

DVMs for distribution

Border Inspection Posts (England) – for action
Chief Port Health Officers – for action

cc:

Nominated officers for Imported Food (England)
APHA
CIEH
APA
Trading Standards Institute
Health Protection England

27 July 2015

Reference: OVS/2015/26

Dear Colleagues,

THE CONTROLS AND SUSPENSION OF IMPORTS OF BIVALVE MOLLUSCS FOR HUMAN CONSUMPTION FROM TURKEY

This letter is addressed to Border Inspection Posts and Chief Port Health Officers in England only.

This is further to my letter last year (OVS/2014/22) and I am writing to advise that the Commission published Implementing Regulation (EU) 2015/1205 on 24th July 2015. The Regulation can be found here: http://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/PDF/?uri=OJ:JOL_2015_196_R_0002&from=EN.

The Regulation enters force today (Monday 27th July).

Regulation 2015/1205 extends the period of protective measures to 31 December 2016. Live and chilled bivalve molluscs from Turkey continue to not be allowed for import into the EU.

All consignments of frozen bivalve molluscs are subjected to sampling at BIPs for *Escherichia coli*. Additionally, frozen and processed bivalve molluscs are subjected to tests to determine the level of marine biotoxins.

Consignments must be held pending the results of the tests.



Department
for Environment
Food & Rural Affairs



Animal &
Plant Health
Agency



Regulation 2015/1205 has been implemented by means of Declaration TARP Reg 29/068. A copy of the Declaration is included with the email accompanying this letter.

If you have any enquires please contact the Imports Team at imported.food@foodstandards.gsi.gov.uk

Yours sincerely

Simon Petty
Imported Food Team
Regulatory and International Strategy Division

Reference: TARP REG 29/068

**THE TRADE IN ANIMALS AND RELATED PRODUCTS REGULATIONS
2011 (SI 2011/1197) (the "Regulations")**

DECLARATION UNDER REGULATION 29

Whereas the Food Standards Agency has reasonable grounds to suspect that, due to shortcomings of analyses in official laboratories, it cannot be reliably guaranteed that European Union health standards are being met for all bivalve molluscs exported to the EU from Turkey;

Whereas this is liable to present a serious threat to human health;

Whereas on 31st July 2013 the Commission of the European Union adopted Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) No. 743/2013 (OJ No. L 205, 1.8.2013, p.1) imposing special conditions governing the import of live, chilled, frozen and processed bivalve molluscs for human consumption and originating in Turkey;

Whereas on 1st August 2014 the Commission of the European Union adopted Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) No. 840/2014 (OJ No. L 231, 2.8.2014, p. 3) amending Implementing Regulation (EU) No. 743/2013 introducing protective measures on imports of bivalve molluscs from Turkey intended for human consumption, as regards its period of application;

And whereas on 23rd July 2015 the Commission of the European Union adopted Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2015/1205 (OJ No. L 196, 24.7.2015, p. 2) amending Implementing Regulation (EU) No. 743/2013 introducing protective measures on imports of bivalve molluscs from Turkey intended for human consumption, as regards its period of application.

The Food Standards Agency declares in accordance with regulation 29 of the Regulations that with effect from 4th August 2013 the importation into England of —

(a) live or chilled bivalve molluscs originating in Turkey is prohibited; and

(b) frozen and processed bivalve molluscs originating in Turkey is prohibited other than in accordance with Article 3 and 4 of Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) No. 743/2013.

This declaration ceases to have effect on 31st December 2016.

Signed by:  at 0932 on 27 July 2015

Print name: Rod Ainsworth

Give details of post held: Director of Regulatory and Legal Strategy

For and on behalf of the Food Standards Agency

NOTES

1. Any expression used in both this declaration and Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) No. 743/2013 has the same meaning as it bears in that Regulation.
2. The importation into England of bivalve molluscs originating in Turkey in contravention of this declaration is an offence, punishable by a fine or with imprisonment or both.