[redacted]

Report on Trade Access Mission to The People's Republic of China 11-12 October 2012.

[redacted]

1. Summary:

Pig meat: Exports of pig meat from the UK to China have been taking place since China agreed to this on 7 May 2012 Two outstanding plant approvals have recently been agreed by CNCA[1] and these have been registered on the websites of CNCA and AQSIQ[2]; these two plants can now trade. CNCA agreed to send us information about procedures needed to export pigs' feet.

The issue of possible exports of pig meat from Northern Ireland using meat from pigs born and bred in the Republic of Ireland (RoI) was discussed again with AQSIQ. This is a particular issue for NI slaughterhouses which source many pigs from the RoI. AQSIQ has informed us before that the meat exported by the UK must be sourced from pigs born and bred in the UK.

Pigs for breeding: Another consignment was exported in June 2012; this was without major problems due to non-negative test results. In August AQSIQ agreed to drop the requirement that the premises of origin are 50km from cases of pandemic flu.

[1] CNCA: Certification and Accreditation Administration of the People's Republic of China.

[2] AQSIQ: General Administration of Quality Supervision, Inspection and Quarantine of the People's Republic of China.

2. Action points:

Action points: Please note that:

- **Priority ratings and target dates are my suggestions and can be reviewed.**
- **Please advise me of any communications with China before they are sent.**

No	Subject and paragraph number from detail.	Action	Priority	Target date	For
1	Pig meat procedures - item from last visit in May.	Arrange meeting with Industry / FSA and other administrations	High	Before January 2013.	[redacted] DCMES
2	Pig meat. Keep other administrations, FSA and wider industry informed	Advise at the next UKECP meeting	High	For UKECP meeting on 7/11/12	DCMES, UKECP
3	Pig meat NFG	Revise	High	Before January 2013.	[redacted]
4	Pig meat approval of dual line plant	Inform plant of situation	High	Before November 2012	[redacted]
5	Pig meat. Contact [redacted] and PH re procedures for plant approval	Arrange a meeting	High	Before November 2012	[redacted]
6	Pig meat. Pigs born and bred in the UK	Inform stakeholders	High	Before November 2012	[redacted]
7	Pig meat. Procedures for trotters	Review and decide on next steps	High	Before December 2012	[redacted]
8	Pig meat.	Write [redacted] to confirm the certification procedures in the UK.	High	Before mid-November 2012	[redacted]

9	[redacted]	[redacted]	[redacted]	[redacted]	DCMES - [redacted]
10	Pigs.	Inform NPA and BPA again about procedures for approval of herds and premises for isolation.	High	By 1/11/12	[redacted]
11	Pigs. NFG	Revise and seek comments	High	By 17/11/12	[redacted]
12	Pigs. Revising the protocol	Contact AHVLA and exporters and draft a letter to [redacted]	High	By 31/11/12	[redacted]
13	Pigs. 50km ring for pH1N1	Write to [redacted] with a revised EHC. When this is agreed inform industry and AHVLA and DARD and revise NFG	High	Send letter by 27/10/12	[redacted]

[redacted]

3. **Detail:**

3.1 PIG MEAT EXPORTS TO CHINA (meetings with [redacted]

Trade in progress: On 7 May 2012 AQSIQ informed the UK that exports of pig meat from the UK to China could take place. Exports are in progress and UK industry is now fully aware of the procedures that must be used (eg the use of approved cold stores and certification by named Official Veterinarians (OVs).

Delays with plant approvals: Two specific plant approvals (a cold store in North Wales and an abattoir/cutting plant in Hull) that we had been waiting for were completed in the week commencing 8/10/12. The delay had been due to limited resources in CNCA. It also took a month for AQSIQ to review the applications and to list the plants on the AQSIQ website.

The CNCA official mentioned a 'gap' between CNCA and AQSIQ which he said is improving. Even so, the AQSIQ official emphasised that even if a plant is approved by CNCA, AQSIQ will not just accept the decision by CNCA and that AQSIQ too will need to review the application. AQSIQ said that it will normally take a month for them to carry out their review. This is for the reason that pig meat is considered to be a high risk product for China – both CNCA and AQSIQ commented on this. AQSIQ emphasised their concerns about the traceability of the products and asked us to send them again information on traceability and the security features of our certification. I agreed to do this. This request indicates that it is important that we continue to demonstrate correct procedures for consignments exported to China.

Comments from both CNCA and AQSIQ indicated that we could help them by providing clearer information on the traceability of the movement of products from the slaughterhouse to the cutting plant and on to the cold store. This may help to speed up the process of plant approval.

Re-approval of UK controls and individual plants: I thanked CNCA and AQSIQ for their guidance and assistance with the plant approvals and developing the procedures to enable the trade. I asked if there were any forthcoming changes that we needed to be aware of. CNCA commented that the currently approved plants will need to be re-inspected after 4 years – this may be done on a selection of plants or all plants may be inspected. The 4 year period will be from 1 May 2012 but he also commented that a country audit is due again soon as the last was in 2009 – this could take place in 2013 or 2014. This inspection may be combined with re-approval of existing plants and also the standards of production of offal such as feet (see the next paragraph) which are currently excluded for export to China. This could also be the time for CNCA to inspect a plant (yet to be approved) which has slaughter lines for both pig meat and ruminant meat (this plant has yet to make the necessary changes and then be appraised by our FSA).

Extending the list of products: I asked CNCA again about procedures needed to export pigs' feet – this is a priority for industry and is estimated to be worth at least £5m p.a. in export revenue alone. CNCA said they will send the procedure to us and they will want us to respond to indicate if we can comply with their conditions. [redacted]) is keen that we should get agreement for this soon and even before

[redacted]

CNCA visit the UK to inspect our procedures. Industry will consider approaches to this once we have the information from CNCA. PH also asked if CNCA could inform us what procedures are required for other banned products (lungs, stomachs and intestines (other than salted intestines that are already approved)). CNCA responded that we should proceed step by step and to deal with feet first.

Export of meat sourced from pigs born and bred in the UK: AQSIQ has informed us before that pig meat exported by the UK must be sourced from pigs born and bred in the UK. This line has been given to other countries such as DL, BE and FR. The EU trade delegation has also asked about this but the same answer has been given. We understand that this is because China wants to be sure that the competent authority of the exporting country has control over the pigs from which the meat has been produced. The responses from AQSIQ to date indicate that it is unlikely that this ruling will be changed at present.

This is a particular issue for one large slaughterhouse in Northern Ireland which sources many pigs from the Republic of Ireland. Accordingly I asked about this again. The official at this meeting [redacted] said that he was not aware of this problem and said that he would consider it. It is though unlikely that we will get a positive response on this. If anything had changed, other MSs and the EU trade delegation would have known about it.

Registration of exporters / their agents / importers: [redacted] sought clarification if individual companies need to register under this recently introduced Chinese Regulation. [redacted] responded that they didn't but that their subsidiaries do. I took this to mean that the exporters must register.

Actions for paragraph 3.1 on export of pig meat to China:

No	Subject	Action	Priority	Timing	For
1	Pig meat procedures - item from last visit in May.	Arrange meeting with Industry / FSA and other administrations	High	Before January 2013.	[redacted] DCMES
2	Pig meat. Keep other administrations, FSA and wider industry informed	Advise at the next UKECP meeting	High	For UKECP meeting on 7/11/12	DCMES, UKECP
3	Pig meat NFG	Revise	High	Before January 2013.	[redacted]
4	Pig meat approval of dual line plant	Inform plant of situation	High	Before November 2012	[redacted]

5	Pig meat. Contact [redacted] and PH re procedures for plant approval	Meeting	High	Before November 2012	[redacted]
6	Pig meat. Pigs born and bred in the UK	Inform stakeholders	High	Before November 2012	[redacted]
7	Pig meat. Procedures for trotters	Review and decide on next steps	High	Before December 2012	[redacted]
8	Pig meat.	Write to [redacted] o confirm the certification procedures in the UK.	High	Before mid-November 2012	[redacted]

3.3. LIVE PIGS FOR BREEDING: [redacted]

Non-negative test results: Problems caused by non-negative test results for *Actinobacillus pleuropneumoniae* (APP), Brucella, transmissible gastroenteritis and porcine reproductive and respiratory syndrome which caused AQSIQ to suspend permission for exports in December 2011 have been addressed and a consignment of about 250 pigs was exported to China in June 2012. I thanked [redacted] for their cooperation with this and said that as far as I was aware there had not been any problems due to non-negative results with this consignment ([redacted] didn't mention any). I did though ask for information about any test failures in post-import quarantine as we need to know as much as we can to maintain control over the problem of non-negative test results. [redacted] said that they don't normally provide such information but he would see what he could do.

The current situation with further exports of live pigs to China is therefore that it is considered that problems with non-negative test results can be managed but that this is still not without risk.

Defra must though recommend herds for export to AQSIQ. Strict management regimes are needed to ensure that non-negative test results are kept to a minimum.

Removal of the requirement for the premises to be more than 50km from other pig premises where pandemic influenza had occurred within the previous 3 months. AQSIQ removed this requirement in August 2012. Defra has to write to AQSIQ to acknowledge this and to propose the necessary changes to the export health certificate. This is a simple matter.

[redacted]

Proposals to amend the protocol for export of pigs to China: [redacted] agreed that I could write again to AQSIQ with proposals to amend the protocol for export of pigs to China. Points to mention are:

1. To include testing for pandemic influenza (AQSIQ requires this).
2. To remove the need to report all cases of PRRS in the UK (This requirement was not removed from the protocol by China despite our insistence – we have not been doing this anyway – I explained that this is just not practical).
3. To include the option to use separate premises for the first stage of pre-export isolation (pre-isolation) (our request).
4. Defra to approve premises used for pre-isolation and pre-export quarantine (China's request).
5. To consider alternative testing (such as ELISA) for APP(our request). China has already agreed to us using the cELISA.
6. To consider alternative testing (such as ELISA) for *Brucella* (our request).
7. Defra to recommend herds for export (China's request - this is because of China's concerns about non-negative test results).

These and other matters mean that it is now also time to revise the notes for guidance.

Actions for paragraph 3.3 on export of pigs for breeding to China:

No	Subject	Action	Priority	Timing	For
10	Pigs.	Inform NPA and BPA again about procedures for approval of herds and premises for isolation.	High	By 1/11/12	[redacted]
11	Pigs. NFG	Revise and seek comments	High	By 17/11/12	[redacted]
12	Pigs. Revising the protocol	Contact AHVLA and exporters and draft a letter to Dr Yu.	High	By 31/11/12	[redacted]
13	Pigs. 50km ring for pH1N1	Write to Dr Yu with a revised EHC. When	High	Send letter by 27/10/12	[redacted]

[redacted]

		this is agreed inform industry and AHVLA and DARD and revise NFG			

[redacted]

AHVLA/DEFRA Area 4B Nobel House London

16 October 2012

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