MULTI-ANNUAL NATIONAL CONTROL PLAN

2026-2030

GOBIERNO DE ESPAÑA
MINISTERIO DE AGRICULTURA, PESCA Y ALIMENTACIÓN
MINISTERIO DE ECONOMÍA, COMERCIO Y EMPRESA
MINISTERIO DE SANIDAD
MINISTERIO DE DERECHOS SOCIALES, CONSUMO Y AGENDA 2030

COORDINATION:

- National Commission for the Coordination of the *Multi-annual National Control Plan*, comprising:
    - Subdirectorate-General for Official Control and Alerts of the Spanish Agency for Food Safety and Nutrition of the Ministry of Social Rights, Consumer Affairs and Agenda 2030
    - Subdirectorate-General for Support and Coordination of the Secretariat-General for Agricultural Resources and Food Security of the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food
    - Subdirectorate-General for External Health of the Directorate-General for Public Health and Health Equity of the Ministry of Health
    - Subdirectorate-General for Coordination, Quality and Cooperation in Consumer Affairs of the Directorate-General for Consumer Affairs of the Ministry of Social Rights, Consumer Affairs and Agenda 2030
    - Subdirectorate for Inspection, Certification and Technical Assistance for Foreign Trade of the Ministry of Economy, Trade and Business

DEVELOPMENT:

- National Coordination Commission for the *Multi-annual National Control Plan*.
- Coordinating Units between the General State Administration and the competent authorities of the autonomous communities and autonomous cities
- Competent authorities of autonomous communities and autonomous cities

APPROVAL:

- Sectoral Conference on Agriculture and Rural Development and Sectoral Conference on Fisheries of the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food
- Institutional Commission of the Spanish Agency for Food Safety and Nutrition
- Sectoral Conference on Consumption of the Ministry of Social Rights, Consumer Affairs and Agenda 2030
- Subdirectorate for Inspection, Certification and Technical Assistance for Foreign Trade, Ministry of Economy, Trade and Business
- Subdirectorate-General for External Health of the Directorate-General for Public Health and Health Equity of the Ministry of Health

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1. INTRODUCTION

The **National Food Chain Official Control Plan (**MANCP**)** describes the official controls carried out in Spain by the competent authorities at national, regional and local level, with a view to ensuring compliance throughout the agri-food chain, from primary production to points of sale to the final consumer.

The preparation and implementation of this Plan ensure compliance with *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* (hereinafter referred to as the *Official Controls Regulation* or *OCR)*. Article 109 of that Regulation requires Member States to ensure that official controls are carried *out by the competent authorities on the basis of a multiannual national control plan. In Spain, this requirement is fulfilled through the MANCP.*

The MANCP constitutes a key instrument for the organisation and integrated planning of official controls, ensuring that they are implemented in a uniform, effective and proportionate manner throughout the national territory. This coordinated approach strengthens confidence in the Spanish food control system and contributes to maintaining its high standards of safety and quality.

Responsibility for coordinating the preparation of the MANCP lies with the National Coordination Commission for the National Food Chain Official Control Plan, which acts as the coordinating body within the General State Administration.

This Commission was established by *Royal Decree 562/2025 of 1 July on official controls and other official activities* carried out along the agri-food chain and related operations. Its functions include ensuring effective coordination among the national authorities involved in the MANCP. Accordingly, the Plan has been developed in due consideration of the territorial organisation and distribution of competences within the Spanish State and is conceived as a framework within which the competent authorities of the autonomous communities and autonomous cities plan and implement official controls within their respective areas of responsibility.

Article 3 of the aforementioned Royal Decree provides that the competent authorities shall carry out official controls, through designated official control staff, within the scope of the OCR, in accordance with the guidelines laid down in the MANCP, the autonomous or municipal official control plans, or, where applicable, specific protocols. Consequently, the drafting of the MANCP is a joint undertaking involving all competent authorities responsible for its development and implementation.

Data obtained through the implementation of the MANCP are submitted annually to the European Commission by means of the annual report on official control results, in accordance with *Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2019/723 of 2 May 2019 laying down rules for the application of Regulation (EU) 2017/625 of the European Parliament and of the Council as regards the standard model form to be used in annual reports submitted by the Member States.* In addition, a national annual MANCP results report is prepared, analysing the outcomes achieved, incorporating additional relevant information and identifying areas for improvement to be addressed, thereby ensuring a process of continuous improvement. This report is also forwarded to the European Commission and to the Cortes Generales (Spanish Parliament, comprising the Congress of Deputies and the Senate) for information and oversight purposes and is made publicly available.

Where necessary, the MANCP is updated on an annual basis in order to adapt it to emerging needs, such as the identification of new risks or the entry into force of new implementing legislation.

2. GUIDING PRINCIPLES

The design, development and implementation of the MANCP are based on the following guiding principles, which ensure the effectiveness and efficiency of the Plan and contribute to the achievement of its objectives:

- **Coordination, cooperation and collaboration** among the competent authorities at national, regional and local level, ensuring the effectiveness of official controls through clear and efficient communication channels.
- **Harmonisation and fair treatment of economic operators**, achieved through the application of inspection methods, protocols and standard operating procedures that ensure proportionate, consistent and non-discriminatory actions throughout the national territory.
- **Transparency**, ensuring that all relevant information, including the MANCP, annual reports and proposals for improvement, is made available and accessible to stakeholders.
- **Quality of official controls**, ensured through monitoring mechanisms, the correction of non-compliances and the continuous verification of compliance with established requirements.
- **Efficient use of available resources**, optimising the management of human and material resources in order to ensure the efficiency and sustainability of the official control system.

3. STRUCTURE OF THE SPANISH FOOD SECTOR

The agri-food sector is a key component of the Spanish economy. It encompasses all activities related to the production of food products, from primary production through to their supply to the final consumer.

In Spain, the agri-food chain is composed of a series of interconnected stages, including production, processing, distribution and marketing, both within the national territory and beyond its borders.

Primary production comprises the initial stages of the chain and includes agricultural and livestock activities, extractive fisheries and aquaculture, as well as aspects related to animal welfare and the use and marketing of means of production, understood as the inputs employed in food production.

At the **processing stage**, products obtained from primary production undergo a range of industrial processes aimed at modifying their characteristics and extending their shelf life, thereby diversifying the food supply and enabling more efficient use of resources. This stage includes both the manufacture of new food products and operations such as packaging and labelling, ensuring that products are appropriately prepared for placing on the market.

In addition to standard production and processing conditions, certain products are subject to specific requirements that confer differentiated quality characteristics, such as those associated with *Protected Designations of Origin*, *Geographical Indications* or organic production.

Distribution encompasses the storage, transport and logistical operations required to move food products from production or processing sites to points of sale or consumption. Throughout this stage, appropriate conditions must be ensured in order to preserve food safety, quality and traceability.

Retail and sale involves the placing of food on the market and its availability to consumers through the various wholesale and retail channels. This stage facilitates access to food products and establishes the link between producers, processors and final consumers, thereby completing the agri-food chain.

Foreign trade, in its broadest sense, covers both domestically produced goods intended for export and products imported from third countries. Such products must comply with applicable European Union (EU) legislation and are subject to the relevant official controls at border control posts for their entry into or exit from the Union.



Each of these stages involves a wide range of operators, agents and interrelated activities that collectively ensure that food is produced, processed, distributed and marketed in a safe and efficient manner.

The proper functioning of the agri-food chain is essential to guarantee the availability of food while maintaining high standards of quality and food safety. Consideration must also be given to environmental sustainability, including the responsible use of natural resources, the protection of animal welfare and the minimisation of environmental impacts at all stages of the chain, from primary production to the final consumer.

4. COMPETENT AUTHORITIES

The MANCP is structured in due consideration of the territorial organisation and distribution of competences within the Spanish State and provides a framework within which the competent authorities of the autonomous communities and autonomous cities plan and implement official controls within their respective areas of responsibility.

4.1. TERRITORIAL ORGANIZATION

The official control system in Spain reflects the country's territorial organisation, which is structured into municipalities, provinces and autonomous communities and autonomous cities, as provided for in Article 137 of the Spanish Constitution. Each of these territorial entities enjoys autonomy in the management of its respective interests, resulting in a decentralised administrative system. This territorial model gives rise to three levels of public administration, each with its own specific competences:

- **General State level:** the central level of administration responsible for establishing the legislative framework, coordinating action at national level, engaging with international bodies and exercising the exclusive competences of the State.
- **Regional level:** comprising the autonomous communities and autonomous cities. Each autonomous community holds executive and legislative powers in key areas such as health, agriculture and consumer affairs, in accordance with the provisions laid down in its Statute of Autonomy.



- **Local level:** comprising provinces and municipalities, which play a key role in the implementation of specific actions, including market surveillance and the protection of public health within their respective territories.

The division of competences between the State and the autonomous communities is based on Articles 148 and 149 of the Spanish Constitution. The State holds exclusive competence in matters that directly or indirectly affect official controls, including international relations; customs and tariff arrangements (external trade); external health; the bases and coordination of the overall planning of economic activity; and sea fishing, without prejudice to the powers relating to the management of the sector conferred on the autonomous communities.

These exclusive State competences ensure uniformity in key aspects of the official control system and enable effective oversight in areas with a cross-border dimension, such as the export and import of animals and goods.

Matters not expressly attributed to the State by the Constitution may be assumed by the autonomous communities under their respective Statutes of Autonomy. Accordingly, the autonomous communities may exercise competences in the field of official control, in particular in relation to the organisation of their institutions of self-government; agriculture and livestock farming, in accordance with the general management of the economy; inland fishing, shellfishing and aquaculture, hunting and freshwater fishing; health and hygiene; the protection of the interests of consumers and users; and the organisation and implementation of official controls in food and food establishments, with the exception of establishments subject to municipal control.

In addition, the autonomous cities of Ceuta and Melilla, pursuant to their respective Statutes of Autonomy (Organic Law 1/1995 of 13 March on the Statute of Autonomy of Ceuta and Organic Law 2/1995 of 13 March on the Statute of Autonomy of Melilla), also exercise competences in areas such as health, consumer protection and the implementation of official controls in these fields.

These competences enable official control activities to be adapted to the specific characteristics and needs of each territory, thereby enhancing the proximity, responsiveness and effectiveness of the services provided.

4.2. SECTORAL ORGANIZATION

4.2.1. GENERAL STATE ADMINISTRATION

The General State Administration exercises its competences through ministerial departments. Pursuant to *Law 50/1997 of 27 November* on the Government, the Government determines the composition and functions of the ministries, as well as the mechanisms for coordination and support necessary for their effective operation.

Royal Decree 1009/2023 of 5 December establishing the basic organisational structure of ministerial departments, together with the subsequent implementing royal decrees, defines the ministerial departments and their basic structures and specifies the competences falling within the scope of the MANCP, as set out below:

Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food

The Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food (MAPA) is responsible for competences relating to primary food production, agri-food quality and food safety in general. Its main functions include:

- Primary food production of plant, animal, sea fishing and aquaculture origin, including aspects related to hygiene, animal and plant health, animal welfare, means of production and production establishments.
- Food quality schemes, including organic production and products with differentiated quality characteristics.
- Official controls on imports of live animals, products of animal origin, composite products, animal by-products, genetic material, products intended for animal feed, as well as plants, plant products and other objects.
- Issuance of export certificates for products subject to phytosanitary or veterinary certification for export to third countries.



Pursuant to *Royal Decree 717/2024 of 23 July establishing the basic organisational structure of the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food*, the Ministry organises the exercise of its competences through a number of specialised sub-directorates, thereby ensuring the effective performance of the tasks assigned to it within the framework of the MANCP. This organisational framework ensures cooperation among different internal units and interaction with other public administrations.

It should also be noted that, in accordance with *Order PJC/756/2024 of 22 July, which defines the actions to be carried out by the border official control services functionally dependent on the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food and the Ministry of Health,* MAPA is the competent authority responsible for coordinating, organising and implementing official controls on the goods listed in Annex I to that Order.

The detailed organisational structure of the Ministry is available at the following link:

Organisational chart of the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food

This Ministry is responsible for proposing and implementing Government policy in the areas of agricultural, livestock and fisheries resources, the agri-food industry, food, and agri-food foreign trade.

Units involved

Taking into account the organisational structure of MAPA and the subject matters covered, several units are involved in the MANCP.

Accordingly, *Royal Decree 717/2024 of 23 July* provides that internal coordination within the Ministry, as well as liaison with other bodies or ministerial departments in matters relating to official control, is the responsibility of the Subdirectorate-General for Support and Coordination of the Secretariat-General for Agricultural Resources and Food Security.

In addition, on a more specific and sectoral basis, the units of MAPA involved in the preparation and implementation of the MANCP are as follows:

- **Within the Secretariat-General for Agricultural Resources and Food Security**
  - Units attached to the **Directorate-General for Agricultural Productions and Markets**:
    - **Subdirectorate-General for Livestock Production Inputs**, which holds responsibility for official controls on products necessary for livestock production, including products used in animal feed, as well as reproductive products.
    - **Subdirectorate-General for Agricultural Production Inputs and the Spanish Plant Variety Office**, which is responsible for matters relating to genetically modified organisms, agricultural production inputs and their use.
  - Units attached to the **Directorate-General for Agri-food Production Health and Animal Welfare**:
    - **Subdirectorate-General for Animal Health, Hygiene and Traceability**, which exercises competences relating to official controls of agri-food production in the fields of animal health, hygiene and traceability, as well as veterinary medicinal products, as provided for in Law 8/2003 of 24 April on Animal Health.
    - **Subdirectorate-General for Plant and Forest Health and Hygiene**, which carries out competences relating to official controls of agri-food production in the areas of plant health, primary production hygiene and forest health, as well as controls on the placing on the market and proper use of plant protection products. In addition, it is responsible for exercising competences in the field of plant health under Law 43/2002 of 20 November on Plant Health, including the management of the registration and authorisation of plant protection products, covering those aspects relating to residues that fall within the competence of the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food.
    - **Subdirectorate-General for Health Agreements and Border Control**, which is responsible for exercising phytosanitary, veterinary and hygiene controls on imports from third countries and on exports to third countries of zoosanitary products, veterinary

medicinal products (excluding narcotic and psychotropic substances), live animals, plants and plant products, seeds and nursery plants, forest products, foodstuffs, animal or plant by-products not intended for human consumption, products intended for animal feed, and any other products subject to veterinary or phytosanitary inspection or certification, whether imported from or destined for export to third countries.

- **Subdirectorate-General for Animal and Plant Health Laboratories**, which holds competences in the planning, coordination and technical direction of the national reference laboratories in the fields of animal and plant health and hygiene. It also promotes coordination structures aimed at ensuring the networking of the laboratories under its responsibility with those of the autonomous communities and other public administrations carrying out activities in the same areas. In addition, it cooperates with the European Union Reference Laboratories (EURL) and with the reference laboratories of international organisations.
- **Animal Welfare Division**, which exercises the competences of the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food in the field of animal welfare, including legislation on the protection of animals during transport.

- Units attached to the **Directorate-General for Food**

- **Subdirectorate-General for Food Quality Control and Agri-food Laboratories,** which coordinates the national official control programmes for products with differentiated quality schemes and for organic production throughout the food chain, as well as the monitoring of trademarks for the legal protection of quality schemes. In addition, it exercises the competences of the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food in relation to the control of and protection against fraud in food quality, participating in control plans and campaigns in coordination with the European Union, the autonomous communities and the other units and departments involved in such controls.

■ Within the Secretariat-General for Fisheries:

- Units attached to the **Directorate-General for Fisheries Management and Aquaculture**:

- **Subdirectorate-General for Aquaculture, Fisheries Marketing and Structural Actions**, which coordinates official controls on the hygiene of primary production in extractive fisheries and aquaculture, in cooperation with the competent authorities of the autonomous communities.



Contact Point of MAPA

Subdirectorate-General for Support and Coordination

Secretariat-General for Agricultural Resources and Food Security

Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food

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Legislation establishing the competences of MAPA

- *Royal Decree 829/2023 of 20 November 2023 restructuring the ministerial departments*
- *Royal Decree 717/2024 of 23 July establishing the basic organisational structure of the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food*
- *Order PJC/756/2024 of 22 July, defining the actions to be carried out by the border official control services functionally dependent on the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food and the Ministry of Health*

Ministry of Social Rights, Consumer Affairs and Agenda 2030

The Ministry of Social Rights, Consumer Affairs and Agenda 2030 is primarily responsible for protecting and promoting social rights, fostering the sustainable development objectives of Agenda 2030 and ensuring consumer protection. Within its remit, the Ministry plays a key role in food safety and consumer regulation, ensuring that food products comply with quality standards and that consumers' rights are respected at all times.

Further details on the organisational structure of the Ministry are available at the following link:

Organisational chart of the Ministry of Social Rights, Consumer Affairs and Agenda 2030

Units involved

Within the Ministry of Social Rights, Consumer Affairs and Agenda 2030, the units involved in the preparation and implementation of the MANCP are as follows:

- **Spanish Agency for Food Safety and Nutrition (AESAN)**



The AESAN is an autonomous body, organisationally attached to the Ministry of Social Rights, Consumer Affairs and Agenda 2030. Within the framework of the competences of the General State Administration, it integrates and carries out functions related to food safety and the promotion of healthy nutrition. Its main functions include:

- Promoting and fostering cooperation and coordination among the competent public administrations in the fields of food safety and nutrition, as well as encouraging collaboration with the various stakeholders involved, including consumer and user associations.
- Acting as the national reference centre for the assessment, management and communication of food-related risks, particularly in situations of crisis or emergency.

- Planning, coordinating and developing strategies and actions to promote information, education and health promotion in the field of nutrition, with particular emphasis on the prevention of obesity.

More specifically, the units of AESAN involved in the preparation and implementation of the MANCP are as follows:

— **Subdirectorate-General for Food Safety Management**, which exercises competences relating to risk assessment, scientific coordination and the drafting of regulatory provisions in the field of food safety.

— **Subdirectorate-General for Official Control and Alerts**, responsible for the planning, coordination and monitoring of official controls throughout the food chain, as well as for the management of food alerts and cooperation with the competent authorities of the autonomous communities and autonomous cities and with the European Union in this area.

— **Subdirectorate-General for Nutrition**, which promotes policies aimed at encouraging healthy eating and preventing diet-related diseases, in cooperation with the health and education authorities.

Contact point of AESAN

Spanish Agency for Food Safety and Nutrition (AESAN)

Subdirectorate-General for Official Control and Alerts

Ministry of Social Rights, Consumer Affairs and Agenda 2030

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Directorate-General for Consumer Affairs

This Directorate-General focuses on protecting consumers through controls on the quality of food products, the accuracy of food labelling and surveillance against unfair commercial practices. It also promotes informed, conscious and responsible consumption by providing information, training and technical support to both citizens and public administrations and other stakeholders involved. This comprehensive approach helps to ensure a fair and safe consumer environment.

More specifically, the units involved in the preparation and implementation of the MANCP are as follows:

— **Subdirectorate-General for Coordination, Quality and Cooperation in Consumer Affairs**, which, among other functions, provides coordination and technical support to the consumer services of the autonomous communities in the field of market surveillance, with a view to ensuring product quality, accurate food information, the prevention of fraud and the protection of consumers.

— **Centre for Research and Quality Control (CICC)**, which carries out analyses and testing of food and non-food products in order to verify their quality, safety and labelling, in accordance with the applicable information and quality legislation.

Contact point of the Directorate-General for Consumer Affairs

Directorate-General for Consumer Affairs

Subdirectorate-General for Coordination, Quality and Cooperation in Consumer Affairs

Ministry of Social Rights, Consumer Affairs and Agenda 2030

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Legislation establishing the competences of the Ministry of Social Rights, Consumer Affairs and Agenda 2030

- *Royal Decree 209/2024, of 27 February, establishing the basic organisational structure of the Ministry of Social Rights, Consumer Affairs and Agenda 2030*
- *Royal Legislative Decree 1/2007, of 16 November, approving the consolidated text of the General Law for the Protection of Consumers and Users and other complementary legislation*
- *Law 11/2011 of 5 July 2011 on food safety and nutrition*
- *Royal Decree 697/2022 of 23 August, approving the Statute of the Autonomous Body Spanish Agency for Food Safety and Nutrition*

Ministry of Health



The Ministry of Health is responsible for proposing and implementing Government policy in the field of health, including health planning and healthcare provision, as well as for exercising the competences of the General State Administration to ensure citizens' right to health protection.

Within the framework of the MANCP, its activities focus on:

- The control and surveillance of hygienic and sanitary conditions in warehouses, catering establishments (bars, cafés and restaurants), retail outlets, service premises, hotels, vending machines and similar facilities located in port, airport and border areas.
- Surveillance activities at ports and airports relating to the potability of water, the collection and disposal of waste and wastewater, and the control of insects, rodents and other animals that may act as vectors of disease.
- In cooperation with the competent authorities of the autonomous communities and autonomous cities, the official control of exporting establishments and the sanitary certification, in the field of public health, of food products of non-animal origin and of food contact materials.

Further details on the organisational structure of the Ministry are available at the following link:

Organisational chart of the Ministry of Health

Units involved

More specifically, the units involved in the preparation and implementation of the MANCP are as follows:

- Within the **Secretariat of State for Health**

— Unit attached to the **Directorate-General for Public Health and Health Equity**

- **Subdirectorate-General for External Health**, which is responsible for coordinating and carrying out health controls arising from the competences conferred in the field of sanitary certification for the export of food products and foodstuffs of non-animal origin, as well as for the control of establishments located in port, airport and border areas.

Contact point of the Ministry of Health

Subdirectorate-General for External Health

Directorate-General for Public Health and Health Equity

Ministry of Health

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Legislation establishing the competences of the Ministry of Health

- *Law 14/1986 of 25 April, General Health Law*
- *Royal Decree 1486/1986 of 13 June, on the functions of the Ministry of Health and Consumer Affairs in the field of external health*
- *Law 33/2011 of 4 October, General Public Health Law*
- *Royal Decree 829/2023 of 20 November, restructuring ministerial departments*
- *Royal Decree 718/2024 of 23 July, establishing the basic organisational structure of the Ministry of Health*
- *Order PJC/756/2024 of 24 July, laying down specific guidelines for the sanitary control of products of non-animal origin at points of entry.*

Ministry of Economy, Trade and Business

The Ministry of Economy, Trade and Business is responsible for proposing, coordinating and implementing Government economic policy, through reforms aimed at improving competitiveness and trade, with a focus on supporting businesses and enhancing the economy's potential for growth.

The Secretariat of State for Trade, under the overall authority of the Minister of Economy, Trade and Business, exercises the functions set out in Article 62 of Law 40/2015 of 1 October within the scope of its competences. These functions relate to the definition, development and implementation of the State's trade policy, as regards both external and internal trade, including intra-EU trade, as well as to the competitive strategy of internationalisation policy, foreign investment and external transactions, and to activities promoting and supporting the internationalisation of Spanish enterprises, insofar as these matters fall within the competences of the General State Administration.

Within the framework of the MANCP, the Ministry carries out its activities through the SOIVRE Inspection Service of the Territorial and Provincial Trade Directorates, coordinated by the Subdirectorate for Inspection, Certification and Technical Assistance for Foreign Trade, in particular in relation to:

- The inspection and commercial quality control of products subject to foreign trade, including intra-EU trade, as well as checks on compliance with the requirements laid down in specific EU legislation applicable to certain products subject to foreign trade.

- Actions deriving from the implementation of *Royal Decree 175/2004 of 30 January, designating the coordinating authority for the purposes of Commission Regulation (EC) No 1148/2001 of 12 June 2001 on conformity checks with the marketing standards applicable in the fresh fruit and vegetables sector.*
- Border inspection and control of imports of organic products, without prejudice to the competences attributed to other ministerial departments.
- Further details on the organisational structure of the Ministry are available at the following link:



Organisational chart of the Ministry of Economy, Trade and Business

Units involved

Within the Ministry of Economy, Trade and Business, the units responsible for activities related to the MANCP are as follows:

- Within the **Secretariat of State for Trade**

— Units attached to the **Directorate-General for Trade Policy**

  - **Subdirectorate-General for Inspection, Certification and Technical Assistance for Foreign Trade**, which is responsible for the inspection and commercial quality control of products subject to foreign trade, including intra-EU trade, as well as for the control of imported organic products. It also functionally coordinates the SOIVRE Inspection Service of the Territorial and Provincial Trade Directorates.

— Units attached to the **Directorate-General for International Trade and Investment: the Territorial and Provincial Trade Directorates** are organisationally dependent on the Ministry of Economy, Trade and Business through the Secretariat of State for Trade and functionally dependent on the senior or management bodies of the Ministry, depending on the subject matter of their activities. They are also entrusted with competences relating to the inspection and commercial quality control of products subject to foreign trade, including intra-EU trade, as regards technical standards and specifications, packaging and labelling, warehouses, storage facilities and means of transport. They are responsible for carrying out conformity checks with the common marketing standards in the fresh fruit and vegetables sector, in relation to dispatches to other EU Member States, as well as for the authorisation, control and inspection of organic products originating in third countries for release for free circulation in the European Union.

Contact point of the Ministry of Economy, Trade and Business

Subdirectorate-General for Inspection, Certification and Technical Assistance for Foreign Trade

Secretariat of State for Trade

Ministry of Economy, Trade and Business

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Legislation establishing the competences of the Ministry of Economy, Trade and Enterprise

- *Royal Decree 829/2023 of 20 November, restructuring ministerial departments*
- *Royal Decree 410/2024 of 23 April, developing the basic organisational structure of the Ministry of Economy, Trade and Business*
- *Royal Decree 1456/2005 of 2 December, regulating the Territorial and Provincial Trade Directorates Royal Decree 175/2004 of 30 January, designating the coordinating authority for the purposes of Commission Regulation (EC) No 1148/2001 of 12 June 2001 on conformity checks with the marketing standards applicable in the fresh fruit and vegetables sector.*

4.2.2. AUTONOMOUS AND LOCAL AUTHORITIES

Within the system of autonomous and local authorities, each autonomous community and autonomous city has its own legal framework governing its composition, organisation and rules of operation. As a general rule, the exercise of their respective competences is carried out through the so-called Consejerías1 (regional ministries), which may bear different names depending on the autonomous community concerned and which are generally structured in a manner similar to that of the General State Administration. These Consejerías typically include departments responsible for health, trade and consumer affairs, as well as departments responsible for agriculture, livestock farming, fisheries and aquaculture.

- **Andalucía**
  - Consejería de Agricultura, Pesca, Agua y Desarrollo rural
  - Agencia de Gestión Agraria y Pesquera de Andalucía
  - Consejería de Salud y Consumo. Seguridad Alimentaria
  - Consejería de Salud y Consumo. Consumo
- **Aragón**
  - Departamento de Agricultura, Ganadería y Alimentación
  - Departamento de Sanidad. Seguridad Alimentaria y Sanidad Ambiental
  - Departamento de Presidencia, Economía y Justicia. Consumo
- **Principado de Asturias**
  - Consejería de Medio Rural y Política Agraria
  - Consejería de Salud. Seguridad Alimentaria
  - Consejería de Ordenación de Territorio, Urbanismo, Vivienda y Derechos Ciudadanos. Consumo
- **Islas Baleares**
  - Consejería de Agricultura, Pesca y Medio Natural
  - Consejería de Salud. Seguridad Alimentaria
  - Consejería de Salud. Departamento de Protección y Defensa de los Derechos de los Consumidores
- **Islas Canarias**
  - Consejería de Agricultura, Ganadería, Pesca y Soberanía Alimentaria
  - Consejería de Sanidad. Seguridad Alimentaria
  - Consejería de Economía, Industria, Comercio y Autónomos. Consumo
- **Cantabria**
  - Consejería de Desarrollo Rural, Ganadería, Pesca y Alimentación
  - Consejería de Salud. Seguridad Alimentaria
  - Consejería de Industria, Empleo, Innovación y Comercio. Consumo

- **Castilla y León**
  - Consejería de Agricultura, Ganadería y Desarrollo Rural
  - Consejería de Sanidad. Seguridad Alimentaria
  - Consejería de Industria Comercio y Empleo. Consumo

- **Castilla – La Mancha**
  - Consejería de Agricultura, Ganadería y Desarrollo Rural
  - Consejería de Sanidad. Sanidad Alimentaria
  - Consejería de Sanidad. Consumo

- **Cataluña**
  - Departamento de Agricultura, Ganadería, Pesca y Alimentación
  - Agencia de Salud Pública de Cataluña
  - Agencia Catalana de Seguridad Alimentaria
  - Agencia de Salud Pública de Barcelona
  - Agència Catalana del Consum

- **Comunidad Valenciana**
  - Conselleria de Agricultura, Agua, Ganadería y Pesca
  - Conselleria de Sanidad. Seguridad Alimentaria
  - Conselleria de Innovación, Industria, Comercio y Turismo. Consumo

- **Extremadura**
  - Consejería de Agricultura, Ganadería y Desarrollo Sostenible
  - Consejería de Salud y Servicios Sociales. Seguridad Alimentaria
  - Consejería de Salud y Servicios Sociales. Consumo

- **Galicia**
  - Consellería de Sanidad. Seguridad Alimentaria
  - Consellería del Medio Rural
  - Consellería del Mar
  - Instituto Gallego de Consumo y de la Competencia
  - Consellería de Emprego, Comercio e Emigración. Consumo

- **Comunidad de Madrid**
  - Consejería de Medio Ambiente, Agricultura e Interior. Dirección General de Agricultura Ganadería y Alimentación
  - Consejería de Sanidad. Seguridad Alimentaria
  - Consejería de Sanidad. Calidad y Consumo Alimentario

- **Región de Murcia**
  - Consejería de Agua, Agricultura, Ganadería y Pesca
  - Consejería de Salud. Seguridad Alimentaria y Zoonosis
  - Consejería de Empresa, Empleo y Economía Social. Consumo

- **Comunidad de Navarra**
  - Departamento de Desarrollo Rural y Medio Ambiente
  - Instituto de Salud Pública y Laboral de Navarra
  - Departamento de Industria y de Transición Ecológica y Digital Empresarial. Servicio de Consumo

- **País Vasco**
  - Departamento de Alimentación, Desarrollo Rural, Agricultura y Pesca
  - Departamento de Salud
  - ELIKA – Fundación Vasca para la Seguridad Alimentaria
  - Departamento de Turismo, Comercio y Consumo

- **La Rioja**
  - Consejería de Agricultura, Ganadería, Mundo Rural y Medio Ambiente
  - Consejería de Salud y Políticas Sociales. Seguridad Alimentaria y Consumo
  - Consejería de Salud y Políticas Sociales. Consumo

- **Ceuta**
  - Consejería de Sanidad, Consumo y Menores
  - Dirección General de Ordenación Pesquera y Acuicultura (MAPA)
  - Consejería de Sanidad y Servicios Sociales. Consumo

- **Melilla**
  - Consejería de Bienestar Social y Salud Pública. Seguridad Alimentaria
  - Dirección General de Ordenación Pesquera y Acuicultura (MAPA)
  - Consejería de Políticas Sociales y Salud Pública. Consumo

Pursuant to *Law 7/1985 of 2 April, regulating the bases of local government*, and to the legislative development of the competences established in the Statutes of Autonomy of the autonomous communities and autonomous cities, as well as the development and continuation of competences previously exercised, certain municipalities exercise competences in the official control of food establishments located within their municipal boundaries, using their own staff and resources. The organisational arrangements depend on the structure of each local authority vested with competences in this field of control.

4.3. COORDINATION BODIES

Coordination under the MANCP encompasses both cooperation among public administrations within the national territory and liaison with EU institutions.

4.3.1. COORDINATION BETWEEN THE EUROPEAN UNION AND SPAIN

EU legislation provides that each Member State shall designate one or more liaison bodies responsible for maintaining contact with equivalent bodies in other Member States. The primary objective of these bodies is to facilitate and coordinate communication between the competent authorities of each country. In particular, they are responsible for managing the transmission and receipt of requests for assistance, thereby ensuring effective cooperation and a rapid response among Member States.

At European level, AESAN acts as the national coordinator of the MANCP and as the contact point with the European Commission, ensuring the coherent application of the Official Controls Regulation and the appropriate transmission of information.

In Spain, the contact point with the European Commission for the MANCP is as follows:

Spanish Agency for Food Safety and Nutrition (AESAN)

Subdirectorate-General for Official Control and Alerts

Ministry of Social Rights, Consumer Affairs and Agenda 2030

C/ Alcalá 56, 28014 Madrid

E-mail: sgcoa@aesan.gob.es

4.3.2. INTERNAL COORDINATION

In order to ensure consistent and coherent implementation of the official control system throughout the national territory, effective coordination among all the competent authorities involved is essential.

This coordination is structured through various bodies which, according to their respective competences, bring together the different levels of public administration (General State level, regional level — autonomous communities and autonomous cities, where applicable — and local level). These coordination bodies constitute a fundamental pillar for the harmonised implementation of the MANCP, as they make it possible to channel cooperation between the different administrative levels and to translate into operational practice the strategic guidelines agreed within inter-administrative decision-making fora.

4.3.2.1. COORDINATION AT THE LEVEL OF THE GENERAL STATE ADMINISTRATION: NATIONAL COORDINATION COMMISSION FOR THE MANCP

The MANCP coordination bodies at national level ensure the uniform and coherent implementation of official controls throughout the Spanish territory. These bodies, of a technical nature, operate under the strategic guidelines established by the Sectoral Conferences, ensuring that decisions adopted at political level are translated into concrete operational actions.



The National Coordination Commission for the MANCP is the interministerial technical body responsible for coordinating, at central level, all actions related to the design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of the MANCP. It constitutes the central pillar of the MANCP governance system, ensuring coherence among the different competent authorities, the harmonisation of procedures, and the appropriate integration of data and indicators relating to official controls.

Its role is to ensure the uniform application of the MANCP throughout the national territory, facilitating operational coordination between the services of the General State Administration, the autonomous communities and, where applicable, the autonomous cities. In addition, it acts as a technical bridge between the strategic decisions adopted within the Sectoral Conferences and their translation into concrete actions under the Plan.

The specific functions of this Commission are:

- To design and propose the structure, minimum content and strategic objectives of the MANCP;
- To establish, in coordination with the competent authorities involved, the time framework of the MANCP, as well as its review, update and adaptation processes and timelines;
- To coordinate the activities of the services of the General State Administration, the autonomous communities and, where applicable, the autonomous cities responsible for the preparation and implementation of the programmes forming part of the MANCP;
- To propose mechanisms for assessing compliance with the objectives of the Plan;
- To propose mechanisms for the collection of official control data at national level for the preparation of the annual results report, in accordance with Article 113 of Regulation (EU) 2017/625.
- To agree on the policy for the publication of official control data, in accordance with the principles of transparency and confidentiality.

The composition of this Commission includes the coordination units of the ministries with competences in the different areas covered by the Plan:

- **Chair:** the person holding the position of Executive Director of the Spanish Agency for Food Safety and Nutrition (AESAN).
- **Vice-Chair:** the person holding the position of Director-General for Agri-food Production Health and Animal Welfare (MAPA).
- **Secretariat:** a person holding the position of Head of Unit or an equivalent post, designated by the Subdirectorate-General for Official Control and Alerts (AESAN), who shall act with voice but without voting rights.
- **Members:**
  - Subdirectorate-General for Official Control and Alerts (AESAN).
  - Secretariat-General for Agricultural Resources and Food Security (MAPA).
  - Subdirectorate-General for External Health of the Directorate-General for Public Health and Health Equity (Ministry of Health).
  - Subdirectorate-General for Coordination, Quality and Cooperation in Consumer Affairs of the Directorate-General for Consumer Affairs (Ministry of Social Rights, Consumer Affairs and Agenda 2030).
  - Subdirectorate-General for Inspection, Certification and Technical Assistance for Foreign Trade (Ministry of Economy, Trade and Business).

The Commission works in close cooperation with the competent authorities responsible for the implementation of official controls within their respective areas, as well as with the various sectoral or territorial coordination bodies, in order to ensure the harmonised and effective application of the MANCP.

4.3.2.2. COORDINATION BETWEEN THE GENERAL STATE ADMINISTRATION, THE AUTONOMOUS COMMUNITIES AND THE AUTONOMOUS CITIES: SECTORAL CONFERENCES, INSTITUTIONAL COMMISSION AND TECHNICAL COORDINATION BODIES

Law 40/2015 of 1 October on the Legal Regime of the Public Sector lays down the foundations for this coordination framework. In particular, Article 141 establishes the duty of cooperation between

public administrations; Article 143 regulates inter-administrative cooperation; and Article 145 defines cooperation bodies as multilateral or bilateral bodies composed of representatives of the different public administrations, established in order to agree on actions aimed at improving the exercise of their respective competences. Furthermore, Article 147 defines the Sectoral Conferences as cooperation bodies of a multilateral nature and sector-specific scope, chaired by the member of the Government who, representing the General State Administration, is competent by reason of the subject matter, and comprising the corresponding members of the regional governments, representing the autonomous communities, as well as the autonomous cities of Ceuta and Melilla.

In accordance with the provisions of that Law, and with the objective of ensuring the uniform application of the Official Controls Regulation, various coordination bodies have been established to facilitate effective cooperation between the General State Administration, the autonomous communities and, where applicable, the autonomous cities. Through these bodies, the national control programmes included in the MANCP are jointly prepared, reviewed and updated, as are technical guidelines, harmonisation documents and operational procedures. This framework ensures that official controls are carried out in a harmonised manner throughout the territory, while respecting regional specificities and maintaining common standards of quality and effectiveness.

These instruments make it possible to establish common criteria for the interpretation of legislation, thereby avoiding discrepancies and ensuring consistency in the implementation of official controls.

These coordination bodies constitute the cornerstone of inter-administrative cooperation in key areas related to the MANCP. Depending on whether they operate at a strategic or technical level, their composition and functions are organised as follows:

Sectoral Conferences and Institutional Commission

These are multilateral cooperation bodies relating to a specific sector of public activity. They are composed of the head of the competent ministerial department and of all the members of the regional governments responsible for the same subject matter, or, where applicable, by the corresponding directors-general. Their functioning is governed by the founding agreement of each body and by their internal rules of procedure. The establishment and structure of each of these participatory bodies are approved through national legislation governing the organisation of each body.

These bodies play a fundamental strategic role in decision-making processes that enable joint and coordinated action among the different public administrations involved, guiding the development, implementation and fundamental amendments of the MANCP within their respective areas. In particular:

- The **Sectoral Conference on Agriculture and Rural Development** is chaired by the Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food and includes the Consejeros (regional ministers) responsible for agriculture of the autonomous communities. It is responsible for coordinating official controls related to primary production, food production and agri-food production health, including aspects relating to border controls.
- The **Sectoral Conference on Fisheries** is chaired by the Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food and includes the Consejeros of the autonomous communities responsible for fisheries and aquaculture. It is responsible for coordinating official controls related to fishery and aquaculture products.
- The **Sectoral Conference on Consumer Affairs** is composed of the person holding responsibility for consumer affairs within the competent Ministry, who assumes the role of Chair, and the members of the regional governments of the autonomous communities and autonomous cities with competences in consumer affairs, one of

whom acts as Vice-Chair. The Secretary of the Conference is the person holding the position of Director-General responsible for consumer affairs within the General State Administration. This Conference constitutes the highest cooperation body between the General State Administration and the administrations of the autonomous communities and autonomous cities in the field of consumer affairs. The meetings of this body define State policies on consumer protection.

Pursuant to *Article 148 of Law 40/2015 of 1 October*, the functions of the Sectoral Conferences include, inter alia:

- To be informed of draft bills and draft government regulations of the State Government or of the Governments of the autonomous communities and autonomous cities, where applicable, when such instruments directly affect the areas of competence of other public administrations, or where this is provided for in the applicable sectoral legislation, either through their plenary sessions or through the commission or working group mandated for that purpose.
- To establish specific cooperation plans between the autonomous communities and, where applicable, the autonomous cities in the relevant sectoral field, with a view to eliminating duplication and achieving greater efficiency in the provision of public services.
- To exchange information on actions planned by the different public administrations in the exercise of their competences which may affect other administrations.
- To establish mechanisms for the exchange of information, particularly statistical information.
- To agree on the internal organisation of the Sectoral Conference and its working methods.
- To establish objective criteria to serve as a basis for the territorial allocation of budgetary appropriations, as well as for their distribution at the beginning of the financial year, in accordance with the provisions of Law 47/2003 of 26 November.

The **Institutional Commission of the AESAN**, composed of the Executive Directorate of AESAN and the Directors-General for Public Health of the autonomous communities and autonomous cities, is responsible for directing and approving official control actions in the field of food safety and nutrition. It assumes the role of promoting and strengthening coordination and cooperation among the public administrations competent in these areas, exercising functions of inter-territorial and inter-departmental coordination. Although it shares the cooperative vocation of the Sectoral Conferences, its nature is more technical and operational, in line with the specific regulatory framework governing AESAN.



Technical level coordinating bodies

These bodies perform highly specific technical functions tailored to the particular characteristics of each control area. They are essential to ensuring the correct implementation of official controls throughout the national territory.

Technical-level coordination bodies are usually composed of the responsible ministerial unit, which leads coordination and technical management, together with representatives of the competent

authorities of the autonomous communities and autonomous cities and, where appropriate, of the General State Administration, responsible for the execution of controls. Where necessary, experts in specific subject areas may be incorporated into these coordination bodies in order to provide the technical or specialised support required for the tasks to be carried out.

These bodies perform key functions for the correct practical application of the MANCP in Spain, such as:

- **Preparation and updating of control programmes:** to design national control programmes, including objectives, procedures and methodologies, as well as to review and adapt them in light of identified needs or regulatory changes.
- **Preparation of harmonisation documents:** to resolve technical discrepancies and establish common criteria for interpretation and action, in order to avoid conflicts in the application of legislation.
- **Oversight of implementation:** to ensure the uniform and harmonised application of official controls throughout the national territory, while respecting the competences of the autonomous communities and autonomous cities.
- **Evaluation and analysis:** to collect, analyse and assess the results of controls carried out under the programmes, with a view to identifying areas for improvement.
- **Preparation of annual reports:** to draw up programme results reports, which serve to assess their effectiveness and to justify any necessary adjustments.
- **Inter-administrative coordination:** to facilitate communication and cooperation among the different public administrations involved in the programmes.

These bodies may operate under different names, depending on the specific area of activity and the competent authorities involved.

Although the agreements reached within these bodies are of a technical nature and are adopted by consensus, their implementation is carried out through the instruments and procedures established by each administration. Where considered necessary, or where required for reasons of legal certainty, such agreements are formally approved by the corresponding higher bodies or are transformed into specific legislation at State or regional level. In this way, it is ensured that the decisions adopted are clear, transparent and uniformly applicable.

The following table brings together the national coordinating bodies, including their purpose and the legal framework governing them.

4.3.2.3. COORDINATION BODIES OF THE AUTONOMOUS COMMUNITIES, AUTONOMOUS CITIES AND LOCAL AUTHORITIES

Coordination bodies at autonomous and local level play a key role in the implementation of official controls, ensuring that actions carried out by the different autonomous communities are performed in a harmonised and coherent manner throughout the territory. These bodies facilitate cooperation between central and peripheral services, as well as with the General State Administration.

The main functions of these bodies are as follows:

- **Harmonised implementation:** to ensure that official controls are carried out in accordance with uniform criteria, while at the same time respecting the specific characteristics of each territory, and to guarantee the implementation of programmes and procedures established at national level in line with the specific features of the territorial scope.
- **Communication and cooperation:** to establish mechanisms that enable smooth and effective communication among the autonomous communities.

- **Technical supervision:** to coordinate the actions of the different autonomous communities in order to ensure compliance with the objectives of the MANCP.

Each autonomous community, autonomous city or local authority designs and organises its coordination bodies in accordance with its own organisational structure and needs. The establishment and approval of these coordination bodies are carried out through autonomous laws or decrees, which set out their responsibilities, working methods and communication flows among the different actors involved. This approach ensures that the autonomous communities and autonomous cities play an active and coordinated role in the implementation of official controls, thereby contributing to the overall effectiveness of the MANCP.

5. OBJECTIVES WITHIN THE FRAMEWORK OF THE MANCP

Within the MANCP 2026–2030, three levels of objectives are established:

- Strategic objectives, which define the overall strategy of the MANCP and provide a global framework for all actions envisaged under the Plan. In order to address the challenges and purposes associated with each of these objectives, the autonomous communities have designed and implemented different national official control programmes, which are described in Section 7 of this document.
- Given the broad scope of each strategic objective, two additional, more specific levels of objectives are established, directly linked to each national official control programme:
- General objectives, which are associated with each national official control programme and determine what the official control system aims to achieve in each area, as well as its priorities. These objectives are linked to the expected results and impacts during the implementation period of each programme.
- Operational objectives, which are more specific and express what the competent authority expects to achieve through the implementation of the programmes. They derive from the general objectives or are set directly by the applicable legislation and are achieved through the official control activities coordinated and carried out by those authorities.

Within the MANCP 2026–2030, five strategic objectives are established. The purpose of each of these strategic objectives, which apply to the control areas referred to in Article 1.2 of the OCR, is set out below. The general and operational objectives are described within each national official control programme.



STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE 1. To ensure compliance with legislation applicable to primary production and related operations for food and feed; animal health and animal welfare rules; plant health and plant protection products; and the hygiene requirements applicable in these areas.

The competent authority responsible for coordinating the achievement of this objective is the **Subdirectorate-General for Support and Coordination of the Secretariat-General for Agricultural Resources and Food Security of the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food**.

The actions covered under this strategic objective include:

* Ensuring that operators comply with the applicable EU, national and regional legislation relating to health, hazard control and good hygiene practices in primary production (agriculture, livestock farming, extractive fisheries, aquaculture, genetically modified organisms, animal by-products not intended for human consumption) and related activities (animal welfare throughout the entire production process and during transport; production, marketing and use of means of production, animal feed, reproductive products, plant protection products, establishments, identification, traceability, etc.).
* Monitoring the corrective measures applied in cases of non-compliance, in order to obtain as comprehensive an understanding as possible of the situation and its evolution.
* Assessing and, where appropriate, reducing and controlling the risks arising from operators' activities, in order to protect human health, animal health, plant health and animal welfare through compliance with the applicable legislation.

STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE 2. To ensure compliance with legislation on food safety, nutrition and animal welfare in food establishments, as well as to promote healthy and sustainable diets in school settings.

The competent authority responsible for coordinating the achievement of this objective is the **Spanish Agency for Food Safety and Nutrition of the Ministry of Social Rights, Consumer Affairs and Agenda 2030**.

The actions covered under this strategic objective include:

* Verifying compliance with food hygiene and animal welfare legislation in food establishments.
* Monitoring compliance with legislation to ensure that food products placed on the market for consumers contain the food safety information required under the applicable legal provisions.
* Reducing, as far as possible and in any event to acceptable levels, consumers' exposure to biological and chemical risks present in food.
* Promoting healthy and sustainable diets, by enhancing and monitoring nutritional quality in school menus and in food and beverages supplied through vending machines and cafeterias.
* Reducing, as far as possible and in any event to acceptable levels, consumers' exposure to emerging risks or risks of particular concern or difficult to control.

STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE 3: To ensure the achievement of a high level of food quality, intensify the fight against food fraud, and protect the legitimate interests of consumers throughout the entire food chain and in agri-food products.

Taking into account the sectoral distribution of competences, two coordinating units are involved in the implementation of Strategic Objective 3.

With regard to documents and actions falling within the competences of the **Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food**, coordination is entrusted to the **Subdirectorate-General for Support and Coordination**. The Ministry carries out its activities at the stages defined in the relevant specific regulations, verifying compliance with applicable legislation and strengthening action against agri-food fraud.

With regard to actions and programmes falling within the competences of the **Ministry of Social Rights, Consumer Affairs and Agenda 2030**, coordination is the responsibility of the **Subdirectorate-General for Coordination, Quality and Cooperation in Consumer Affairs of the Directorate-General for Consumer Affairs**. This unit focuses its intervention primarily at the point of sale to the final consumer, both in physical retail environments and through distance selling via the internet and e-commerce, ensuring protection against unfair commercial practices, monitoring the compliance of marketed products, and verifying the accuracy and clarity of information provided through labelling and advertising.

The actions covered under this strategic objective include:

* Ensuring a high level of quality of agri-food products on the market, including products with differentiated quality schemes and organic production, through actions that strengthen their control and traceability.
* Intensifying surveillance and the fight against fraud, with the aim of reducing regulatory non-compliance and safeguarding the integrity of the agri-food market.
* Protecting consumers against unfair commercial practices, by ensuring compliance with legislation governing marketing practices and the protection of consumer rights.
* Ensuring the right to clear, accurate and transparent information, both in the labelling and advertising of agri-food products, thereby fostering a fairer consumer environment and strengthening trust in products available on the market.

STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE 4: To ensure a high level of protection in exchanges at Spanish borders involving animals, plants, food, feed and other products.

Taking into account the sectoral distribution of competences, three coordinating units are involved in the implementation of Strategic Objective 4. For all documents and actions falling within the competences of the **Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food**, coordination is entrusted to the **Subdirectorate-General for Support and Coordination of the Secretariat-General for Agricultural Resources and Food Security**.

For actions and programmes falling within the competences of the **Ministry of Economy, Trade and Business**, coordination is entrusted to the **Subdirectorate-General for Inspection, Certification and Technical Assistance for Foreign Trade**.

The actions covered under this strategic objective include:

* Reducing sanitary, phytosanitary and food safety risks, as well as fraudulent or deceptive practices linked to the introduction of animals, plants or other goods originating in or coming from third countries or territories, and to the export of animals, plants, food or other goods.

* Ensuring a high level of food quality through border controls, by verifying compliance with applicable legislation on organic production for products imported from third countries through Spanish borders, as well as by identifying potential fraudulent or deceptive practices related to marketing standards applicable to certain agri-food products subject to foreign trade with third countries, through border control activities.

STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE 5: To ensure a high level of public health protection through the implementation of sanitary controls arising from the competences attributed in the field of sanitary certification for the export of food and foodstuffs of non-animal origin, as well as through the control of establishments located in port, airport and border areas.

For actions and programmes falling within the competences of the **Ministry of Health**, coordination is entrusted to the **Subdirectorate-General for External Health of the Directorate-General for Public Health and Health Equity**.

The actions covered under this strategic objective include:

* Monitoring compliance with the legislation applicable to food and foodstuffs placed on the market for consumers in port, airport and border areas.
* Ensuring that exports of food and foodstuffs of non-animal origin comply with the sanitary requirements laid down by third countries and by European Union and Spanish public health legislation, through the issuance of official sanitary certification.



6. RESOURCES FOR OFFICIAL CONTROLS

The competent authorities carrying out official controls must have sufficient resources to perform them, in accordance with Article 5 of the OCR. In order for official controls and other official activities to be carried out effectively and appropriately, it is necessary to have staff with adequate qualifications and experience, as well as appropriate technical and material resources, such as facilities and equipment, IT support systems and laboratories suitable for carrying out analyses, testing and diagnostics.

6.1. HUMAN RESOURCES

The competent authorities involved in the MANCP are public administrations employing public officials, whose rights, duties and codes of conduct are laid down in Royal Legislative Decree 5/2015 of 30 October, approving the consolidated text of the Law on the Basic Statute of Public Employees. Public employees work at all levels of public administration: within the General State Administration, the autonomous communities and autonomous cities, and local authorities.

The competent authority may delegate certain control tasks and other official control activities, in accordance with the provisions of Chapter III of the OCR. Such delegation may be made to delegated bodies or to natural persons, provided that the conditions laid down in Articles 29 and 30, relating to independence, impartiality and the required experience, are met. In addition, the competent authority must supervise the delegated bodies or persons, as established in Articles 32 and 33.

Furthermore, Article 4.3 of the OCR allows the autonomous communities to assign certain responsibilities related to official controls to Organic Control Authorities. In each control programme, any delegated or assigned tasks are identified where applicable.

6.1.1. STAFF OBLIGATIONS

Staff carrying out official controls and other official activities must be free from **conflicts of interest**, in accordance with Article 5 of the Official Controls Regulation (OCR). The competent authorities, in turn, must establish the necessary mechanisms and procedures to ensure compliance with this requirement.

The majority of staff performing official controls and other official activities belong to the public administration and must therefore comply with **the duties and the Code of Conduct** laid down in Chapter VI, Title III of *Royal Legislative Decree 5/2015 of 30 October*. Specifically, Article 52 provides that: "*Public employees shall perform the tasks assigned to them with due diligence and shall act in the general interest, subject to and in compliance with the Constitution and the rest of the legal order, and shall act in accordance with the following principles: objectivity, integrity, neutrality, responsibility, impartiality, confidentiality, dedication to public service, transparency, exemplarity, austerity, accessibility, efficiency, honesty, promotion of the cultural and environmental environment, and respect for equality between women and men, which inspire the Code of Conduct of public employees, as governed by the ethical and conduct principles set out in the following Articles.*"

In this context, Article 53 of the aforementioned legislation establishes the ethical principles that must guide the conduct of public employees, such as the defence and promotion of fundamental rights, respect for legality, service performed with objectivity and dedication to the general interest, and action carried out with impartiality, integrity and responsibility. These principles are further developed through specific rules of conduct set out in Article 54, which provide that public employees must perform their duties with diligence, good faith, exemplarity and respect for the institutional, social and environmental

context. They must reject any form of corruption, abstain from acting in situations involving conflicts of interest, and ensure the protection of confidential information.

The conduct of public employees must pursue the satisfaction of citizens' general interests and be based on **impartiality and the common interest**. Their behaviour must be grounded in respect for fundamental rights and public freedoms, avoiding any action that could give rise to discrimination.

With regard to the principle of **confidentiality**, Article 8 of the Official Controls Regulation (OCR) establishes that the competent authorities must ensure that information obtained during the performance of official controls is not disclosed to third parties. Likewise, *Royal Legislative Decree 5/2015 of 30 October* provides that public officials must maintain secrecy with regard to classified matters or any information whose disclosure is legally prohibited, and must act with due discretion in relation to matters known by reason of their position, without using such information for their own benefit or that of third parties, nor to the detriment of the public interest.

In addition, *Law 28/2015 of 30 July on the defence of food quality* establishes that official control officers must strictly comply with the duty of **professional secrecy**.

Furthermore, staff carrying out official control activities must act with a high level of **transparency**, in accordance with Article 11 of the OCR. This obligation shall be exercised without prejudice to compliance with the principle of confidentiality, the duty of professional secrecy and the rules on the protection of personal data. Transparency in action contributes to public trust in the official control system, while confidentiality ensures the protection of sensitive information and respect for operators' rights.

Failure to comply with these obligations shall be subject to sanctions in accordance with the disciplinary regime applicable to the public administration in which the staff concerned provide their services and, on a supplementary basis, with the Disciplinary Regulations for Officials of the General State Administration, pursuant to *Royal Decree 33/1986 of 10 January*. Delegated control bodies or natural persons, as well as Organic Control Authorities to which these tasks or responsibilities are delegated or assigned, must comply with the same obligations as the staff of the competent authorities.

6.1.2. TRAINING

Paragraph 4 of Article 5 of the OCR provides that the competent authorities carrying out official controls and other official activities must receive appropriate training in order to perform their duties correctly.

Accordingly, the public administration shall ensure that all staff responsible for carrying out official controls receive adequate and continuous training appropriate to their field of activity, enabling them to perform their duties in a competent and consistent manner, in accordance with the criteria laid down in the training guidelines of the European bodies.

To this end, each competent authority shall draw up a continuous training plan tailored to the identified needs, which shall include the necessary training, covering the aspects set out in Chapter II of Annex II to the OCR.

Depending on the body organising and promoting the training activities, public employees may participate in:

- International training, organised by the European Commission within the framework of the *Better Training for Safer Food* (BTSF) initiative, with the aim of harmonising the training of the competent authorities responsible for official controls across the Member States.
- Training at national level, organised by bodies of the General State Administration. This may include internal training for their own staff, directly or indirectly related to official control

activities, as well as training aimed at the competent authorities and inspection staff of the autonomous communities and autonomous cities, or at other administrations, sector representatives, specialists or the general public.

- Training at regional or local level, organised within the relevant territorial scope and addressed to staff involved in official controls within the autonomous community or local authority. This training covers both organisational, management and competence-related aspects linked to the position, as well as specific content related to official control activities.

For the organisation of training for staff responsible for carrying out official controls and other official activities, the competent authorities of the autonomous communities take the following aspects into account:

a) Identification of training needs:

- Priorities established by management services or units.
- Priorities identified by official control officers.
- Training needs identified as a result of new legislation, new internal organisational objectives, non-compliant results detected through supervision activities or non-compliances identified in internal audits.
- Training needs aimed at newly recruited staff.

b) Implementation of training plans: ensuring, in all cases, the most appropriate form of delivery, avoiding duplication and promoting complementarity.

c) Registration and evaluation of training: the entire training plan must be fully documented, including its planning, content and evaluation.

The following table sets out the criteria for the planning, organisation and delivery of training within the scope of MAPA and of the competent authorities of the autonomous communities, within their respective areas of competence.

In addition, the Directorate-General for Consumer Affairs, in coordination with the competent consumer authorities of the autonomous communities and autonomous cities, prepares annually its Inter-administrative Continuous Training Plan (PFCI), aimed at public employees of any administration with competences in consumer affairs.

Inter-administrative Continuous Training Plan - (PFCI) | Ministry of Social Rights, Consumer Affairs and Agenda 2030

6.2. TECHNICAL AND MATERIAL RESOURCES

6.2.1. LABORATORY RESOURCES

An essential element for the proper performance of official controls and other official activities is the availability of official control laboratories responsible for carrying out the necessary analyses, tests and diagnostics. The OCR sets out the conditions and requirements that such laboratories must fulfil in order to work with the competent authorities within the framework of official controls.

Specifically, Article 37 of the OCR provides that the competent authorities shall designate official control laboratories for the analysis, testing and diagnosis of samples taken during official controls and other official activities. These laboratories may be located in the Member State in which the competent authorities operate, in another Member State, or in a third country that is a party to the Agreement on the European Economic Area.

Among the requirements that official control laboratories must fulfil are the following:

- To have appropriate experience, equipment and infrastructure.
- To have sufficient staff with the appropriate qualifications, training and experience.
- To ensure that tasks are carried out impartially and free from conflicts of interest.
- To provide analysis results within appropriate timeframes.

In addition, these laboratories must operate in accordance with EN ISO/IEC 17025, concerning the "*General requirements for the competence of testing and calibration laboratories*", and must be accredited in accordance with that standard by a national accreditation body acting in compliance with *Regulation (EC) No 765/2008 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 9 July 2008, setting out the requirements for accreditation and market surveillance relating to the marketing of products and repealing Regulation (EEC) No 339/93*.



Nevertheless, Articles 40 to 42 of the OCR provide for certain cases, conditions and situations under which laboratories performing tests within the framework of official controls may be exempted from the mandatory accreditation requirement, either with regard to the general requirements or to the methods applied.

The procedure for designation and information on the laboratories designated by each competent authority can be consulted below:

- **Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food**

  General procedure for the designation of laboratories within MAPA control areas:

  – For the area of organic production control

  Designation of laboratories carrying out official controls in organic production:

  List of designated and accredited laboratories

  – For the area of animal health, plant health and hygiene of primary agricultural production

  Designation of laboratories carrying out official controls in animal health, plant health and hygiene of primary agricultural production:

  List of designated and accredited plant health laboratories

  – For the area of sanitary agreements and border controls

  Designation of laboratories for official controls in the import of live animals, products of animal origin, animal by-products, genetic material and feed:

  Designation of laboratories for official controls in the control of products of plant origin

  – For the area of commercial food quality control

  List of designated laboratories:

- **Ministry of Health**

  Designation of laboratories by the Directorate-General for Public Health and Health Equity:

- **Ministry of Social Rights, Consumer Affairs, and Agenda 2030**
  - **Directorate-General for Consumer Affairs**

    Research and Quality Control Centre (CICC):
  - **AESAN**

    Procedure for the designation of official laboratories in the field of food safety:

    Food Safety Laboratory Network (RELSA)
- **Ministry of Economy, Trade and Business**

  Designation of official control laboratories for organic products from third countries. SOIVRE Inspection Service:

6.2.2. IT SYSTEMS

In order to organise and carry out official controls and other official activities, the competent authorities use various IT applications or databases, which may have been developed at regional, national, autonomous or local level. Their use depends on the scope of competence of each competent authority.

The European Commission has established the Information Management System for Official Controls (IMSOC), regulated in Chapter IV of the OCR and further developed in *Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2019/1715 of 30 September 2019, laying down rules for the operation of the information management system for official controls and its components (IMSOC Regulation)*. The purpose of this system is to integrate the mechanisms and tools through which data, information and documents relating to official controls and other official activities are managed, processed and automatically exchanged.



IMSOC integrates a number of IT systems managed by the European Commission, designed to enable the rapid exchange of data, information and documents related to risks to human health, animal health and welfare, and plant health. The systems that comprise IMSOC include:

- ***iRASFF* system:** an electronic system through which the procedures of the Alert and Cooperation Network (ACN) are carried out, integrating the Rapid Alert System for Food and Feed (RASFF), the Administrative Assistance and Cooperation Network (AAC), and the European Food Fraud Network (FFN). In addition, iRASFF Animal Welfare Network is used to handle communications between competent authorities regarding findings arising during official controls in the field of animal welfare.
- ***ADIS* system:** an IT system for the notification and reporting of animal diseases.
- ***EUROPHYT* system:** a notification system for interceptions related to plant health.
- ***TRACES* system:** the IT system through which the trade in animals, products of animal origin, feed and food of non-animal origin is notified, certified and monitored plants, seeds, plant reproductive material and products from organic farming.

In addition, the European Maritime Safety Agency (EMSA) provides the **THETIS system**, an IT platform used for Port State Control, which serves to record official controls carried out on vessels transporting livestock, within the framework of the animal welfare control programme.



Furthermore, the European Commission, through DG AGRI, also makes available to the competent authorities of the Member States the **Organic Farming Information System (OFIS)**, established under Article 43.1 of *Regulation (EU) 2018/848 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 30 May 2018 on organic production and labelling of organic products, which repealed Council Regulation (EC) No 834/2007*. OFIS enables, inter alia, the exchange of information on suspected or established non-compliances with other competent authorities and with the European Commission, as well as the submission of the annual national reports on official controls in organic production.

7. OFFICIAL CONTROL PLANNING

In accordance with the OCR, the competent authorities shall carry out official controls on all operators on a regular basis, according to risk and with appropriate frequency. Given the broad scope of application of the OCR, the MANCP is implemented through **control programmes**.

In addition, in exceptional situations, **coordinated control activities** of limited duration may be carried out. These activities make it possible to respond to specific situations, unforeseen scenarios or emerging risks, thereby strengthening the effectiveness of the system and facilitating cooperation among the competent authorities.

7.1. STRUCTURE OF NATIONAL OFFICIAL CONTROL PROGRAMMES

National official control programmes are the documents that describe the organisation, planning and implementation of official controls in order to verify compliance with the applicable legislation in each of the control areas covered by the MANCP.

In general, these programmes include the following elements:

- **Scope of application and regulatory framework:** describing the legislative framework that justifies the design and implementation of the control programme.
- **General and operational objectives of the programme:** designed to verify compliance with the applicable legal provisions.
- **Official control planning:** detailing the criteria taken into account for planning risk-based controls. However, non-programmed controls may also be carried out, even if not initially included in the planning, where circumstances require immediate intervention, such as alerts, complaints or unsatisfactory results from previous controls.
- **Organisation and implementation of controls:** describing the points at which controls are carried out and their nature. Each programme specifies the methods, procedures and resources required for its implementation, depending on the control area and the risks identified. This includes inspections, audits, sampling and analysis, documentary checks, visual inspections, interviews with operators and staff, as well as remote controls, e-commerce controls, or other technical controls at border or origin.
- **Non-compliances and measures to be adopted:** defining what constitutes a non-compliance within each control programme, taking into account its severity, and the measures to be adopted by the competent authorities. Such measures shall be proportionate, effective and dissuasive, with a view to eliminating the identified risks and preventing their recurrence.
- **Continuous review of the programme:** establishing, for each programme, mechanisms that enable the evaluation of its correct implementation, execution and effectiveness through internal audits, supervision of controls and the measurement of indicators designed to assess results and the achievement of operational objectives.

In addition to these general elements, each programme includes, where applicable, its relationship with other control programmes.

Furthermore, Article 5 (1) (i) of the OCR provides that the competent authorities shall have contingency plans in place and shall be prepared to implement them in the event of an emergency, where appropriate, in accordance with the provisions referred to in Article 1 (2) of the same Regulation. In order to comply with this requirement, the competent authorities have, where

necessary, a contingency plan covering situations in which the execution of official controls may fail, and setting out the solutions envisaged to ensure their correct implementation.

7.2. LIST OF NATIONAL OFFICIAL CONTROL PROGRAMMES BY STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES

7.2.1. STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE 1

To ensure compliance with legislation in primary production and related operations involving food and feed; animal health and welfare rules; plant health and plant protection products; and the hygiene requirements applicable to these areas.

The following control programmes have been designed to achieve Strategic Objective 1. They are coordinated by the **Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food**, acting as the coordinating authority, together with the competent authorities of the autonomous communities, which are responsible for their organisation and implementation within their respective areas of competence.

Nº	Name	General objective and scope of control
1.1	National Official Control Programme for the hygiene of primary agricultural production and the use of plant protection products	Verifies compliance with hygiene requirements laid down in the legislation on hygiene and the use of plant protection products and checks the application of good hygiene practices in primary agricultural production to ensure the production of safe plant products (Articles 1.2. (a) and (h) of the OCR).
1.2	National Official Control Programme for the hygiene of primary livestock production	Supervises hygiene conditions on livestock holdings, ensuring compliance with hygiene regulations in primary livestock production (Articles 1.2. (a) and (d) of the OCR).
1.3	National Official Control Programme for the hygiene of primary hunting production	Controls the hygiene of storage, handling and transport of hunted game, ensuring safe hygiene conditions (Articles 1.2. (a) and (d) of the OCR).
1.4	National Official Control Programme for the hygiene of primary extractive fisheries production	Ensures hygiene in fishing and handling operations of fishery products intended for human consumption (Articles 1.2. (a) and (d) of the OCR).
1.5	National Official Control Programme for the hygiene of primary aquaculture production	Verifies compliance with hygiene standards in aquaculture establishments (Articles 1.2. (a) and (d) of the OCR).
1.6	National Official Control Programme for the deliberate release of genetically modified organisms (GMOs)	Ensures compliance with legislation applicable to the deliberate release of genetically modified organisms, protecting human and animal health and the environment (Article 1.2. (b) of the OCR).
1.7	National Official Control Programme for animal feed	Ensures the safety and wholesomeness of feed, whether or not it forms part of the food chain (Article 1.2. (c) of the OCR).
1.8	National Official Control Programme for establishments producing livestock products	Controls regulatory compliance in authorised establishments registered for the collection, processing, storage and transport of livestock products, as well as in registered distributors (Article 1.2. (d) of the OCR).
1.9	National Official Control Programme for health and regulatory compliance in aquaculture animals and products	Controls animal health in aquaculture animals and products and related activities, minimising risks to animal and public health (Article 1.2. (d) of the OCR).

1.10	National Official Control Programme for the identification and registration of bovine, ovine and caprine animals	Ensures the traceability of animals of these species through verification of compulsory identification and registration requirements (Article 1.2. (d) of the OCR).
1.11	National Official Control Programme for establishments keeping animals in confinement under Regulation (EU) 2016/429	Verifies that establishments keeping animals in confinement comply with regulatory requirements on animal health (Article 1.2. (d) of the OCR).
1.12	National Official Control Programme for border control posts under Delegated Regulation (EU) 2019/2035	Verifies that border control posts comply with regulatory requirements in order to ensure animal health and traceability (Article 1.2. (d) of the OCR).
1.13	National Official Control Programme for the monitoring of veterinary medicinal product residues and unauthorised substances in primary products of animal origin (NRP)	Monitors the presence of residues of veterinary medicinal products and unauthorised substances in primary products of animal origin (Article 1.2. (d) of the OCR).
1.14	National Official Control Programme for hatcheries and breeding establishments for poultry, including the transport of eggs and poultry to other Member States	Ensures that these establishments comply with zoosanitary legislation in order to safeguard animal health and the safety of intra-EU trade (Article 1.2. (d) of the OCR).
1.15	National Official Control Programme for establishments housing terrestrial animals in captivity for purposes other than primary production	Verifies compliance with zoosanitary requirements in establishments housing terrestrial animals in captivity, including those transferring animals between Member States (Article 1.2. (d) of the OCR).
1.16	National Official Control Programme for isolated apiary production establishments	Supervises compliance of isolated apiary production establishments with health and production requirements laid down in current legislation (Article 1.2. (d) of the OCR).
1.17	National Official Control Programme for animal assembly centres for ungulates and poultry	Ensures that animal assembly establishments comply with animal health and traceability requirements (Article 1. 2. (d) of the OCR).
1.18	National Official Control Programme for animal by-products not intended for human consumption (ABPs)	Supervises the management and transport of animal by-products in establishments and transport services, in order to minimise sanitary and environmental risks (Article 1.2. (e) of the OCR).
1.19	National Official Control Programme for the use of animal by-products not intended for human consumption in fertilising products (SANDACH)	Supervises that fertilising products in which animal by-products not intended for human consumption are used comply with requirements that minimise sanitary and environmental risks (Article 1.2. (e) of the OCR).
1.20	National Official Control Programme for animal welfare in livestock holdings and during transport	Controls compliance with animal welfare legislation in livestock holdings and ensures the protection of animals during transport (Article 1.2. (f) of the OCR).
1.21	National Official Control Programme for plant health	Verifies compliance by professional operators with requirements for the issuance of plant passports, in order to protect plants and plant products against the introduction and spread of regulated pests (Article 1.2. (g) of the OCR).
1.22	National Official Control Programme for the marketing of plant protection products	Controls the marketing and use of plant protection products to ensure their safety and compliance with current legislation (Article 1.2. (h) of the OCR).

7.2.2. STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE 2

To ensure compliance with legislation on food safety, nutrition and animal welfare in establishments, as well as to promote healthy and sustainable diets in school environments.

The following control programmes have been designed to achieve Strategic Objective 2, with the **Spanish Agency for Food Safety and Nutrition of the Ministry of Social Rights**, Consumer Affairs and Agenda 2030 acting as the coordinating authority, and the autonomous communities responsible for their organisation and implementation within the scope of their competences.

N°.	Name	General objective and scope of control
2.1	Food establishments inspection programme	Verifies, through inspection, hygienic and sanitary conditions in food establishments in order to ensure food safety (Article 1.2. (a) of the OCR).
2.2	Food safety management system audit programme	Evaluates, through audits, the effectiveness of food safety management systems implemented by food business operators (Article 1.2. (a) of the OCR).
2.3	Slaughterhouses and game-handling establishments control programme	Verifies food safety and animal welfare conditions in slaughterhouses and game-handling establishments (Article 1.2. (a) and (f) of the OCR).
2.4	Food labelling and food contact materials control programme	Verifies compliance of food and food contact materials labelling with applicable requirements, with a particular focus on food safety implications, in order to ensure adequate consumer information (Article 1.2. (a) of the OCR).
2.5	Allergen control programme	Verifies the correct declaration of allergens and substances causing intolerances in foods (Article 1.2. (a) of the OCR).
2.6	Genetically Modified Organisms (GMO) control programme	Verifies the presence and labelling of GMOs in foodstuffs, ensuring compliance with applicable legislation (Article 1.2. (a) of the OCR).
2.7	Food supplements notification, labelling and composition control programme	Verifies the composition and labelling of food supplements to ensure their safety and compliance with current legislation (Article 1.2. (a) of the OCR).
2.8	Biological hazards in food control programme	Verifies the presence of pathogenic microorganisms in food in order to minimise risks to public health (Article 1.2. (a) of the OCR).
2.9	Anisakis control programme	Verifies the application of preventive measures to reduce the presence of Anisakis in fishery products, as well as correct implementation of good practices (Article 1.2. (a) of the OCR).
2.10	Monitoring programme for antimicrobial resistance in foodborne zoonotic agents	Monitors antimicrobial resistance in zoonotic microorganisms in order to assess their impact on public health (Article 1.2. (a) of the OCR).
2.11	Chemical contaminants in food control programme	Verifies levels of chemical contaminants in food to ensure compliance with legally established limits (Article 1.2. (a) of the OCR).
2.12	Food additives and other technological ingredients control programme	Verifies the use and declaration of additives and technological aids in foodstuffs to ensure their safety and regulatory compliance (Article 1.2. (a) of the OCR).
2.13	Food contact materials control programme	Verifies that food contact materials comply with established safety requirements in order to prevent their migration into food (Article 1.2. (a) of the OCR).

2.14	Pesticide residues control programme in food	Verifies the presence of pesticide residues in foodstuffs in order to ensure compliance with established maximum residue limits (Article 1.2. (a) of the OCR).
2.15	Veterinary medicinal products residues and other substances control programme in food of animal origin	Verifies the presence of residues of veterinary medicinal products in food of animal origin in order to ensure consumer safety (Article 1.2. (a) of the OCR).
2.16	School meals, vending machines and cafeterias control programme in school centres	Promotes healthy and sustainable diets through the monitoring of nutritional quality in school environments (Article 1.2. (a) of the OCR).
2.17	Irradiated food control programme	Verifies the correct use of irradiation treatments in food and their labelling, ensuring adequate consumer information (Article 1.2. (a) of the OCR).

7.2.3. STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE 3

To ensure a high level of food quality, intensify the fight against food fraud and protect the legitimate interests of consumers throughout the entire food chain and agri-food products.

The following control programmes have been designed to achieve Strategic Objective 3, with the **Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food** acting as the coordinating authority, and the autonomous communities responsible for their organisation and implementation within the scope of their competences.

N°.	Name	General objective and scope of control
3.1	Food quality control programme	Inspects and verifies compliance with legislation on commercial food quality in the processing, marketing and handling of agri-food products (Article 1.2. (a) of the OCR).
3.2	Organic production control programme	Monitors compliance with organic production and labelling rules, ensuring their integrity throughout the entire food chain (Article 1.2. (a) of the OCR).
3.3	Official control programme for food quality linked to geographical indications and traditional specialities guaranteed before being placed on the market	Verifies the correct use of designations of origin, geographical indications and traditional specialities guaranteed in food products (Article 1.2. (a) of the OCR).

The following control programme has been designed to achieve Strategic Objective 3, with the **Ministry of Social Rights, Consumer Affairs and Agenda 2030** acting as the coordinating authority, and the autonomous communities responsible for its organisation and implementation within the scope of their competences.

N°.	Name	General objective and scope of control
3.4	Food information control programme with implications for food safety and nutrition	Ensures that mandatory and voluntary food information complies with the applicable legal requirements at the point of sale to consumers, with repercussions for food safety and nutrition (Article 1.2. (a) of the OCR).

3.5	National Official Control Programme for Food Quality and Analytical Checks	To control food quality by assessing compliance with the applicable legislation and by verifying the information provided on the labelling of food products placed on the market for final consumers, through analytical controls (Article 1.2. (a) of the OCR).
3.6	National Official Control Programme for Retail Operators	To control compliance with applicable legal requirements and commercial practices at retail points of sale of food products, in order to protect consumers' rights (Article 1.2. (a) of the OCR).
3.7	National Official Control Programme for Organic Food Products	To verify the correct application of organic production legislation affecting food products at points of sale to final consumers and compliance with the requirements applicable to retail operators marketing this type of products (Article 1.2. (a) of the OCR).
3.8	National Official Control Programme for Food Products with Differentiated Quality	To control the correct application of regulations on designations of origin, protected geographical indications and guaranteed traditional specialities for food products placed on the market for final consumers, as well as compliance with the requirements applicable to retail operators marketing this type of products (Article 1.2. (a) of the OCR).

7.2.4. STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE 4

To ensure a high level of protection in cross-border exchanges at Spanish borders of animals, plants, food, feed and other products.

The following control programmes have been designed to achieve Strategic Objective 4, with the **Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food** acting as the coordinating authority and the competent authorities of the autonomous communities responsible for their organisation and implementation within their respective areas of competence.

N°.	Name	General objective and scope of control
4.1	National Official Control Programme for Sanitary and Phytosanitary Control of Imports	To control imports in order to verify compliance with the applicable food safety, animal health and plant health legislation (Articles 1.2. (a), (c), (d) and (j) of the OCR).
4.2	National Official Control Programme for Exports of Products Subject to Sanitary Certification	To verify compliance with sanitary requirements for the export of animals and products of animal origin to third countries (Articles 1.2. (a), (d) and (e) of the OCR).
4.3	National Official Control Programme for Exports of Plant Products Subject to Phytosanitary Certification	To verify that plant products intended for export comply with the phytosanitary requirements of the country of destination (Article 1.2. (g) of the OCR).

The following control programmes have been designed to achieve Strategic Objective 4, with the SOIVRE Inspection Service of the **Ministry of Economy, Trade and Business** acting as the coordinating authority and the competent authorities responsible for their organisation and implementation within their respective areas of competence.

N°	Name	General objective and scope of control
4.4	National Official Control Programme for Compliance with Marketing Standards in Products Placed on the Market for Foreign Trade by Third Countries	To verify compliance with the requirements laid down in EU marketing standards legislation on commercial food quality, applicable to agri-food products subject to foreign trade, in order to identify potential fraudulent or misleading practices (Article 1.2. (a) of the OCR).
4.5	National Official Control Programme for Imports of Organic Products from Third Countries	To verify compliance with the requirements laid down in Regulation (EU) 2018/848 concerning the import of organic products and their labelling (Article 1.2. (a) of the OCR).
4.6	National Official Control Programme for Compliance with Marketing Standards in Products Placed on the Market for Foreign Trade by Third Countries	To verify compliance with the requirements laid down in EU marketing standards legislation on commercial food quality, applicable to agri-food products subject to foreign trade, in order to identify potential fraudulent or misleading practices (Article 1.2. (a) of the OCR).

7.2.5. STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE 5

To ensure a high level of public health protection through the implementation of health controls derived from the competences attributed in relation to the sanitary certification for the export of food and food products of non-animal origin, and the control of establishments located in port, airport and border areas.

The following control programmes have been designed to achieve Strategic Objective 5, with the **Directorate-General for Public Health and Health Equity (DGPSPE) of the Ministry of Health** acting as the coordinating body and being responsible for their organisation and implementation within the scope of its competences.

N°	Name	General objective and scope of control
5.1	National Official Control Programme for Port, Airport and Border Areas, Including Free Zones	To verify and control hygienic and sanitary conditions in food establishments located in port, airport and border areas, in order to ensure food safety (Article 1.2. (a) of the OCR).
5.2	National Official Control Programme for Sanitary Certification of Food Products of Non-Animal Origin	To verify compliance with sanitary requirements applicable to the export of food and food products of non-animal origin to third countries (Article 1.2. (a) and Article 3 (d) of the OCR).

8. ASSESSMENT OF THE FOOD CHAIN OFFICIAL CONTROL SYSTEM

The objective of the system assessment is to verify its correct implementation and to establish measures aimed at continuous improvement. The assessment focused on this objective must take into account the continuous improvement cycle PDCA (Plan–Do–Check–Act), also known as the Deming cycle.

The established stages of this cycle are:

- **Plan:** to define objectives and indicators and to establish the control techniques to be used for their monitoring.
- **Do:** to carry out official controls and other control activities (inspections, audits, supervision, effectiveness verification, etc.) in accordance with the defined objectives.
- **Check:** to verify the degree of achievement of the objectives or the aspects subject to control.
- **Act:** to carry out checks and assess deviations in the achievement of the objectives or in the implementation of the MANCP, and to adapt them where necessary.

Therefore, in addition to carrying out official controls, the competent authorities are required to verify whether such controls are effective and to adopt corrective measures to ensure their effectiveness. To this end, they carry out the following activities expressly provided for in the OCR:

— The competent authorities shall establish procedures and mechanisms to ensure the effectiveness and appropriateness of official controls and other official activities (Article 5.1(a)).

— The competent authorities shall carry out internal audits or arrange for them to be carried out and, on the basis of their results, shall adopt the appropriate measures (Article 6.1).

— The competent authorities shall establish procedures for the review of controls and shall adopt corrective measures in all cases in which such procedures detect deficiencies (Articles 12.2 and 12.3).

Likewise, where official control tasks are delegated to delegated bodies or natural persons, the competent authorities shall carry out audits or inspections of those bodies or persons in order to verify the correct performance of the functions delegated to them.

The assessment of the food chain official control system under this Plan is carried out through the following activities:

- **Supervision of the official control system**, understood as the set of actions carried out by higher hierarchical levels over official control staff, with the aim of assessing the correct and effective performance of their functions, in accordance with established procedures and the application of EU and national legislation on official control. Both documentary supervision and on-site supervision are carried out.
  - Documentary supervision refers to the verification of all types of documentation, whether in paper or electronic format, related to official control, including databases or IT applications, records, reports, certificates, procedures, etc.
  - On-site supervision refers to the verification carried out by accompanying the inspector and following the same inspection process as that performed, which may begin at the office during the preparation of the inspection and continue through to its completion or subsequent actions.

- **Verification of the effectiveness of official control programmes**, which makes it possible to assess, in a structured manner, the implementation and results of official control programmes through the analysis of performance indicators and programme-specific objectives.

  Operational objectives, as they are highly specific, are the most appropriate for effectiveness verification and are linked to indicators. Objectives must, by design, be specific, measurable, achievable, realistic and time-bound.

  Indicators are a systematic and consistent tool for demonstrating the achievement of objectives. They must be linked to the objectives and have an established calculation methodology that allows the evolution of results to be monitored over time. Indicators must be relevant, accepted, credible, easy to monitor and robust.

- **Internal audits of the official control system**, carried out by an independent team, with the aim of verifying that the control system is appropriately designed and implemented, as well as checking compliance with the legal provisions and objectives for which the controls are carried out.

  These audits are conducted using auditing techniques. They assess both the system established by the competent authorities for the performance of official controls—at structural, organisational and resource levels—and the planning and specific implementation of official control programmes. This activity is carried out by a team that is independent from the organisation or programme being audited. In addition, an examination of the audited entity and of the audit process itself is conducted, in order to ensure objectivity and effectiveness.

  Furthermore, the European Commission carries out audits to determine whether the competent authorities correctly implement and carry out official controls in compliance with EU legislation on food and feed safety, animal health, animal welfare, plant health and, in certain areas, the protection of human health.



The table below summarises the characteristics of the three types of evaluation activities provided for.

	VERIFICATION	MONITORING	INTERNAL AUDIT
Object	Verification of compliance and effectiveness of the official control system	Verification of compliance and individual effectiveness of the participating control units	Verification of compliance, effectiveness and adequacy of the system
Cycle / Planning	Five-year cycles with milestones	Cycle established according to the reference coordination document	Five-year cycles
Staff responsible	Team responsible for the official control system	Hierarchical superior	Audit team
Element under review	Effectiveness of the official control system	Actions carried out by official control agents / services	Overall adequacy of the official control system
Scope	All official control programmes	All official control agents and/or inspection units	All official control programmes
Method	Verification procedure	Supervision procedure	Internal audit procedures
Results	Indicators of compliance and effectiveness of the official control system	Conforming supervisions Non-conforming supervisions Recommendations for improvement	Conforming audits Non-conforming audits Non-compliances Recommendations for improvement
Conclusions	Programme-specific and general conclusions	Specific conclusions for inspection agents and/or units	Overall conclusions on the control system
Measures to be adopted	Adjustments to programmes, organisation and resources	Individual and/or collective corrective actions	Proposals for specific corrective actions and improvements to programmes, organisation and resources

For matters falling within the competences of MAPA, and with the aim of harmonising the application of system review, the following harmonisation documents shall be applied:

- Guidelines for the Supervision of the MAPA Official Control System
- Guidelines for the Verification of the Effectiveness of the MAPA Official Control System
- Framework Document for Audits of National Official Control Programmes under MAPA Competence

9. ANNUAL RESULTS REPORT

Article 113 of the OCR establishes that Member States shall submit to the European Commission, by 31 August each year, a report on the application of the MANCP during the preceding year, indicating:

- the results of the official controls carried out and the type and number of cases of non-compliance with the applicable legislation, broken down by area;
- the measures adopted to correct non-compliances, including enforcement measures, and the results of those measures;
- any adaptations implemented; and
- a link to the website of the competent authority containing public information on the fees or charges applicable to official controls.

In implementation of this provision, the European Commission has adopted *Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2019/723*, which establishes the standardised reporting template to be used by Member States for their annual reports. In accordance with this Regulation, the results of MANCP official controls are submitted by applying the computer application made available by the European Commission, *AROC (Data Collection Platform – Annual Reports on Official Controls)*.

Furthermore, Law 7/2022, in Article 18, establishes that the General State Administration shall submit an annual report to the Spanish Parliament, setting out the results of the implementation of the MANCP as carried out by the competent public administrations. This report shall be submitted to the Cortes Generales for information and oversight purposes and shall be made available to the public.

This annual report summarises the results of the implementation of the MANCP and assesses the effectiveness of the control programmes on the basis of the experience gained. It is published on the websites of the competent Autonomous Communities involved in its implementation, in order to comply with public administration transparency obligations.

10. ANNUAL UPDATE

In accordance with Article 111 of the OCR, the MANCP is updated annually, taking into account, inter alia:



- amendments to Union, national and regional legislation;
- the emergence of new diseases, plant pests or other risks to human health, animal health, plant health or animal welfare, as well as developments relating to genetically modified organisms (GMOs) and plant protection products, including their impact on the environment;
- significant changes in the structure, organisation, management or performance of the Autonomous Communities;
- the conclusions of the annual results report;
- the results of Commission controls carried out in accordance with Article 116(4) of the OCR;
- scientific findings; and
- the results of official controls carried out by the Autonomous Communities in third countries.

All Autonomous Communities participate in the annual updates described above.

11. TRANSPARENCY AND PUBLICITY BY THE COMPETENT AUTHORITIES

Article 11 of the OCR establishes that the Autonomous Communities must carry out official controls with a high level of **transparency** and make publicly available, at least once a year, information on the organisation and performance of official controls.

At national level, Law 19/2013 of 9 December on transparency, access to public information and good governance aims to broaden and strengthen transparency in public activity, regulate and guarantee the right of access to information relating to such activity, and establish the obligations of good governance that public officials must comply with, as well as the consequences arising from non-compliance.

In order to comply with this principle of transparency, the Autonomous Communities, both at central and regional level, publish on their websites information of general interest to the public. With regard to the publication of the MANCP and its annual results reports, these may be consulted at the following links::

Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food

- Multi-annual National Control Plan (MANCP)
- MANCP annual reports

Ministry of Social Rights, Consumer Affairs and Agenda 2030

- **Directorate-General for Consumer Affairs**
  - Multi-annual National Control Plan (MANCP)
  - MANCP annual reports

- **Spanish Agency for Food Safety and Nutrition**
  - Multi-annual National Control Plan (MANCP)
  - MANCP annual reports

Ministry of Health

- Multi-annual National Control Plan (MANCP)
- MANCP annual reports

Ministry of Economy, Trade and Business

- Border controls

In addition, further information may be consulted via the Spanish Government Transparency Portal (Portal de Transparencia del Gobierno), which centralises access to institutional and regulatory information from all public administrations.

The accessible and regular publication of this information not only ensures compliance with the European and national legal framework, but also strengthens public trust in the official control system, promotes accountability and supports responsible public management in the field of food safety.

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