

Annual Review of Controls on Imports of Animal Products: April 2008 – March 2009

July 2009

www.defra.gov.uk



Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru
Welsh Assembly Government



Annual Review of Controls on Imports of Animal Products: April 2008 – March 2009

Presented to Parliament pursuant to
section 10(A) of the Animal Health Act 1981
(as amended by the Animal Health Act 2002)
July 2009

ANNUAL REVIEW MADE UNDER SECTION 10A OF THE ANIMAL HEALTH ACT 1981

This statutory return is required to be made and laid before Parliament in accordance with section 10A of the Animal Health Act 1981. It covers Great Britain and copies are being made and laid before the Scottish Parliament and Welsh Ministers at the same time.

Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs

The Scottish Government Rural Directorate

Welsh Assembly Government – Department for Rural Affairs

Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs
Nobel House
17 Smith Square
London SW1P 3JR
Telephone: 020 7238 6000
Website: www.defra.gov.uk

Further copies of this publication are available from:

Defra Publications
Admail 6000
London
SW1A 2XX
Tel: 08459 556000

This document is also available on the Defra website.

Welsh language versions of the report are available from the Office of the Chief Veterinary Officer of the Welsh Assembly Government. If you require a translated copy please contact Megan Breeze,
Tel: 029 20 823592
or e-mail: megan.breeze@wales.gsi.gov.uk

© Crown Copyright 2009

The text in this document (excluding the Royal Arms and other departmental or agency logos) may be reproduced free of charge in any format or medium providing it is reproduced accurately and not used in a misleading context. The material must be acknowledged as Crown copyright and the title of the document specified.

Where we have identified any third party copyright material you will need to obtain permission from the copyright holders concerned.

For any other use of this material please write to Office of Public Sector Information, Information Policy Team, Kew, Richmond, Surrey TW9 4DU or e-mail: licensing@opsi.gov.uk

ISBN: 9780101764827

PB 13286

Foreword by Jim Fitzpatrick



I welcome the opportunity to review and report on progress made during the past year to reduce the risk of disease entering the country via imports of animal products.

The control of imports of animal products remains a major concern for the Government as we fully appreciate the devastating effect that disease outbreaks can have on our farming of livestock and crops and on the environment and, in trying to protect animal health, we know how important it is to take a variety of measures at the border and inland. It has once again been a challenging year in monitoring the constantly changing disease situation around the world and evaluating and responding to threats. We continue to ensure that veterinary checks are carried out on legally imported animal products from non-European Union (EU) countries and work closely with Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs (HMRC)/United Kingdom Border Agency (UKBA) and other relevant government departments to combat the risk of major diseases entering Great Britain (GB) through illegal imports from non-EU countries. UKBA continues to deliver an enforcement strategy that targets anti-smuggling activity on the highest risk traffic to combat illegal imports of animal products into GB and to review deployment of resources and react flexibly in response to changes in the pattern of risk.

There continues to be a joined-up approach across Government Departments (Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra), HMRC, UKBA and the Food Standards Agency (FSA)) on the overall communications strategy with a great deal of publicity continuing to be undertaken inland within GB, at the border and also overseas. Our wider personal food imports campaign continues to raise awareness of the rules amongst general travellers into GB from countries outside the EU, including amongst Black and Minority Ethnic (BME) communities within GB, thus encouraging behavioural change so that illegal food products (in particular meat and dairy) are not brought into the country. Defra with HMRC/UKBA and the FSA have also used a wide range of other communication channels to promote our message.

Seizures of illegal imports have again fallen but this is not unexpected given the significant efforts we have made with enforcement partners to improve international traveller compliance with the personal import rules through our awareness raising strategy. It is pleasing to note the signs that this is proving successful.

These are some of the highlights of our working during the year:

- EU Veterinary Week in November highlighted the programme of already ongoing work in respect of our cross-government personal imports campaign at border control points, including a stand at Heathrow airport, terminal 3 during the week which had over 5,000 visitors and was covered by BBC Breakfast news;

Foreword

- New TV filler “Don’t bring me back”, produced to support our overall personal imports campaign, has achieved some excellent airtime across a variety of channels with most of the transmissions going out in peak evening viewing time. It has built in value to be one of the top ten fillers of 2008/09. It has also received out of home play in locations such as surgeries and gyms;
- Food and Veterinary Office (FVO) visit in November 2008 – Inspectors indicated that the UK has a functioning import control system and recognised further improvements made by the UK.

We will continue to monitor and assess the changing threats from around the world, and work with HMRC/UKBA and other enforcement partners to make sure that our enforcement activity is targeted at the current risks.



Jim Fitzpatrick
Minister for Food, Farming and Environment

Introduction

1.1.1 This is the seventh annual review of controls on imports of animal products into Great Britain (GB) in accordance with section 10A of the Animal Health Act 1981 (as amended by the Animal Health Act 2002). Northern Ireland (NI) represents a separate disease control regime within the United Kingdom (UK) and has differing challenges and controls regarding imports. Nevertheless, NI is equally committed to tackling the problem of illegal imports. The statistics at Annex 1 include seizures made by the Department of Agriculture and Rural Development for NI (DARDNI) at ports of entry in NI.

- ‘Animal product’ is not defined in the Act and for the purpose of this review: ‘Animal product’ and ‘Border Inspection Post (BIP)’ have the same meaning as covered by The Products of Animal Origin (Third Country Imports) (England) Regulations 2006 (SI 2006/2841) (as amended), The Products of Animal Origin (Third Country Imports) (Scotland) Regulations 2007 (SSI 2007/1) (as amended), The Products of Animal Origin (Third Country Imports) (Wales) Regulations 2007 (SI 2007/376 (W. 36)) (as amended) and The Products of Animal Origin (Third Country Imports) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2007 (SR 2007/199) (as amended);
- ‘import(s)’ means a product or products of non-European Union (EU) country origin entering GB from outside the EU;
- ‘intra-Community product’ means an animal product entering GB from within the EU.

1.1.2 Legally imported animal products from non-EU countries are checked on entry into the UK to ensure they meet EU veterinary import conditions. Animal Health (AH) is responsible for carrying out the checks where ports do not handle food products. Local Authorities carry out the checks at ports and airports which handle food of animal origin such as meat, fish, eggs, milk and products containing them, and a mix of animal products. Veterinarians carry out checks, except for fishery products when Environmental Health Officers may do the checks. Technical assistants may assist the veterinarians. There are three types of checks:

- Documentary checks – checks on the certification accompanying the consignment;
- Identity checks – checks to ensure that the consignment matches the information given in the document;
- Physical checks – checks on the consignment itself, including checks on temperature, condition, and for microbiological and chemical contaminants.

Once the veterinary checks are completed, notification is provided to Her Majesty’s Revenue and Customs (HMRC) to allow customs clearance of the goods.

Checks are carried out in approved facilities or BIPs at ports or airports. EU legislation lays down the requirements for BIPs and they are inspected periodically by the European Commission’s (EC’s) Food and Veterinary Office (FVO) to ensure they meet the required standard. We have introduced a programme of liaison visits by AH to Local Authority operated BIPs to ensure compliance with the required standard. Ports which have no outstanding problems have a reduced frequency of visits by AH.

1.1.3 The UK's controls on imported animals and animal products were most recently inspected by the FVO in November 2008. We have not yet received the final report for this inspection visit however inspectors indicated that the UK has a functioning import control system and recognised further improvements in some areas. The Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra), the Food Standards Agency (FSA), HMRC and AH have begun to address the recommendations made during the mission.

1.1.4 For intra-Community trade, random checks may be carried out at the point of destination to ensure that consignments meet the requirements. If there is a disease outbreak in another EU Member State, the onus is on that country to implement disease control measures to ensure that animals and animal products which may present a risk do not move out of the appropriate restricted areas.

1.1.5 Work to tackle illegal imports of animal products forms part of the overall Animal Health and Welfare Strategy for GB¹ and its associated implementation plans.

1.1.6 We continue to recognise that we can only successfully tackle illegal imports with a combined effort across all relevant government departments and enforcement agencies, by raising public awareness, by understanding the risks and enhancing enforcement activity to increase the deterrent effect.

Roles and responsibilities

1.2.1 Defra and the Welsh Assembly Government (WAG) are responsible for animal health policy in England and Wales, and Defra is the central competent authority for veterinary checks and animal health aspects of import controls on Products Of Animal Origin (POAO). Defra remains the nominated UK management authority for the Convention on the International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES) policy, whilst the responsibility for licensing imports, exports and commercial use of listed species of animals, plants and their derivatives transferred to AH with the Wildlife Licensing and Registration Service on 1 April 2007. Responsibility for intra-EU movements of food products is with Defra and the Local Authorities.

1.2.2 AH has a presence in most busy ports and airports. It is able to support other enforcement bodies and provides a line of communication with Defra headquarters. AH is also able to provide advice on identifying products and can advise on disposal arrangements, disinfecting etc. AH is also responsible for veterinary checks on POAO at BIPs that take only products not for human consumption. AH is responsible for dealing with service delivery work relating to the import of POAO, such as responding to external enquiries about the requirements for imports from non-EU countries, and for intra-Community trade.

1.2.3 Port Health and Local Authorities are responsible for food safety and standards checks on goods presented at ports and airports, including veterinary checks required by EU law on POAO for human consumption at BIPs. They are not responsible for detecting smuggled POAO at GB points of entry. If, however, they uncover illegal products in the course of their duties outside of a BIP, including at ports and airports after goods have passed through customs controls, they issue a detention notice and seek United Kingdom Border Agency (UKBA) assistance. Local Authorities are also responsible for dealing with smuggled POAO when they are discovered inland at retail,

¹ <http://www.defra.gov.uk/animalh/ahws/strategy/ahws.pdf>

catering, market stalls or other premises. Responsibility for intra-EU movements of food products falls to Local Authorities and Defra.

1.2.4 HMRC is responsible for ensuring that commercial imports of animal products are not granted customs clearance unless the goods have undergone the necessary veterinary checks and have been authorised for entry into the UK. HMRC has also been responsible since 11 April 2003 for anti-smuggling controls on illegal imports from non-EU countries at GB points of entry (i.e. where goods are under customs supervision) except in areas designated as BIPs, including postal imports whether at postal depots, ports or airports, and for enforcing controls under CITES. HMRC is not responsible for controlling intra-EU movements except where goods have not been subject to customs control elsewhere on arrival in the EU, such as interline baggage. This is baggage which has been checked through from a non-EU country departure airport to its final destination in the EU but is routed via another EU airport.

Since 1 April 2008, HMRC frontier operational staff have been working under the management of UKBA under transitional arrangements which will continue until national legislation is enacted to transfer customs functions at the UK border to the new Agency. In 2008/09, UKBA was therefore responsible for the delivery of anti-smuggling controls to combat illegal imports of POAO into GB.

1.2.5 In NI, the transfer of responsibility for the detection of illegal imports of POAO to HMRC in 2003 did not take place as in other parts of the UK. Therefore, this remains as a central function of DARDNI, both at BIPs and other points of entry. DARDNI's close working relationship with HMRC and UKBA facilitates the referral of animal products detected by UKBA in the conduct of examinations for other items (e.g. tobacco and illegal drugs) to DARDNI and vice versa. Inland detection responsibility currently rests with the 26 district councils in liaison with FSA NI in terms of identifying illegally imported animal products which may be either destined for or actually on retail sale.

1.2.6 The FSA is responsible for public health aspects of food imported into the UK. The FSA has particular responsibility for policy issues for imports of fishery products, bivalves and food which is not of animal origin. The FSA has responsibilities for assisting and co-ordinating local enforcement activities of Local Authorities, both inland and at ports, in this aspect of their duties.

1.2.7 The Meat Hygiene Service (MHS) is an executive agency of the FSA, and operates controls at licensed meat cutting and processing plants. These include random checks on non-EU country meat and intra-Community products, to ensure compliance with public and animal health legislation.

1.2.8 The Scottish Government Rural Directorate, WAG and the NI Assembly are responsible for the legislation and overseeing of enforcement in their respective countries.

1.2.9 The Police do not have any specific enforcement responsibilities under the legislation listed, but their assistance might be sought to aid Port Health and Local Authorities or other inspectorates in their enforcement duties.

1.2.10 A Service Level Agreement (SLA) formalises the relationship and responsibilities between HMRC and other partners involved in the control of imports of animal products: Defra, the FSA, AH, the Forestry Commission, The Scottish Government Rural Directorate and Welsh Assembly Government – Department for Rural Affairs (WAG-RA).

The SLA is a living document which is reviewed annually, but has the flexibility for amendment during this period to reflect changes in priorities or responsibilities as necessary.

The current SLA also takes account of interim working arrangements for 2008/09 agreed between HMRC and UKBA for the delivery of anti-smuggling controls to combat illegal imports. These are set out in a Partnership Agreement signed by HMRC and the Home Office.

Understanding the risk

1.3.1 The endemic nature of animal diseases in many countries around the world results in a continuous but low risk of them reaching the UK through illegal routes. All POAO seizures are treated as an animal or public health risk and destroyed, by incineration, in the shortest possible time. However, in very limited circumstances, there is an option for re-export of commercial consignments which is occasionally authorised.

The risk of disease relates to the possibility that animals may consume infectious material in illegal imports. Very small amounts of infectious material may cause disease and are likely to form only a very small proportion of any illegal import. There is thus very little chance of finding infected material by testing samples. Discovering whether any individual seizure is infected is unlikely to contribute significantly to the way that the restrictions relating to imports are enforced.

1.3.2 Defra continually monitors the occurrence of major animal disease outbreaks worldwide as an early warning to assess the risk these events may pose to the UK, and help inform our delivery partners' enforcement activities.

1.3.3 Defra publishes routine monthly reports for internal governmental circulation as well as ad hoc Preliminary Outbreak Assessments (POAs) and Qualitative Risk Assessments (QRAs) which are regularly distributed within Government, posted publicly on Defra's website², and a Quarterly Report published in the Veterinary Record.

1.3.4 When Defra becomes aware of a new animal disease outbreak in another country, they may carry out a POA, which concludes with a qualitative estimate of risk and may request a full QRA. When there is official notification of a new disease incident in an EU Member State, a country on the border of the EU, or one of the UK's non-EU country trading partners then the report will be used to inform internal discussion about escalating the situation and requesting certain control measures to be taken to manage the increased threat.

1.3.5 In 2008/09 Defra conducted 31 POAs on outbreaks of diseases such as African Horse Sickness, African Swine Fever, Bluetongue, Classical Swine Fever, Foot and Mouth Disease, H5N1 Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (AI), Low Pathogenic AI, Lumpy Skin Disease, Newcastle Disease, Peste des Petits Ruminants, Rabies, Sheep Pox and Goat Pox and Swine Vesicular Disease. Further to these, two more detailed QRAs were undertaken related to the evolving situation with regard to the outbreaks of H5N1 Highly Pathogenic AI in the EU and the role of migratory wild birds and the risk of introduction of African Horse Sickness to the UK. Defra veterinary and policy officials continue to meet with HMRC colleagues to discuss changes in the global disease situation and help plan future enforcement activity.

² <http://www.defra.gov.uk/animalh/diseases/monitoring/index.htm>

1.3.6 The FSA is responsible for public health with respect to food, including imported food controls and co-ordinates work with the Department of Health, the Health Protection Agency and Defra through groups such as the UK Zoonoses Group and the Human Animal Infections and Risk Surveillance Group. Government advice to UK consumers is that illegal imported food, including meat and bushmeat, should not be eaten because it has evaded official controls designed to verify compliance with food safety standards and could therefore pose a danger to human health. The FSA believes that the main risks to public health from illegal imported meat are those associated with well-known food pathogens, which will be destroyed by cooking, and have concluded that a formal risk assessment is not warranted. To determine whether any additional advice is required, a study was commissioned to give an overview of the microbiological risks associated with illegal imports of meat, which was put to the independent Advisory Committee on the Microbiological Safety of Food (ACMSF). The ACMSF's Ad Hoc Group on Imported Foods considered this study, information on controls to prevent illegal imports, and research on species identification of seized meat. The Group concluded that the risk of food borne illness from consumption of bushmeat appeared to be very low, and that the risk of food borne illness from cross-contamination was also minimal. In addition, normal cooking would probably destroy any viruses and bacteria present although there was no data available to verify this. The Group also concluded that there was a lack of quantitative data relating to the microbiological risks associated with bushmeat.

1.3.7 The purpose of the Rapid Alert System for Food and Feed (RASFF), established in 1979, is to provide EU Member States with an effective tool for the exchange of information on measures taken to ensure food safety. The FSA uses the RASFF system to inform, and prompt for action to be taken, by the EC or other EU Member States, including when food products from non-EU countries which breach public and animal health safety requirements are rejected. RASFFs are divided into 'alert' and 'information' notifications. The EC has a procedure in place to alert non-EU countries about problems affecting food. This system automatically alerts Port Health and Local Authorities at the border (ports and airports) enabling them to target their checks on imported food. The FSA will also, where appropriate, contact non-EU countries via their Embassies. Between 1 April 2008 and 31 March 2009, the UK issued 340 notifications via RASFF.

Review of controls on imports of meat and other animal products

The Animal Health Act 1981 (as amended) requires a return to be made against 5 main headings as given below:

1. Review of activities of enforcement agencies directed to the prevention of the introduction of disease

Enforcement

2.1.1 HMRC and UKBA are committed to taking effective, proportionate, risk based and intelligence led enforcement measures to prevent illegal imports. Resources are targeted on those entry routes that pose the greatest threat of introducing animal disease using a range of risk indicators including:

- Latest animal disease risk assessments put together by veterinary experts from Defra on the current global and regional outbreak situation. Defra provide HMRC and UKBA with a global risk map produced from OIE information which categorises countries into RED, AMBER and GREEN risks according to the prevalence of animal diseases, which assists customs targeting of traffic from high risk countries and high risk products;
- Historical data on the types of animal products seized, high risk routings, typical methods of concealment and any other risk trends;
- Any other relevant risk information from other national, EU and non-EU country enforcement agencies;
- Specific intelligence on suspect importers and/or consignments;
- Results from operational checks on passenger baggage.

2.1.2 All operational frontline customs staff are employed as multifunctional anti-smuggling staff with a responsibility to tackle a range of risks at the border, including dealing with illegal imports of animal products. Enforcement staff are deployed on a mobile and flexible basis and, at major ports and airports, are supported by the use of detector dogs specifically trained to detect animal products. The dogs are flexibly deployed in Customs channels and baggage reclaim areas in accordance with latest risk assessments. They can also work from time to time in postal depots and in freight sheds, car halls and lorry lanes. Dogs are particularly successful in identifying animal products concealed in baggage and have proven effective in reviewing large numbers of passengers and their baggage in a short time.

2.1.3 Warning letters and POAO leaflets are issued to all travellers from whom illegal products are seized at ports and airports, and by recorded delivery to those receiving items in the post, to make them aware of the rules. Press releases are also issued on significant seizures and successful prosecutions.

Review of controls on imports of meat and other animal products

2.1.4 Since responsibility for anti-smuggling controls on POAO transferred to the former Customs and Excise in 2003 and thereafter in 2005 to HMRC, 12 people have been successfully prosecuted for illegal imports offences under the POAO Regulations. Fines have ranged from £100 to £400 with one offender receiving a 28-day custodial sentence. Since 1 April 2005, the Revenue and Customs Prosecutions Office (RCPO)/the Crown Office and Procurator Fiscal Service (COPFS) have had responsibility for prosecuting these offences. The latest prosecution was of a Ghanaian national, who pleaded guilty and was convicted of the illegal importation of 340kg of meat smuggled in a container through Tilbury. However, she absconded before sentencing and a warrant has been issued for her arrest.

Meat seized at Tilbury leading to prosecution of the individual involved, as referred to in section 2.1.4



2.1.5 In NI, DARDNI staff are present on a full time (24/7) basis in Belfast and Larne ports, the port of Warrenpoint, George Best Belfast City Airport and Belfast International Airport. A Portal Inspection presence has been based permanently at City of Derry airport since May 2008.

DARDNI continually reviews the profile and prevalence of relevant animal diseases, using information available from both the World Animal Health Organisation (OIE) and Defra in the form of dedicated risk assessments. The risk profile generated, in combination with retrospective evaluation of previous seizures made, enables the deployment of DARDNI staff in the direction of prioritised flights and sailings. In addition, combined examination exercises with UKBA may be undertaken.

In NI, DARDNI has successfully trialled the use of a detector dog, and is to secure the permanent service of a dog during 2009/10 (currently being retendered).

2.1.6 The FSA launched at the end of March 2008 the web-based Guidance and Regulatory Advice on Import Legislation (GRAIL) database. GRAIL is available to anyone with access to the internet. The system currently provides the user with a searchable database of up-to-date imported food legislation and guidance relating to the import of products of non-animal origin and fish and fishery products into the UK. It is however planned to expand GRAIL's content to include all POAO.

The availability of GRAIL will ensure that up-to-date information on imported food controls is readily accessible to all food law enforcement officers. The benefits of this approach include more consistent and effective enforcement of controls, both at point of entry and inland, and the potential for trade and exporting countries to be more proactive about ensuring they comply with import controls.

2.1.7 Defra, HMRC, the FSA and AH continue to meet regularly to discuss progress, resolve any issues or to improve on guidance to enforcement officers. The FSA has recently agreed an on-going contract for the provision of imported food training for Port Health and Local Authorities. The contract provides for a number of different courses covering imported food, which are aimed at all Port Health and Local Authorities throughout the UK and includes a distance learning package.

Raising Awareness

2.2.1 There continued to be a joined-up approach across Government Departments (Defra, HMRC and the FSA) on the overall GB communications strategy to help raise travellers' awareness of the rules on personal imports of POAO. A variety of public awareness raising mechanisms were deployed with Defra responsible for targeting inland audiences and HMRC leading on information at the GB borders and among those intending to travel to the UK. DARDNI is responsible for raising public awareness of the rules on personal imports of POAO in NI. The strategy also complements HMRC's targeted checks at the border. The overall aim remains to enhance awareness of the risks posed by products that may carry animal diseases and to reduce the volume of illegal products brought in because of ignorance of the rules.

Defra publicity

2.2.2 The cross-media Black and Minority Ethnic (BME) personal food imports campaign 'Don't break the law, check the rules before you travel' – managed by a specialist publicity agency – has continued to remind people that it is illegal to bring meat and dairy products for personal consumption back into the UK from countries outside the EU and that there are also restrictions on bringing back other food products, including fish, shellfish, honey, eggs and certain types of fruits and vegetables.

The campaign's aims have continued to be to:

- Reduce the amount of illegal food brought into the UK from travellers arriving from countries outside the EU;
- Increase awareness of the rules and regulations that are in place to restrict personal food imports amongst our target audiences;
- Encourage people to change their behaviour so that they don't bring in illegal food products.

Review of controls on imports of meat and other animal products

Outreach activity at a West African community church, as referred to in section 2.2.4



The campaign is focussed on three key messages:

- Why the personal food imports laws and regulations exist – to prevent the entry of animal and plant diseases into the UK;
- The implications of breaking the law – illegal products will be seized and destroyed by customs, you will face delays, and you could face prosecution;
- Availability in the UK – the campaign emphasises that most of the illegal products that are being brought in are already available to buy in the UK, so there's no need to take the risk;

The primary target audiences for this campaign are Black African (predominantly from Ghana and Nigeria) and Chinese with the secondary target audiences being Bangladeshi, Black Caribbean, Middle Eastern, Indian, Pakistani and Turkish. These are based on research showing that for some cultures bringing back food is a longstanding tradition which is reflected by seizure rates showing that significant amounts of illegal food products are seized from people travelling from certain countries.

2.2.3 The campaign continues to include bi-lingual leaflets, television and press adverts and significant community outreach activity. All activity is specifically tailored to the target audience. Posters and leaflets continue to be available in English, Arabic, Bengali, Chinese, Farsi, Gujarati, Punjabi, Turkish and Urdu. We advertised in two bursts on the Nigerian and Ghanaian channels Ben TV, OBE and KICC and on the Bangladeshi channels Channel S and Bangla TV.

2.2.4 The outreach activity took place at key locations across the country, including community supermarkets, places of worship and shopping centres with a team of trained staff who speak the appropriate languages. For the first time our (Black African) campaign ambassador managed to arrange outreach activity at West African evangelical and Pentecostal churches. The outreach team visited over 35 locations including London, Birmingham, Luton, Sheffield and Manchester. Activity was timed so that it coincided with popular times for travelling such as Christmas, Chinese New Year and Easter.

Review of controls on imports of meat and other animal products

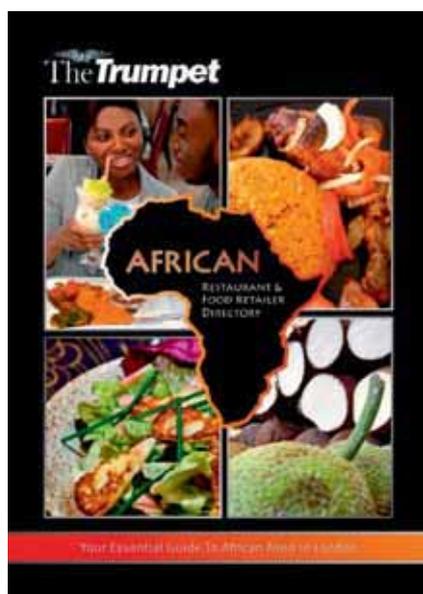
2.2.7 A new Defra-led television (TV) filler “Don’t bring me back” has been produced to support our cross-government personal imports campaign. This filler replaced the previous filler “I Packed My Bags” which had been running since 2004. Fillers usually have a shelf life of 3 – 4 years, so it was appropriate timing to refresh ours.

We are really pleased with the performance of the filler and it has built in value to be one of the top ten fillers of 2008/09, achieving just over £450,000 worth of airtime value across a variety of channels. The filler has achieved some excellent airtime with the majority of transmissions going out in peak evening viewing time with just under 15,000 transmissions worth £285,000 in airtime value for evening slots. It has gained a considerable amount of high quality airtime on ITV across the regional network, and Channel 5 totalling £250,000 of airtime value, with fantastic positioning on the schedule around programmes such as Home and Away, Britain’s Got Talent (repeats), Deal or No Deal and News at 7. The filler has also enjoyed out of home play, representing multiple screens and large audiences in locations like surgeries and gyms.

Fillers are public awareness/information messages that promote health, safety or welfare and are played in free donated airtime. They are a unique and very cost-effective route to broadcast to our audiences.

2.2.8 Defra was pleased to be able to contribute to EU Veterinary Week (10 – 16 November). This was an excellent opportunity to communicate key messages on biosecurity both at farm level and in international trade. EU Veterinary Week was used to highlight the programme of work already ongoing in respect of our cross-government personal imports campaign at border control points, including a stand manned by our BME outreach team at Heathrow airport, terminal 3 during the week which had over 5,000 visitors and was covered by BBC Breakfast news. Our previous TV filler “I Packed My Bags” was also adapted for use by other EU Member States.

‘The Trumpet’ newspaper African Restaurant and Food Retailer directory, as referred to in section 2.2.4



Calling all Restaurants and Food Retailers in London!

The Trumpet Newspaper – Britain’s largest distributed African publication is publishing a directory focusing on the London African community’s vibrant, fast growing and thriving Restaurants and Food Retailers sector.

The Trumpet African Restaurant and Food Retailer Directory will showcase the profiles of five major Traders / Distributors / Manufacturers in the African Food Industry and Fifty-six leading African Restaurants. The directory would also contain a listing of 150 of African Restaurants and 50 African Food Retailers.

The slots will be allocated on a first come first serve basis – so please hurry. This directory is being produced at no cost to Restaurants and Food Retailers – yes, you do not need to pay to be showcased or listed in this directory.

For further details, please send an email to info@the-trumpet.com or telephone 020 8822 6600 or 07950 38404

Review of controls on imports of meat and other animal products

Activity at Heathrow airport during EU Veterinary Week, as referred to in section 2.2.8



HMRC publicity

2.2.9 Leaflets summarising the rules for personal imports of animal products continue to be made available to travellers at ports and airports. In addition, the leaflets are distributed to the public at travel exhibitions and other events providing guidance on customs rules to the travelling public. They are available in 9 dual language variants (including Turkish, Bengali, Gujarati, Punjabi, Urdu and Chinese) to help explain the rules to non-English speakers. Laminated POAO rule cards in 10 different languages are also available to assist customs officers when speaking to arriving travellers.

2.2.10 Posters and running advertising are displayed at high visibility sites at ports and airports alerting travellers to the import rules. This includes appropriate messages on Liquid Crystal Display (LCD) screens displayed in baggage halls at Heathrow Terminal 5 and at check-in desks and other public sites at Birmingham Airport. The posters and LCD screen displays were refreshed in December 2008 as part of a UKBA re-branding exercise. Advertising displaying similar messages was also run on computer terminal screensavers in airport departure lounges across the UK.

2.2.11 A bookmark advert publicising the rules was placed in the Association of British Travel Agents (ABTA) members handbook which is distributed to approximately 5,000 travel agents in the UK. In addition, 1.9 million ticket wallets advertising the UK restrictions on bringing back animal products were distributed to travel agents for issue to customers with their tickets.

2.2.12 Two radio fillers (one 40 seconds long, the other 20 seconds long) originally produced in March 2007, continued to be broadcast on UK radio stations, using unsold advertising airtime slots.

2.2.13 Specific campaigns to raise awareness of the EU and UK personal import rules for food were undertaken through specialist marketing agencies in a number of non-EU countries from which travellers have most frequently been found to be carrying illegal animal products in personal luggage:

- In China, the campaign focussed on key target audiences of students and holiday travellers to the UK. Activities, which began in late 2008, included an interview on CCTV (Chinese state TV) which had an estimated audience of 14 million people, coverage across regional press in Beijing, Shanghai and Guangzhou and online messaging across a number of university and Chinese study association websites and through discussion forums, chat-rooms and blogs which are popular with Chinese students;

Review of controls on imports of meat and other animal products

- Further campaigns to educate and inform overseas travellers of the implications of bringing illegal food products into the UK were conducted in West Africa (Nigeria and Ghana) in early 2009. These involved a TV advert (Nigeria), radio advert (in Ghana) as well as outreach work in local communities in both countries and distribution of flyers and ticket wallets through travel agents and non-governmental organisations. In the press, advertorial space was bought in a number of Nigerian newspapers throughout January and February 2009. In Ghana, two press releases were distributed over a three month period in early 2009, gaining coverage in all the major Ghanaian publications and news websites.

2.2.14 An alert about the restrictions on personal import of food items was incorporated in a new UKBA booklet to be issued to all successful UK visa applicants before their travel to the UK.

Joint publicity initiatives

2.2.15 HMRC and Defra have continued working on a partnership marketing programme to create, develop and manage beneficial relationships with commercial organisations to publicise the rules and help raise awareness of POAO messages and regulations, particularly to returning UK residents at relevant points in their travel journey.

Advert made available for use by partners as part of the partnership marketing programme, as referred to in section 2.2.15

A strong creative strapline was created to grab the attention of potential partners and their customers – “Get caught bringing it in and you could get a criminal record. Don’t get caught and the consequences could be far worse. Don’t let an outbreak in”. As well as the existing Ben TV documentary film and case studies, new assets were created to be used by partners including adverts, posters and checklists.

This work has resulted in an Advertising Equivalent Value (AEV) of £280,000 and secured 29 partners. Examples of where partners communicated our campaign messages include: 1.5 million copies of a Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) leaflet which included our message went to independent

Review of controls on imports of meat and other animal products

travel agents such as STA; our campaign information and links appeared on travel websites such as Flight Centre; Lonely Planet set up a group about campaign on their Facebook page; a full page article and 1.5 minute video appeared on The Sun online travel section; our advert appeared in the Destinations Show guide which was distributed at the show and via The Times newspaper; our 8 minute film appeared on Cathay Pacific flights; our posters were displayed at Bristol and Exeter Airport; and our posters appeared at 7 airports above Spectrum internet terminals and our leaflets were distributed.

DARDNI publicity

2.2.16 DARDNI has continued to raise the profile of the threat of introduction of disease from POAO in the following ways:

- Production of leaflets and posters giving information to the travelling public on which POAO items can and cannot be brought back to NI;
- Active surveillance beyond risk based searching, in the form of questioning passengers regarding awareness;
- Issuing press releases, reminding the public not to bring back illegal POAO personal imports when returning from holidays;
- An appearance on local television by DARDNI staff, highlighting the issues and risks associated with the illegal importation of POAO;
- Development of relevant advertising on plasma screen displays at points of entry advising passengers of the rules on POAO personal imports;
- Placement of relevant advice on DARDNI website;
- The holding of meetings with stakeholder groups where problem trends have been identified (e.g. students and representatives of Chinese community);
- Facilitating the attendance of the EU Biosecurity (“One world – one health”) roadshow at the Royal Ulster Agricultural show.

Stakeholder involvement

2.3.1 The Imported Food Working Group (chaired by the FSA with Defra and HMRC also attending) meets bi-annually to discuss developments and engages with key regulatory stakeholders including the Local Authorities Coordinators of Regulatory Services (LACORS), the Association of Port Health Authorities (APHA), the Chartered Institute of Environmental Health (CIEH) and Port Health and Local Authorities.

2.3.2 Inspectors from AH who are involved with veterinary checks work, including checks on compliance at BIPs, meet twice a year. The aim of these meetings is to discuss current problems and disseminate best practice. Defra attend these meetings to provide policy advice. AH also provides update training for Portal Official Veterinary Surgeons (OVs) and other BIP inspectors at least twice a year. Initial training for Portal OVs is a distance learning package followed by a short practical course at a BIP.

2.3.3 Defra continue to attend meetings with stakeholders to inform them of any developments in import controls, such as proposed new schemes, forthcoming EU requirements and to outline any perceived problem areas.

2.3.4 Defra and HMRC have been leading the way in encouraging greater co-operation between customs and veterinary authorities in other EU Member States including input at working groups of both DG SANCO and DG TAXUD – the Directorates General of the EC for Health and Consumer Protection, and Taxation and Customs Union respectively. We have received good feedback from other EU Member States at these groups about the progress the UK has made in relation to good co-operative working relationships and on our publicity activity, including the television filler that was adapted for use on airlines.

2.3.5 Defra and HMRC were pleased to be able to contribute and co-operate with the EC in respect of EU Veterinary Week in November as this was an excellent opportunity to communicate key messages on biosecurity both at farm level and in international trade. We also provided representation to a joint customs/veterinary Working Group to discuss and reach agreement on the revised EU personal import rules to be implemented from 1 May 2009.

2.3.6 The Government has continued reviewing the policy for financing the costs of exotic animal disease outbreaks. The overriding objective of sharing animal health and welfare responsibilities between industry and Government is to achieve better management of animal disease risks so that the overall risks and costs are reduced. This work has the potential to fundamentally change the relationship between industry and Government to the benefit of both. Through the sharing of responsibilities, industry will be able to take greater responsibility for its own decisions and have greater ownership of the risks. In addition, responsibility sharing will provide opportunities for improved regulation and a reduction in the regulatory burden in future. Government will benefit from increased industry involvement in decision making, which should mean a greater ability to respond and deliver outcomes more effectively and efficiently.

A series of events on Responsibility and Cost Sharing were held across England during May and June 2009. Further information is available.³

A third consultation on “A new independent body for Animal Health”⁴ was published on 30 March 2009. The deadline for responses has now closed. A summary of responses will be posted on the website once available.

2.3.7 In January 2009 a project was established to devolve animal health and welfare budgets to Scotland and Wales as appropriate. Policy responsibility on issues related to animal health and welfare in GB was devolved as part of the Devolution Settlement. However, for the most part budgets remain with Defra. The main exception is the payment of tuberculosis compensation. In NI the animal health and welfare budget has always been included in its Block Vote.

2. Statistics on illegal products

2.4.1 The number of seizures of illegal imports of POAO totalled 20,660, approximately a 17% decrease compared with 2007/08, although the total weight seized was higher than the total for 2007/08. A fall in seizures was not unexpected however, given the extensive efforts made over a number of years to improve compliance with the personal import rules for food among international travellers through our awareness raising initiatives. An exercise conducted by HMRC and UKBA during the year to test possible reasons for the reduction in seizures suggested some correlation with recent publicity campaigns. Indications were that seizures of illegal personal

³ <http://www.defra.gov.uk/animalh/ahws/sharing/pdf/rcs-registration.pdf>

⁴ <http://www.defra.gov.uk/corporate/consult/new-independent-body-ah/index.htm>

imports from travellers from countries and communities which have been the focus of publicity initiatives had fallen while seizures had increased from other countries which were not targeted to the same extent. Most seizures continue to be less than 20kg and follow the typical pattern of small family groups, business people and students travelling to the UK.

2.4.2 Statistics relating to total seizures, in this and previous years (where records are available) are set out in Annex 1.

3. Legislation: powers

2.5.1 Please refer to Annex 2.

4. Legislation: effectiveness

2.6.1 Please refer to Annex 2.

5. Future action

Enforcement strategy

2.7.1 Defra, HMRC and UKBA will continue to meet on a regular basis to discuss various issues including animal disease risks and enforcement priorities for 2009/10. This will include monitoring the impact of the changes, such as a reduction in seizures (particularly fish), in the personal import rules from 1 May. UKBA will continue to take proportionate, risk based action to prevent illegal POAO imports, targeting entry routes that pose the greatest threat of introducing animal disease, taking account of the latest veterinary risk assessments. As set out in its' Business Plan for 2009/10, UKBA remains committed to deploying resources, including detector dogs, to combat illegal imports in line with the original levels agreed with Defra.

2.7.2 Defra will continue to work with AH/Local Authorities and HMRC/UKBA to ensure compliance with EU and GB rules for the commercial importation of POAO from outside the EU, through BIPs.

Understanding the risk

2.7.3 Defra will continue to monitor the international disease situation, producing assessments as necessary to help inform enforcement activity.

2.7.4 Defra will undertake further work on risk with HMRC/UKBA to ensure that their enforcement efforts are targeted to where the greatest risk lies.

Raising public awareness

2.7.5 Defra, HMRC and the FSA will meet at regular intervals to review the publicity strategy for 2009/10, taking into account successes and lessons learned from 2008/09 and any changing priorities as the year progresses. Defra and HMRC/UKBA will maintain ongoing public awareness campaigns in the UK and abroad as part of a joint publicity strategy. This will be kept under review/researched and refreshed to ensure we are reaching key target audiences and making best use of the resources available.

Review of controls on imports of meat and other animal products

2.7.6 Defra and HMRC/UKBA will continue to explore opportunities to work with commercial partners to reach our general public audience both in the UK and overseas.

2.7.7 Defra will maintain a joined up approach across Government in this area.

2.7.8 From 1 May 2009 there are new EU rules covering personal imports of animal products into the EU. There is no change to the ban on imports of meat and dairy products from most countries outside the EU (these products constitute the main animal health risks), but some changes to the amounts of other animal products which are permitted. Consequently, mainly in liaison with HMRC/UKBA and the FSA, we shall be taking action as follows:

- Revising Defra leaflets and posters for the various ethnic communities (e.g. African, Caribbean and Chinese) involved in our personal food imports campaign for display during inland outreach activity at churches, supermarkets etc.;
- Revising UKBA leaflets and posters for display at airports etc. for general travellers from non-EU countries;
- Updating website information including Defra's Personal food imports website and Directgov websites covering the general traveller and BME audience. This includes updating the Imports Database;
- Writing to international passenger travel operators, including airport and port operators and travel agencies, as well as postal services to draw the attention of their customers to the new rules;

International co-operation and information exchange

2.7.9 We continue to support all efforts to encourage closer co-operation between customs and veterinary authorities in other EU Member States. HMRC will seek opportunities to facilitate the exchange of intelligence and other risk information to detect illegal imports.

2.7.10 Defra will continue to work at EU and international level to influence other EU Member States and non-EU countries and minimise the risk of introducing disease into the UK.

Working in partnership with stakeholders

2.7.11 Defra will continue to work with stakeholders to assist in the development of its policies.

2.7.12 All enforcement partners will review the current SLA and revise it as appropriate for 2009/10, in particular to reflect expected changes in the relationship between HMRC and UKBA as customs powers at the border are transferred to UKBA under primary legislation.

Monitoring progress

2.7.13 The Government will continue to monitor the effectiveness of all these activities.

Funding

2.7.14 HMRC/UKBA will continue to fund its enforcement activities in line with Departmental Strategic Objectives. Funding continues to be available for Defra to examine the risks and help increase public awareness, and for the FSA for work on inland controls.

Statistics on imports of illegal products

Background

Statistics relating to total seizures, in this and previous years (where records are available) are set out in this Annex.

For the purposes of these statistics 'illegal' refers to POAO seized as items from individuals being in contravention of the personal concessions permitted or commercial consignments that have sought to evade correct entry procedures by not being declared at a BIP. It also includes items voluntarily surrendered by passengers at ports and airports.

Data on UKBA seizures is maintained on HMRC's Detection Control Information Service (DCIS) database. Up until 31 March 2006, the balance of the seizure data is retained on the Illegal Import of Animal Product Seizures (ILAPS) database held by Defra and from 1 April 2006, on an Excel spreadsheet.

Tables 1 and 2 (and Graphs 1 and 2) show the number, weight and volume of seizures from non-EU countries by UKBA at points of entry (and by staff funded by Defra until 11 April 2003), those made by DARDNI at points of entry in NI and those made by inland Local/Port Health Authorities where they were able to establish that the illegal products came from non-EU countries.

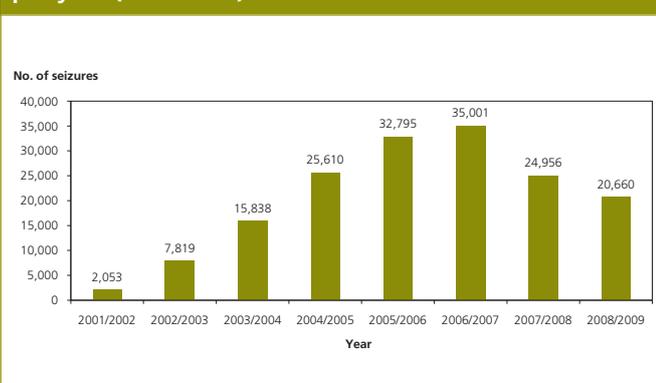
On occasions more than one POAO product at a time will be seized (e.g. meat, fish, dairy and honey). This is referred to as a 'multiple seizure'. Up until 31 March 2006 (see Tables 3a and 3b), this was only recorded as one seizure against the product of highest weight although the weight of the other products seized was included in the weight recorded for that category. However, the number of seizures by product for 2006/07 and following years in Tables 3c and 3d reflect the number of times each product was seized including those from a 'multiple seizure'. This means that the sum total of the number of seizures for each of the four product categories will be higher than the overall seizure total for those years. However, the total number of seizures remains directly comparable to the figures for previous years (see Table 1 and Graph 1).

Table 1: Total number of POAO seizures and weight (2001-2009) and volume (2006-2009)

Period	No. of seizures	Wgt (kg)	Vol (ltrs)
01/04/01-31/03/02	2,053	114,790	N/K
01/04/02-31/03/03	7,819	109,211	N/K
01/04/03-31/03/04	15,838	185,889	N/K
01/04/04-31/03/05	25,610	220,155	N/K
01/04/05-31/03/06	32,795	272,121	N/K
01/04/06-31/03/07	35,001	239,773	63,165
01/04/07-31/03/08	24,956	183,483	12,463
01/04/08-31/03/09	20,660 ⁵	191,937	16,405

⁵ Of this number approximately 5% were made in freight and cargo. These seizures account for approximately 52% of the total weight of seizures, and approximately 39% of the total volume of seizures

Graph 1 for Table 1: Total number of POAO seizures per year (2001-2009)



Graph 2 for Table 1: Total weight and volume of POAO seizures per year (2001-2009)

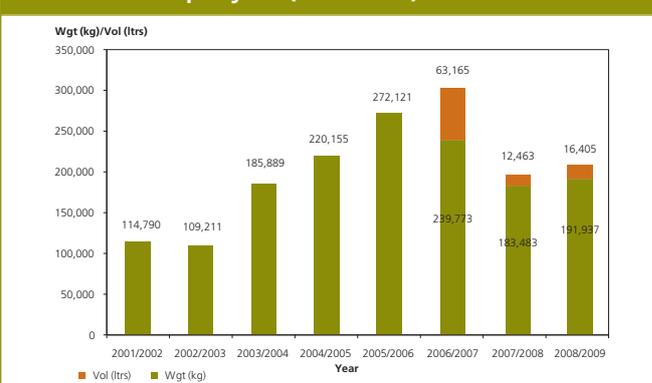
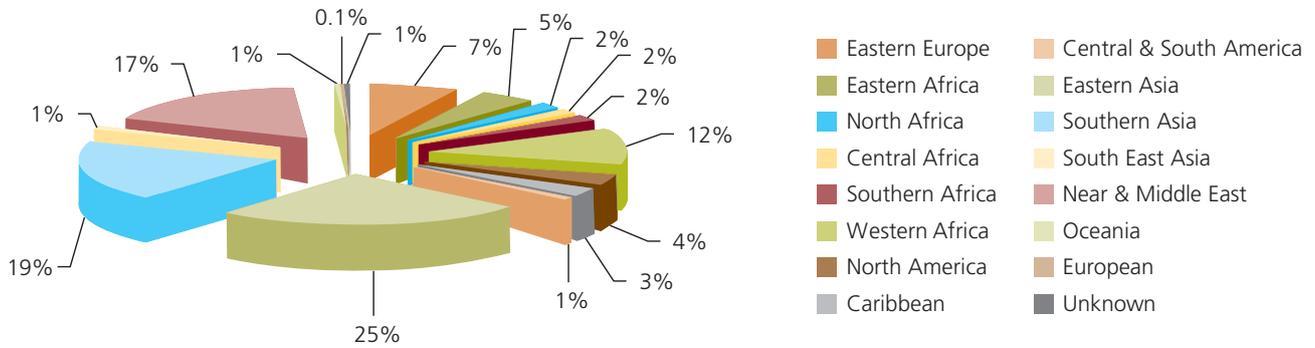


Table 2: POAO seizures, weight and volume by region (2007-2009)

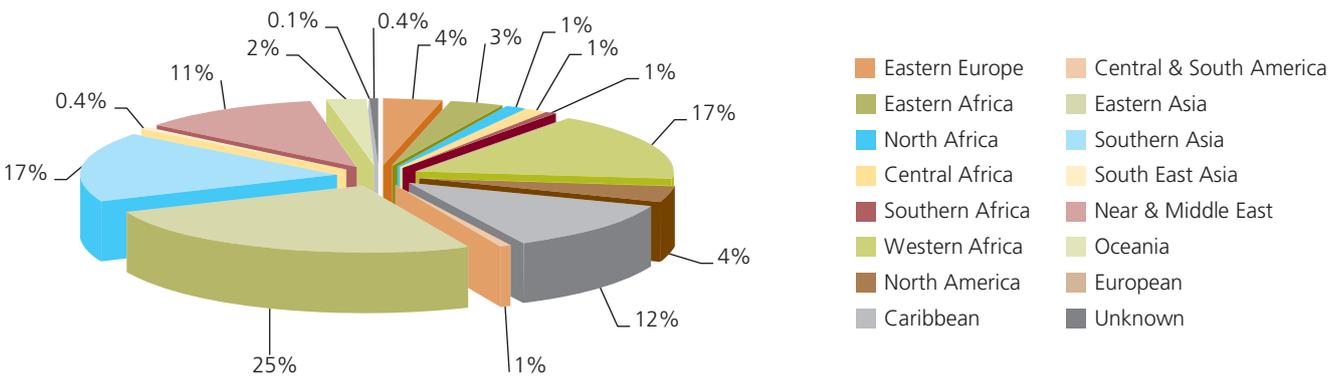
Region ID/Name	No. of seizures	Wgt (kg)	Vol (ltrs)
1 Eastern Europe	1,510	7,107	4
2 Eastern Africa	962	6,376	0
3 North Africa	354	2,434	2
4 Central Africa	322	2,440	0
5 Southern Africa	451	1,138	0
6 Western Africa	2,385	31,924	4,469
7 North America	763	7,428	5,539
8 Caribbean	534	23,108	3
9 Central & South America	178	1,249	3
10 Eastern Asia	5,231	48,219	2,307
11 Southern Asia	3,990	32,467	846
12 South East Asia	177	718	0
13 Near & Middle East	3,578	21,677	3,231
14 Oceania	94	4,689	1
15 European	16	121	0
16 Unknown	115	842	0
Totals	20,660	191,937	16,405

Annex 1

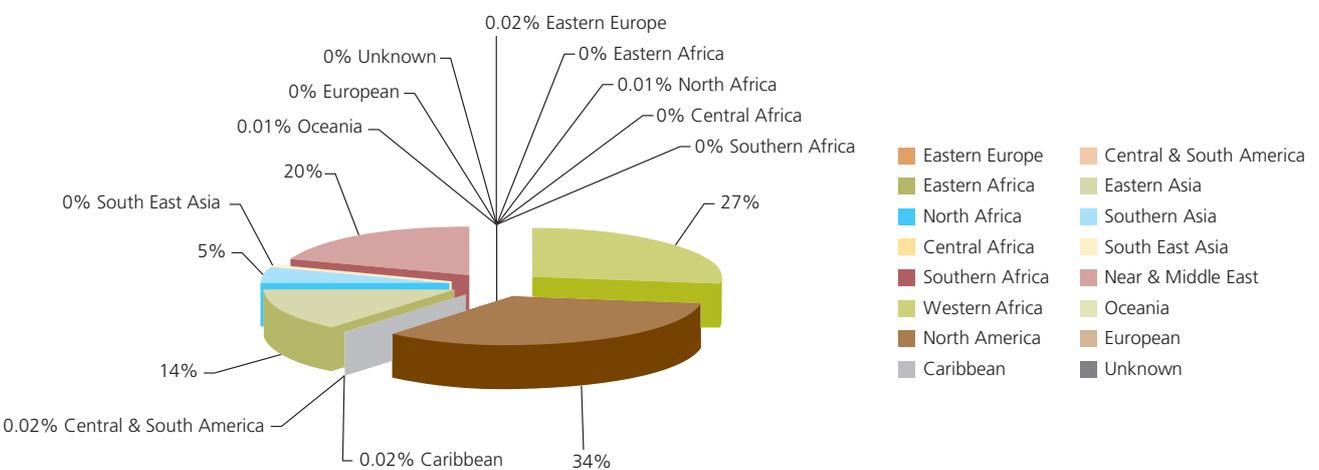
Pie Chart 1 for Table 2: POAO seizures by region (2007-2009)⁶



Pie Chart 2 for Table 2: Weight of POAO seizures by region (2007-2009)⁶



Pie Chart 3 for Table 2: Volume of POAO seizures by region (2007-2009)⁶



⁶ The percentages do not add up to 100% due to roundings up and down

Table 3a: POAO seizures, including weight, by product (2001-2003) – old reporting format

Period	Meat		Fish		Dairy		Multiple		Other	
	No. of seizures	Wgt (kg)								
01/04/01-31/03/02	1,242	18,955	353	32,691	63	3,784	361	55,791	34	3,569
01/04/02-31/03/03	2,986	31,301	1,837	21,267	759	19,807	2,172	36,170	65	666

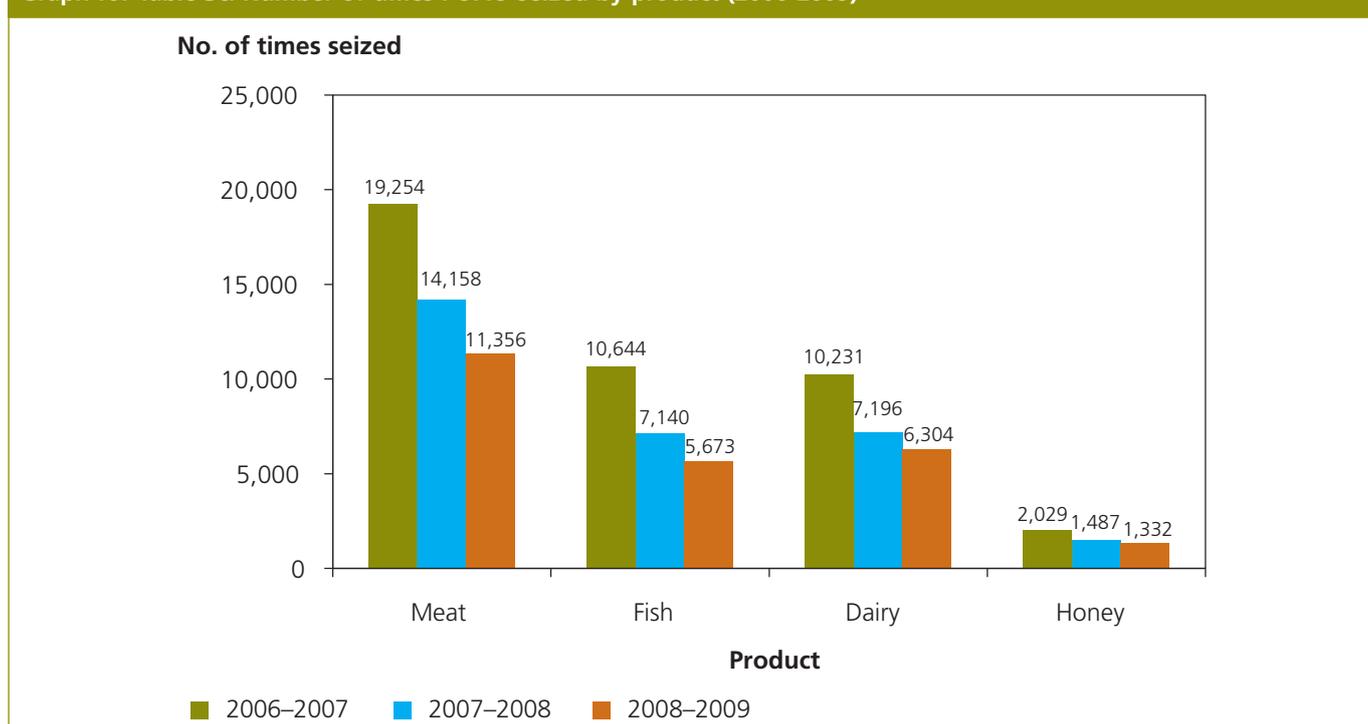
Table 3b: POAO seizures, including weight, by product (2003-2006) – old reporting format

Period	Meat		Fish		Dairy		Honey	
	No. of seizures	Wgt (kg)						
01/04/03-31/03/04	6,810	72,734	5,325	76,179	3,168	28,052	535	8,924
01/04/04-31/03/05	10,987	78,664	8,322	85,757	5,127	40,685	1,174	15,049
01/04/05-31/03/06	14,826	106,135	9,740	100,840	6,759	48,011	1,470	17,135

Table 3c: Number of times POAO seized, including weight and volume, by product (2006-2009) – new reporting format

Period	Meat			Fish			Dairy			Honey		
	No. of times seized	Wgt (kg)	Vol (ltrs)	No. of times seized	Wgt (kg)	Vol (ltrs)	No. of times seized	Wgt (kg)	Vol (ltrs)	No. of times seized	Wgt (kg)	Vol (ltrs)
01/04/06-31/03/07	19,254	90,326.72	20,867.00	10,644	65,545.11		10,231	67,717.64	42,298.08	2,029	16,183.86	
01/04/07-31/03/08	14,158	76,718.40		7,140	47,030.44		7,196	48,232.96	12,462.81	1,487	11,501.38	
01/04/08-31/03/09	11,356	76,903		5,673	52,991		6,304	53,372	16,405	1,332	8,671	

Graph for Table 3c: Number of times POAO seized by product (2006-2009)



Annex 1

Table 3d: Number of times POAO seized, including weight and volume, by region (2008-2009)

Region ID/Name	No. of times seized, Wgt (kg) and Vol (ltrs)	Meat	Fish	Dairy	Honey	Totals
1 Eastern Europe	No. of times seized	1,154	45	506	178	
	Wgt (kg)	4,446	170	1,947	544	7,107
	Vol (ltrs)			4		4
2 Eastern Africa	No. of times seized	498	98	405	225	
	Wgt (kg)	2,336	768	2,438	834	6,376
	Vol (ltrs)			0		0
3 North Africa	No. of times seized	211	71	87	63	
	Wgt (kg)	676	1,370	239	149	2,434
	Vol (ltrs)			2		2
4 Central Africa	No. of times seized	111	258	5	8	
	Wgt (kg)	420	1,985	15	20	2,440
	Vol (ltrs)			0		0
5 Southern Africa	No. of times seized	392	45	20	7	
	Wgt (kg)	817	207	87	27	1,138
	Vol (ltrs)			0		0
6 Western Africa	No. of times seized	806	1,588	328	111	
	Wgt (kg)	9,795	18,139	3,669	321	31,924
	Vol (ltrs)			4,469		4,469
7 North America	No. of times seized	374	53	378	4	
	Wgt (kg)	1,665	1,124	4,615	24	7,428
	Vol (ltrs)			5,539		5,539
8 Caribbean	No. of times seized	365	147	77	29	
	Wgt (kg)	3,865	1,125	16,958	1,160	23,108
	Vol (ltrs)			3		3
9 Central & South America	No. of times seized	118	16	66	15	
	Wgt (kg)	561	89	547	52	1,249
	Vol (ltrs)			3		3
10 Eastern Asia	No. of times seized	4,026	1,564	600	37	
	Wgt (kg)	32,355	13,173	2,441	250	48,219
	Vol (ltrs)			2,307		2,307
11 Southern Asia	No. of times seized	1,434	1,354	1,698	154	
	Wgt (kg)	12,190	11,266	7,007	2,004	32,467
	Vol (ltrs)			846		846

Table 3d: Number of times POAO seized, including weight and volume, by region (2008-2009) (continued)

Region ID/Name	No. of times seized, Wgt (kg) and Vol (ltrs)	Meat	Fish	Dairy	Honey	Totals
12 South East Asia	No. of times seized	132	38	25	2	
	Wgt (kg)	425	197	95	1	718
	Vol (ltrs)			0		0
13 Near & Middle East	No. of times seized	1,612	351	2,044	486	
	Wgt (kg)	6,808	3,046	8,589	3,234	21,677
	Vol (ltrs)			3,231		3,231
14 Oceania	No. of times seized	59	11	21	12	
	Wgt (kg)	117	89	4,437	46	4,689
	Vol (ltrs)			1		1
15 European	No. of times seized	4	5	7	0	
	Wgt (kg)	22	48	51	0	121
	Vol (ltrs)			0		0
16 Unknown	No. of times seized	60	29	37	1	
	Wgt (kg)	405	195	237	5	842
	Vol (ltrs)			0		0
Totals	No. of times seized	11,356	5,673	6,304	1,332	
Totals	Wgt (kg)	76,903	52,991	53,372	8,671	191,937
Totals	Vol (ltrs)			16,405		16,405

Legislation: powers

The Products of Animal Origin (Third Country Imports) (England) Regulations 2006 (SI 2006/2841), as amended by The Products of Animal Origin (Third Country Imports) (England) (Amendment) Regulations 2007 (SI 2007/1605) and The Products of Animal Origin (Third Country Imports) (England) (Amendment) Regulation 2008 (SI 2008/3230), is the principal regulation relating to imports of such products. It gives effect to Directive 97/78/EC laying down principles governing the organisation of veterinary checks on products entering the EU and also Commission Regulation (EC) No. 206/2009 of 5 March on the introduction into the Community of personal consignments of products of animal origin and amending Regulation (EC) No. 136/2004 (and repealing Regulation (EC) No. 745/2004). This is transposed into UK law by The Products Of Animal Origin (Third Country Imports) (England) (Amendment) Regulations 2009. The Products of Animal Origin (Third Country Imports) (England) Regulations 2006 (SI 2006/2841) also gives effect to the responsibility of HMRC to enforce controls on prohibited goods at points of entry. In exercising its responsibility, HMRC draws down its powers from the Customs and Excise Management Act 1979 under which it has wide-ranging powers, including powers of search, seizure and arrest.

Similar regulations apply in Scotland:

- The Products of Animal Origin (Third Country Imports) (Scotland) Regulations 2007 (SSI 2007/1);

as amended by:

- The Products of Animal Origin (Third Country Imports) (Scotland) Amendment Regulations 2007 (SSI 2007/304); and
- The Products of Animal Origin (Third Country Imports) (Scotland) Amendment Regulations 2009 (SSI 2009/228);

and Wales:

- The Products of Animal Origin (Third Country Imports) (Wales) Regulations 2007 (SI 2007/376 (W. 36));

as amended by:

- The Products of Animal Origin (Third Country Imports) (Wales) (Amendment) Regulations 2007 (SI 2007/1710 (W. 148));
- The Products of Animal Origin (Third Country Imports) (Wales) (Amendment) Regulations 2009 (SI 2009/392 (W. 41)); and
- The Products of Animal Origin (Third Country Imports) (Wales) (Amendment) (No. 2) Regulations 2009 (SI 2009/1088 (W. 96));

and Northern Ireland:

- The Products of Animal Origin (Third Country Imports) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2007 (SR 2007/199);

as amended by:

- The Products of Animal Origin (Third Country Imports) (Amendment) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2007 (SR 2007/314); and
- The Products of Animal Origin (Third Country Imports) (Amendment) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2009 (SR 2009/130).

In addition:

- The EC Wildlife Trade Regulations (Council Regulation (EC) No. 338/97) came into force in June 1997, implementing CITES within the European Community, replacing Council Regulation (EEC) No. 3626/82. This Regulation restricts the movement of and/or trade in endangered wild flora and fauna, and requires EU Member States to designate Customs offices for imports and exports of all CITES specimens, set out in the Control of Trade in Endangered Species (Designation of Ports of Entry) Regulation 1985.

This has largely been superseded by legislation designating BIPs for imports of animals, plants and their derivatives. Defra is looking to revise and update Control of Trade in Endangered Species (Designation of Ports of Entry) Regulations. Post public consultation considerations are now underway with a view to laying amending legislation in 2010.

Legislation: effectiveness

Very little legislation relevant to controls on imports of animal products is made under the Animal Health Act 1981, it is instead made following European Community instruments. However, The Importation of Animal Products and Poultry Products Order 1980 (SI 1934), as amended in 1994 (SI 2920) is extant and applies to all animal products (derived from mammals or birds) which are not subject to the provisions of The Products of Animal Origin (Third Country Imports) (England) Regulations 2006 (SI 2006/2841) (as amended), The Products of Animal Origin (Third Country Imports) (Scotland) Regulations 2007 (SSI 2007/1) (as amended), The Products of Animal Origin (Third Country Imports) (Wales) Regulations 2007 (SI 2007/376 (W. 36)) (as amended) and The Products of Animal Origin (Third Country Imports) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2007 (SR 2007/199) (as amended). This includes some hides and skins, and certain products for human consumption and certain products that are not for human consumption.

The Products of Animal Origin (Third Country Imports) (England) Regulations 2006 (SI 2006/2841) (as amended), The Products of Animal Origin (Third Country Imports) (Scotland) Regulations 2007 (SSI 2007/1) (as amended), The Products of Animal Origin (Third Country Imports) (Wales) Regulations 2007 (SI 2007/376 (W. 36)) (as amended) and The Products of Animal Origin (Third Country Imports) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2007 (SR 2007/199) (as amended) create an absolute offence and provide for a fine not exceeding £5,000 and/or up to 3 months' imprisonment on summary conviction, and an unlimited fine and/or up to 2 years' imprisonment on indictment.

Criminal proceedings for offences of smuggling prohibited and/or restricted items under section 170 of the Customs and Excise Management Act 1979 may also be considered by RCPO. The maximum penalty for these offences is imprisonment for up to 7 years and/or unlimited fines.

Glossary of Commonly Used Abbreviations and Acronyms

ABTA	Association of British Travel Agents
ACMSF	Advisory Committee on the Microbiological Safety of Food
AEV	Advertising Equivalent Value
AH	Animal Health
AI	Avian Influenza (more commonly known as “bird flu”)
APHA	Association of Port Health Authorities
BIP(s)	Border Inspection Post(s)
BME	Black and Minority Ethnic
CIEH	Chartered Institute of Environmental Health
CITES	Convention on the International Trade in Endangered Species
COPFS	Crown Office and Procurator Fiscal Service
DARDNI	Department of Agriculture and Rural Development for Northern Ireland
DCIS	Detection Control Information Service
Defra	Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs
EC	European Commission
EU	European Union
FCO	Foreign and Commonwealth Office
FSA	Food Standards Agency
FVO	Food and Veterinary Office
GB	Great Britain
GRAIL	Guidance and Regulatory Advice on Import Legislation
HMRC	Her Majesty’s Revenue and Customs
ILAPS	Illegal Import of Animal Product Seizures
LACORS	Local Authorities Coordinators of Regulatory Services
LCD	Liquid Crystal Display
MHS	Meat Hygiene Service
NI	Northern Ireland

OIE	Office des International Epizooties
OVS(s)	Official Veterinary Surgeon(s)
POA(s)	Preliminary Outbreak Assessment(s)
POAO	Products Of Animal Origin
QRA(s)	Qualitative Risk Assessment(s)
RASFF	Rapid Alert System for Food and Feed
RCPO	Revenue and Customs Prosecutions Office
SI	Statutory Instrument
SLA	Service Level Agreement
SR	Statutory Rules
SSI	Scottish Statutory Instrument
UK	United Kingdom
UKBA	United Kingdom Border Agency
WAG	Welsh Assembly Government
WAG-RA	Welsh Assembly Government – Department for Rural Affairs

Nobel House
17 Smith Square
London SW1P 3JR
www.defra.gov.uk
PB13286

£14.35



Published by TSO (The Stationery Office) and available from:

Online
www.tsoshop.co.uk

Mail, Telephone Fax & E-Mail
TSO
PO Box 29, Norwich, NR3 1GN
Telephone orders/General enquiries 0870 600 5522
Order through the Parliamentary Hotline Lo-Call 0845 7 023474
Fax orders: 0870 600 5533
E-mail: customer.services@tso.co.uk
Textphone: 0870 240 3701

The Parliamentary Bookshop
12 Bridge Street, Parliament Square,
London SW1A 2JX
Telephone orders/ General enquiries: 020 7219 3890
Fax orders: 020 7219 3866
Email: bookshop@parliament.uk
Internet: <http://www.bookshop.parliament.uk>

TSO@Blackwell and other Accredited Agents

Customers can also order publications from
TSO Ireland
16 Arthur Street, Belfast BT1 4GD
028 9023 8451 Fax 028 9023 5401

