

# NewsLetter



## Personal import ban

### Ban on personal import of meat and dairy products into GB from EU.

The rise in the number of cases of Foot and Mouth disease in EU countries has led the Government to introduce a ban on personal imports of meat and dairy products.

As such, from 12<sup>th</sup> April, travellers from EU countries will not be able to carry meat or meat products from cattle, pigs, sheep and goats as well as dairy products on them when they enter GB from the EU.

This includes bringing items like sandwiches, cheese, cured meats, raw meats or milk into Great Britain – regardless of whether it is packed or packaged or whether it has been bought at duty free.

There are a few exemptions from these rules. For example, a limited amount of infant milk, medical foods and certain composite products like chocolate, confectionery, bread, cakes, biscuits and pasta continue to be allowed.

Those found with prohibited items will need to either surrender them at the border or will have them seized and destroyed. In serious cases, those found with these items run the risk of incurring fines of up to £5,000 in England.

## Why are these measures being introduced?

These measures extend the bans introduced earlier this year on the import of meat and dairy products from areas in the EU affected by Foot and Mouth Disease (FMD) outbreaks. These areas included Germany, Hungary, Slovakia and Austria.

FMD poses no risk to human or food safety but can be devastating to cattle, sheep, pigs and other cloven-hoofed animals such as wild boar, deer, llamas and alpacas, and hence is of huge concern to livestock and dairy farmers.

Whilst there have been no reported cases of FMD in the UK so far it is a highly contagious viral disease and Defra states that the outbreak on the continent presents a significant risk to farm businesses and livestock.

The last major outbreak of FMD in the UK was in 2001 and resulted in the culling and destruction of millions of animals leading to significant economic damage to the agricultural sector. The cause of that outbreak was likely the feeding of illegally imported contaminated meat to pigs in Northumberland.

## Further Information

- [Government extends ban on personal meat imports to protect farmers from foot and mouth](#)
- [Defra Guidance: Bringing food into Great Britain](#)