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Answer given by Mr Hansen
on behalf of the European Commission
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The Commission is vigilant about non-tariff barriers affecting trade in products within the EU single market.

The free movement of agricultural products is a fundamental principle of the EU single market, and the Common Market Organisation (CMO) Regulation[1] plays a key role in ensuring this by harmonising marketing standards and reducing barriers to trade. The CMO establishes a uniform baseline for product quality, ensuring these products can be traded freely within the EU without the need for additional checks at borders.

Member States may only adopt provisions additional to the CMO if those provisions comply with EU law, and in particular with the free movement of goods. Member States can only restrict the free movement of goods in the internal market for reasons of public interest, such as life and health of humans, animals or plants as laid town in the Treaty on functioning of the European Union or recognised in the case law of the Court of Justice of the European Union. To create transparency and to ensure the compatibility of these national initiatives with EU law and the internal market principles, such technical regulations need to be notified under Directive (EU) 2015/1535[2] to the Commission and other Member States.

As regards health checks, competent authorities are responsible for assessing risks and setting frequencies of official controls, which are largely covered by Regulation (EU) 2017/625[3]. The burden for operators must be limited to what is necessary and in the absence of risk, controls must be kept to a minimum.

[1] https://eur-lex.europa.eu/eli/reg/2013/1308/oj/eng.
[2] https://eur-lex.europa.eu/eli/dir/2015/1535/oj/eng.
[3] http://data.europa.eu/eli/reg/2017/625/oj.