



Health & Consumers Directorate General

EU Border Import Controls



EU Border Controls - Imports

DG SANCO

- European Commission Directorate General for Health & Consumers
- Unit D3 – International Questions – EU Border Import Controls Section

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EU Border Controls - Imports

- The EU is currently the biggest importer of food in the world
- Intra-Community trade – a single market - can only take place safely if there is a common and high level of safety of imports from third countries in respect of both public and animal health



EU Border Controls - Imports

- To ensure and assist safety for the single market legislation has been developed
- EU Directives and Regulations are binding on all 27 Member States from the date of their adoption and subsequent implementation



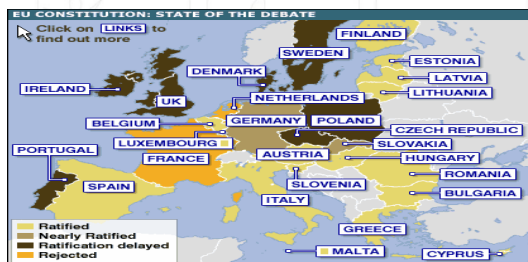
EU Border Controls - Imports

- Imports of all animals and products of animal origin undergo mandatory veterinary controls at EU Border Inspection Posts (BIPs)
- Approval Procedures for BIPs are set down in EU law – Council Directive 97/78/EC
- Requirements for live animals are set down in Council Directive 91/496/EC



EU Border Controls - Imports

- 27 Member States – 295 BIPs





EU Border Controls - Imports

What are BIPs?

- Approved entry points into the EU for commercial trade of animals and their products
- Legal requirements to be approved based on situation, infrastructure, equipment, personnel and documentation
- BIPs must be approved by the EU and are subject to regular Inspection by the Commission (SANCO FVO Office Dublin)



EU Border Controls - Imports

What are the principle requirements for imports of animals and food products to the EU?

For harmonised animal/product groups:

- Approved country
- Agreed animal and public health Certification
- Approved establishments (FVO Inspection Visit)
- Approved Residues Plan



EU Border Controls - Imports

What are the principle requirements for imports of animals and food products to the EU?

For Non - harmonised groups:

- National Health Certification
- Where appropriate approved list of countries
- Where appropriate a list of establishments meeting EU standards or equivalent (ie. List II Fishery products)

(No FVO approved Inspection)



EU Border Controls - Imports

What official controls are carried out at BIPs?

- Identity Check on all consignments
- Documentary Check on all consignments
- Physical checks on consignments are set down in EU law (Commission Decision 94/360/EC) which has a minimum criteria set for each specific product group.
- Safeguard Provisions are additional to the above



EU Border Controls - Imports

What do these checks consist of?

- Identity - Correspondence between product and certificate:
 - Health mark
 - Approved Country
 - Approved establishment
 - Packaging and labelling



EU Border Controls - Imports

Documentary - Veterinary Certification - Public and animal health:

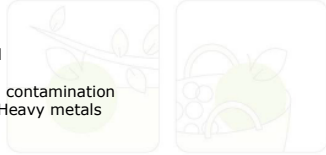
- Original document
- Approved Country
- Approved establishment
- All correct attestation requirements according to model EU certificates
- Written in one of the required languages of the Member State as set down in EU law
- Correctly signed and stamped
- CVED Presented prior to arrival of the consignment on EU territory



EU Border Controls - Imports

■ Physical – public and animal health requirements:

- Organoleptic
- Visual
- Microbiological
- Chemical
- Environmental contamination
- Residues and Heavy metals
- Other checks

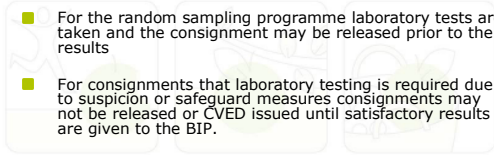




EU Border Controls - Imports

■ Physical – public and animal health requirements:

- For the random sampling programme laboratory tests are taken and the consignment may be released prior to the results
- For consignments that laboratory testing is required due to suspicion or safeguard measures consignments may not be released or CVED issued until satisfactory results are given to the BIP.

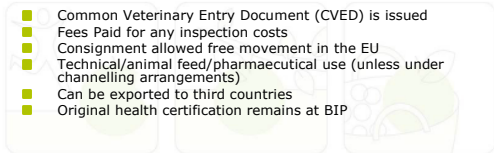




EU Border Controls - Imports

What happens if conforming to all EU conditions?

- Common Veterinary Entry Document (CVED) is issued
- Fees Paid for any inspection costs
- Consignment allowed free movement in the EU
- Technical/animal feed/pharmaceutical use (unless under channelling arrangements)
- Can be exported to third countries
- Original health certification remains at BIP





EU Border Controls - Imports

What happens if not-conforming to EU conditions?

Consignments are rejected and options are:

- destruction,
- subjected to a specified special treatment,
- re-dispatched outside of the Community under specified arrangement with exporting country,
- alternative use to that originally specified

These are all options and are at the discretion of the Member State in discussions with the importer or owner of the load .



EU Border Controls - Imports

In cases of serious or repeated infringements of EU legislation safeguard measures may be taken against third countries by way of Commission Decisions which:

- Ban imports from a country or region
- Ban imports from an establishment
- Applies specific testing criteria



EU Border Controls - Imports

Two main information tools are currently used to keep all parties notified and up to date:

- Rapid Alert System for Food and Feed
- FVO Inspections and Reports



EU Border Controls - Imports

Training

- The Commission Better Training for Safer Food Programme has been running for a number of years and includes training on BIP procedures.
- In 2007, 6 courses were held in the EU, 3 Seaport and 3 Airport
- In 2008, 7 courses are planned, 2 seaport, 3 airport and 2 Road & Rail.
- 300 delegates are expected



EU Border Controls - Imports

Technological Developments:

The EU TRACES computerised system is being implemented in all BIPs in the EU
This will enable the traceability of all consignments entering the EU



Future Strategy for EU Border Import Controls

- In line with the new Community Animal Health Strategy for the EU DG SANCO is looking to put border controls in place which are risk based
- DG SANCO therefore proposes to review the current Border Imports Control Legislation (Directive 97/78)



Future Strategy for EU Border Import Controls

- The risk Assessment will need to take account of:
 - Known scientific data
 - Historic data on imports of products and countries
 - FVO Reports
 - Using the above to determine where the real animal and public health risks lie



Future Strategy for EU Border Import Controls

- To assist DG SANCO in this exercise we have issued a questionnaire to Member States to:
 - Seek their views on the scope of any proposals
 - Their views on how to assess risks
 - How veterinary checks are best integrated with other checks



Future Strategy for EU Border Import Controls

- This will be a complex programme of change and will need to be co-ordinated with a number of other areas particularly Customs who are the main control point for presentation of commercial imports
- Current legislation also needs to be amended to take into account new hygiene legislation introduced by DG SANCO and implemented in the EU in 2006.



Future Strategy for EU Border Import Controls

- The first discussions on this review have taken place with Member States but any new legislation will likely not be in place before 2010
- The review is also very relevant to the ongoing discussions in the Council on the Community Animal Health Strategy.
- The French Presidency of the EU for the next six months has also presented a paper to the Agric Council in June on an imports strategy



Future Strategy for EU Border Import Controls

- As part of the Review of Import Controls SANCO has launched a new imports web site covering the following areas:
 - Introduction
 - Legislation
 - EU approved Border Inspection Posts



Future Strategy for EU Border Import Controls

- frequently asked questions and answers
- Import trends and statistics
- Ongoing initiatives
- Training issues
- News & Notes of meetings
- Hyperlinks to national legislation (contact details of BIPs, warehouse lists)
- http://ec.europa.eu/food/animal/bips/index_en.htm



Future Strategy for EU Border Import Controls

Thank you for your attention.

Any Questions??

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DG SANCO

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