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Preliminary burden assessment
concerning the new
System of Farm Surveys 2016-2020

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The assessment of burden presented in this document reflects only a preliminary draft approach and was based on number of assumptions, made to the best available knowledge. This document should not be in any way considered as a final position of the European Commission on the subject.

1. Introduction

The overall objective of the exercise described in this document was to attempt to estimate of the overall burden related to the new proposed System of Farm Surveys (SFS) in comparison with the current FSS system (Reg.1166/2008).

The detailed objectives of the exercise were as follows:

- (i) Estimate the preliminary burden related to the proposed new system of Farm Surveys for the purpose of Impact Assessment required for the new legislation.
- (ii) Estimate the change of burden for the purpose of gaining insights into potential change of contribution of EU to the new system

The burden of the proposed new System of Farm Surveys (SFS) to be included in draft SFS Regulation (repealing Regulation1166/2008) has been estimated using the results of the burden assessment exercise of FSS 2010 and SAPM 2010 (see Annex I and II, respectively) as a reference and a starting point. In these burden assessment exercises each country estimated the relative burden of each FSS and SAPM variable on a scale of 1-5. Based on the submitted results from the 27 MS, Eurostat calculated for each variable a rounded average.

2. The methodology for estimating the burden for the system of Farm Surveys

Step 1: Estimation of burden per variable

To estimate the burden of each variable in the new Regulation the following methods were used:

- (i) For variables which were already included in FSS or SAPM 2010, the value from the burden assessment exercise 2010 was used.
- (ii) For some new variables similar but not exactly the same as variables in FSS or SAPM 2010, the value of a similar variable from the burden assessment exercise 2010 was used. For instance housing of cattle was not specified by different types of cattle in FSS 2010 but it is included in the proposal of the new Regulation. The value for cattle housing was 3 in the assessment of SAPM 2010, and therefore it has been assumed that the burden of each variable for cattle housing (for dairy, mature non-dairy and young cattle) in the new Regulation is also 3.
- (iii) For all other new variables for which no similar variable existed previously, e.g. fertiliser use, a burden of 5 has been assumed.

In the proposed new Regulation the SFS consists of:

- Core, Modules I, IV, V and VI and Satellite A to be carried out in 2016 and 2023.

- Core*, Modules II, III, IV and Satellite B to be carried out in 2020 and 2026.

* Core in 2020 is census.

Step 2: Estimation of burden per survey year

For each Core, Module and Satellite survey a total burden was estimated by aggregating the burden of the variables included, as shown in Table 1 rows 1-10. And a total for the complete SFS was estimated, see row 11. The estimated total burden in row 11 of Table 1 takes into account differences in the amount of variables per survey year and the level of burden of the variables included.

Table 1 row 11 shows that the combined total estimated burden for FSS and SAPM 2010 was 613, while for FSS 2013 it is 467. The total burden for SFS 2016 and for SFS 2023 is estimated at 672, which is higher than that of FSS 2010 or FSS 2013, as new variables with high complexity have been added. The total burden for SFS 2020 and for SFS 2026 is estimated at 574, which is lower than that of FSS 2010, as some variables have been moved from FSS 2010 to a module which is not requested in these years, but it is higher than that for FSS 2013, as a satellite has been added.

Table 1. Estimation of total burden and total weighted burden FSS 2016-26

	FSS/SAPM 2010	FSS 2013	SFS 2016	SFS 2020	SFS 2023	SFS 2026
1. Total burden core	430	467	290	290	290	290
2. Total burden module I	0	0	41	0	41	0
3. Total burden module II	0	0	0	56	0	56
4. Total burden module III	0	0	0	30	0	30
5. Total burden module IV	0	0	24	24	24	24
6. Total burden module V	25	0	25	0	25	0
7. Total burden module VI	65	0	70	0	70	0
8. Total burden satellite A	69	0	222	0	222	0
9. Total burden satellite B	6	0	0	174	0	174
10. Total burden SAPM	18	0	0	0	0	0
11. Total burden	613	467	672	574	672	574

Step 3: Estimation of burden per survey year weighted for size of survey

The total burden estimated in step 2 does not take into account differences in the burden related to different sample sizes. In Table 2 the weighting factors for the core carried out as a census, the core carried out as a sample survey and the modules and satellite surveys are presented. For the purpose of this analysis an initial values have been assumed based on the proposed precision requirements. Please note that this is subject to possible further changes and in case the precision requirements would be adapted, the corresponding variable part (in Tab.2) would be adapted.

Table 2. Weighting factors

	Fixed part	Variable part	Total factor
Census	0.5	0.5	1
Sample core	0.5	0.3	0.8
Sample module	0.5	0.2	0.7
Sample satellite	0.5	0.2	0.7

The census has been taken as the benchmark and therefore equals 1. We assume that the actual burden of the core, module and satellite consists of a fixed part (a minimum burden regardless of sample size, e.g. minimum amount of staff, database etc needed to carry out surveys) and a variable part (which increases with the size of the survey, e.g. man hours dedicated to data collection, validation etc). Therefore the relation between the expected sample size and the weighting factor is not proportional, but is an addition of a fixed part and a variable

part. The fixed part is assumed to be 50% of the total burden estimated in step 2. The variable part is assumed to be 50% of the total burden estimated in step 2 when the survey is carried out as census, 30% when the core is carried out as a sample survey, and 20% for modules and satellites.

The total weighted burden for FSS/SAPM 2010 is 558, and for FSS 2013 it is 374, see Table 3 row 2. In 2016, 2023 and 2026 the weighted burden is higher than FSS 2013, however the weighted burden of SFS 2020 is lower than that of FSS/SAPM 2010 (although new variables are added many variables have been removed from the census to a module).

Table 3. Estimation of total burden and total weighted burden FSS 2016-26

	FSS/SAPM 2010	FSS 2013	SFS 2016	SFS 2020	SFS 2023	SFS 2026
1. Total burden (step 2)	613	467	672	574	672	574
2. Total weighted burden	558	374	499	489	499	431

Step 4: Estimation of weighted burden per survey year accounting for costs of system redesign

Additional to the burden coming from the variables included in the SFS and the sample size, we also expect a burden on the Member States in 2016 and 2020 related to redesigning their systems to adapt to the new Regulation. We assume that this burden is 50% of the total burden estimated in step 3 in 2016 and 30% in 2020, see multiplication factors included in Table 4. Please note that these multiplication factors only reflect the additional costs for the statistical institutes related to redesigning their systems. After 2020 it is expected that the Member States have adapted their systems to the new Regulation and therefore these costs are no longer expected.

Table 4. Multiplication factors for redesigning the system

	2016	2020	2023	2026
Factor redesigning system	1.5	1.3	1	1

In Table 5, row 3 the total burden including the additional burden for redesigning the systems in the Member States is presented. The total weighted burden including the costs for system redesign increases in the new system in comparison to FSS/SAPM 2010 and FSS 2013. It is however important to underline that while the initial burden is high in 2016 (749) it reduces gradually over time to 431 in 2026.

Table 5. Estimation of total weighted burden including redesigning cost FSS2016-26

	FSS/SAPM 2010	FSS 2013	SFS 2016	SFS 2020	SFS 2023	SFS 2026
1. Total burden (step 2)	613	467	672	574	672	574
2. Total weighted burden (step 3)	558	374	499	489	499	431
3. Total weighted burden including redesigning cost	558	374	749	635	499	431

3. Conclusions

Thanks to the proposed re-design of the new System of Farm Surveys and re-grouping variables between core and modules as well as collecting information from smaller samples, the total weighted burden for the next census 2020 will be lower than for the current census 2010. The total weighted burden, including the costs for system redesign shall increase initially in 2016 (in comparison to FSS/SAPM 2010 and FSS 2013), but it is foreseen to reduce gradually over time.

Annex I Summary of burden assessment exercise for FSS variables



SUMMARY
MS_ver2a.pdf

Annex II Summary of burden assessment exercise for SAPM variables



Summary.pdf