

# Annual Review of Controls on Imports of Animal Products: April 2009 – March 2010

July 2010

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Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru  
Welsh Assembly Government



Department of  
**Agriculture and  
Rural Development**  
[www.dardni.gov.uk](http://www.dardni.gov.uk)



# Annual Review of Controls on Imports of Animal Products: April 2009 – March 2010

Presented to Parliament pursuant to  
section 10(A) of the Animal Health Act 1981  
(as amended by the Animal Health Act 2002)  
July 2010

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## Foreword by Jim Paice



As the new Minister of State for Agriculture and Food, I welcome the opportunity to report on the efforts of the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra) and other Government Departments and agencies during the past year to reduce the risk of disease entering the country via imports of animal products.

Imports of animal products from outside the European Union (EU) bring with them the risk of animal diseases which, as we know, could potentially introduce disease to our livestock and crops and to the environment. The risk can also be to public health – diseases such as highly pathogenic avian influenza type H5N1 can infect humans and is of serious public concern – and also be high economic cost as we know from the outbreak of Foot and Mouth Disease (FMD) in 2001 which is estimated to have cost £3 billion relating to agriculture and the food chain.

Effective enforcement and raising public awareness are therefore key to ensuring that we meet our objective.

Controls are already in place to carry out veterinary checks on legally imported animal products from non-EU countries. UK Border Agency (UKBA) delivers a flexible, risk based enforcement strategy to prevent illegal imports including using information from Defra on the entry routes that pose the greatest threat of introducing animal disease.

Defra with UKBA and the Food Standards Agency (FSA) have undertaken a focussed publicity campaign as part of the overall communications strategy – inland within GB, at the border and also overseas. During this last year we have seen the re-launch of the Personal Food Imports campaigns for general travellers in October 2009 and for the Black and Minority Ethnic (BME) communities in November 2009. The aim of the overall campaign is to encourage travellers not to bring illegal food products (in particular meat and dairy as higher risk products) into the country, to help travellers understand the reasons why the personal imports rules exist, and to emphasise the availability in the UK of most of the illegal products that are being brought in.

The changes to the EU personal import rules in May 2009, in particular an increase to the personal concession amount allowed for fish, has enabled UKBA to refocus deployments to target the high risk routes for illegal meat and dairy products carried by incoming travellers more effectively. The number of seizures of illegal imports of animal products have therefore shown a 3% increase this year with seizures of meat and dairy products up by 14% and 45% respectively.

We can never have a zero risk but we monitor and assess the changing threats from around the world (such as the evolving FMD situation in South East Asia), and work with UKBA and other enforcement partners to ensure that our enforcement activity is targeted at the current risks.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jim Paice', with a horizontal line underneath.

**Jim Paice**  
**Minister of State for Agriculture and Food**

## Introduction

**1.1.1** This is the eighth annual review of controls on imports of animal products into the United Kingdom (UK) 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 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.

**1.1.2** Animal products imported from non-European Union (EU) countries are checked on entry into the UK to ensure they meet EU veterinary import conditions. 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 called Border Inspection Posts (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.

**1.1.3** For intra-EU 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.

**1.1.4** From 1 May 2009, the EU rules covering personal imports of Products Of Animal Origin (POAO) into the EU were revised (Commission Regulation (EC) No 206/2009 of 5 March 2009 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 law in England by The Products of Animal Origin (Third Country Imports) (England) (Amendment) Regulations 2009. There is similar legislation in Scotland, Wales and NI.

There was no change to the ban on imports of meat and dairy products from countries outside the EU but increases were made to the amounts of other POAO (e.g. fish, honey, eggs etc.) that pose little/no risk to animal health which are permitted for personal consumption.

### Roles and responsibilities

**1.2.1** The Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (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 POAO. Defra remains the nominated UK management authority for the Convention on 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 Animal Health with the Wildlife Licensing and Registration Service on 1 April 2007. Responsibility for checks on intra-EU movements of food products falls to Defra and the Local Authorities.

**1.2.2** Animal Health has a presence in busy ports and airports. It is able to support other enforcement bodies and provides a line of communication with Defra headquarters. Animal Health is also able to provide advice on identifying products and can advise on disposal arrangements, disinfecting etc. Animal Health is also responsible for veterinary checks on POAO at BIPs that take only products that are not intended for human consumption. Animal Health 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-EU trade. Animal Health undertake a programme of liaison visits 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 Animal Health.

**1.2.3** Port Health and Local Authorities are responsible for food safety and standards checks on imported food presented at ports and airports. This includes veterinary checks at BIPs required by EU law on POAO for human consumption and for dealing with non-conforming products. If, in the course of their other duties, they uncover illegal products at points of entry outside of a BIP, including at ports and airports after goods have passed through customs controls, they issue a detention notice and seek UK Border Agency (UKBA) assistance. Local Authorities are also responsible for dealing with illegal imports when they are discovered inland at retail, catering, market stalls or similar premises, giving priority to POAO and high risk Food Not of Animal Origin (FNAO). As already stated above, responsibility for checks on intra-EU movements of food products falls to Local Authorities and Defra.

**1.2.4** HMRC is responsible for ensuring that commercial imports of POAO are not granted customs clearance unless the goods have undergone the necessary veterinary checks and have been authorised for entry into the UK. This customs clearance function is delivered by HMRC's National Clearance Hub (NCH) via HMRC's electronic Customs Handling of Import and Export Freight (CHIEF) system. The NCH normally receive a copy of the completed Common Veterinary Entry Document (CVED) as evidence that the goods can be released.

**1.2.5** UKBA is responsible for carrying out risk based anti-smuggling controls on illegal imports from non-EU countries at Great Britain (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 on illegal imports under CITES. UKBA 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.

**1.2.6** In NI, responsibility for the detection of illegal imports of POAO lies with DARDNI, both at BIPs and other points of entry. DARDNI's close working relationship with HMRC and UKBA facilitates the referral of POAO 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 Food Standards Agency (FSA) NI in terms of identifying illegally imported POAO which may be either destined for or actually on retail sale.

**1.2.7** 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, bivalve molluscs and FNAO. 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.

**1.2.8** The Meat Hygiene Service (MHS) as an executive agency of the FSA undertook controls at licensed meat cutting and processing plants. These included random checks on non-EU country meat and intra-EU products, to ensure compliance with public and animal health legislation. From 1 April 2010, the MHS will become part of the FSA Operations group (as set out in 2.7.4).

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

**1.2.10** 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.

**1.2.11** A Service Level Agreement (SLA) formalises the relationship and responsibilities between all the key Government Departments and agencies involved in the control of imports of POAO. The signatories include Defra (Global Animal Health and Animal Pathogens), UKBA, HMRC, FSA, Animal Health, Food and Environment Research Agency (Fera), Forestry Commission, Scottish Government (Animals/Animal Products) and (Plant Health) and Welsh Assembly Government – Department for Rural Affairs (WAG-RA) (Animals/Animal Products) and (Plant Health/Biotechnology).

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.

## 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 if the conditions stipulated in current EU legislation are met.

The risk of disease relates to the possibility that animals have contact with 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 website<sup>1</sup>, 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 2009/10, Defra conducted and published 34 POAs on outbreaks of diseases such as African Swine Fever, Aujeszky's Disease, Classical Swine Fever, Equine Infectious Anaemia, Foot and Mouth Disease, Goat Pox, Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza H5N1, Highly Pathogenic Porcine Reproductive and Respiratory Syndrome, A Novel Influenza A/H1N1 'North American Influenza', Newcastle Disease, Peste des Petits Ruminants, Salmonella typhimurium DT 191A, Sheep Pox, Vesicular Stomatitis and West Nile Virus. Further to these, three detailed QRAs were undertaken and published providing an update on the potential role of specific wild bird species and mammals in the epidemiology of H5N1 Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza infection and two updates on Equine Infectious Anaemia – potential risk factors for the introduction of the virus to the UK from other EU Member States. Defra veterinary and policy officials meet with UKBA colleagues to discuss changes in the global disease situation and help plan future enforcement activity.

**1.3.6** The FSA is responsible for public health with respect to food, including imported food controls and policy for FNAO, fishery products and relationships with Local Authorities on food law enforcement. The FSA 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.

**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 RASFF 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 2009 and 31 March 2010, the UK issued 329 notifications via RASFF.

<sup>1</sup> <http://www.defra.gov.uk/foodfarm/farmanimal/diseases/monitoring/index.htm>



# 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 five 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** Responsibility for customs anti-smuggling functions at the border formally transferred to UKBA from HMRC on 5 August 2009 under UK national legislation.

**2.1.2** UKBA is 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 UKBA with a global risk map produced from information from the World Animal Health Organisation (OIE) 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 carried out by UKBA Officers to detect POAO.

**2.1.3** UKBA operational staff at the border include POAO illegal imports among their customs enforcement functions and are deployed on a mobile and flexible basis to cover all points of entry, with the support of detector dogs specifically trained to detect POAO. The dogs are flexibly deployed in Customs channels and baggage reclaim areas in accordance with latest risk assessments. They can also work in postal depots and in freight sheds, car halls and lorry lanes. Dogs are particularly successful in identifying POAO concealed in baggage and have proven effective in reviewing large numbers of passengers and their baggage in a short time.

## Review of controls on imports of meat and other animal products

Detector dog used by UKBA operational staff, as referred to in section 2.1.3



**2.1.4** X-ray equipment is located in all Customs Green channels at major ports and airports to scan suspicious baggage. Over-belt scanners are located behind selected baggage belts to scan all baggage from selected high risk flights.

**2.1.5** UKBA's approach is to seize and destroy all illegal goods detected. Warning letters and leaflets governing the rules for personal imports are issued to all travellers from whom seizures are made at ports and airports, and by recorded delivery to those receiving items in the post, to make them aware of the prohibitions. Successful prosecutions are also publicised.

**2.1.6** The decision whether to prosecute for illegal importation offences is a matter for the Crown Prosecution Service (CPS) or the Crown Office and Procurator Fiscal Service (COPFS). UKBA will investigate serious POAO cases and refer to CPS/COPFS for consideration where prosecution may be proportionate and in the public interest. In 2009/10 one conviction resulted from the detection of 500kg of dried fish smuggled in a freight container from Bangladesh. The court imposed a £1,000 fine on the sole Director of the company involved which was considerably higher than in previous cases.

**2.1.7** 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.

## Review of controls on imports of meat and other animal products

In NI, DARDNI has successfully trialled the use of a detector dog, and may secure the permanent service of a dog during 2010/11.

**2.1.8** 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 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.

The availability of GRAIL ensures that up-to-date information on imported food controls is readily accessible to all UK 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.

**2.1.9** The FSA also has an ongoing contract for the provision of imported food training for Local and Port Health Authorities. The contract provides for a number of different courses covering imported food (including inland enforcement), which are aimed at all Local and Port Health Authorities throughout the UK and includes an online training package.

**2.1.10** To assist all customers the FSA provides a helpline for enquiries about imported food controls which can be accessed via e-mail or telephone.

Meat seized at London Heathrow airport



**2.1.11** Inland Local Authorities receive, via the FSA, information relating to seizures and detentions made by UKBA concerning the illegal import of POAO from non-EU countries. The disseminated intelligence enables inland Local Authorities to act upon the information and for a complementary flow of information from inland Local Authorities to UKBA via the FSA to inform the targeting of anti-smuggling checks at the border. The submitted intelligence also enables the FSA to carry out analysis to identify trends in illegally imported POAO and to work together with the aim of improving local liaison arrangements at the border, particularly in developing any localised intelligence that might help the targeting process both for UKBA controls and for checks by Port Health Authorities at BIPs.

The existing intelligence framework between UKBA and the FSA has been strengthened during the year to improve the flow of risk information available for border and inland enforcement activities to target illegal POAO. This has resulted in at least two seizures of various POAO products by local borough council staff at commercial premises and has identified other environmental health compliance issues. UKBA's intelligence activities also exploit other potential intelligence sources.

**2.1.12** Defra and UKBA meet regularly to discuss various issues including animal disease risks and enforcement priorities for 2010/11. From 1 May 2009, this has included monitoring the impact of the changes in the personal import rules, such as a reduction in seizures (in particular relating to fish), together with changes made by UKBA to their targeting strategy.

## Raising Awareness

**2.2.1** There is a joined-up approach across Government Departments (Defra, UKBA 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 in 2009/10 with Defra responsible for targeting inland audiences and UKBA leading on information for travellers (i.e. those intending to travel to the UK) through publicity at points of entry, and departure in the UK and overseas. DARDNI is responsible for raising public awareness of the rules on personal imports of POAO in NI.

**2.2.2** The strategy's aims are to:

- Reduce the amount of illegal food brought into the UK from travellers arriving from countries outside the EU;
- Increase awareness of the EU 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.

The strategy also focuses on three key messages:

- Inform the general public as to why the personal food imports laws and regulations exist – to prevent the entry of animal and plant diseases into the UK;
- Highlight the implications of breaking the law – illegal products will be seized and destroyed by UKBA on arrival in GB and travellers will face delays and could face prosecution;

## Review of controls on imports of meat and other animal products

- Emphasise availability in the UK – most of the illegal products that are being brought are already widely available here, so travellers should save money, time and inconvenience and buy in the UK.

The strategy also complements targeted customs 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.

**2.2.3** During 2009/10, all publicity material was extensively revised to reflect significant changes to the EU personal import rules from 1 May 2009. UKBA produced new leaflets and posters for travellers and Defra also updated its leaflets, advertisements and website information available to the public.

### Defra publicity

#### Black and Minority Ethnic (BME) campaign

**2.2.4** 24 November 2009 saw the re-launch of the BME personal food imports campaign managed by a specialist publicity agency. The message was to encourage travellers to check the rules on what food items they may bring into the EU before travelling or better still, not to bring any food items back but to 'Buy in the UK' given that most of the imported food products seized are available in the UK. Travellers will save themselves time, inconvenience and money and ensure they don't inadvertently break the law.

Re-launch of the Personal Food Imports Black and Minority Ethnic (BME) campaign in November 2009, supported by the African and Chinese community campaign ambassadors, as referred to in section 2.2.4



The re-launch included media interviews with Jim Fitzpatrick (the former Minister for Food, Farming and Environment), representatives from key BME media and other invited guests. African and Chinese community campaign ambassadors also spoke about their support for the campaign with an experienced UKBA customs officer explaining UKBA's enforcement role and the unnecessary difficulties that travellers are putting themselves through at the border. This was a highly successful event resulting in widespread print, online and broadcast coverage, with print coverage totalling a PR value of more than £26,000 (from £1,500 investment into the event). This re-launch event complemented the larger national general traveller campaign – see below for more information.

## Review of controls on imports of meat and other animal products

**2.2.5** Research shows that for some cultures bringing back food is a longstanding tradition. This is reflected by seizure rates, which show that significant amounts of illegal food products are seized from people travelling from certain countries. Due to this, the primary target audiences for this campaign during 2009/10 were Black African (predominantly from Nigeria) and Chinese with the secondary target audiences including Black African (predominantly from Ghana), Bangladeshi, Black Caribbean, Middle Eastern, Indian, Pakistani and Turkish. As part of the BME campaign, ambassadors were used for the benefit of the Black African and Chinese communities to carry out outreach activity/presentations.

**2.2.6** The cross-media campaign included new bi-lingual leaflets, television and press adverts and significant community outreach activity. All activity was specifically tailored to the target audiences, including posters and leaflets in English, Arabic, Bengali, Chinese (Simplified and Traditional languages), Farsi, Gujarati, Punjabi, Turkish and Urdu. The television advertising went live on BEN TV and OBE TV (Nigerian and Ghanaian audiences) and PCNE and CCTV (Chinese audiences in Mandarin and Cantonese).

**2.2.7** 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. The Black African campaign ambassador managed to arrange outreach activity at West African evangelical and Pentecostal churches. The outreach team visited over 56 locations during April 2009 – March 2010 including London, Birmingham, Leeds, Sheffield and Manchester. Activity was timed so that it coincided with popular times for travelling such as Christmas, Chinese New Year, Easter and half-term holidays.

Outreach activity at an African church in Hackney, London in February 2010, as referred to in section 2.2.7



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Outreach activity at a Chinese supermarket in Cricklewood, London in February 2010, as referred to in section 2.2.7



**2.2.8** Following evaluation of the previous campaign, merchandise (branded travel wallets and pens) was also produced that could be given to members of the public to act as a permanent reminder to contact Defra for advice and to work alongside the bi-lingual leaflets.

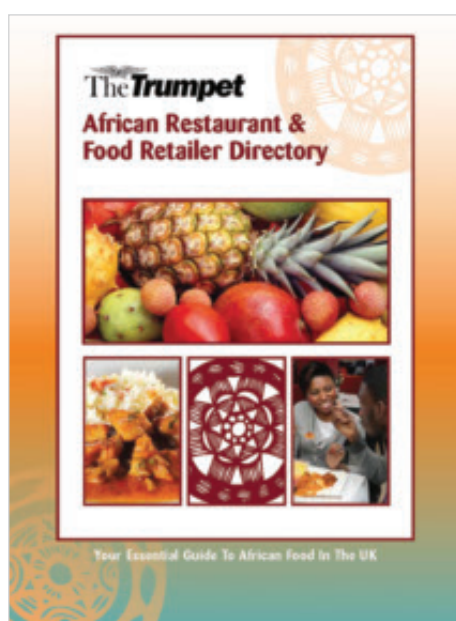
**2.2.9** Over 21,000 leaflets were distributed in 2009/10 through outreach and direct mail to community groups/centres, places of worship, supermarkets and travel agents. 80 African and 120 Chinese community travel agents, 680 community travel agents and 90 Hajj Tour Operators were mailed the posters and leaflets for display.

**2.2.10** Defra sponsored an African restaurant and retail directory in *The Trumpet*, a free African community newspaper. 25,000 were inserted in the newspaper (1st edition in March 2009) and 10,000 distributed via outreach activity. This has received very positive feedback and helps demonstrate that African foods can be bought here in the UK. A second edition was produced in Autumn 2009 and over 5,500 copies were distributed through ongoing outreach activity and mailings.

## Review of controls on imports of meat and other animal products

**2.2.11** In addition to this, Defra sponsored a Chinese Guide to restaurants within the UK. 60,000 were inserted into two newspapers (*The Sun Post* and the *UK Chinese Times*) while a further 6,500 were distributed via outreach activity. As the merchandise has had such a positive response in all outreach work, calendars for both the African and Chinese communities with Defra messaging were created and distributed by the outreach team..

'The Trumpet' African restaurant and retail directory and Calendar for the Chinese community, as referred to in sections 2.2.10 and 2.2.11 respectively



### General traveller campaign

**2.2.12** 19 October 2009 saw the national re-launch of the Personal Food Imports campaign for general travellers. The UK Government's 'Don't bring it back!' campaign aimed to increase awareness among general travellers heading to countries outside the EU in respect of what food products they can and can't bring back to the UK. This involved numerous radio interviews and footage recorded for online use with a respected travel journalist and an experienced UKBA customs officer as campaign spokesmen. The campaign also received excellent coverage in the BBC TV Breakfast news programme on Saturday 17 October 2009.

A consumer news story providing advice to holidaymakers/travellers was also issued. We achieved 69 items of coverage (national, online, broadcast and trade), more than double than expected. Titles included *Travel Weekly*, *The Sunday Times*, *The Daily Mirror*, *TNT Magazine*, *The Times Online* and *The Independent Online*. 100% of this coverage was favourable, with 40% strongly so. 34% of UK adults were reached with this campaign.

**2.2.13** The Defra-led television (TV) filler 'Don't bring me back' is still performing well – since its launch in August 2008, it has accrued over £1.2 million in airtime. Channel 5 is the main terrestrial channel and it has also been shown/broadcast on 41 other channels including BBC1, all ITV terrestrial channels, S4C, ITV2, MTV Base and BME channels including BEN TV.



**2.2.14** Defra's website includes a searchable database of products (accessible to anyone with access to the internet) for personal imports and countries, which is a useful source of information for travellers.

**2.2.15** Defra has two Directgov campaign websites – one targeted at the general travelling public ([www.direct.gov.uk/dontbringmeback](http://www.direct.gov.uk/dontbringmeback)) and one BME targeted ([www.direct.gov.uk/foodimports](http://www.direct.gov.uk/foodimports)). The BME site includes bespoke pages for African/Caribbean, Turkish, Middle Eastern, Pakistani, Indian, Bangladeshi and Chinese/Hong Kong communities.

**2.2.16** In May 2009, Defra launched a Food Checker to appear on the Directgov website as well as partner sites, such as The Sun and Virgin websites. There are approximately 1,000 visits weekly via the Directgov website, with a lower profile on The Sun and Virgin websites.

### UKBA publicity

**2.2.17** Leaflets summarising the rules for personal imports of animal products are made available to travellers at ports and airports. They are also distributed at travel exhibitions and other events providing guidance on customs rules to the travelling public. They are available in nine dual language variants (including Turkish, Bengali, Gujarati, Punjabi, Urdu and Chinese) to help explain the rules to non-English speakers.

**2.2.18** 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 in baggage halls, at check-in desks and other public areas in certain Terminals. The posters are also displayed at primary checkpoints on entry to the UK, which integrate customs and immigration control into one focal point at the border, as part of a trial at some airports.

**2.2.19** UKBA produced revised versions of the 'Bringing food products into the UK' leaflet and posters in 2009/10 to reflect the changes in the personal import rules but also took the opportunity to re-brand them following the transfer of responsibilities from HMRC.

**2.2.20** In December 2009, UKBA launched its At-The-Border campaign, which aims to publicise, to travellers, the rules and procedures they should be aware of when entering the UK. The personal import rules for animal products is part of a suite of messages that is being displayed on internet desks, LCD screens and screen savers at various ports and airports. This activity will run until December 2010.

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

**2.2.22** Building on successful publicity campaigns in West Africa and China last year and Defra's ongoing BME campaign, UKBA has been looking to use its internal overseas networks to educate and inform intending travellers of the restrictions on bringing illegal food products into the UK. Messages are now incorporated in UKBA booklet 'Playing By the Rules', which is issued to all successful UK visa applicants before their travel to the UK. Posters are also being displayed at visa offices overseas.

## Review of controls on imports of meat and other animal products

**2.2.23** UK Border Force enforcement work to prevent illegal imports of animal products has been featured in a number of national TV programmes during the year. The second series of the Sky TV documentary 'UK Border Force' showed seizures of prohibited foods made from passengers at Heathrow Airport and similar activity will be included in any future series of the programme. UKBA officers together with one of the POAO detector dogs, appeared in two separate episodes of BBC 1's 'The One Show' highlighting the range of illegal products which are seized and the implications of breaking the rules. This part of UKBA activity has also featured in short films developed for use in visa application centres abroad and will be considered in future where opportunities arise (e.g. in UKBA publicity films).

**2.2.24** One of UKBA's detector dogs also demonstrated his skills in indicating the presence of foodstuffs at this year's Crufts dog show and, as a former Battersea Dog's Home resident, appeared in a parade of working dogs sourced from the charity to celebrate Battersea's 150th anniversary.

### DARDNI publicity

**2.2.25** DARDNI has raised the profile of the threat of introduction of disease from POAO in the following ways:

- Production of updated leaflets to reflect the changes in personal import rules, giving information to the travelling public on which POAO items can and cannot be brought back to NI;
- Display of posters at points of entry providing information on the rules regarding POAO personal imports;
- 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 and informing of changes to personal import rules;
- An interview on local radio 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 updated advice on DARDNI website and on the NI Direct website (the official Government website for NI).

### Customer involvement

**2.3.1** The Imported Food Working Group (chaired by the FSA with Defra and UKBA also attending) meet bi-annually to discuss developments and engages with key regulatory customers including Local Government Regulation (formerly 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 Animal Health 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. Animal Health also provides update training for Portal Official Veterinary Surgeons (OVSS) and other BIP inspectors at least twice a year. Initial training for Portal OVSS is a distance learning package followed by a short practical course at a BIP.

**2.3.3** Defra attends meetings with customers 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 UKBA look for opportunities to promote and encourage co-operation between customs and veterinary authorities and links between the Directorates General (DG) within the EU Commission, including influencing DG SANCO's new Animal Health legislative programme.

## 2. Statistics on illegal products

**2.4.1** From 1 May 2009 the EU rules covering personal imports of POAO were revised. In particular the personal concession amounts for fish increased from 1kg (from approved countries) to 20kg from any non-EU country, and for other POAO including honey from 1kg (from approved countries) to 2kg from any non-EU country. Historically fish and honey products have constituted around 25-33% of the overall number of illegal importations detected but since the rule changes the vast majority of these products brought in for personal consumption fall within the concessions.

**2.4.2** Despite these changes to the EU personal import rules, the number of seizures of illegal imports of POAO in 2009/10 totalled 21,267, approximately a 3% increase compared with 2008/09, largely through refocusing deployments to target the high risk routes for illegal meat and dairy products carried by incoming travellers more effectively.

**2.4.3** The total weight seized was lower than the total for 2008/09 (a 15% decrease) but the majority of illegal imports detected by UKBA are small amounts (an average of approximately 3.5kg per seizure from passengers down from 4.1kg last year). As in previous years these are typically gifts by travellers visiting family (or returning from visiting family abroad), or seizures from tourists, business people and students travelling to the UK for the first time with foodstuffs for a special occasion or simply as 'a taste of home'. Most do not involve deliberately smuggled goods but are made from passengers who, in spite of our publicity campaigns, are simply not aware of the current rules and prohibitions in place for POAO imports and do not appreciate, for example, that meats such as biltong on sale in an overseas duty free shop may not be brought into the EU. Commercial freight seizures in 2009/10 accounted for approximately 51% of the total weight of goods seized. UKBA keeps under review relative risks and any emerging smuggling trends.

**2.4.4** 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 and UKBA will continue to meet on a regular basis to discuss various issues including animal disease risks and enforcement priorities for 2010/11. 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. UKBA remains committed to deploying resources, including detector dogs, to combat illegal imports in line with the latest threat assessments.

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

**2.7.3** The UK's controls on imported animals and animal products were most recently inspected by the EC's FVO in September 2009. We have received the final report for this inspection visit where inspectors indicated that the UK has a functioning import control system and recognised further improvements in some areas. Defra, UKBA and Animal Health have begun to address the recommendations made during the mission.

**2.7.4** From 1 April 2010, staff of the FSA Operations Group will have the function of providing supervision, inspection and health marking in all domestic licensed fresh meat establishments in GB, which was formally undertaken by the MHS. The Official Veterinary Surgeon (OVS) will be responsible for veterinary supervision in full throughput slaughterhouses. Where FSA staff find meat in approved cutting plants that they suspect is illegally imported, they will have the primary responsibility and powers to deal with it. They should report any such findings to Defra so that information on seizures can be shared between all enforcement agencies.

**2.7.5** There are plans to merge Animal Health and the Veterinary Laboratories Agency, bringing services, expertise and scientific capability around animal health into one agency. This will therefore improve our resilience in delivery of important services including our emergency response capability for animal disease and science requirements for animal health. It will also lead to more efficient ways of working, which will benefit our customers.

#### Understanding the risk

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

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

### Raising public awareness

**2.7.8** Defra, UKBA and the FSA will meet at regular intervals to review the publicity strategy for 2010/11, taking into account successes and lessons learned from 2009/10 and any changing priorities as the year progresses. Subject to Ministerial approval, Defra and 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.

**2.7.9** Subject to Ministerial approval, Defra and UKBA will continue to explore opportunities to work with commercial partners to reach our general public audience both in the UK and overseas.

**2.7.10** Defra will maintain a joined-up approach across Government in this area.

### International co-operation and information exchange

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

**2.7.12** 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 customers

**2.7.13** Defra will continue to work with customers to assist in the development of its policies.

**2.7.14** All enforcement partners will review the current SLA and revise it as appropriate for 2010/11.

**2.7.15** We will be working with industry and delivery partners to reduce burdens on importers following the Pre Budget Report on trade facilitation.

### Monitoring progress

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

### Funding

**2.7.17** UKBA will continue to fund its enforcement activities in line with Departmental Strategic Objectives. Funding continues to be available for the FSA for work on inland controls, but future funding for Defra to examine the risks and help increase public awareness cannot be guaranteed at this time and will be subject to Ministerial approval.

# 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 has been obtained from 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 (2001-2010) and volume (2006-2010)**

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	191,937	16,405
01/04/09-31/03/10	21,267 <sup>2</sup>	163,013	1,467

<sup>2</sup> Of this number approximately 3% were made in freight and cargo. These seizures account for approximately 51% of the total weight of seizures, and approximately 91% of the total volume of seizures.

Graph 1 for Table 1: Total number of POAO seizures per year (2001-2010)



Graph 2 for Table 1: Total weight and volume of POAO seizures per year (2001-2010)

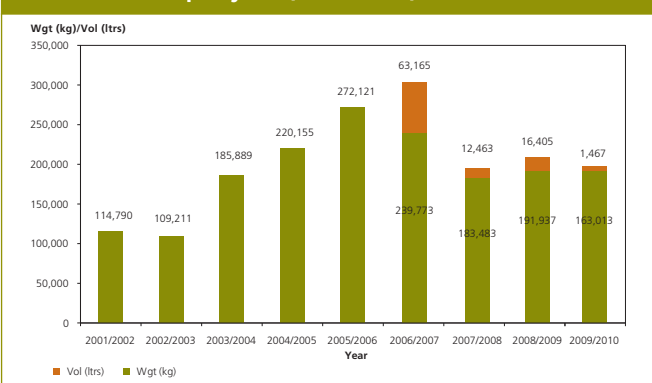
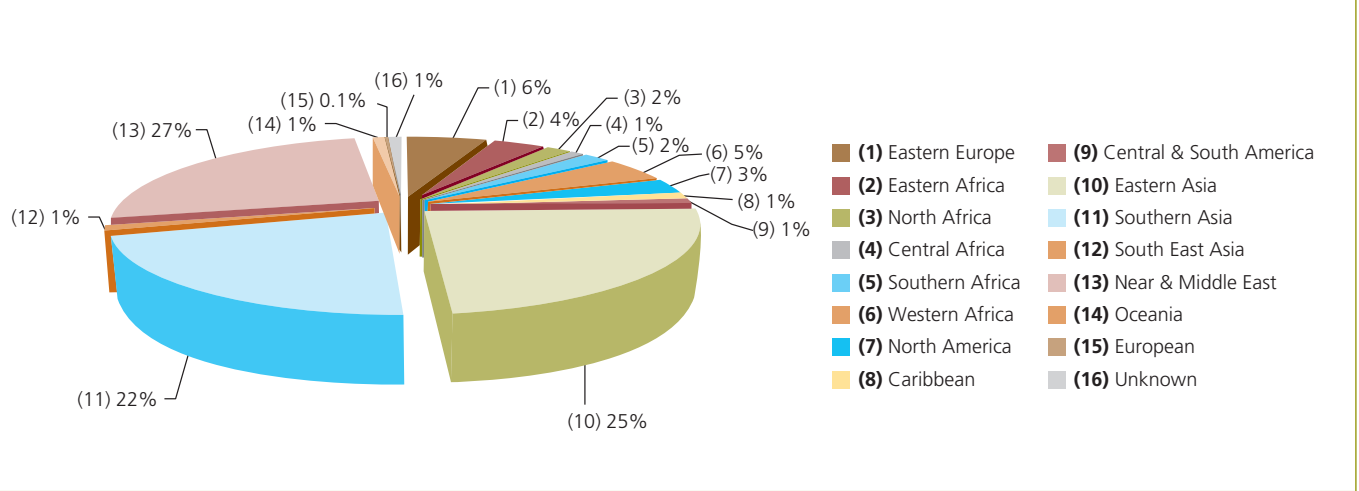


Table 2: POAO seizures, weight and volume by region (2009-2010)

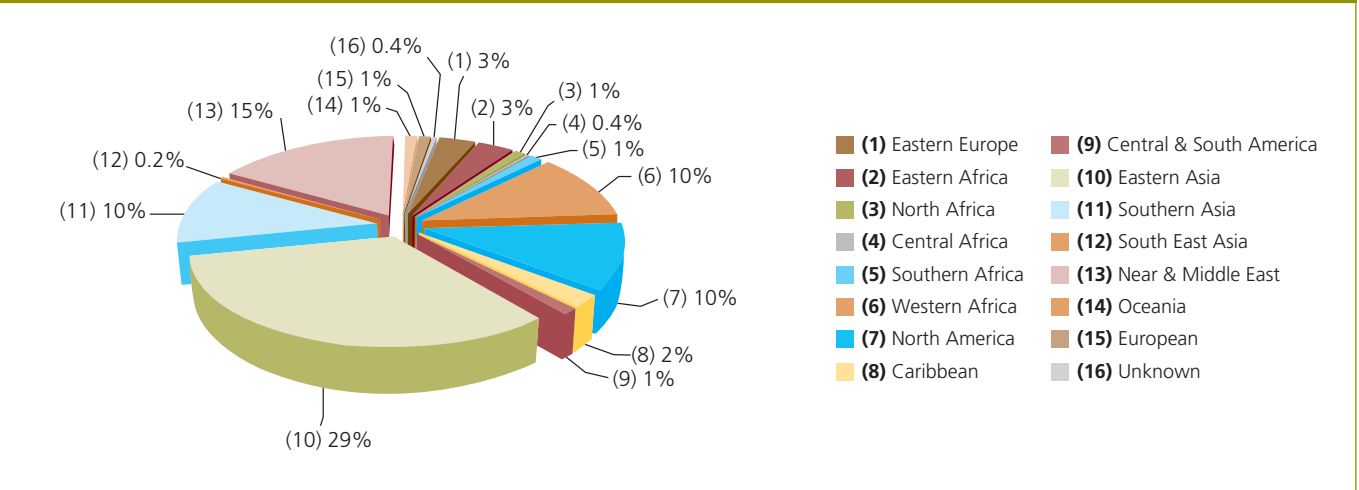
Region ID/Name	No. of seizures	Wgt (kg)	Vol (ltrs)
1 Eastern Europe	1,259	5,805	3
2 Eastern Africa	943	5,157	0
3 North Africa	382	1,346	18
4 Central Africa	101	783	0
5 Southern Africa	410	2,452	0
6 Western Africa	965	18,301	0
7 North America	586	18,340	44
8 Caribbean	290	2,913	0
9 Central & South America	296	1,445	4
10 Eastern Asia	5,223	56,377	1,202
11 Southern Asia	4,580	18,570	12
12 South East Asia	200	474	0
13 Near & Middle East	5,729	28,240	184
14 Oceania	100	1,039	0
15 European	21	1,076	0
16 Unknown	182	695	0
<b>Totals</b>	<b>21,267</b>	<b>163,013</b>	<b>1,467</b>

# Annex 1

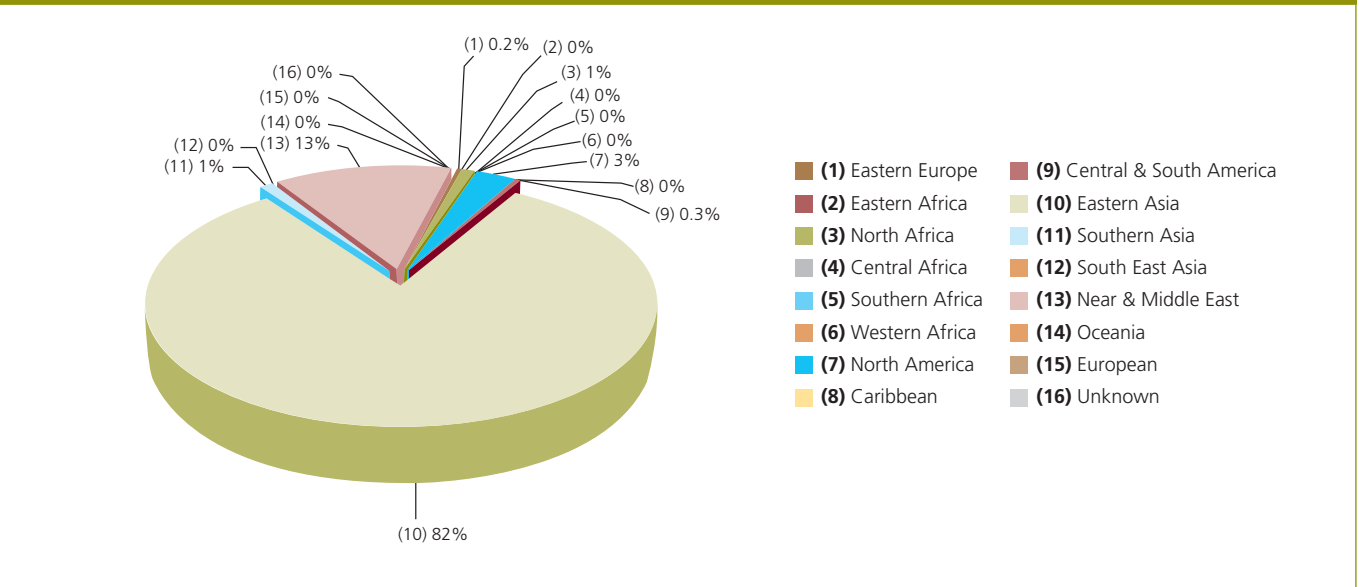
**Pie Chart 1 for Table 2: POAO seizures by region (2009-2010)<sup>3</sup>**



**Pie Chart 2 for Table 2: Weight of POAO seizures by region (2009-2010)<sup>3</sup>**



**Pie Chart 3 for Table 2: Volume of POAO seizures by region (2009-2010)<sup>3</sup>**



<sup>3</sup> 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)	No. of seizures	Wgt (kg)	No. of seizures	Wgt (kg)	No. of seizures	Wgt (kg)	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

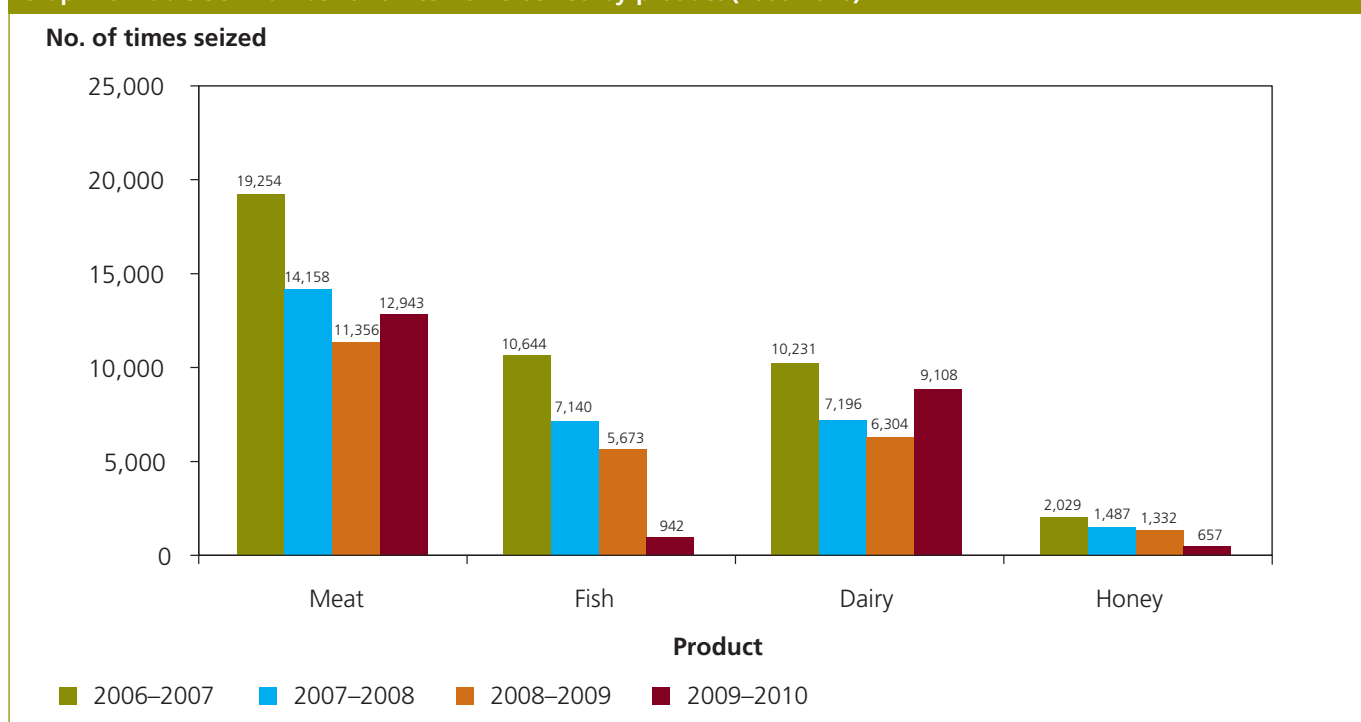
Table 3b: POAO seizures, including weight, by product (2003-2006) – old reporting format

Period	Meat		Fish		Dairy		Honey	
	No. of seizures	Wgt (kg)	No. of seizures	Wgt (kg)	No. of seizures	Wgt (kg)	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 (2006-2010) – 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	
01/04/09-31/03/10	12,943	87,714		942	22,156		9,108	47,260	1,467	657	5,883	

Graph for Table 3c: Number of times POAO seized by product (2006-2010)



## Annex 1

**Table 3d: Number of times POAO seized, including weight and volume, by region (2009-2010)**

Region ID/Name	No. of times seized, Wgt (kg) and Vol (ltrs)	Meat	Fish	Dairy	Honey	Totals
<b>1</b> Eastern Europe	No. of times seized	917	6	482	78	
	Wgt (kg)	3,648	34	1,755	368	5,805
	Vol (ltrs)			3		3
<b>2</b> Eastern Africa	No. of times seized	535	16	479	113	
	Wgt (kg)	2,484	155	1,909	609	5,157
	Vol (ltrs)			0		0
<b>3</b> North Africa	No. of times seized	280	17	124	13	
	Wgt (kg)	983	89	241	33	1,346
	Vol (ltrs)			18		18
<b>4</b> Central Africa	No. of times seized	62	39	6	0	
	Wgt (kg)	309	464	10	0	783
	Vol (ltrs)			0		0
<b>5</b> Southern Africa	No. of times seized	385	3	29	1	
	Wgt (kg)	2,267	4	180	1	2,452
	Vol (ltrs)			0		0
<b>6</b> Western Africa	No. of times seized	506	287	241	29	
	Wgt (kg)	4,578	9,314	4,195	214	18,301
	Vol (ltrs)			0		0
<b>7</b> North America	No. of times seized	409	10	171	13	
	Wgt (kg)	12,003	841	4,774	722	18,340
	Vol (ltrs)			44		44
<b>8</b> Caribbean	No. of times seized	235	10	62	8	
	Wgt (kg)	1,419	85	1,371	38	2,913
	Vol (ltrs)			0		0
<b>9</b> Central & South America	No. of times seized	218	4	109	3	
	Wgt (kg)	752	397	285	11	1,445
	Vol (ltrs)			4		4
<b>10</b> Eastern Asia	No. of times seized	4,800	245	478	33	
	Wgt (kg)	44,068	6,824	5,208	277	56,377
	Vol (ltrs)			1,202		1,202
<b>11</b> Southern Asia	No. of times seized	1,848	211	2,952	43	
	Wgt (kg)	5,876	2,371	10,011	312	18,570
	Vol (ltrs)			12		12

Table 3d: Number of times POAO seized, including weight and volume, by region (2009-2010) (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	176	10	22	1	
	Wgt (kg)	390	35	48	1	474
	Vol (ltrs)			0		0
13 Near & Middle East	No. of times seized	2,386	75	3,856	301	
	Wgt (kg)	8,353	1,464	15,955	2,468	28,240
	Vol (ltrs)			184		184
14 Oceania	No. of times seized	56	2	28	17	
	Wgt (kg)	134	15	87	803	1,039
	Vol (ltrs)			0		0
15 European	No. of times seized	6	0	16	2	
	Wgt (kg)	10	0	1,053	13	1,076
	Vol (ltrs)			0		0
16 Unknown	No. of times seized	124	7	53	2	
	Wgt (kg)	440	64	178	13	695
	Vol (ltrs)			0		0
<b>Totals</b>	<b>No. of times seized</b>	<b>12,943</b>	<b>942</b>	<b>9,108</b>	<b>657</b>	
<b>Totals</b>	<b>Wgt (kg)</b>	<b>87,714</b>	<b>22,156</b>	<b>47,260</b>	<b>5,883</b>	<b>163,013</b>
<b>Totals</b>	<b>Vol (ltrs)</b>			<b>1,467</b>		<b>1,467</b>

### 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 UKBA to enforce controls on prohibited goods at points of entry. In exercising its responsibility, UKBA 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);
- The Products of Animal Origin (Third Country Imports) (Amendment) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2009 (SR 2009/130); and
- The Products of Animal Origin (Third Country Imports) (Amendment) (No.2) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2009 (SR 2009/323).

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 three months' imprisonment on summary conviction, and an unlimited fine and/or up to two 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 CPS. The maximum penalty for these offences is imprisonment for up to seven years and/or unlimited fines.

## Glossary of Commonly Used Abbreviations and Acronyms

APHA	Association of Port Health Authorities
BIP(s)	Border Inspection Post(s)
BME	Black and Minority Ethnic
CHIEF	Customs Handling of Import and Export Freight
CIEH	Chartered Institute of Environmental Health
CITES	Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species
COPFS	Crown Office and Procurator Fiscal Service
CPS	Crown Prosecution Service
CVED	Common Veterinary Entry Document
DARDNI	Department of Agriculture and Rural Development for Northern Ireland
DCIS	Detection Control Information Service
DG	Directorates General
Defra	Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs
EC	European Commission
EU	European Union
Fera	Food and Environment Research Agency
FNAO	Food Not of Animal Origin
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
NCH	National Clearance Hub

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
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

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

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**The Scottish Government Rural Directorate**

**Welsh Assembly Government – Department for Rural Affairs**

Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs  
Nobel House  
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Tel: 029 20 823592  
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