it is 'Farmed / cultivated / aquaculture' (F21. A07RV). This will allow a correct

mapping of the record to a value for MMPR, RPA or ML, which are visible in the Validation Dashboard.

Non-food matrices sample coding

When non-food matrices have been analysed (e.g. urine or retina or hair samples from pig), the default base term A0C60='Non-food animal-related matrices' should be used. In such cases, it is important to include an explicit F01 'Source' facet code to characterise the source animal species as well as an F02 'Part nature' to characterise the sample.

Feed and water sample coding

Samples of feed and water given to animals should be coded as described in this paragraph. When a feed sample is analysed, the sampMatCode must be selected from the feed section; the textual description of each base term under the feed section contains the wording '(feed)' (e.g. for the code A05CR='Barley grain (feed)').

To report feed samples, the sampMatCode must always contain an implicit or explicit facet F23 target-consumer code to characterise the species for which the feed was intended. Thus, if the specific explicit facet F23 is not reported and the implicit facet F23 is the generic 'Animal feed' ('A07TV') the sample will be classified in the VMPR Product Category 'Other'. Instead, if an explicit facet F23 specific to an animal species is reported, then the sample will be classified in a specific VMPR Product Category other than the Category 'Other'.

In addition, please be aware that if more facet F23 codes are explicitly reported (and refer to different animal species i.e. they are in conflict) the sample will be classified in the VMPR Product Category 'Other'.

It should be noted that for the very particular cases where the feed base term implicitly contains an F23 facet 'Sheep and goat feed' (A07VF), it is always necessary to add one of the four codes grouped under the A07VF code. In particular, for goat feed samples, either 'Kids reared for reproduction or meat production feed' (code A18EX) or 'Dairy/reproductive goat feed' (code A18EX) should be specified; for sheep feed samples, either 'Lambs reared for reproduction or meat production feed' (code A18ET) or 'Dairy/reproductive sheep feed' (code A18EV) should be specified.

When samples of water given to the farmed animals are to be coded, please select from the list of terms in 'Non-food matrices' from the reporting hierarchy one of the codes in the 'Environment' group. Since these terms do not contain an implicit facet for the target consumer species, a code for the F23 facet must be added.

Insects, reptiles and edible casings sample coding

Regarding the new commodity group insects, the only four insects authorised as novel food in the EU for food production are *Tenebrio molitor*, *Locusta migratoria*, *Acheta domesticus* and *Alphitobius diaperinus*. Therefore, only those insects can be reported to EFSA. The aforementioned insects can be sampled and reported to EFSA as frozen/whole animal, dried and/or powdered.

For edible casings, the base term to be used is A0F1J. When including the source, the source commodity (F27 facet) must be manually inserted.

The following table contains a list of examples.

Example	XML
Pig kidney	<sampMatCode>A01YM</sampMatCode> A01YM=Pig kidneys are composed of the following implicit facets where F01.A057=Pigs and F02.A069N=Kidney

Example	XML
Sheep for meat production – Blood serum	<sampMatCode>A0C60#F01.A0CDE$F02.A0CEY</sampMatCode> A0C60=Non-food animal-related matrices F01.A0CDE=Sheep for meat production F02.A0CEY=Blood serum (as part nature)
Urine sample from a dairy cow	<sampMatCode>A0C60#F01.A0C9L$F02.A0CET$F31.A0C8V</sampMatCode> A0C60=Non-food animal-related matrices F01.A0C9L=Dairy cow (as animal) F02.A0CET=Urine (as part nature) F31.A0C8V=Young non-adult mammal (above 1 year)
Royal jelly	<sampMatCode>A0CVG</sampMatCode>
Edible casing from sheep	<sampMatCode>A0F1J#F01.A057G$F27.A01ZQ</sampMatCode> A0F1J=Edible casings F01.A057G=Sheep (as animal), F27.A01ZQ=Sheep edible offal, non-muscle, other than liver and kidney
Chicken meat excluding any visible fat	<sampMatCode>A01SP#F20.A0F4V</sampMatCode> A01SP=Chicken fresh meat F20.A0F4V=Excluding visible fat
Complete feed for dairy goats	<sampMatCode>A16BG#F23.A18EY</sampMatCode> A16BG=Goat / Complete feed (feed) F23.A18EY=Dairy/reproductive goat feed
Water given to a farmed rabbit	<sampMatCode>A0F7L#F23.A07VE</sampMatCode> A0F7L=Freshwater for animal farming F23.A07VE=Rabbit feed
Meat from farmed wild boar	<sampMatCode>A01SH#F21.A07RV</sampMatCode> A01SH=Wild boar fresh meat F21.A07RV=Farmed / cultivated / aquaculture
Liver from hunted dear	<sampMatCode>A01XT#F21.A07RY</sampMatCode> A01XT=Deer liver F21.A07RY=Wild or gathered or hunted
Kidney fat from cattle	<sampMatCode>A01TY#F02.A1A8D</sampMatCode> A01TY = Cattle fresh fat tissue, F02.A1A8D=Kidney fat (as part-nature)

EFSA has created an algorithm that interprets the reported FoodEx2 code and map it to the correspondent commodity group. This algorithm, called VMPR Food Classifier, is the same as the one applied in the frame of the Chemical Monitoring data collection.

The VMPR Food Classifier is also used to map the FoodEx2 code into specific matrices in order to allow the mapping of the MRL, MMPR, RPA and coccidiostats values. If the specific

combination is not reported, including the source or other important facets, the value of the limit will not appear in the validation dashboard.

For samples of meat, it is very important to add the F20 facet to exclude visible fat (F20.A0F4V). If not added, the sample will not be categorised as Muscle and the MRL or MMPR value will not appear in the validation dashboard.

4.4. VMPR substance (paramCode) (mandatory)

This mandatory data element is used to specify the VMPR substance planned to be analysed.

It contains codes linked to the PARAM catalogue; the only applicable codes are restricted to the hierarchy *vmprParam*.

In case of multi-components marker residue, the single components should in first instance be reported in the plan; however, also the paramCode corresponding to the marker residue can be reported.

4.5. Number of analyses planned per matrix and substance (totalAnalyses) (mandatory)

This mandatory data element is used to indicate, for the specific combination of matrix and substance, the number of analyses planned for the NCP of the year and completes the level of detail of *totalEvents* of Table1.

It contains a numerical value made of up to nine digits.

4.6. Information on the analytical method (anMethInfo) (mandatory)

This mandatory data element is used to specify information on the analytical method planned to be used. For all results, both confirmation and screening methods should be specified. A BR is implemented to check this condition; the violation of the BR returns an Error message.

Furthermore, only one code for screening method and for confirmation method can be reported. A BR is implemented to check this condition; the violation of the BR returns an Error message.

It is a compound field that consists of two repeatable attributes:

- 'screening' should be used to indicate the analytical method for screening test;
- 'confirmation' should be used to indicate analytical method for confirmatory test.

For example:

<anMethInfo>screening=F027A$confirmation=F046A</anMethInfo>

Where:
F027A=Liquid chromatography-tandem mass spectrometry
F046A=GC-MS

The two attributes contain codes linked to the ANLYMD catalogue.

In the case that only confirmatory method is used, the analytical method of screening should be equal to the one for confirmation.

4.7. CC alpha (CCalpha) (dependent mandatory)

This data element is dependent mandatory and is used to indicate the limit at and above which it can be concluded with an error probability of α that a sample is non-compliant; it accounts for measurement uncertainty. This value is linked to *confirmatory* results where

the result is evaluated for compliance. It is expressed in the unit specified in resUnit data element.

CCalpha is mandatory when anMethInfo.confirmation is reported.

It contains a numerical value composed of up to 20 digits. A numerical value of CCalpha should always be inserted according to the following options:

Option 1: a numerical value must be inserted;

Option 2: in case that in the MS more labs do analyses (and it is not known at the time of planning which lab will do the analyses), a value below or equal to CC alpha max must be inserted;

Option 3: a value equal to '-1' can be inserted if the confirmatory method is not validated at the time of planning because there is ongoing validation;

Option 4: a value equal to '-2' can be inserted if the confirmatory method is not validated at the time of planning where the laboratory has capacity to validate the method very fast;

Option 5: a value equal to '-3' can be inserted if the confirmatory method is outsourced;

Option 6: a value equal to '-4' can be inserted if the method is validated under the pesticide guidelines.

Option 7: for substances that can be considered VMPR or pesticides (A3b), resLOQ or resLOD can be reported instead of CCalpha.

However, Options 3-5 should be used only in exceptional cases.

4.8. CC beta (CCbeta) (dependent mandatory)

This dependent mandatory data element is used to indicate the detection capability, the smallest content of the substance that may be detected, identified and/or quantified in a sample with an error probability of β. It is expressed in the unit specified in resUnit data element.

One among CCbeta, resLOD and resLOQ is mandatory when anMethInfo.screening is reported.

It contains a numerical value composed of up to 20 digits. A numerical value of CCbeta should always be inserted according to the following options:

Option 1: the numerical value of CCbeta must be inserted;

Option 2: the lowest calibrant level (LCL) must be inserted when only confirmation methods are used. A comment in the data element 'detailedCom' must be inserted with the following text 'LCL';

4.9. Result limit of detection (resLOD) (dependent mandatory)

This dependent mandatory data element is used to indicate the lowest concentration that can be determined to be statistically different from a 'blank' analytical result. It is expressed in the unit specified in resUnit field.

One among CCbeta, resLOD and resLOQ is mandatory when anMethInfo.screening is reported.

It contains a numerical value composed of up to 20 digits.

4.10. Result limit of quantification (resLOQ) (dependent mandatory)

This dependent mandatory data element is used to indicate the lowest validated residue concentration of the analyte, which can be quantified and reported by routine monitoring with validated methods. It is expressed in the unit specified in resUnit data element.

One among CCbeta, resLOD and resLOQ is mandatory when anMethInfo.screening is reported.

It contains a numerical value composed of up to 20 digits.

4.11. Unit of measurement (resUnit) (mandatory)

This mandatory data element indicates the units of measurement for the numerical values resLOD, resLOQ, CCalpha, CCbeta.

It contains codes linked to the UNIT catalogue. The *chemUnit* hierarchy must be used.

4.12. Type of limit used to assess the result (evalLimitType) (mandatory)

This mandatory data element is used to specify the type of limit used to assess the result (or level of action). The data provider can check whether the chosen type of limit to assess the result is correct, by comparing it with the actual limit that appears in the validation dashboards. These limits are taken from the EFSA Legal Limits Database (LLDB) for the MRL and ML, while the MMPR and RPAs are taken from the EURL's Guidance[8].

It contains codes linked to the LMTTYP Catalogue; no restrictions apply, though the most relevant codes for NCP data collection are:

- **W001A** – Maximum Limit (ML);
- **W002A** – *Maximum Residue Level (MRL)*;
- **W006A** – *Reference Point of Action (RPA);*
- **W012A** – *Presence;*
- **W013A** – *CC alpha – decision limit;*
- **W015A** - Minimum Method Performance Requirement (MMPR).

4.13. Additional information on the detailed plan (detailedCom) (optional)

This optional data element can be used to report short comments related to the analytes (maximum 100 characters).

[8] https://food.ec.europa.eu/document/download/dbc5a216-7404-4c24-9a81-57ae6fa88890_en?filename=cs_vet-med-residues_guideline_eurl_mmpr.pdf

Table 8 - List of the business rules applicable to CONTROL_PLAN_DESIGN table

Business rule code	Description	Error/Warning Message	Type of error	Status	Comment
NP01	The code for 'Programme legal reference' (progLegalRef) can only be equal to 'Commission Regulation (EU) 2022/1646' (N371A).	progLegalRef is not in the allowed list of codes.	error	active	
NP02	The code for 'Sampling strategy' (sampStrategy) can only be equal to 'Objective sampling' (ST10A), or 'Selective sampling' (ST20A).	sampStrategy is not in the allowed list of codes.	error	active	
NP03	The code for 'Programme type' (progType) can only be equal to 'Official (National and EU) programme' (K018A) or 'Official (National) programme for Third Country Import' (K038A).	progType is not in the allowed list of codes.	error	active	
NP04	If the code for Sampling strategy' (sampStrategy) is 'Objective sampling' (ST10A), then the code for 'Programme type' (progType) can only be 'Official (National and EU) programme' (K018A).	The combination of progType and sampStrategy is not correct.	error	active	
NP05	If the code for Sampling strategy' (sampStrategy) is 'Selective sampling' (ST20A), and the code for 'Programme type' (progType) is 'Official (National) programme for Third Country Import' (K038A) (combination for Plan 3), then the code for 'Sampling point' (sampPoint) can only be equal to 'Border Control Posts' (E010A).	sampPoint is not in the allowed list when reporting Plan 3.	error	active	
NP06	The 'Sampling country' (sampCountry) must be equal to the country of the reporting organisation.	sampCountry is not equal to the country of the reporting organization.	error	active	
NP07	The 'Sampling year' (sampY) must be equal to the calendar year of submission of the plan.	sampY is not equal to the calendar year of submission of the plan.	error	active	
NP08	The code to describe the VMPR commodity group (sampMatCode) can only be one of the codes listed in Table 7 of this Guidance.	sampMatCode is not in the allowed list of codes.	error	active	
NP09	If the code for Sampling strategy' (sampStrategy) is 'Selective sampling' (ST20A), and the code for 'Programme type' (progType) is 'Official (National and EU) programme' (K018A) (combination for Plan 1), then the 'Production volume' (productionVolume), 'Production unit' (productionUnit) and 'Production year' (production) should be reported.	productionVolume, or productionUnit, or productionY, are missing, though mandatory for Plan 1.	error	active	
NP10	The value in 'Production volume' (productionVolume) must be constant for all records with the same sampMatCode.	productionVolume is not constant for all records with the same sampMatCode	error	active	

Business rule code	Description	Error/Warning Message	Type of error	Status	Comment
NP11	The code for 'Production unit' (productionUnit) can only be equal to 'Animal' (G199A) or 'Tonne' (G100A).	productionUnit is not in the allowed list of codes.	error	active	
NP12	The value in 'Production year' (productionY) must be constant for all records with the same sampMatCode.	productionY is not constant for all records with the same sampMatCode	error	active	
NP13	The value in 'Production year' (productionY) must fall within the range sampY-2 and sampY.	productionY does not fall within the range sampY-2 and sampY.	error	active	
NP14	The value in 'Number of consignments' (consignmentNum) must be constant for all records with the same sampMatCode.	consignmentNum is not constant for all records with the same sampMatCode	error	active	
NP15	The value in 'Consignment year' (consignmentY) must fall within the range sampY-2 and sampY	consignment does not fall within the range sampY-2 and sampY.	error	active	
NP16	If the code for Sampling strategy' (sampStrategy) is 'Selective sampling' (ST20A), and the code for 'Programme type' (progType) is 'Official (National) programme for Third Country Import' (K038A) (combination for Plan 3), then the 'Number of consignments' (consignmentNum), and 'Consignment year' (consignmentY) should be reported.	For Plan 3 one of the following data elements are missing: number of consignments (consignmentNum) and/or the reference year for the consignment number (consignmentY).	error	active	
NP17	The code in 'VMPR substance group' (paramCode)of single substances should not be reported in the design table. Only substance groups and sub-groups are allowed.	paramCode of single substances should not be reported in the design table. Only substance groups and sub-groups are allowed.	error	active	
NP18	For each combination of progLegalRef, sampStrategy, progType, sampCountry, sampY, sampPoint, sampMatCode, and paramCode, a unique value of totalEvents should be reported.	totalEvents is not unique for the specific combination. Please aggregate numbers per progLegalRef, sampStrategy, progType, sampCountry, sampY, sampPoint, sampMatCode, paramCode.	error	active	
NP19	If totalEvents does not refer to the total overall number for the commodity group (paramCode=RF-00000001-VET), then a value in 'Sampling point' (sampPoint) should be reported	sampPoint is missing, though mandatory for the specific combination of substance group and commodity group	error	active	

Table 9 - List of the business rules applicable to CONTROL_PLAN_DETAILED table

Business rule code	Description	Error/Warning Message	Type of error	Status	Comment
NPD01	If anMethInfo.confirmation is reported, then one among ccalpha, resLOD, or resLOQ should be reported	Ccalpha, resLOD and resLOQ are missing even though anMethInfo.confirmation was reported.	error	active	
NPD02	If anMethInfo.screening is reported, then one among ccbeta, resLOD, or resLOQ should be reported	ccbeta, resLOD and resLOQ are missing even though anMethInfo.screening was reported.	error	active	
NPD03	The code for 'Type of limit used to assess the result' (evalLimitType) should be 'Maximum Residue Level (MRL)' (W002A), or 'Reference Point of Action (RPA)' (W006A), or 'Presence' (W012A), or 'CC alpha – decision limit' (W013A) or Minimum Method Performance Requirement (MMPR) (W015A).	WARNING: evalLimitType is not in the recommended list of codes.	warning	active	
NPD04	For all Plans both screening and confirmation methods should be reported.	Both screening and confirmation methods should be reported	error	active	
NPD05	Only one method should be reported for screening and one for confirmation.	More than one method is reported for screening and/or confirmation even though only one is allowed.	error	active	
NPD06	If the base term of the sample matrix (sampMatCode) belongs to mammals and birds meat (A0EYH), then F20.A0F4V (exclusion of visible fat) should be added.	F20.A0F4V (exclusion of visible fat) is not present even though the reported base term of the sample matrix (sampMatCode) belongs to mammals and birds meat (A0EYH).	warning	active	
NPD07	CCalpha can either be a positive number or belong to the following list of strings (-1,-2,-3,-4)	CCalpha is not a positive number and does not belong to the allowed list of strings (-1,-2,-3,-4).	error	active	
NPD08	CCbeta can only be a positive number	CCbeta is not a positive number	error	active	
NPD09	If CCbeta is equal to –1 then the method set for confirmation should be the same of the one set for screening	CCbeta is equal to -1, however, the method set for confirmation is different of the one set for screening	error	inactive	This BR become inactive in 2026

Business rule code	Description	Error/Warning Message	Type of error	Status	Comment
NPD10	The code F598A ('Unspecified') should not be used, since the analytical method needs to be specified	The code F598A ('Unspecified') is used, even though the analytical method needs to be specified	error	active	Becomes an error in 2026
NPD11	The value in paramCode should be reported at least at level 5 of the hierarchy;	The value in paramCode is not reported at least at level 5 of the hierarchy;	error	active	
	The value in sampMatCode should be coded according to FoodEx2 classification rules	sampMatCode is not coded according to FoodEx2 classification rules	warning	active	Some will become an error in 2027*

*This package of BRs will be both warnings and errors implemented in 2027

Abbreviations

BR	Business rules
ChemMon	EFSA Chemical Monitoring data collection
DCF	Data collection framework
EC	European Commission
EFSA	European Food Safety Authority
EURL	European Reference Laboratories
LLDB	EFSA legal limit database
MANCP	Multiannual national control plan
ML	Maximum limits (this refers to Coccidiostats limits)
MMPR	Minimum method performance requirements
MRL	Maximum residue level
MS	EU Member States
NCP	VMPR national control clans
RC	Reporting countries
RPA	Reference points for actions
sDWH	EFSA scientific data warehouse
SSD2	EFSA Standard Sample Description (ver.2)
VMPR	Veterinary medicinal product residues
XML	Extensible markup language