

POLICY NOTE

THE MEAT PREPARATIONS (IMPORT CONDITIONS) (SCOTLAND) AMENDMENT REGULATIONS 2024

SSI 2024/81

The above instrument is made in exercise of the powers conferred by paragraph 10A(1) of schedule 2 of the Trade in Animals and Related Products (Scotland) Regulations 2012 and all other powers enabling the Scottish Ministers to do so.

The instrument is subject to negative procedure.

Purpose of the instrument.

To allow import of meat preparations which have not been deep frozen from EEA states and Rest of the World to commence from 30 April 2024, in line with the UK Government and the Welsh Government.

Policy Objectives

These Regulations amend Commission Decision 2000/572/EC laying down the animal and public health and veterinary certification conditions for imports of meat preparations from third countries.

Commission Decision 2000/572 is assimilated direct minor legislation and contains import conditions, made under Article 8(4) of Council Directive 2002/99/EC, requiring imports of meat preparations from a third country to have been deep frozen at the plant of origin. The Animals, Food and Feed (EU Exit) (Scotland) (Amendment) Regulations 2020, originally made an amendment to Commission Decision 2000/572 meaning that fresh meat preparations would continue to be able to be imported from territories subject to transitional import arrangements until 1 April 2021. Countries subject to special transitional provisions are Members of the European Economic Area (EEA), the Faroe Islands, Greenland and Switzerland. Without this amendment all meat preparations from these specified territories would need to be frozen at the plant of origin prior to import.

Having regard to the animal health situation in those countries and territories, it was not considered necessary to impose that import condition and as such Commission Decision 2000/572 was first amended by the Meat Preparations (Import Conditions) (Scotland) Amendment Regulations 2021¹ to provide that the import condition that meat preparations have been deep frozen at the production plant or plants of origin were not to apply, where the production plant or plants of origin are in one of those territories, firstly until 30 September 2021. This derogation has subsequently been further extended by the following instruments:

- The Meat Preparations (Import Conditions) (Scotland) Amendment (No. 2) Regulations 2021²;

¹ S.S.I. 2021/161
² S.S.I. 2021/288

- The Animal Products (Transitional Import Conditions) (Miscellaneous Amendment) (Scotland) Regulations 2021³;
- The Meat Preparations (Import Conditions) (Scotland) Amendment Regulations 2022⁴
- The Official Controls and Import Conditions (Transitional Periods) (Miscellaneous Amendment) (Scotland) Regulations 2022⁵
- The Meat Preparations (Import Conditions) (Scotland) Regulations 2023⁶

Having regard to the animal health situation in those countries and territories, and other countries and territories to which the condition currently does apply, it is not considered that the general prohibition on the import of meat preparations not deep-frozen at the plant of origin is necessary. These Regulations will therefore permit imports of chilled meat preparations, where that is in accordance with the required accompanying health certificate published under Article 4(2) of Commission Decision 2000/572 beyond April. This is in line with what the UK Government and the Welsh Government are also proposing, and to a similar timeframe.

EU Alignment Consideration

This instrument concerns measures regarding sanitary controls on goods entering Great Britain. These measures are required as a consequence of no longer being an EU member State. The approach taken to meat preparations entering Great Britain are proportional to the risk level of those products, in line with international obligations we share with the EU. Within the EU, Commission Decision 2000/572 has been repealed, and meat preparations may be imported where they are in accordance with the required accompanying health certificate contained in Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2020/2235. These measures will not create any barriers to re-entry to the European Union.

Consultation

There has been consultation with the other UK administrations, and the Food Standards Agency and Food Standards Scotland, on the policy effected by this instrument. This new permanent position regarding all Prohibited & Restricted goods for imports has been trailed with the International Meat Traders Association (IMTA) in a regular stakeholder forum led by Defra, and in a stakeholder note to POAO trade associations in January 2024 (to which no responses were received).

Impact Assessments

Full impact assessments have not been prepared for this instrument as no, or no significant, impact on the private, voluntary or public sector is foreseen. There is expected to be no impact on business, charities or voluntary bodies.

Financial Effects

The Minister for Agriculture and Connectivity confirms that no BRIA is necessary, as the instrument has no financial effects on the Scottish Government, local government or on business.

³ S.S.I. 2021/432
⁴ S.S.I. 2022/193
⁵ S.S.I. 2022/371
⁶ S.S.I. 2023/367

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