



**EUROPEAN COMMISSION**  
DIRECTORATE-GENERAL FOR HEALTH AND FOOD SAFETY

Health and food audits and analysis  
**Internal control and services**

Grange, 28/07/2017  
MW/kod

**NOTE TO BTSF NATIONAL CONTACT POINTS**

**Subject: 2017 programme of BTSF Workshops to strengthen the response to Directorate F audits**

Dear Colleague

DG Health and Food Safety are organising a series of workshops to give feedback on, and discuss, issues identified in the course of audits in recent years. The objective of the workshops is to increase the knowledge of the competent authorities of the Member States and to discuss common problems, best practices and methods for official controls relating to the workshop topic. The workshops are being organised under the European Commission Better Training for Safer Food (BTSF) initiative. The programme of events for the remainder of 2017 is set out below.

<b>Topic</b>	<b>Proposed dates</b>
Microbiological risks in the primary production of food of non-animal origin including seeds for sprouting.	26-28 September
Import controls 1 re-enforced checks and enhanced checks (animals and goods of animal origin) *	3-5 October *
Import controls 2 re-enforced checks and enhanced checks (goods of non-animal origin)*	3-5 October *
Food contact materials	17- 19 October
Welfare of dairy cows	23-26 October
Campylobacter workshop	<del>14 to 16 November</del>
<del>Internet sales of food</del>	5-7 December

Your competent authority is invited to send a representative, or, where there is more than one competent authority one representative per Member State, to attend each of the workshops which will be held at the premises of the European Commission's Directorate for Health and Food Audits and Analysis located in Grange, Ireland. The target participant is the person who is actively involved in policy/management/organisation of official controls related to the workshop topic. These workshops are not training on how

to perform official controls. Please note that good command of English is expected from each participant to allow a good understanding and contribution in the workshop. Interpretation will not be available.

Please note two events relating to import controls, one for controls on goods of animal origin and one for controls on goods of non-animal origin, are taking place simultaneously from 3-5 October. It is foreseen that joint sessions of experts from both domains will be organised to discuss issues of common interest. As the new official controls regulation, Regulation (EU) 2017/625, requires an integrated approach to all import controls it is hoped that the joint sessions at the workshop will facilitate developing the synergies that will be required in future in the area of import controls.

As the workshop is a BTSF event the following participant costs will be paid by the European Commission:

- i. Economy class (or equivalent) flights from the nearest convenient airport to Dublin or first-class train as appropriate; transfer from and to Dublin airport to the hotel; transfers from the hotel to DG Health and Food Safety offices at Grange.
- ii. Full board accommodation including room, breakfast, lunch and dinner.
- iii. Refreshments during morning and afternoon coffee breaks.

### **Acceptance of invitation and logistical arrangements**

Logistical arrangements for these events are being handled by Tipik Communication Agency S.A, who will also issue the invitations and register the participants. Invitations for participants will be sent by Tipik to the BTSF national contact point. The invitations will contain a link to an online registration platform.

If a representative of your competent authority/country wishes to accept an invitation to an event the person you nominate to participate should register directly with the contractor, using the online registration.

To ensure a good attendance and the success of the workshop, please make every effort to register by closing date for registration indicated in the invitation as places cannot be guaranteed after this date. In the event that you do not wish to send a participant it would be appreciated if you would advise the contractor so the place may be reallocated.

If you require clarification of the workshop content to assist you in identifying the appropriate official to nominate for participation, I or my colleague Karen O'Dea will be happy to assist. Please address any queries to [Maura.Waters@ec.europa.eu](mailto:Maura.Waters@ec.europa.eu); [KarenO'DEA@ec.europa.eu](mailto:KarenO'DEA@ec.europa.eu) [SANTE-IRL\\_BTSF@ec.europa.eu](mailto:SANTE-IRL_BTSF@ec.europa.eu)

Thank you for your cooperation.

Maura Waters  
Deputy Head of Unit