

Foot and Mouth Disease in Germany – Briefing and Advice for Members

Updated: 23/01/2025

The below summary has been put together on Food and Mouth Disease (FMD) in Germany to support members. If you require further assistance please contact Devina (BRC Food Policy Advisor) on devina.sankhla@brc.org.uk

Latest:

23/01/2025: we understand the growing concerns and frustration over the lack of progress in clearing imports. Helen Dickinson has emailed the Secretary of State this morning for support, particularly for Port of London. We will share any updates asap.

22/01/2025: We spoke to Defra's animal health team about issues with imports of German POAO following its FMD outbreak. Key points are shared below:

- They hope the guidance is helping businesses identify which products are affected and what additional documentation, such as evidence of heat treatment is required. However, they recognise there are niche products outside the guidance and encourage you to use their inbox to raise questions with the team. They are trying to speed up responses to your enquiries
- They recognise they need to do more to ensure PHA's have the information to speed up controls, including document checks and releasing split loads where appropriate than holding the whole consignment. They are planning a call between the Chief Vet and the PHA's to reinforce guidance and encourage increased speed administering controls and releasing consignments
- We spoke specifically about problems at Port of London, Defra are aware and hoping the call with the Chief Vet will ensure progress
- There are still hauliers arriving without the appropriate documentation and are reminding industry to ensure their supply chains understand what is required. Apparently, a number of loads have been re-exported to Germany after failing to meet UK controls
- We offered them a call with you if required. Defra said they would consider this as their team is currently focused on guidance and supporting the controls

Please see below for any updates in blue for specific queries/key points.

Background:

- An outbreak of FMD was confirmed by German Authorities on 10 January 2025. This is the first outbreak of the disease in Germany since 1988.
- The detection reported by German Chief Veterinary Officer was in a herd of farmed water buffalo in Brandenburg in the Märkisch Oderland district.
- FMD is a **highly contagious viral disease of cattle, sheep, pigs and other cloven-hoofed animals**. It causes very significant economic losses, due to production losses in the affected animals and due to the loss of access to foreign markets for animals, meat and milk for affected countries. FMD does not infect humans and does not pose a food safety risk.

Measures Put in Place in Germany:

- Strict measures have been put in place: an exclusion zone for 3 km and a surveillance zone of 10 km have been set up, according to Regulation 2020/687. No animals or their products can be taken out from this area.
- The German authorities are conducting the relevant investigations to find out the origin of the infection. Defra confirmed in a meeting on 16 January 2025, this is still ongoing, and the disease is still very much live and emerging, so there is no date indicated on when the situation will be resolved.

UK Situation for Imports:

Note: the webinar from Defra on 16 January 2025 can be seen here: [Defra Foot and Mouth Disease trader webinar - 16 January 2025](#)

- Defra communicated on the 10 January 2025, Germany has now lost its FMD free status. As such, EHCs (Export Health Certificates) for export of relevant products of animal origin from FMD susceptible animals in Germany to GB (Great Britain) can no longer be certified.
- Defra shared guidance on 13 January 2025 here: [Defra - Foot and mouth disease in Germany – information for importers](#) and special measures for trade are in place – see here: [Imports, exports and EU trade of animals and animal products: topical issues - GOV.UK](#). There was follow up guidance following the 16 January 2025 webinar. Shared here: [Foot and Mouth Disease \(FMD\) in Germany: Import Restrictions and Updates – SCPHA](#)
- **The restrictions apply to Germany as a whole, not just the state of Brandenburg.** The UK is applying a more precautionary approach to the EU and keeping in touch with Germany to update on the situation on regionalisation. [We understand members are keen for regionalisation/lobbying on this, however there are difficulties in this due to the SPS controls since 2021. UK farmers face nationwide bans for exports to the EU if we had FMD. We continue to engage with government on supporting movements.](#)

What Commodities Have Restrictions?

All import of cattle, pigs and sheep and their products from Germany to GB (Great Britain) have been banned/have restrictions. Poultry is not considered an FMD-susceptible species, as it only affects cloven-hoofed animals. The impacted products are:

- live (including non-domestic) ungulates (ruminants and porcine animals, including wild game) and their germplasm
- fresh meat from ungulates
- meat products from ungulates that have not been subject to specific treatment D1 or higher (including wild game)
- milk, colostrum and their products, unless subjected to treatment as defined in Article 4 of Regulation 2010/605
- animal by-products, unless treated to effectively mitigate the risk of FMD – this includes pet food. In a meeting on 16 January 2025, Defra will be releasing further guidance when possible. Species of animals will be considered on a case by case basis.

The restrictions are listed here: [EU and EFTA countries approved to export animals and animal products to Great Britain - data.gov.uk](#). The origin is key here – if product is processed and the origin is Germany, even if meat/milk product is from another country, it would be covered and can only be imported if meeting any requirements.

Note: we have requested Defra updates these lists as any clarification is given e.g. for treatments like D and D1 being accepted.

For Meat Products What Does the Specific Treatment D1 or Higher Mean?

- D1 is a requirement for heat treating meat and meat products so that an ‘internal temperature of 70°C or greater is maintained for a minimum of 30 minutes. This is in line with legislation and international standards that mitigates the risk of FMD.
- D is higher and D1, so anything higher than D1 is permitted (B, C, D, D1 is acceptable).
- *Note: evidence is required for treatment of products and is to be uploaded on to IPAFFS.*

Treatment in D Only Applies to Raw Hams, What About Cured Meats/Short Fermentation Products?

We’ve had confirmation that cured meats/short fermentation products like salami and pepperoni would not confirm to D/D1 requirements, as they need a 9 month maturation process that is applicable to ham only. Defra are working with the PHAs to try and ensure that all consignments are moved as quickly as possible. But, these products would not be able to be signed under the current requirements for FMD.

In guidance issued on the 22 January 2025, the below was shared:

Raw ham will require a treatment consisting of natural fermentation and maturation of not less than nine months and resulting in the following characteristics:

- Aw value of not more than 0.93
- pH value of not more than 6.0

Short-fermented products with German content, such as pepperoni, will still require the heat treatment set out in D, even if they meet the pH and AW level in D.

For Milk and Milk Products, What Requirements Are Required in Article 4 of Regulation 2010/605?

- The legislation can be found here: [Commission Regulation \(EU\) No 605/2010 of 2 July 2010 laying down animal and public health and veterinary certification conditions for the introduction into the European Union of raw milk, dairy products, colostrum and colostrum-based products intended for human consumption \(Text with EEA relevance\)](#)
- In a meeting on 16 January 2025, it was shared that pasteurisation (column B) would not meet the requirements and to ensure the Article 4 requirements are met.
- As per the restrictions list, the above is for column C products. *Column C lists those countries authorised for the importation of dairy products derived from raw milk of cows, ewes, goats or buffaloes, or, where specifically authorised, from camels of the species *Camelus dromedarius* at risk of foot-and-mouth disease provided that the dairy products have undergone, or been produced from raw milk which has undergone, an appropriate heat treatment, in accordance with Article 4 of EUR 2010/605.*
- The suspended products are column A and B: *Imports from Germany of raw milk and raw dairy products (Column A) and heat-treated milk and dairy products (Column B) have been temporarily suspended in response to an outbreak of foot-and-mouth disease that was confirmed on 10 January 2025.*
- *Note: In the meeting on 16 January 2025, butters, milks and cheeses with a pH less than 7, as long as they meet the Article 4 requirements are permitted.*

What About German Product Moved to Another EU Country for Processing, Then Coming in to GB (Great Britain)?

Imports of products from susceptible species produced in Germany, even if transiting from another EU country, would need to be certificated in Germany. Due to the restrictions currently, it would not be possible to be imported in to GB, unless the requirements have been met.

What About Composite Products (E.g. Meat Product on Pizza, Or Baked Products With Milk)?

- Where the POAO has been processed at the required levels, this will be accepted. Please provide evidence of the treatment and upload in IPAFFS.
- Guidance issued from Defra on 16 January 2025 listed exemptions for composite products, however this was under a heading for personal use, so we have followed up for advice for businesses:

Exemptions from these rules include infant milk, medical foods and certain low risk composite products (including chocolate, confectionery, bread, cakes, biscuits, pasta and food supplements containing less than 20% animal products).

Has a Specified Format Been Advised for Evidence of Treatment?

- The advice from Defra to date, is to upload evidence on a CHED pre-notification on IPAFFS. This is so the Port Health Authorities/Local Authorities can review as part of the documentary check (note: everything from Germany is having documentary checks).
- In guidance on 16 January 2025, Defra shared evidence can include an appropriately signed health certificate, relevant to the consignment being imported, where an Official Veterinarian (OV) has certified that the appropriate heat treatment has been applied.
- We have followed up after the meeting on 16 January 2025, and asked about further guidance for how low risk products not needing EHCs are to be managed. [We've received advice to use IPAFFS prenotification to include extra detail for low risk products which might not need a EHC.](#)

Has a Cut Off Date/Any Exemptions for Product Produced Before the 10th January 2025 Been Indicated?

- All products in the restricted list are covered, regardless of the production date. E.g. Hams made months ago will still be covered in the restrictions.
- Clear guidance has not been provided on product already on shelf around the time the FMD outbreak was alerted. We have emailed Defra for advice, and will update as soon as possible.

What About NI (Northern Ireland)?

- Transits moving product from Germany across GB to NI are impacted. Products would be not permitted or evidence would be needed on treatment in order for transit to take place.
- There is regionalisation in the EU, so product can move directly in to NI if not from the impacted zones.

How Should We Manage Mixed Consignments?

Defra shared the below advice in their guidance on 13 January 2025. Mixed consignments are not advised during this time to avoid cross contamination and detainment.

Non- Foot and Mouth impacted consignments

Where a vehicle or trailer contains multiple consignments, and one or more of those consignments have been detained, it is permitted to release those consignments that have not been detained.

Foot and Mouth impacted consignments

Where a vehicle or a trailer has been detained at a BCP containing German origin animal origin products subject to Foot and Mouth restrictions and otherwise compliant non-German origin animal origin products, it is permitted to split the load and sometimes the consignment and release the non-German origin animal origin consignments in certain circumstances. These circumstances include:

- Where fresh meat consignments are wrapped and packaged in such a way as to minimise the likelihood of cross contamination. For example, where the POAO is sealed and in end consumer packaging or when boxed and there is no evidence of cross contamination between the boxes.
- Where the frozen consignments are well packaged in boxes and the meat within is not in direct contact with the German origin POAO.
- Splitting of the consignment is not possible where the POAO subject to Foot and Mouth restrictions is in direct contact or close non barrier contact with the non-impacted consignment, Or, where splitting the consignments would result in direct contact or the potential for direct or very close non barrier contact. For example, where there are hanging carcasses within a vehicle trailer of mixed origin all the carcasses in the consignments (and all consignments in the load) would be detained.
- Given the range of circumstances in which goods can be presented to the BCP, BCP inspectors should apply professional judgement when deciding if there is a strong likelihood of cross contamination within a consignment, before rejecting non-German POAO products.

Import Conditions for Untreated Wool and Hair, Animal Casings:

In guidance on 22 January 2025, the below was shared:

To protect animal health in Great Britain, action has been taken to amend the foot and mouth disease (FMD) import conditions for:

- untreated wool and hair

- animal casings

Imports of **untreated wool and hair** of species susceptible to foot and mouth disease (FMD) (except porcines) will only be permitted from countries or zones that are recognised as free of FMD by the [World Organisation for Animal Health \(WOAH\)](#), and must be accompanied by:

- a commercial document or importer declaration (if applicable^{**})
- the health certificate provided in the safeguard declaration (only applicable to countries with FMD that are exporting from FMD-free zones)

^{**} [Import of untreated wool and hair - Import Information Note \(IIN\) ABP/23A - GOV.UK](#) contains guidance on when an importer declaration would be applicable.

Imports of **animal casings** of species susceptible to FMD, classical swine fever (CSF) and African swine fever (ASF) without specific risk mitigating treatment will only be permitted from [EU and EFTA countries](#) and [non-EU countries](#) or zones approved to export fresh meat of the relevant species and are recognised by the World Organisation for Animal Health (WOAH) as free of FMD. For countries or zones that are not recognised as free of FMD and/or not approved to export fresh meat of the relevant species, the casings must:

- come from holdings that are not under restrictions due to notifiable diseases in Annex 4 of the special measure below
- have been subjected to a risk mitigating treatment as set out in the relevant [model export health certificate](#)

For imports of animal casing, the date from which the animal casings certificate (GBHC370 Version 2.0 Jan-25) must be used is 16 April 2025, allowing for a three-month implementation period. Version GBHC370 v1.1 Aug-23 will only be accepted until 16 April 2025. This is the last date (inclusive) that the certificate will be accepted, based on the date it was signed, not the date the consignment arrives in Great Britain.

From 17 January 2025, importers of untreated wool and untreated hair (except porcine), and animal casings of species susceptible to FMD must ensure compliance with the new requirements.