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**COUNCIL DIRECTIVE**  
**of 22 January 1980**  
**on animal health problems affecting intra-Community trade in meat products**  
(80/215/EEC)  
(OJ L 47, 21.2.1980, p. 4)

Amended by:

	Official Journal		
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► <b><u>M1</u></b> Council Directive 80/1100/EEC of 11 November 1980	L 325	16	1.12.1980
► <b><u>M2</u></b> Council Directive 81/476/EEC of 24 June 1981	L 186	20	8.7.1981
► <b><u>M3</u></b> Council Directive 85/321/EEC of 12 June 1985	L 168	39	28.6.1985
► <b><u>M4</u></b> Council Regulation (EEC) No 3768/85 of 20 December 1985	L 362	8	31.12.1985
► <b><u>M5</u></b> Council Directive 87/491/EEC of 22 September 1987	L 279	27	2.10.1987
► <b><u>M6</u></b> Council Directive 88/660/EEC of 19 December 1988	L 382	35	31.12.1988

▼B**COUNCIL DIRECTIVE****of 22 January 1980****on animal health problems affecting intra-Community trade in meat products**

(80/215/EEC)

THE COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES,

Having regard to the Treaty establishing the European Economic Community, and in particular Articles 43 and 100 thereof,

Having regard to the proposal from the Commission,

Having regard to the opinion of the European Parliament<sup>(1)</sup>,

Whereas Council Directive 77/99/EEC of 21 December 1976 on health problems affecting intra-Community trade in meat products<sup>(2)</sup> has been applicable since 1 July 1979;

Whereas the implementation of the above Directive will not have the desired effect so long as intra-Community trade is hindered by differences between the health requirements of Member States concerning meat products; whereas, in particular with a view to eliminating these differences, common provisions should be laid down in this field;

Whereas, in order to avoid the spread of epizootic diseases by means of meat products it should be laid down that the meat from which some of the said meat products are manufactured should comply with the health provisions applicable to fresh meat;

Whereas care should be taken that meat products which do not comply with Community rules are not given the health mark provided for in those rules;

Whereas when meat products have been treated in such a way as to destroy all germs of diseases which may be passed on to animals, such treatment should be mentioned on the health certificate which accompanies the products concerned;

Whereas the Member States must have the right to refuse the entry into free circulation in their territory of meat products which have been found to contain germs of a contagious or infectious disease or which do not comply with Community health provisions;

Whereas the consignor should at his own request or at that of a representative be allowed to have the meat products returned to him unless there are health grounds for not doing so;

Whereas, in order to enable those concerned to appreciate the basis for any prohibition or restriction imposed, the reasons for such prohibition or restriction should be brought to the notice of the consignor or his representative and, in certain cases, the competent authorities of the consigning country;

Whereas the consignor should be afforded the opportunity of requesting the opinion of a veterinary expert in the event of a dispute between the consignor and the authorities of the country of destination as to whether a prohibition or restriction is justified;

Whereas the Member States must have the right to prohibit the introduction into their territory of certain meat products from a Member State where an epizootic disease has broken out; whereas, depending on the nature and character of this epizootic disease, such a prohibition may either be limited to meat products coming from a part of the territory of the exporting country, or extended to the whole of that territory; whereas, in the event of an outbreak of a contagious or infectious disease in the territory of a Member State appropriate measures must be taken rapidly to control it; whereas the dangers inherent in such

<sup>(1)</sup> OJ No C 114, 11. 11. 1971, p. 40.

<sup>(2)</sup> OJ No L 26, 31. 1. 1977, p. 85.

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diseases and the requisite protective measures should be viewed in the same light throughout the Community;

Whereas, to facilitate the implementation of the provisions envisaged, a procedure should be laid down establishing close cooperation between the Member States and the Commission within the Standing Veterinary Committee set up by the Council Decision of 15 October 1968 <sup>(1)</sup>,

HAS ADOPTED THIS DIRECTIVE:

*Article 1*

This Directive lays down animal health requirements for intra-Community trade in meat products.

*Article 2*

For the purposes of this Directive, the definitions contained in Article 2 of Council Directive 72/461/EEC of 12 December 1972 on health problems affecting intra-Community trade in fresh meat <sup>(2)</sup>, as amended by Directive 78/54/EEC <sup>(3)</sup>, and in Article 2 of Directive 77/99/EEC shall apply where relevant.

Products which have been subjected to natural fermentation and maturation for a long period shall be regarded as having undergone complete treatment until the Council, acting unanimously on a proposal by the Commission, amends the limits given in Annex A, Chapter V (27) (b) to Directive 77/99/EEC.

*Article 3*

Each Member State shall ensure that meat products intended for intra-Community trade are prepared from or with:

- fresh meat as defined in **►M5** Article 2 of Council Directive 64/433/EEC **◄** of 26 June 1964 on health problems affecting intra-Community trade in fresh meat <sup>(4)</sup>, as last amended by Directive 75/379/EEC <sup>(5)</sup>, and fulfilling the animal health requirements of Articles 3 and 4 of Directive 72/461/EEC,
- fresh meat as defined in Article 2 **►M5** ~~—————~~ **◄** of Council Directive 72/462/EEC of 12 December 1972 on health and veterinary inspection problems upon importation of bovine animals and swine and fresh meat from third countries <sup>(6)</sup>, as last amended by Directive 77/98/EEC <sup>(7)</sup>, and complying with the animal health requirements of Directive 72/462/EEC.

*Article 4*

1. By way of derogation from the first indent of Article 3, and subject to the application of paragraph 2, meat products may be intended for intra-Community trade, which are prepared in whole or in part from or with fresh meat as defined in **►M5** Article 2 of Directive 64/433/EEC **◄** which fulfils the requirements laid down by Article 5a of Directive 72/461/EEC, may enter intra-Community trade if they have also undergone one of the following forms of treatment:

**▼M5**

- (a) heat treatment carried out:
  - (i) either in a hermetically sealed container, with an Fc value of 3,00 or more;

<sup>(1)</sup> OJ No L 255, 28. 10. 1968, p. 23.

<sup>(2)</sup> OJ No L 302, 31. 12. 1972, p. 24.

<sup>(3)</sup> OJ No L 16, 20. 1. 1978, p. 22.

<sup>(4)</sup> OJ No 121, 29. 7. 1964, p. 2012/64.

<sup>(5)</sup> OJ No L 172, 3. 7. 1975, p. 17.

<sup>(6)</sup> OJ No L 302, 31. 12. 1972, p. 28.

<sup>(7)</sup> OJ No L 26, 31. 1. 1977, p. 81.

▼ M5

- (ii) or under the following conditions — in so far as the products concerned are prepared exclusively from or with pigmeat from farms or, in the case of the Member States referred to in Article 7a (1), from areas not subject to banning orders on health policy grounds, following the establishment of the existence of African swine fever:

— the meat must be fully boned and the main lymphatic glands removed,

▼ M6▼ M5

— before heating, each piece of meat as referred to above must be enclosed in a hermetically sealed container to be marketed therein,

— the meat in its container must undergo heat treatment in strict conformity with the following conditions:

— the product must be kept at a temperature of at least 60 °C for a minimum of four hours ► M6 during which the centre temperature must be at least 70 °C ◀ for a minimum of 30 minutes,

— the temperature of a representative number of samples of each batch of products must be monitored constantly. Monitoring must be carried out using automatic apparatus enabling the temperature to be recorded both in the centre of the pieces of greater weight and inside the heating equipment,

— throughout these operations, the conditions laid down in the third subparagraph of Article 5a of Directive 72/461/EEC, as amended by Directive 80/213/EEC<sup>(1)</sup>, must be fulfilled,

— after the treatment, a public health mark must be put on each of the containers referred to in the third and fourth indents, in accordance with points 31, 32 and 33 of Chapter VII of Annex A to Directive 77/99/EEC,

— Member States which make use of the treatment provided for under this point shall communicate to the Commission and the other Member States the list of establishments which possess the equipment required to ensure that the temperatures prescribed above are complied with.

In the case of the Member States referred to in Article 7a (2), the treatment may be used for meat from areas subject to a banning order following the discovery of African swine fever only after a decision has been taken in accordance with Article 7b (2);

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- (b) where the fresh meat has been obtained from animals which do not come from an infected holding subject to prohibition measures pursuant to Article 3 (2) (b) of Directive 64/432/EEC:

▼ M5

- (i) heat treatment of a type different from those referred to in (a), in which the centre temperature is raised to at least 70 °c, or

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- (ii) ► M1 provided that, in addition, the disease in question is not swine vesicular disease, ◀ treatment consisting in natural fermentation and maturation of not less than nine months for boned or boneless hams weighing not less than 5.5 kg and having the following characteristics:

—  $a_w$  value of not more than 0.93,

— pH value of not more than 6.

▼ M5

However, if the disease in question is foot-and-mouth disease, this treatment may be applied to bone-in ham which fulfils the other conditions provided for in the first subparagraph.

<sup>(1)</sup> OJ No L 47, 21. 2. 1980, p. 1.

**▼M5**

The products mentioned in this Article may be prepared only under official veterinary supervision and must be protected from any contamination or recontamination.

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2. Each Member State shall ensure that:

- (a) the fresh meat referred to in paragraph 1 is:
  - (i) transported and stored separately from, or not at the same time as, the fresh meat referred to in Article 3,
  - (ii) used in such a way as to avoid it being introduced into meat products intended for intra-Community trade other than those indicated in paragraph 1,

**▼M5**

- (iii) where, as a result of the discovery or the continued existence of African swine fever, a Member State decides to make use of the treatment described in paragraph 1 (a) (ii), it must ensure that fresh pigmeat is marked with the stamp provided for in Article 5a of Directive 72/461/EEC;
- (b) the health certificate specified in Annex A, Chapter VIII, to Directive 77/99/EEC contains, without prejudice to footnote 3 of that certificate, the following words under the entry 'Nature of products': 'Treated in accordance with Article 4 (1) (a) of Directive 80/215/EEC' or 'Treated in accordance with Article 4 (1) (b) of Directive 80/215/EEC'.

**▼B***Article 5*

1. Member States shall ensure that meat products which do not fulfil the requirements of Articles 3 and 4 are not given the health mark provided for in Directive 77/99/EEC, Annex A, Chapter VII.
2. The country of destination may prohibit the entry of meat products into circulation in its territory if it has been established that Articles 3 and 4 have not been complied with.
3. In such case, the country of destination must, at the request of the consignor or his representative, authorize the return of the whole consignment of meat products, provided that this is not contrary to animal health considerations.
4. The competent authority of the country of destination may order the consignment to be destroyed at the expense of the consignor, the consignee or their representative without indemnification by the State, where entry into circulation is prohibited pursuant to paragraph 2 and where the exporting country or country of transit, as the case may be, does not authorize return of the consignment.
5. The decisions taken by the competent authority under paragraphs 2, 3 and 4 must be communicated to the consignor or his representative, together with the reasons for such decisions. Where the consignor or his representative so requests, these decisions and the grounds on which they have been taken must be communicated to him forthwith in writing with an indication of the remedies for which current legislation makes provision, their forms and the time limits within which they are open. The decisions must also be communicated to the competent central authority of the exporting country.

*Article 6*

1. This Directive shall not affect the remedies for which legislation current in Member States makes provision against the decisions of the competent authorities referred to in this Directive.
2. In the case of meat products which may not enter circulation pursuant to Articles 3 and 4, each Member State shall grant consignors the right to obtain the opinion of a veterinary expert.

Each Member State shall ensure that, before the competent authorities take any other measures such as destroying the meat products, the

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veterinary expert has an opportunity of determining whether the conditions of Articles 3 and 4 have been fulfilled.

The veterinary expert must be a national of a Member State other than the exporting country or the country of destination.

Acting on a proposal from the Member States, the Commission shall draw up a list of the veterinary experts who may be instructed to formulate such opinions. After consulting the Member States, it shall lay down the general rules which are to be applied, in particular as regards the procedure for formulating these opinions.

*Article 7*

1. A Member State may take the following measures if there is a danger that animal diseases may be spread by the introduction of meat products from another Member State into its territory:

- (a) in the event of an outbreak of classical foot and mouth disease, classical swine fever ►**M1**, swine vesicular disease ◀ or Teschen disease in the other Member State, the introduction of products prepared from the meat of animals which are susceptible to these diseases, other than products which have undergone one of the treatments referred to in Article 4 (1), may be temporarily prohibited or restricted from those parts of the territory of the Member State in which the disease has appeared;
- (b) if an epizootic disease becomes widespread or if there is an outbreak of another serious and contagious or infectious animal disease, the introduction, from the entire territory of that State, of products prepared from the meat of animals which are susceptible to these diseases may be temporarily prohibited or restricted.

**▼M3**

However, where the disease in question is African swine fever, Article 7a shall apply.

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2. Each Member State must notify the other Member States and the Commission without delay of the outbreak in its territory of any disease referred to in paragraph 1 and of the measures it has taken to combat it. It must also notify them without delay of the disappearance of the disease.

3. Measures taken by a Member State under paragraph 1, and repeal thereof, must be communicated without delay to the other Member States and to the Commission, together with the reasons for such action.

It may be decided, according to the procedure laid down in Article 8, that these measures should be amended, in particular to ensure coordination with those adopted by the other Member States, or abolished.

4. If the situation provided for in paragraph 1 arises and if it seems necessary that other Member States should also apply the measures taken pursuant to the said paragraph, together with any amendments made in accordance with paragraph 3, the appropriate provisions shall be adopted according to the procedure defined in Article 8.

5. In drawing up the amendments referred to in the second subparagraph of paragraph 3, or the provisions referred to in paragraph 4, a decision may be taken in accordance with the same procedure to adapt them in the light of the disease in question, the treatments that the products concerned have undergone, the date on which the meat used was obtained and the processing period.

**▼M3***Article 7a*

1. A Member State in whose territory African swine fever has been recorded within the previous 12 months shall not export to the territory of other Member States pigmeat products other than those having undergone the treatment referred to in Article 4 (1) (a).

▼ **M3**

It may be decided, in accordance with the procedure laid down in Article 8, that the provisions of the first subparagraph shall not apply to one or more parts of the territory of the Member State concerned. This derogation shall not preclude recourse to Article 7 should one or more cases of African swine fever re-occur in the above part or parts of territory.

2. Where there is an outbreak of African swine fever in the territory of a Member State where the disease has not been recorded for at least 12 months, it may be decided, in accordance with the procedure laid down in Article 8, that the provisions of paragraph 1 shall apply exclusively to a part of territory concerned. Pending this decision, and without prejudice to Article 7, the Member State concerned shall ensure the immediate prohibition of export to the other Member States of pigmeat products from the part of territory in which the epizootic disease has been recorded. The criteria laid down in Article 7b (2) shall be taken into account in determining that part of the territory.

One or more cases of African swine fever on a part of a Member State's territory which is not geographically linked to the main part of that Member State's territory shall not prevent the application of the first subparagraph.

The conditions prerequisite to the application of the first subparagraph shall still be deemed to be fulfilled if the following conditions have been fulfilled:

- (i) the outbreak or outbreaks recorded on the occurrence of African swine fever referred to in the first subparagraph was or were eradicated in the shortest possible period of time;
- (ii) the new outbreak, which forms the subject of a fresh request for a decision, as provided for in the first subparagraph, is not connected epidemiologically with the outbreak or outbreaks referred to in (i).

3. Decisions to lift measures applied under paragraph 2 shall be taken in accordance with the procedure laid down in Article 8.

*Article 7b*

1. For the purposes of defining the parts of territory referred to in Article 7a (1), particular account shall be taken of:

- the methods used to control and eradicate African swine fever,
- the absence of the disease for at least 12 months, recorded by all the methods of detection, including serological surveys,
- the surface area of the parts of territory and their administrative and geographical boundaries,
- the protective measures taken to prevent the contamination or recontamination of pig herds,
- the measures taken to control the movement of pigs.

2. For the purposes of defining the parts of territory referred to in Article 7a (2), particular account shall be taken of:

- the methods used to combat the disease, in particular the elimination of pigs from holdings which are infected, contaminated or suspected of contamination,
- the surface area of the parts of territory and their administrative and geographical boundaries,
- the incidence of the disease and its tendency to spread,
- the measures taken to prevent the disease from spreading,
- the measures taken to restrict and control the movement of pigs both inside and outside the part of territory concerned;

and, in the case of non-application of prohibition measures to certain products:

- the treatment to which the products have been subjected,
- the manufacturing dates, and
- the measures taken to determine and guarantee the date of manufacture.

**▼B***Article 8*

1. Where the procedure laid down in this Article is to be followed, the matter shall be referred to the Standing Veterinary Committee (hereinafter called 'the Committee'), set up by the Council Decision of 15 October 1968, by its chairman, either on his own initiative or at the request of a Member State.

2. Within the Committee, the votes of the Member States shall be weighted as provided in Article 148 (2) of the Treaty. The chairman shall not vote.

3. The Commission representative shall submit a draft of the measures to be taken. The Committee shall deliver its opinion on the measures within two days. Opinions shall be delivered by a majority of ►M4 fifty-four ◀ votes.

4. Where the measures are in accordance with the opinion of the Committee, the Commission shall adopt them and shall apply them immediately. Where they are not in accordance with the opinion of the Committee, or if no opinion is delivered, the Commission shall without delay submit to the Council a proposal on the measures to be taken. The Council shall adopt the measures by a qualified majority.

If the Council has not adopted any measures within 15 days of the date on which the proposal was submitted to it, the Commission shall adopt the measures proposed and shall apply them immediately, save where the Council has decided against them by a simple majority.

**▼M2****▼M1***Article 10*

With regard to swine fever, Member States which have availed themselves of the authorization laid down in Directive 80/218/EEC and which are officially classical swine fever-free may not oppose the introduction into their territory of meat products which, although they have not undergone one of the forms of treatment referred to in Article 4 (1), have been prepared in whole or in part from fresh pigmeat which satisfies the requirements laid down in Article 13 a of Directive 72/461/EEC, or from fresh pigmeat obtained from pigs vaccinated against swine fever more than three months prior to slaughter.

**▼B***Article 11*

1. Acting on a proposal from the Commission, the Council shall lay down the animal health requirements applicable to intra-Community trade in fresh poultrymeat and to imports of such poultrymeat from third countries.

2. Pending the entry into force of the Community provisions referred to in paragraph 1, national animal health provisions concerning the import of meat products prepared in part or in whole from or with fresh poultrymeat shall remain applicable while complying with the general provisions of the Treaty.

*Article 12*

Until the implementation of Community animal health Directives concerning imports of meat products other than those referred to in Article 11 (2) from third countries, national provisions applicable to the import of these products shall not be more favourable than those which result from this Directive.

*Article 13*

The Member States shall bring into force the measures necessary to comply with:

— the second indent of Article 3, on the date provided for in the second subparagraph of Article 32 (2) of Directive 72/462/EEC,



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— the other provisions of this Directive, by 31 December 1980 at the latest,  
and shall forthwith inform the Commission thereof.

*Article 14*

This Directive is addressed to the Member States.