



Department  
for Environment  
Food & Rural Affairs

## IMPORTS AND EU POLICY TEAM

OVS NOTE 2025/02

14 January 2025

### OUTBREAK OF FOOT AND MOUTH DISEASE IN GERMANY

#### Purpose

1. To inform you that, following a recent outbreak of foot and mouth disease in Germany, commercial imports of commodities from FMD-susceptible animals from the whole territory of Germany are suspended:
  - a. live animals
  - b. germplasm
  - c. fresh meat
  - d. meat products that have not been subject to heat treatment D1. This treatment requires that products are treated through 'Thorough cooking of meat, previously deboned and defatted, subjected to heating so that an internal temperature of 70 °C or greater is maintained for a minimum of 30 minutes'
  - e. raw and pasteurised milk and raw and pasteurised milk products (including colostrum).
2. To inform you that untreated animal by-products derived from FMD-susceptible animals should be held, unless treated with a treatment effective against FMD. Hay and straw should also be held.

#### Background

3. Germany notified WOAHA of an outbreak of Foot and Mouth Disease (FMD) on 10 January 2025: [WAHIS](#). The outbreak was detected following the deaths of 3 animals in a herd of 14 buffalo in Märkisch-Oderland, Brandenburg.
4. As a result of this outbreak Germany has lost its FMD-free status.

5. The UK Office for SPS Trade Assurance amended its third country listings on 13 January 2025 to suspend the following commodities from FMD-susceptible animals from the whole territory of Germany:
  - a. Live ungulates: through the removal of BOV-X, BOV-Y, OVI-X, OVI-Y, RUM, and SUI certificates from Germany's entry in the [live ungulates](#) third country listing.
  - b. Ruminant and porcine germplasm: through amendments to the [porcine semen](#), [bovine semen](#), [bovine embryos](#), [ovine and caprine embryos](#), and [ovine and caprine semen](#) third country listings. Porcine semen from the whole territory of Germany is already restricted due to an outbreak of ASF. It is now additionally restricted due to the outbreak of FMD.
  - c. Fresh meat of ungulates: through the removal of BOV, OVI, RUF, RUW, SUF, and SUW certificates from Germany's entry in the [fresh meat of ungulates](#) third country listing.
  - d. Meat products that have not been subject to at least heat treatment D1. Treatment D1 requires that products are subject to 'heating so that an internal temperature of 70 °C or greater is maintained for a minimum of 30 minutes'. This has been achieved through the application of treatment D1 in columns 3, 4, 5, 10 and 11 in the [meat products](#) third country listing. Imports of meat products derived from FMD-susceptible animals subject to heat treatment D1 are still permitted.
  - e. Raw and pasteurised milk and raw and pasteurised milk products (including colostrum): through amendments to columns A and B in Germany's entry in the [milk and milk products](#) third country listing. Imports of milk and milk products under column C are still permitted.
6. FMD-susceptible animals under the [Foot and Mouth Disease \(England\) Order 2006](#) means 'a cow, bull, sheep, goat, deer, camel, llama, alpaca, guanaco, vicuna, any other ruminant, any swine (that is, a member of the suborder Suina of the order Artiodactyla), elephant or rodent (other than a pet rodent)'.
7. The UK Office for SPS Trade Assurance is also coordinating the delivery of safeguard declarations that will suspend the import of untreated animal by-products derived from FMD-susceptible animals that have not be subject to an effective treatment to mitigate against FMD.
8. In the meantime, any consignments from Germany of untreated animal by-products from FMD-susceptible animals that have not been subject to an effective treatment to mitigate against FMD should be detained, and Defra informed at [bbtp-issue-triage@defra.gov.uk](mailto:bbtp-issue-triage@defra.gov.uk).
9. Please note, any goods that have been held at the border as a consequence of the outbreak of FMD in Germany can be returned to Germany on a voluntary basis, subject to agreement by the veterinary authorities in Germany.

10. For your information, 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.

11. 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.

### **Action for OVSs**

12. To note the contents of this OVS note.

### **Contact point for enquiries**

**Email:** [bbtp-issue-triage@defra.gov.uk](mailto:bbtp-issue-triage@defra.gov.uk)

[imports@apha.gov.uk](mailto:imports@apha.gov.uk)

*Imports and EU Trade Team*