

EN

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Answer given by Mr Várhelyi
on behalf of the European Commission
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Animal health visits in accordance with Article 25 of Regulation (EU) 2016/429 (Animal Health Law)¹ represent an intrinsic part of operators' own surveillance. The purpose of animal health visits is to support early detection of animal diseases and to provide advice to operators on several aspects of animal health. According to Article 25, these visits can be rationalised and combined with visits for other purposes. They can also be counterbalanced with operators' own surveillance.

Member States have different structures in place to organise animal health visits, including public-private partnerships working with farmers on surveillance. For that reason, and after discussions with stakeholders and Member States, the Commission has not adopted an implementing act in particular as regards minimum frequencies of those visits also in order not to interfere with Member States organisational flexibility, and to not create unjustified administrative burdens and costs.

The Commission monitors the implementation of EU food and feed safety legislation, including the Animal Health Law, in Member States by means of Commission audits². In addition, the Commission launched an evaluation of the Animal Health Law, which is close to completion. The evaluation addresses animal health visits.

¹ <http://data.europa.eu/eli/reg/2016/429/2019-12-14>.

² https://food.ec.europa.eu/horizontal-topics/official-controls-and-enforcement/health-and-food-audits-and-analysis_en.