

# NewsLetter



## African Swine Fever (ASF)

### Defra and FSA urge enforcement action with respect to non-compliant Pork Imports

In response to confirmed outbreaks of African Swine Fever (ASF) across Europe, last week, Defra and the Food Standards Agency jointly wrote a letter to inland local authorities in England and Wales urging them to take appropriate enforcement action should they discover non-compliant pork products.

Countries and areas with confirmed ASF outbreaks are subject to zoning measures. Fresh pork and pork meat products from those countries cannot be imported to GB, unless heat treated to:

- Restricted Zone 3 (RZIII) : a minimum temperature of 80°C throughout their substance
- Restricted Zone 2 (RZII): minimum temperature of 70°C throughout their substance

(See [EU ASF Zoning Measures Map](#) for location of restricted zones)

If non-compliant pork and pork products are found on the market inland, they should be seized and destroyed.

## What should inland authorities do?

Defra have requested that officers from inland local authorities take steps to identify relevant pork products which have been imported from ASF restricted zones. In practice these are most likely to have been imported from Romania or Bulgaria.

Once identified, Food Business Operators are required to provide adequate evidence that the products have received the appropriate heat treatment prior to import into Great Britain. Such evidence might include a Common Health Entry Document (CHED), properly endorsed by the Border Control Post.

Of course, CHEDs are not required by law to accompany food throughout the wholesale chain to the point of retail. Instead it must be retained at the first destination inland.

As such, FBOs must have adequate traceability in place for affected products to demonstrate lawful import and hence that the necessary heat treatments have been applied to the products.

In the absence of such evidence, or if the identified product bears a restricted Identification Mark (An oval with two lines through it), the product should be seized and destroyed using powers under the Trade in Animals and Related Products (TARP) Regulations.

## More Information

- [EU Regulation 2023/594](#)
- [FSA/Defra Letter](#) (FSA Link access required)

## ABC Webinars

- Inland Enforcement of Imported Food
- Imported Food webinars