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### **Report from the EFTA Surveillance Authority**

on the overall operation of official controls of the

Food and Veterinary Area in

**Iceland and Norway** 

2022



#### **Executive Summary**

This report describes the overall outcome of the EFTA Surveillance Authority (ESA)'s control activities in 2022 on the functioning of official controls in Iceland and Norway in the areas of food and feed safety, animal health and animal welfare, plant protection products and organic production ('food and veterinary area').

The national competent authorities in Iceland and Norway are responsible for the implementation of risk-based official controls to verify that operators along the food and feed chain comply with European Economic Area ('EEA') law. Iceland and Norway submit an annual report on the implementation of their official controls to ESA.

ESA carries out controls to verify the application of the EEA legislation in Iceland and Norway. These controls look at the functioning of national control systems and the competent authorities which operate them in the food and veterinary area.

The EFTA Surveillance Authority Delegated Decision No 271/21/COL of 3 December 2021 established a multiannual programme of controls for the period 2022-2026 to be carried out in Iceland and Norway to verify application of EEA legislation in the food and veterinary area. ESA's annual work programme takes into account the priorities set out in that decision and Chapter 2 of this document comprise summaries of ESA's controls carried out in 2022.

Iceland and Norway have, with few exceptions, incorporated the relevant EEA legislation into the national legislation and the competent authorities are clearly designated and have the relevant powers to enforce the EEA legislation. Both states have established control systems to ensure the application of relevant EEA requirements. However, in certain areas there is still room for improvement and ESA have in several reports over the years recommended both Iceland and Norway to put in place arrangements to ensure the effectiveness and appropriateness of their official controls. This should increase the national competent authorities' opportunities to ensure that official controls have the required impact and contribute to the continuous improvement of their official control systems. A summary of the overall conclusions of ESA's controls are included in chapter 2 of this report.

ESA systematically follows-up all open recommendations and engages in continuous communication with Iceland and Norway to monitor progress on the implementation of corrective actions by the two states to address these. If Iceland or Norway fail to provide adequate assurances that satisfactory actions to address recommendations are implemented in a timely manner ESA may decide to open an infringement procedure. In 2022 ESA took one formal decision regarding open recommendations in Iceland. In addition, the EFTA court ruled in favour of ESA in an infringement procedure opened against Iceland in 2016:

- On 18 May 2022 ESA sent a letter of formal notice (<u>Decision No 112/22/COL</u>) to Iceland regarding incorrect implementation of EEA food hygiene requirements, and failure to undertake official controls, concerning fish oil.
- On 20 October 2021 ESA decided (<u>Decision No 244/21/COL</u>) to bring Iceland before the EFTA Court due to limited progress made by Iceland in relation to official controls and disposal of animal by-products and in Case E-3/22 EFTA Surveillance Authority v Iceland, the EFTA Court <u>ruled in favour of ESA</u> that Iceland had failed to fulfil its obligations concerning methods for handling the direct disposal of fallen stock, slaughterhouse waste and home-slaughter waste.



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1	INT	RODUCTION	4
2 Ti		A SURVEILLANCE AUTHORITY CONTROLS IN ICELAND AND NORWAY I	
	2.1	Food and feed safety – Fishery products	5
	2.2	Food and food safety - Poultry meat and poultry meat products	6
	2.3 and co	Food and food safety - Residues of veterinary medicinal products, pesticide ontaminants, in live animals and food of animal origin	
	2.4 claims	Food and food safety - Food information to consumers and nutrition and healts7	h
	2.5	Animal welfare - Animal welfare on farms for broilers and laying hens	8
	2.6	Organic production	9
	2.7 borde	Entry into the EEA of goods and animals from third countries - Compliance r control posts	
	2.8 food o	Entry into the EEA of goods and animals from third countries – official controls of non-animal origin1	
	2.9	General and horizontal aspects – Follow up of audit recommendations 1	1
3	ICE	LAND AND NORWAY'S ANNUAL REPORT ON OFFICIAL CONTROLS 1	2
	3.1 report	The States' overall conclusion on the level of compliance achieved in the annuals for 20211	
4 N(		ERALL FUNCTIONING OF THE CONTROL SYSTEM IN ICELAND AN Y	
Αľ	NNEX	1 - LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS AND TERMS1	4



#### 1 Introduction

The responsibility to implement and enforce EEA legislation in the food and veterinary area<sup>1</sup> lies with Iceland and Norway whose competent authorities monitor and verify, through the organisation of official controls and where necessary by appropriate enforcement actions, that operators comply with relevant EEA requirements.

The EFTA Surveillance Authority (ESA) carries out controls to verify the application of the EEA legislation in Iceland and Norway. These controls are carried out in the areas of food and feed safety, animal health and animal welfare, plant protection products, organic production and the functioning of national control systems and competent authorities which operate them.

Audits are a valuable tool for ESA to verify the effectiveness of the implementation of official controls performed by national competent authorities, and a common form of control to check on how the EEA legislation is enforced in the food and veterinary area. Audits comprise both documentary reviews, such as assessment of control plans, control procedures as well as the outcome and follow-up of controls, and on-site verification in establishments relevant for the objective and scope of the audits.

Desk-based analyses are controls based on documentary reviews only. Certain desk-based analyses are specifically required by EEA legislation, and ESA will assess relevant documents to verify compliance with EEA legislation. ESA also uses desk-based analyses to assess the current situation in certain areas. These controls are of a fact-finding character and used as part of ESA's prioritisation of areas to be further controlled.

The EFTA Surveillance Authority's Delegated Decision No 271/21/COL<sup>2</sup> sets out the priorities for ESA's control programme for the period 2022 to 2026. The criteria for prioritisation include *inter alia* identified risks through e.g., the Rapid Alert System for Food and Feed (RASFF) or the Animal Disease Information System (ADIS), emerging risks such as food or feed crisis or animal disease outbreaks, the relevance of a sector, the outcome of ESA's previous controls as well as Iceland and Norway's performance addressing shortcomings identified and the relevant priorities set by the European Commission in its control programme<sup>3</sup>.

ESA established its work programme for 2022 in the food and veterinary area in line with the priorities set out in the control programme<sup>4</sup>. ESA's work programme was discussed

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> EEA legislation in the food and veterinary area includes food and food safety, feed and feed safety, animal health and welfare requirements, animal by-products and derived products, requirements for the placing on the market and use of plant protection products and the sustainable use of pesticides, organic production and the labelling of organic products.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> EFTA Surveillance Authority Delegated Decision No 271/21/COL of 3 December 2021 establishing a multiannual programme of controls for the period 2022-2026 to be carried out in Iceland and Norway to verify application of EEA legislation in the food and veterinary area (OJ L 43, 24.2.2022, p. 87-92).

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> Commission Implementing Decision (EU) 2020/1550 of 23 October 2020 establishing the multiannual programme of controls for the period 2021-2025 to be carried out by Commission experts in the Member States to verify the application of Union agri-food chain legislation (OJ L 354, 26.10.2020, p 9-18).

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>4</sup> EFTA Surveillance Authority (ESA)'s work programme for 2022 in the food and veterinary area



with the two states at a meeting 7 October 2021 before being finalised and sent to Iceland and Norway 7 December 2021. The work programme for 2022 was published on ESA's website shortly thereafter.

ESA carried out the planned controls in 2022 except one follow-up audit scheduled to verify on-site that Norway had taken appropriate follow up measures to ensure that compartments declared free from Infectious Salmon Anaemia (ISA) comply with the applicable EEA legislation. 16 February 2022 Norway informed ESA that there were no ISA-free compartments or zones in Norway and ESA cancelled the planned follow up.

ESA publishes the final audit reports on its <u>website</u>. Comments from the states to ESA's draft report and the national competent authorities' plans for corrective actions to address recommendations contained in the reports are annexed to the final report.

ESA prepares summary reports to be shared with the relevant state when carrying out desk-based analysis. The summary reports do not contain recommendations to be addressed by Iceland or Norway, however, these reports will, along with the information reviewed, serve as background information for other controls such as audits of relevant areas. Summary reports are shared with the relevant state but not published.

This report aims to summarise ESA's overall conclusions following the various controls that ESA carried out in 2022.

The abbreviations used in this report are listed in Annex 1.

For an overview of legislation referred to in this report please see Annex 2.

# 2 EFTA Surveillance Authority controls in Iceland and Norway in the food and veterinary area in 2022

#### 2.1 Food and feed safety - Fishery products

ESA carried out audits including on-the-spot verifications, to Iceland and Norway to verify compliance with the applicable EEA food safety legislation governing the production of fishery products, including fish oil for human consumption, and the implementation of official controls thereon.

#### 2.1.1 Objectives and scope of ESA controls - Fishery products

The objective of the audits was to verify compliance with the applicable EEA food safety legislation governing the production of fishery products, including fish oil, and the implementation of official control thereon. The audits were focusing on the organisation and performance of the relevant competent authority and the official controls system in place governing production, processing and distribution of fishery products placed on the market.

# 2.1.2 Overall functioning of the control systems in Iceland and Norway – Fishery products

Both Iceland and Norway have incorporated the relevant EEA legislation into the national legislation. The competent authorities are clearly designated and have the relevant powers to enforce the EEA legislation. Both states have established a risk-based system for official control of fishery products and in general, the official controls system is



consistently and adequately implemented and covers the entire production chain for fishery products from catch to final product.

The control systems are weakened by incomplete overview of landing sites, and controls thereof, and register of vessels (Iceland) and official controls not always being carried out in line with the frequencies established by the risk-based system (Norway). Both states have established written procedures, enabling the competent authorities to undertake official controls in a consistent and harmonised manner. However, this part of the control systems is weakened by relevant procedures not being adhered to.

The audit reports include several recommendations addressed to the relevant competent authorities aimed at rectifying identified shortcomings and enhancing the official controls system in place.

#### 2.2 Food and food safety - Poultry meat and poultry meat products

ESA carried out audits including on-the-spot verifications, to Iceland and Norway to verify compliance with the applicable EEA food safety legislation governing poultry meat, products thereof, and the implementation of official controls thereon.

## 2.2.1 Objectives and scope of ESA controls - Poultry meat and poultry meat products

The main objective of the audit was to verify compliance with the applicable EEA food safety legislation governing production of poultry meat and their products and the implementation of related official controls.

The scope of the audit included:

- Slaughter and all stages of production of poultry meat and their products in approved establishments
- Official controls related to poultry slaughter, cutting, meat preparations, meat products and mechanically separated meat (MSM) in large and small throughput establishments
- Official controls at central and district level, including verification and audits
- Main category of poultry (broiler chickens)

### 2.2.2 Overall functioning of the control systems - Poultry meat and poultry meat products

The competent authorities responsible for official controls related to poultry meat and poultry meat products have been clearly designated in Iceland and Norway. Both countries apply/aim at applying a risk-based system to establish the minimum time or frequency for official controls based on the size and activity of the relevant food business operators. Guidance and training, where available, provide support for officials performing official controls and should contribute to the standardisation of official controls in this sector.

ESA found that the official controls of animal by-products in both Iceland and Norway were weak in the poultry sector. Consequently, the two States' official controls in this area do not ensure the prevention and minimisation of risks to human and animal health arising from animal by-products.

In addition, ESA identified various shortcomings in the States' control systems and recommended both Iceland and Norway to put in place arrangements to ensure the



effectiveness and appropriateness of their official controls. This should increase the national competent authorities' opportunities to ensure that official controls are implemented correctly and contribute to the continuous improvement of their official control systems.

Immediately after the audit, ESA requested Iceland to take urgent actions to address identified weaknesses with ante-mortem inspection and post-mortem inspections of poultry to reduce the likelihood of unsafe food entering the human food.

The audit reports include several recommendations addressed to the relevant competent authorities aimed at rectifying identified shortcomings and enhancing the official controls system in place.

### 2.3 Food and food safety - Residues of veterinary medicinal products, pesticides and contaminants, in live animals and food of animal origin

The production process of animals and primary products of animal origin shall be monitored for the purpose of detecting the presence of certain residues and substances in live animals, their excrement and body fluids and in tissue and animal products.

ESA carried out a desk-based analysis of Iceland and Norway's residue monitoring plans for 2022 as well as the results from their monitoring plans in 2021 to verify that these comply with the requirements laid down in the relevant EEA legislation.

### 2.3.1 Objectives and scope of ESA controls - Residues of veterinary medicinal products, pesticides and contaminants, in live animals and food of animal

The objective of the desk-based analysis was to verify that residue monitoring plans for 2022 submitted by Iceland and Norway comply with the requirements laid down in the relevant EEA legislation:

- provide for detection of groups of relevant residues or substances according to type of animal;
- specify the measures for detection of the presence of relevant substances in live animals, their excrement and body fluids and in animal tissues and products such as meat, milk, eggs and honey; and
- comply with relevant sampling rules and levels

# 2.3.2 Overall functioning of the control systems - Residues of veterinary medicinal products, pesticides and contaminants, in live animals and food of animal

ESA found that Iceland and Norway's 2022 residue monitoring control plans mainly met the requirements of the relevant EEA legislation. Both states had addressed certain shortcomings identified in the 2021 residue monitoring plans highlighted to them by ESA during the previous year's assessment. On 31 October 2022, ESA shared written summaries of the assessments with the relevant state, highlighting the shortcomings noted in the 2022 plan.

### 2.4 Food and food safety - Food information to consumers and nutrition and health claims

Products put on the market must be safe and adequately labelled. Food information should enable consumers to identify and make appropriate use of a food and to make choices that suit their individual dietary needs and provide a high level of consumer.



ESA included in its work programme a desk-based analysis to assess the functioning of national control systems and competent authorities which operate them in relation to food Information to consumers, nutrition and health claims.

### 2.4.1 Objectives and scope of ESA controls - Food information to consumers and nutrition and health claims

The desk-based analysis comprised review of data and information provided by Iceland and Norway in the reply to a survey sent to the States 1 October 2021. In January 2023 ESA shared the draft summary reports with the relevant state and invited the national authorities to confirm that the information provided is correctly reflected.

### 2.4.2 Overall functioning of the control systems - Food information to consumers and nutrition and health claims

The final summary report will not be made publicly available since it is only intended for internal use, however, the outcome of the assessment will be summarised in the next report of ESA's Internal Market Affairs Directorate on the overall operation of official controls of the Food and Veterinary Area in Iceland and Norway.

#### 2.5 Animal welfare - Animal welfare on farms for broilers and laying hens

ESA carried out an audit to Norway to verify compliance with the applicable EEA legislation governing animal welfare of farm animals for broilers and laying hens and the implementation of official controls thereon.

### 2.5.1 Objectives and scope of ESA controls - Animal welfare on farms for broilers and laying hens

The main objective of the audit was to assess the effectiveness of official controls undertaken to ensure the welfare of laying hens and chicken kept for production of meat (broilers). The scope of the audit included:

- Laying hens;
- Broilers;
- Commercial farms of all sizes, stages and production systems; and
- All levels of competent authorities and, where applicable, delegated bodies.

### 2.5.2 Overall functioning of the control systems in Norway - Animal welfare on farms for broilers and laying hens

#### 2.5.2.1 Animal welfare on farms for laying hens

Norway has implemented the relevant EEA legislation and has, in some areas, gone beyond the requirements of the EEA legislation, such as the ban of beak trimming and more generous stocking densities for birds. However, ESA found that the Norwegian control system was unable to ensure that the EEA animal welfare legislation is complied with. Inadequate official controls also undermine the expected added welfare value of stricter national rules for animal welfare.

ESA found limited improvement from the previous audits in the same sector in 2009 and 2012. Insufficient training in how to perform official controls on laying hen holdings together with limited guidance from the central competent authority resulted in non-



compliances not being detected. Inaccurate outcome of official controls has been fed into the risk assessment system and it was concluded that no animal welfare checks need to be performed on laying hen holdings since 2019 onwards. The lack of an adequate official control system for animal welfare on laying hen farms has resulted in an ongoing prolonged period during which laying hens are being kept in conditions inferior to the minimal requirements of the EEA legislation.

#### 2.5.2.2 Animal welfare on farms for broilers

National legislation in Norway includes stricter stocking density requirements for broilers than the EEA legislation. These requirements are generally effectively enforced and satisfactory corrective actions were taken by the competent authorities to address identified shortcomings. However, the usable area is not measured by the officials responsible for the official controls, despite a guidance document requiring this. Instead, to evaluate the stocking density of animals on the farm, the officials rely on the information provided by the industry, which might result in incorrect assessments of stocking densities.

#### 2.6 Organic production

Organic production means respecting the rules on organic farming. The EEA legislation in this area is based on general and specific principles to promote environmental protection, maintain the biodiversity of Europe and build consumer trust in organic products.

ESA carried out desk-based analysis to assess the performance of the control systems for organic production by Iceland and Norway relating to the year 2021.

#### 2.6.1 Objectives and scope of ESA controls – Organic production

The objective and scope of the desk-based analysis was to assess the performance of official control systems for organic production through evaluation of relevant data reported by Iceland and Norway

Both Norway and Iceland submitted to ESA their annual reports for 2021 in summer 2022. These included specific information on certain organic products, relevant competent authorities, related official controls and non-compliances detected, pursuant to the relevant requirements of Regulation (EC) 889/2008, Regulation (EU) 2017/625 and Regulation (EC) 2021/1935.

ESA assessed the States' annual reports and forwarded the draft assessment templates to DG AGRI for comments in early 2023.

#### 2.6.2 Overall functioning of the control systems - Organic production

The desk-based analysis will be finalised in 2023 and the outcome included in the next report of ESA's Internal Market Affairs Directorate on the overall operation of official controls of the Food and Veterinary Area in Iceland and Norway.

### 2.7 Entry into the EEA of goods and animals from third countries - Compliance of border control posts

Regulation (EU) 2017/625 on official controls and other official activities performed to ensure the application of food and feed law, rules on animal health and welfare, plant health and plant protection products (OCR) lays down provisions for the designation of (Article 59) and the suspension of the designation of (Article 63) border control posts (BCPs).



Norway proposed to designate one new border control post in 2022.

#### 2.7.1 Objectives and scope of ESA controls – Compliance of border control posts

ESA assessed the information provided by Norway to verify that the new border control post proposed for designation complied with the minimum requirements for border control posts including inspection centres laid down in the applicable EEA legislation before such posts are designated.

The information received from Norway was assessed against the requirements for border control posts laid down in Regulation (EU) 2017/625, in particular Article 64 thereof, and Implementing Regulation (EU) 2019/1014, in particular Articles 3, 4, 6 and 8 thereof. Following the initial assessment, ESA sent a request for additional information that Norway provided.

### 2.7.2 Overall functioning of the control systems - Compliance of border control posts

ESA concluded that the designation of the new border control post was dependent upon the favourable outcome of an on-site control by ESA. The control visit was, in agreement with Norway, scheduled in January 2023. Following that visit, ESA requested that Norway addressed certain shortcomings before going forward with the designation.

### 2.8 Entry into the EEA of goods and animals from third countries – official controls of food of non-animal origin

ESA carried out audits including on-the-spot verifications, to Iceland and Norway to verify compliance with the applicable EEA legislation governing official controls on products of non-animal origin from third countries, temporary increase of official controls and emergency measures on imports of certain food and feed of non-animal origin.

#### 2.8.1 Objectives and scope of ESA controls

The objective of the audit was to verify compliance with the applicable legislation governing official controls on products of non-animal origin from third countries, temporary increase of official controls and emergency measures on certain food and feed of non-animal origin entering the EEA.

The audits focused on, but were not limited to, the implementation of Regulation (EU) 2017/625 on official controls and Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2019/1793 on the temporary increase of official controls and emergency measures governing the entry into the Union of certain goods from certain third countries.

The scope of the audit included the review of relevant national legislation, the set up and operations of national competent authorities, the organisation of official controls and the temporary increase of official controls and emergency measures on imports of certain food and feed of non-animal origin, including the general requirements and operational criteria. The scope also covered the implementation of controls at border control posts and control points, including identification of consignments, identity and documentary controls, and sampling and enforcement procedures.



### 2.8.2 Overall functioning of the control systems in Iceland and Norway - official controls of food of non-animal origin

Both Iceland and Norway have established an official control system of products of nonanimal origin entering the EEA. Border control posts generally comply with the minimum requirements of the relevant EEA Regulation and, if presented for official control, consignments generally undergo documentary, identity and physical checks in line with provisions laid down in the EEA legislation. The effectiveness of the systems can be further strengthened by consistent implementation of documented procedures which are updated as appropriate.

However, ESA also found that the organisation of official controls in Iceland does not ensure that relevant consignments are presented for official controls. This undermines the assurance that only compliant products are placed on the market. The competent authority had taken actions to address some of the identified weaknesses shortly before the audit, but it was not possible to assess the effect of those changes at the time of the audit.

#### 2.9 General and horizontal aspects - Follow up of audit recommendations

ESA systematically follows-up all open recommendations and engages in continuous communication with the Iceland and Norway to verify, including by audits and on-site verification, that Iceland and Norway take appropriate follow-up measures to remedy any specific or systematic shortcomings identified by Authority controls.

Two follow up audits including on-site verification were postponed to 2022 due to travel restrictions in 2021.

### 2.9.1 Verification on the spot of corrective actions implemented by Iceland following an audit on live bivalve molluscs in 2019

ESA carried out an audit including on-site verification to Iceland to verify compliance with the applicable EEA legislation governing the live bivalve molluscs (LBMs). The audit was following up on the findings during an audit on the same topic in 2019 where ESA found that the Icelandic competent authorities could not ensure that LBMs placed on the market were safe for human consumption.

#### 2.9.1.1 Objectives and scope of ESA controls – Live bivalve molluscs

The objective of the audit was to assess the implementation and effectiveness of measures and actions taken following ESA's audit to Iceland from 11 to 20 March 2019 to evaluate animal health of aquaculture animals and related official controls concerning live bivalve molluscs.

Actions and measures taken to address the six outstanding recommendations from the 2019 audit performed by ESA on the same topic were assessed during this follow-up audit.

### 2.9.1.2 Overall functioning of the control systems in Iceland and Norway – Live bivalve molluscs

ESA found that not all open recommendations from the 2019 audit had been satisfactorily addressed and only three of six outstanding recommendations were closed after the follow up audit. ESA concluded that further actions must be taken to address the remaining three recommendations to ensure that the live bivalve molluscs placed on the market are safe for human consumption.



### 2.9.2 Verification on the spot of corrective actions implemented by Norway following an audit on animal health of aquaculture animals in 2019

In May 2019, ESA found that there was no reliable system in place enabling the identification of farms that had been granted ISA (Infectious Salmon Anaemia)-free status and that, in most cases, such status had been granted without, or with very limited, involvement of the relevant competent authority. Considering the serious findings, ESA scheduled a follow up audit to verify that disease free status for ISA was granted and maintained under the conditions specified in the EEA legislation.

On 16 February 2022 Norway informed ESA that there were no more ISA-free compartments and zones in Norway. Consequently, ESA cancelled the scheduled follow up audit.

#### 2.9.3 Verification of corrective actions implemented by Iceland and Norway

ESA systematically follows-up all open recommendations and engages in continuous communication with the Iceland and Norway to monitor progress on the implementation of corrective actions by the two states to address these. If Iceland or Norway fail to provide adequate assurances that satisfactory actions to address recommendations are implemented in a timely manner ESA may decide to open an infringement procedure. In 2022 ESA took one formal decision regarding open recommendations in Iceland. In addition, the EFTA court ruled in favour of ESA in an infringement procedure opened against Iceland in 2016:

- On 18 May 2022 ESA sent a letter of formal notice (Decision No 112/22/COL) to lceland regarding incorrect implementation of EEA food hygiene requirements, and failure to undertake official controls, concerning fish oil.
- On 20 October 2021 ESA decided (Decision No 244/21/COL) to bring Iceland before the EFTA Court due to limited progress made by Iceland in relation to official controls and disposal of animal by-products and in Case E-3/22 EFTA Surveillance Authority v Iceland, the EFTA Court ruled in favour of ESA that Iceland had failed to fulfil its obligations concerning methods for handling the direct disposal of fallen stock, slaughterhouse waste and home-slaughter waste.

### 3 Iceland and Norway's annual report on official controls

Iceland and Norway submitted their 2021 annual report as per Article 113(1) of Regulation (EU) 2017/625 on 12 September 2021 (after the deadline of 31 August) and 31 August 2021 (within the deadline of 31 August) respectively.

Both states provided information for Sections 1, 3, 4, 5, 6, 8 and 9. For section 4 (animal health) and section 6 (welfare requirements for animals), Iceland's included information and data in line with the scope of the EEA Agreement.

No data was reported for Section 2 (Deliberate release into the environment of GMOs for the purpose of food and feed production), Section 7 (Protective measures against pests of plants) or Section 10 (Use and labelling of protected designations of origin, protected geographical indications and traditional specialities guaranteed).

ESA notes that Iceland included in the introductory part and overview of the objectives set in the multiannual control plan (MANCP)



### 3.1 The States' overall conclusion on the level of compliance achieved in the annual reports for 2021

#### ESA notes that:

- Norway's annual report concludes that the Norwegian Food Safety Authority meet most of the requirements in the control regulation.
- Norway is developing an improved fee management system to ensure compliance with the OCR and the national financial management and work is ongoing to establish an efficient system for verifying official controls.
- lceland's annual report refers to the objectives set for the lcelandic Food and Veterinary Authority (MAST) in the multiannual control plan (MANCP) 2021-2023.
  No objectives were set for the local competent authorities (LCAs) in the MANCP 2021-2023.
- While some of MAST's objectives were achieved, others were not due to *inter alia* Covid-19 restrictions and pending issues.

#### 4 Overall functioning of the control system in Iceland and Norway

Iceland and Norway have, with few exceptions, incorporated the relevant EEA legislation into the national legislation and the competent authorities are clearly designated and have the relevant powers to enforce the EEA legislation. Both states have established control systems to ensure the application of relevant EEA requirements. However, in certain areas there is still room for improvement and ESA have in several reports over the years recommended both Iceland and Norway to put in place arrangements to ensure the effectiveness and appropriateness of their official controls. This should increase the national competent authorities' opportunities to ensure that official controls have the required impact and contribute to the continuous improvement of their official control systems. A summary of the overall conclusions of ESA's controls are included in chapter 2 of this report.

ESA systematically follows-up all open recommendations and engages in continuous communication with the Iceland and Norway to monitor progress on the implementation of corrective actions by the two states to address these (see also section 2.9.3)



### Annex 1 - List of abbreviations and terms

ВСР	Border Control Post		
CA	Competent Authority		
EEA	European Economic Area		
EEA Agreement	Agreement on the European Economic Area		
ESA	EFTA Surveillance Authority		
EU	European Union		
FBO	Food business operator		
LCA	Local competent authorities (Heilbrigðiseftirlit sveitarfélaganna)		
MANCP	Single integrated multi annual national control plan		
MAST	The Icelandic Food and Veterinary Authority		
MRL	Maximum residue limit		
NAP	National Action Plan		
OCR	Regulation (EU) 2017/625 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 15 March 2017 on official controls and other official activities performed to ensure the application of food and feed law, rules on animal health and welfare, plant health and plant protection products, amending Regulations (EC) No 999/2001, (EC) No 396/2005, (EC) No 1069/2009, (EC) No 1107/2009, (EU) No 1151/2012, (EU) No 652/2014, (EU) 2016/429 and (EU) 2016/2031 of the European Parliament and of the Council, Council Regulations (EC) No 1/2005 and (EC) No 1099/2009 and Council Directives 98/58/EC, 1999/74/EC, 2007/43/EC, 2008/119/EC and 2008/120/EC, and repealing Regulations (EC) No 854/2004 and (EC) No 882/2004 of the European Parliament and of the Council, Council Directives 89/608/EEC, 89/662/EEC, 90/425/EEC, 91/496/EEC, 96/23/EC, 96/93/EC and 97/78/EC and Council Decision 92/438/EEC (Official Controls Regulation)		