



IMPORTS AND EU POLICY TEAM

OVS Note/2016/24

Date: 30 September 2016

MAXIMUM NUMBER OF CONSIGNMENTS TO BE CHECKED BY AN OVS

Purpose

1. To review the guidance in the BIP Manual concerning the maximum number of consignments an OVS should check in one year.

Background

2. A Food and Veterinary Office (now known as DG Health Directorate F (Health & Food Audits & Analysis)) audit carried out some time ago recommended that Defra provides guidance on the maximum number of consignments that a full time OVS should carry out. The following is an extract from the BIP Manual:

‘As good practice, Defra recommend that the maximum number of consignments that a full-time (40hr/wk) OVS should check in one year is 3,500. The level of OVS cover will be dependent upon the type of consignment imported and any season variations in trade. Ultimately it is for the port health authority to decide the level of OVS cover required and to explain how the cover is appropriate during APHA audit checks.’

3. Since the above figure was agreed, the work of OVSs at BIPs has changed so we feel it is appropriate to review this guidance. I should be grateful therefore if you would provide the information in the attached annex, so that we can make a more realistic assessment of the work of OVSs to ensure that the guidance reflects current processes.



Action for OVSS

4. Please complete information in the attached Annex and **return it to Defra by 28 October**.

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