

Update on minced meats, meat preparations and mechanically separated meat

Introduction

Currently, the default position is that imports of meat preparations and minced meat into Great Britain (GB) must be deep frozen. Imports of minced poultry meat and pig or poultry mechanically separated meat (MSM) are not permitted.

In 2022, Ministers announced a delay in applying these prohibitions and restrictions (P&Rs) to imports from the EU¹. Consequently, the government extended the statutory transition for meat preparations² until 31 January 2024. We are further extending³ transition until the end of April 2024 in line with the timetable for checks under the Border Target Operating Model (BTOM).

BTOM requirement for health certification of EU goods

From 31 January 2024, medium risk animal goods from the EU will require health certificates.

We have indicated to the European Commission and traders that we do not intend this requirement to impose additional P&Rs on minced meat, meat preparations and MSM from the EU.

We are content for Official Veterinarians to strikethrough model health certificate conditions PH/P100 and PH/P109 which require goods to be frozen to an internal temperature of not more than -18°C. This means that we will continue to accept chilled goods produced in accordance with Section V of Annex III of Regulation (EC) No 853/2004. This will apply to the following GB model health certificates:

- GBHC300 Fresh meat, including minced meat, of domestic bovine animals
- GBHC310 Fresh meat, including minced meat, of domestic porcine animals
- GBHC320 Fresh meat, including minced meat, of domestic ovine and caprine animals
- GBHC350 Meat preparations

We are also content to continue to accept minced poultry meat and pig and poultry MSM from the EU produced in accordance with Section V of Annex III of Regulation (EC) No 853/2004 and accompanied by model health certificate GBHC330 (poultry) or GBHC310 (pig).

¹ Includes EEA countries, the Faroe Islands, Greenland or Switzerland

² Meat Preparations (Amendment and Transitory Modification) (England) (EU Exit) Regulations 2020 (S.I. 2020/1666) as amended.

³ The Official Controls (Extension of Transitional Periods) (Miscellaneous Amendments) Regulations 2024 (S.I. 2024/20)

Future policy proposals

From 30 April 2024, we are proposing a new P&Rs policy. In summary, countries wishing to export chilled meat preparations, chilled minced meat, any minced poultry meat or any mechanically separated meat (pig or poultry) to GB would need to be listed. Consignments would also need to comply with export health certificate requirements, with attestations relating to hygiene controls and mandatory labelling on shelf life and instructions for use. EU countries would be listed upfront following the satisfactory risk assessment already completed. Other countries would need to apply for listing subject to equivalent satisfactory risk assessment. If you have any comments on these proposals, please email PandR_futureproposals@defra.gov.uk. **Please note that we are not accepting new requests for market access via this email address or before 30 April 2024.**

Ongoing trade discussions

At the October 2023 meeting⁴ of the Trade Specialised Committee on Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures under the EU-UK Trade and Cooperation Agreement, the European Commission agreed to technical discussions on P&Rs.

⁴ www.gov.uk/government/publications/trade-specialised-committee-on-sanitary-and-phytosanitary-measures