



Department
for Environment
Food & Rural Affairs

IMPORTS AND EU POLICY TEAM

OVS NOTE 2024/22

26 June 2024

CONTROLS ON BRINGING PORK AND PORK PRODUCTS INTO GREAT BRITAIN FROM THE EU, SWITZERLAND, NORWAY, ICELAND, LIECHENSTEIN, THE FAROE ISLANDS AND GREENLAND

Purpose

1. [OVS note 2022-27](#) advised of the controls which came into force from 1 September 2022, restricting the movement of certain pork and pork products into Great Britain to help mitigate the threat of African swine fever (ASF).
2. The note also advised on the legal basis for inland checks and enforcement action, where imported product has been placed for sale in GB.
3. This note is to advise on new EU legislation regarding changes to the health mark.

Background

4. Certain pork and pork products which originate from or have been dispatched from the EU pose an unacceptable risk to animal health in Great Britain.
5. Therefore, from 1 September 2022, when entering Great Britain from the EU, Switzerland, Norway, Iceland, Liechtenstein, the Faroe Islands and Greenland, no person may bring pork or pork products unless they bear an oval health mark (for carcasses and primal cuts) or an oval identification mark.
6. In 2023 the European Commission introduced [Implementing Regulation \(EU\) 2023/594](#) 'laying down special disease control measures for African swine fever and repealing Implementing Regulation (EU) 2021/605'. This regulation stipulates that from March 2024, all EU Member States should use the EU-wide oval health mark.

7. Where the product should remain in that Member State and not be exported, the oval mark will show two diagonal lines. The Member State origin is shown by either the two-letter country code or the country name in full within the oval mark.
8. If products have been stored frozen then they may still be circulating with the previous Member State-specific 'shape' mark; for example Romania's health mark was hexagonal. However, most products should now show the oval mark either with or without the two diagonal lines.
9. Examples of the oval health mark with two diagonal lines and the previous health mark (using Romania as the example) are in the [Annex](#).
10. There are exceptions to the prohibition point 4 above: these are set out in the previous [OVS note 2022-27](#).
11. The following measures give effect to the prohibition:
 - [The African Swine Fever Import Controls \(England and Scotland\)](#); and
 - [Declaration of special measures: Importation of Porcine products from third countries \(Wales\)](#).
12. These special measures will continue to apply until they are revoked or amended.

Action for OVSs

13. To note the above information.

Contact point for enquiries

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Imports and EU Trade Team

Annex

Health mark examples:

- An example of the previous health marks used by EU Member States e.g. Romania:



- An example of the EU oval health with two diagonal crossed lines, which denotes that the product should not leave the Member State named within the mark:

