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RISK-BASED IMPORT CONTROL MANAGEMENT: PART 2

Workshop On Risk-Based Food Regulatory Interventions

29 September 2024 • W Hotel, Muscat, Sultanate of Oman

Unpacking Parameters Governing Risk-Based Food Import Control

Risk-Based Enforcement



Objective of the Import Control Framework

To ensure optimal protection of consumers from risks associated with imported food, while enhancing the efficiency of import clearance at points of entry.



Codex Guidance

- ❑ CXG-20-1995: Codex Principles for Import and Export Inspection and Certification
- ❑ CXG-26-1997: Guidelines for the Design, Operation, Assessment and Accreditation of Food Import and Export Inspection and Certification Systems



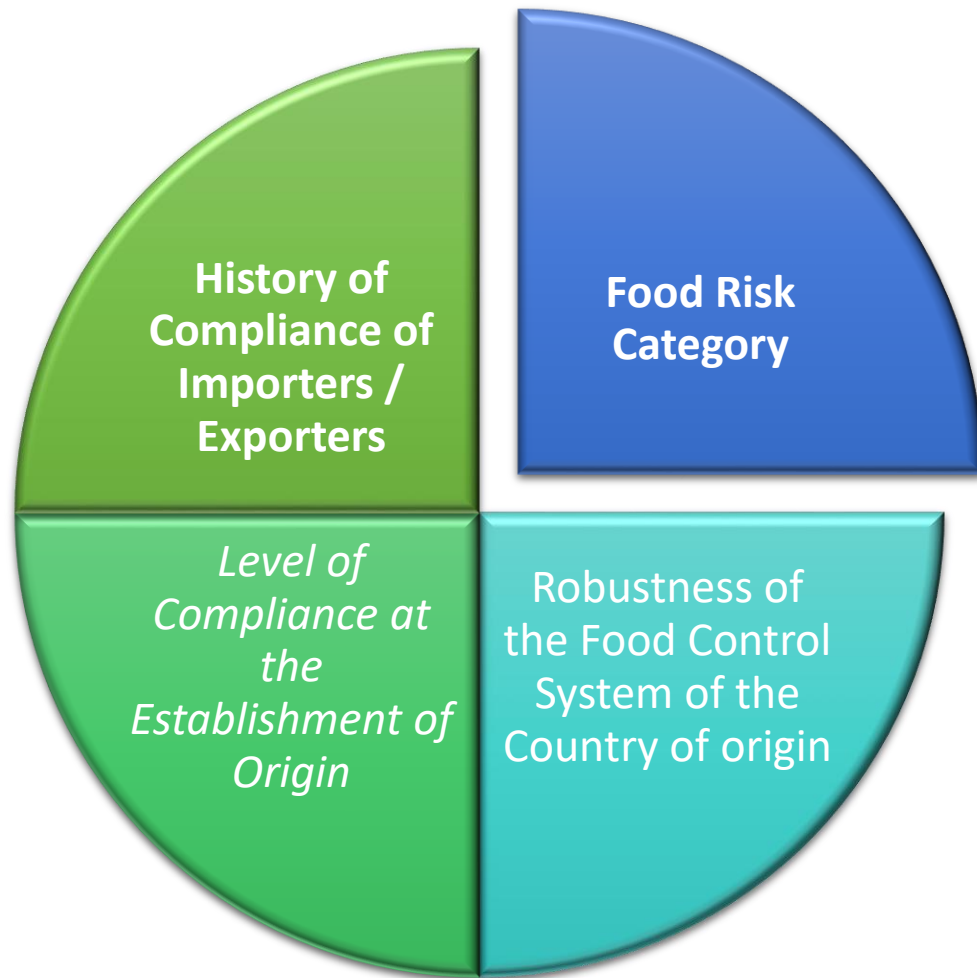
Pillars of the Import Control Framework

Preventive management
with a stronger emphasis on pre-border intervention
(Risk-Based)

Expedited clearance and simplified procedures:
Based on Risk

Interventions **proportional to the level of possible risk**

Possible Parameters of Risk Ranking



Risk Parameters in Food Import Control

- ❑ Inherent risk of the traded commodity
- ❑ Country of origin : robustness of regulatory system
- ❑ Risk Related to Establishment : e.g., Attestation of compliance verification (certifications if any)
- ❑ History of compliance of exporter /importer



IMPORT AND EXPORT RISK-BASED BORDER INSPECTION SYSTEM FOR FOOD COMMODITIES

Food Import Risk Algorithm



AgriFood
Product



Country of Origin



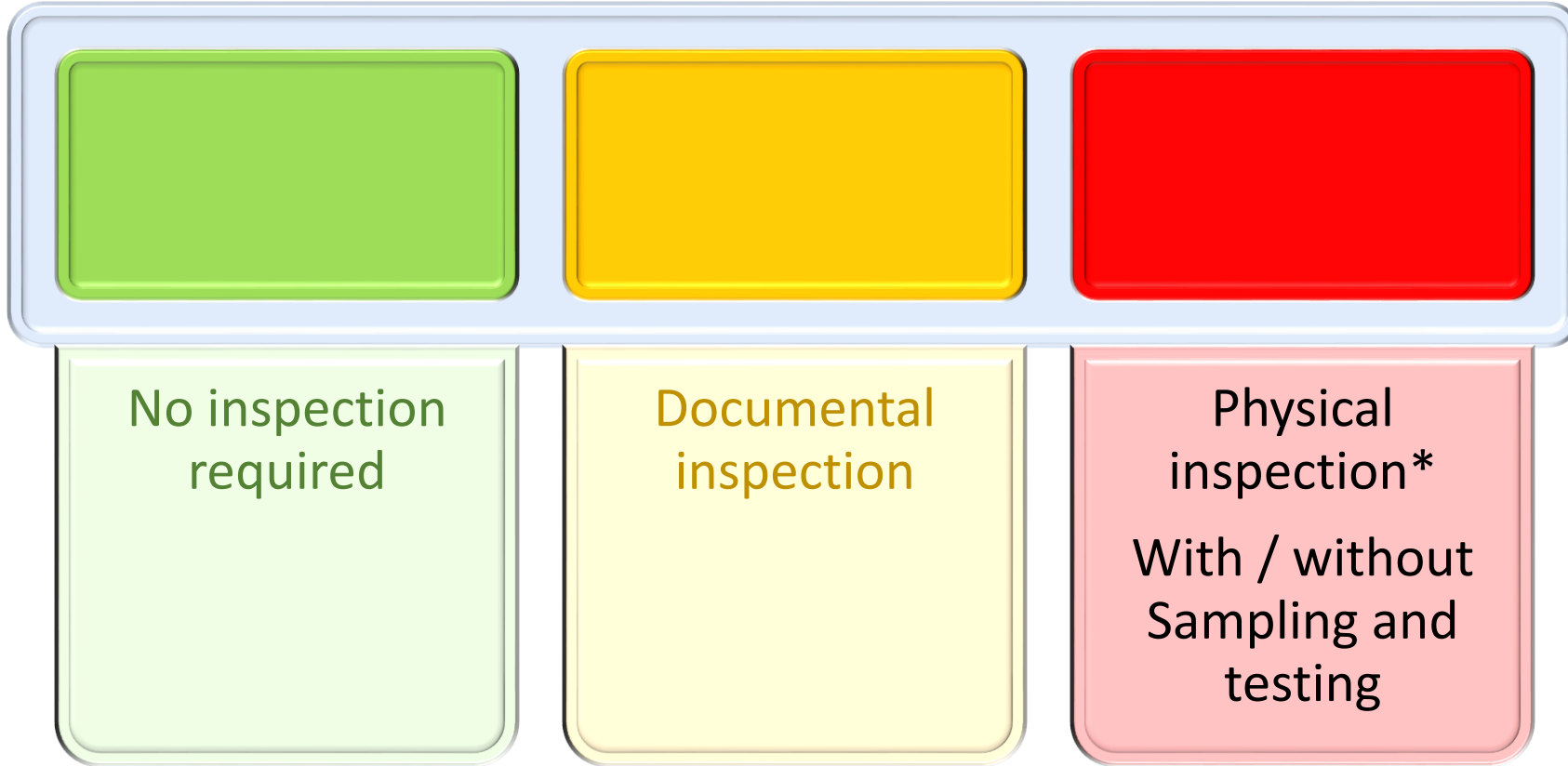
Facility
at Origin



Importer
Performance

IMPORT RISK = PRODUCT RISK + COUNTRY RISK + Establishment/Facility RISK + IMPORTER RISK

Risk Based Interventions: Assigning Channels



Food Import Risk Algorithm

Dynamic Weights Applied



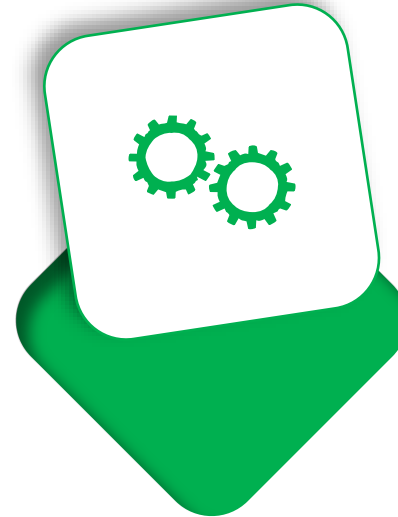
AgriFood
Product

35%



Country of Origin

20%



Facility
at Origin

20%

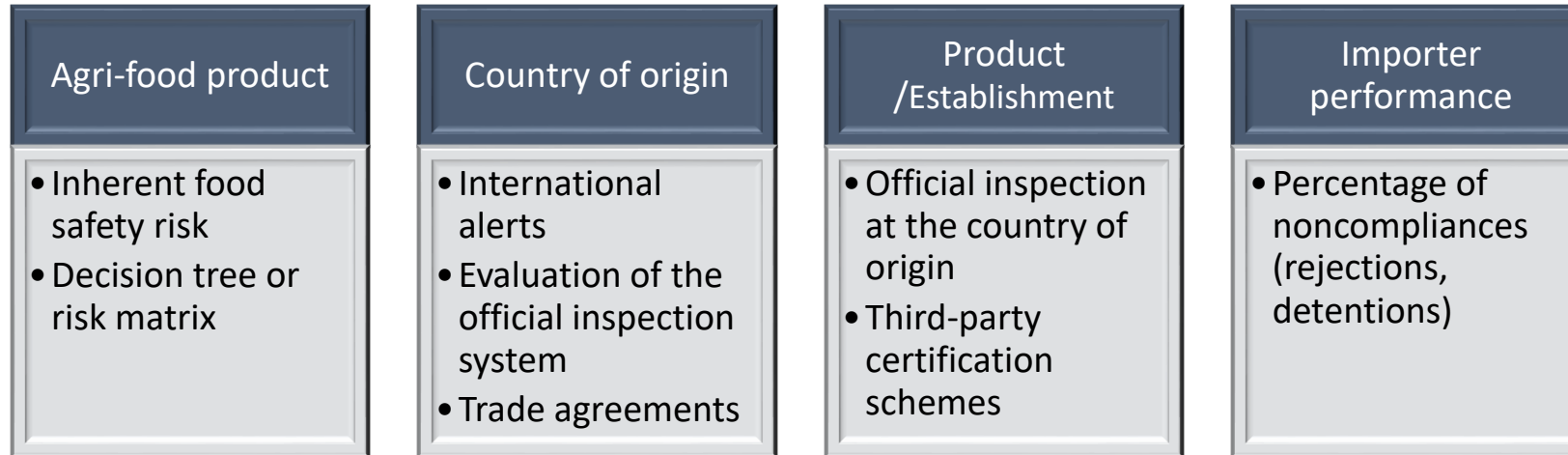


Importer
Performance

25%

FINAL IMPORT RISK = W.PRODUCT RISK + W. COUNTRY RISK + W. FACILITY RISK + W. IMPORTER RISK

Proposed Parameters Governing Risk-Based Decision Making



IMPORT RISK = PRODUCT RISK + COUNTRY RISK + FACILITY RISK + IMPORTER RISK	
Risk factor	Weight
Agri-food product	35%
Country of origin	20%
Compliance Verification and Certification	20%
Importer performance	25%
IMPORT RISK = PRODUCT RISK*W1 + COUNTRY RISK*W2 + FACILITY RISK*W3 + IMPORTER RISK *W4	

Food Import Risk Algorithm

Risk Related to the Country of Origin



Country of Origin

1. International alerts (Infosan, Rasff, Import Refusals,...)
2. Assessment of the official inspection system
3. Trade agreements

Low (1) / Moderate (10) / High (100)

IMPORT RISK = PRODUCT RISK + COUNTRY RISK + FACILITY RISK + IMPORTER RISK

Food Import Risk Algorithm

Risk Related to the Country of Origin



Country of Origin

Factor	Score
The country has been involved in more than one international alert in the last five years (i.e., INFOSAN, RASFF, FDA)	100
The evaluation of the official inspection of the importing country is not favorable	
The country has been involved in one international alert in the last five years	10
The evaluation of the official inspection of the importing country is partially favorable	
The country has not been involved in any international alert in the last 5 years	1
The evaluation of the official inspection of the importing country is favorable	

IMPORT RISK = PRODUCT RISK + COUNTRY RISK + FACILITY RISK + IMPORTER RISK

Food Import Risk Algorithm

Risk Related to the Country of Origin



Country of Origin



Proposed Template for the Assessment of Food Regulatory Functions Exercised by an Exporting Country Competent Authority (ECCA) As Part of a Risk-Based Food Import Control ¶

¶

The Food Safety and Quality Center (FSQC) of Oman is planning to practice a review of the **Performance of the food control functions** exercised by food competent authorities in exporting countries to Oman, to support its determination of the level of scrutiny to be exercised on food and agri-food products imported in the Sultanate of Oman. ¶

The assessment of the Exporting Country Competent Authority (ECCA) will be a key component of the risk-based approach to be followed by Oman in exercising food and agri-food important control. ¶

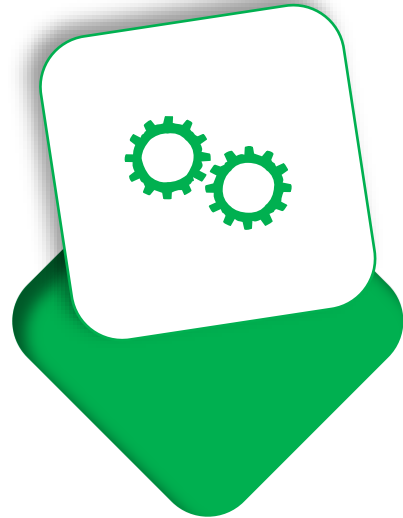
This document supports the documentation of the performance of such food control functions. ¶

The assessment is guided by international best practices as well as Codex guidance, in particular the "Principles and

IMPORT RISK = PRODUCT RISK + COUNTRY RISK + FACILITY RISK + IMPORTER RISK

Food Import Risk Algorithm

Risk related to the Facility at Origin



Facility
at Origin

1. Compliance with import requirements
2. Facility Attested to by the competent authority of the country of origin
3. Third-party certifications

Low (1) / Moderate (10) / High (100)

IMPORT RISK = PRODUCT RISK + COUNTRY RISK + FACILITY RISK + IMPORTER RISK

Food Import Risk Algorithm

Risk related to the Importer



1. Percent of noncompliances:
Imports Rejections, Detentions

**Importer
Performance**

Low (1) / Moderate (10) / High (100)

IMPORT RISK = PRODUCT RISK + COUNTRY RISK + FACILITY RISK + IMPORTER RISK

Food Import Risk Algorithm

Dynamic Weights Applied



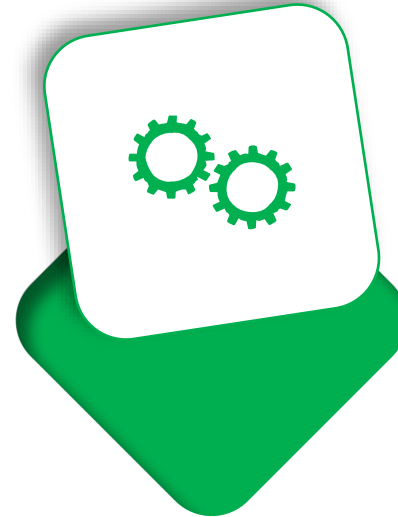
AgriFood
Product

35%



Country of Origin

20%



Facility
at Origin

20%



Importer
Performance

25%

FINAL IMPORT RISK = W.PRODUCT RISK + W. COUNTRY RISK + W. FACILITY RISK + W. IMPORTER RISK

Food Import Risk Algorithm

SIMULATION



AgriFood
Product
PR=100



Country of Origin
CR=1



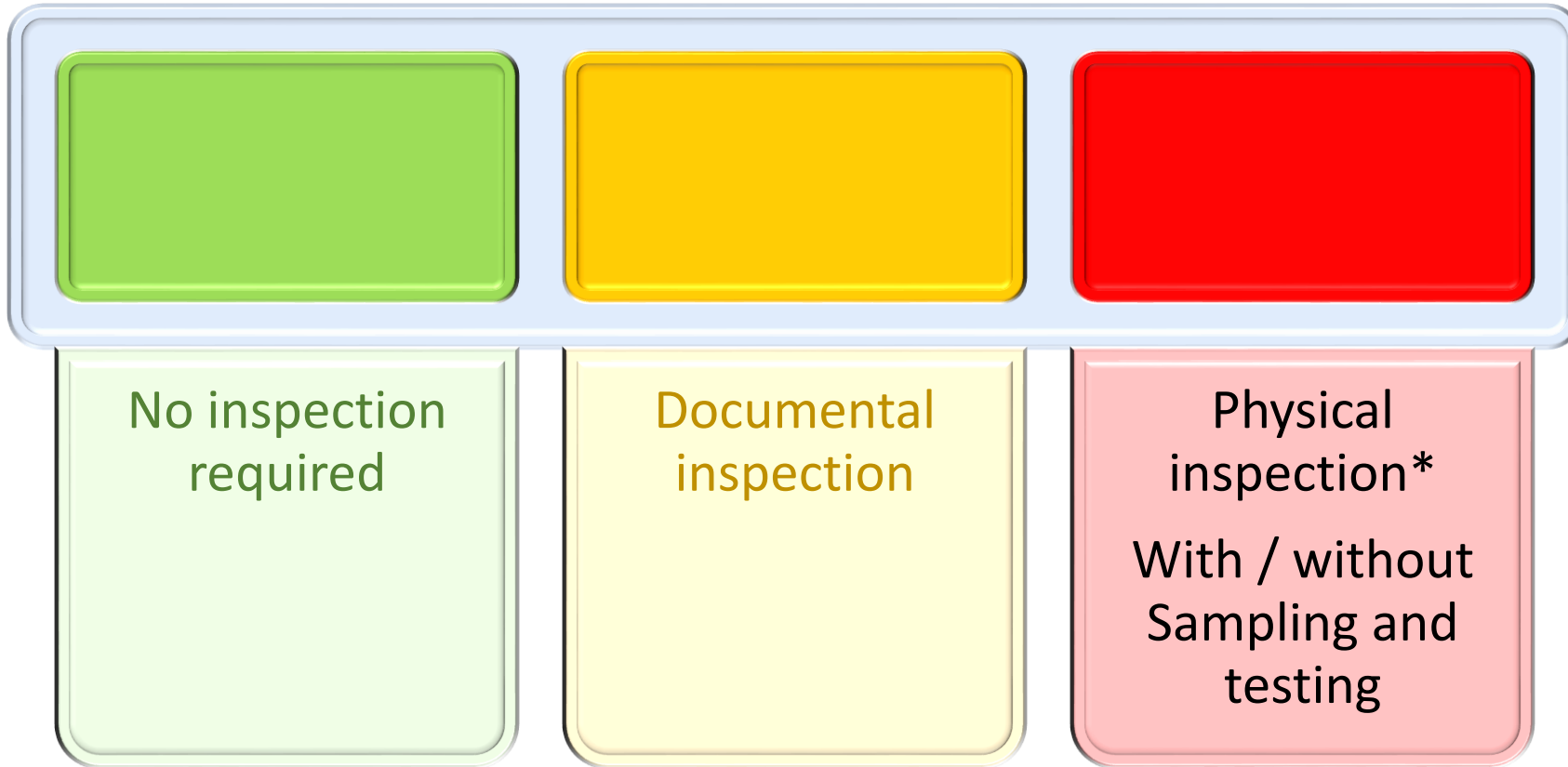
Facility
at Origin
FR=1



Importer
Performance
10

$$\text{FINAL IMPORT RISK} = (100 * 0.35) + (1 * 0.2) + (1 * 0.2) + (10 * 0.25) = 37.9$$

Risk Based Interventions: Assigning Channels



**Risk Levels Assigned
to Each Imported Consignment
IMPORT RISK = 0 TO 100**

**0 – 25 :
NO INSPECTION REQUIRED**

**26 – 50 :
DOCUMENTARY INSPECTION**

**51 – 75 :
DOCUMENTARY AND PHYSICAL INSPECTION**

**76 – 100 :
DOCUMENTARY, PHYSICAL INSPECTION AND LAB. TESTING**

Pillars of the Import Control Framework

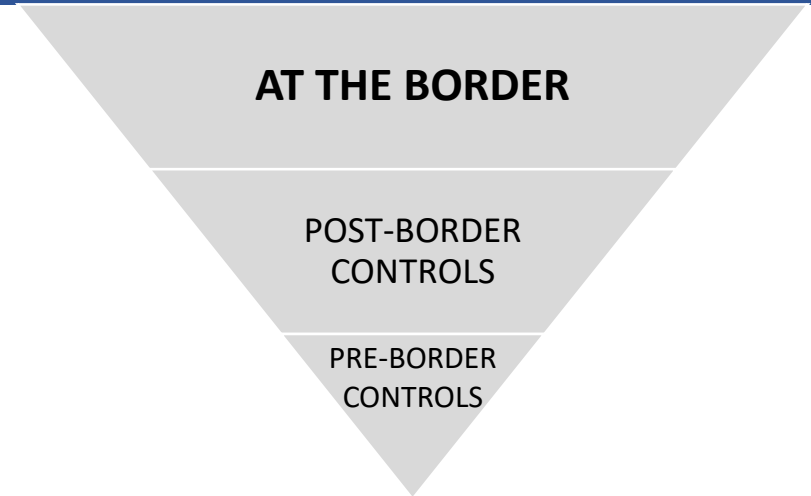
Preventive management
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Expedited clearance and simplified procedures:
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Interventions **proportional to the level of possible risk**

Transition to a Preventive Approach

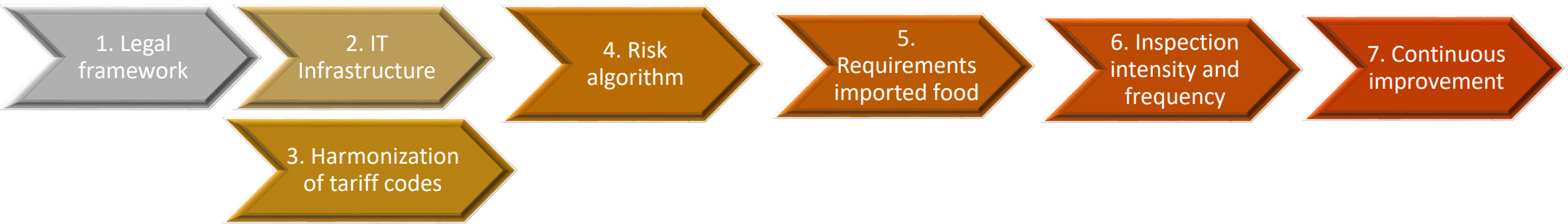
Inherited import control system relied heavily on **AT THE BORDER** controls



Modern approach enhances **PRE-BORDER** and Establishes a **POST-BORDER MANAGEMENT PROGRAM**



Building the Framework



Building the Framework

Strengthen Risk-Based pre-border oversight to reduce the hold-up period for at-border inspection of food consignments through:



Review of Performance of foreign food regulatory systems (targeting exports)



Pre-shipment certifications or attestations of compliance



Enhance importer practices

Policies for Product Clearance... Continued Improvement

Clearance Channel

GREEN

YELLOW

ORANGE

RED

Handling Method

**SAMPLE AND
RELEASE**

**SAMPLE WITH
TEMPORARY
RELEASE**

Release Protocol

**Products released to
importer**

**Noncompliant
products recalled**




**Clearance of
sampled products**

**Products released to
importer**

*Sampling rate
assigned according
to risk associated
with each clearance
channel*

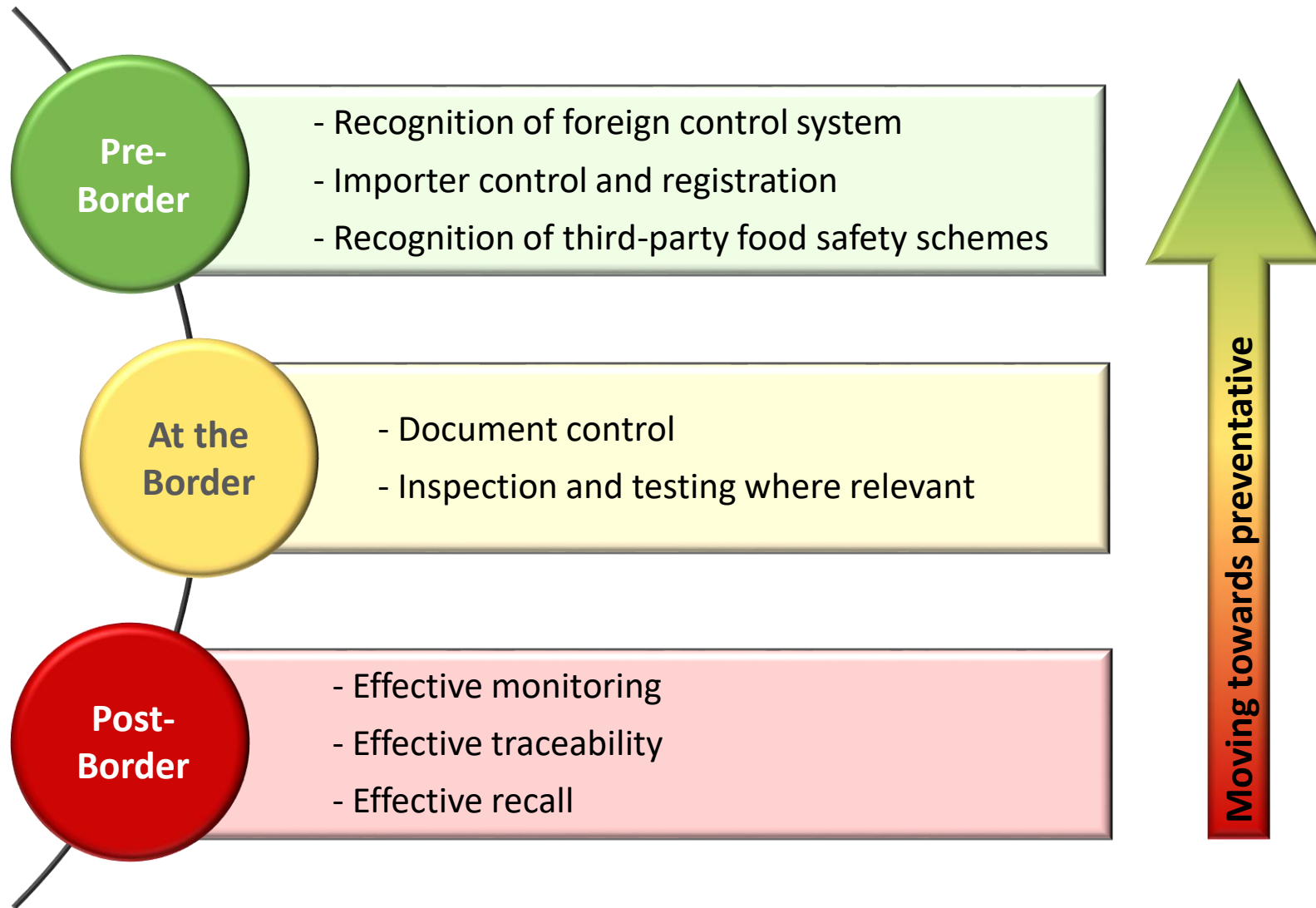
*Sampling rate
assigned according
to risk associated
with each clearance
channel*

Post-Border Interventions

-  **Targeted surveillance to ensure marketed food is safe**
-  **Managed recalls in case of identified hazards**
-  **Performance of importers to factor into future risk profiling**

Data Driven Approach Towards Preventative Controls

Components of Import Control Oversight



Prescriptive vs. Risk-based Systems

Prescriptive Systems

Onus on Government to prove non-compliance

Flexible Risk-based Systems

Onus on business operator to demonstrate compliance

Operator pays for performance-based verification

Outcome-driven

Rewards performance

1995 - Principle 7



*Inspection systems to ensure food safety should be designed and operated on the basis of **objective risk assessment appropriate to the circumstances***

Situation 1

A consignment of Chocolate Biscuits was randomly selected for thorough document inspection, which identified the presence of, in the products being imported, a food additive (an emulsifier) not approved in the GCC (and with no Codex Standard) but documented to be approved in the country of origin (Australia) and in several other countries, including the US, Canada and Japan.

What would be your course of action for enforcement?

Situation 2

A consignment of Rice was randomly selected for sampling and testing, which led to the detection of banned substances, mainly pesticides at somewhat higher levels, as well as higher than usual levels of Arsenic, Lead and Cadmium.

What would be your course of action?

