

RESUMPTION OF EXPORTS - CONDITIONS AND REQUIREMENTS

The draft European Commission Decision permitting the resumption of fresh meat exports from Scotland (and other parts of Great Britain) includes a number of conditions. The Decision will be formally adopted and published this week coming into effect at the weekend. This note provides an overview of the requirements so people can consider the implications it may have for them. Further, more detailed information will be provided later in the week.

Meat is only eligible for export if it originates from animals that have been

- reared for 90 days in areas where no FMD has been present (set out in Annex III of the Decision but essentially Scotland, Wales, South West and Northern England)
- have been kept in a single holding of origin for last 30 days
- a holding is defined as the CPH
- no live animal movements to the holding for 21 days before animals moved for slaughter (for pigs, only 7 days if supplying holding complies with conditions above)

Remember that the 21 day rule for exports is different to domestic movement requirements and that there are no exemptions.

Eligible animals may then be transported to a slaughterhouse under certain conditions

- The vehicle must have been cleaned and disinfected prior to loading
- the movement of animals whose meat is intended to be exported must be notified to the slaughterhouse operators in advance so the animal eligibility can be checked and confirmed by the Competent Authority
- only single movements direct for slaughter are allowed if the meat is intended for export - ie no multiple pick ups

Animals that comply with the requirements above may then be slaughtered to produce meat that will be eligible for dispatch from the UK in slaughterhouses under certain conditions:

- The slaughterhouse must be approved to export by the Divisional Veterinary Manager following a recommendation by the Official Veterinarian and
- must be situated in areas with no FMD for 90 days (Annex III Areas)
- the meat will be identified with the Oval Health Mark
- the OV must confirm absence of FMD signs
- after post mortem inspection the meat will be stored under official control for 24 hours
- additional controls will be required if FMD is suspected in slaughterhouse
- meat that complies with all the above requirements may be exported accompanied by an export certificate signed by the OV,

These requirements are in addition to the national measures in place for meat that is intended to be sold in the GB only. Compliance with the export eligibility criteria is on a voluntary basis and farmers, hauliers and slaughterhouse operators may decide to limit their products to the national market.

However, where the commercial decision to produce export eligible meat is taken, it will be the duty of those involved in the production of the animals and meat to ensure that the eligibility criteria is met and that adequate evidence is presented to the Authorities.