

## **Enforcement authorities relevant to UK-EU trade: *Competent authorities responsible for the enforcement of veterinary and IUU controls on seafood trade with the UK, and with seafood trade in the EU***

### **Competent authorities in the UK**

- A. Competent authorities in the UK with the responsibility for carrying out veterinary checks on seafood
- B. Competent authorities in the UK with the responsibility for carrying out checks relating to the prevention of imports of seafood as foreseen by anti-illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing regulations.

### **Competent authorities in the EU**

- C. Central competent authorities in each member state EU-27 with the responsibility for carrying out veterinary checks on seafood
- D. Competent authorities in each member state of EU-27 with the responsibility for carrying out checks relating to the prevention of imports of seafood as foreseen by anti-illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing regulations.

### **A. Competent authorities in the UK with the responsibility for carrying out veterinary checks on seafood**

**The Department for the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra)** is the designated central competent authority for the organisation and administration of veterinary checks on products of animal origin and live animal imports into the UK. Responsibility for policy on imports is shared between Defra and the Food Standards Agency (FSA) in England and with the respective Devolved Administrations in Scotland (Food Standards Scotland, FSS), Wales (Welsh Government) and Northern Ireland (Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs, DAERA).

The Animal and Plant Health Agency (APHA) is responsible for supervision, monitoring and administration of the veterinary checks regimes for animals and animal products in the UK.

The FSA's Legal, International and Regulatory Affairs Directorate is responsible for public health policy on import controls including fishery products. It prepares legislation and policy guidance to BIPs on public health issues as the competent authority for the implementation of EU safeguard measures such as residues of veterinary medicines in the import of products of animal origin. FSS has similar responsibility in Scotland.

The APHA and Local Authorities (LAs) (mainly Port Health Authorities (PHAs)) are responsible for the day-to-day operation of Border Inspection Posts (BIPs) in England, Wales and Scotland. A service level agreement has been drawn up between each agriculture department, Defra and APHA. In Northern Ireland, BIPs are under the direct supervision of DAERA. Responsibility for fishery products in Northern Ireland has been delegated to District Councils with responsibility for all other imports of animal origin remaining with DAERA.

Import controls at BIPs receiving products of animal origin for human consumption only or both human consumption and not for human consumption is the responsibility of the Environmental Health Department of the relevant LA, usually a PHA. Environmental Health Officers are contracted/employed by PHAs for checks on fishery products, and Official Veterinarians are contracted for checks on products of animal origin where BIPs are approved for products fit for human consumption and those which handle products for both human consumption and not for human consumption. LAs are responsible for the enforcement of legislation on imported food and animal by-products.

A list of UK BIPs is available here:

[https://ec.europa.eu/food/sites/food/files/animals/docs/bips\\_contact\\_unitedkingdom.pdf](https://ec.europa.eu/food/sites/food/files/animals/docs/bips_contact_unitedkingdom.pdf)

**B. Competent authorities in the UK with the responsibility for carrying out checks relating to the prevention of imports of seafood as foreseen by anti-illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing regulations.**

In the UK the Marine Management Organisation (MMO) is the competent authority that oversees the checks relating to IUU regulations as regards imported seafood. The MMO is an executive non-departmental public body sponsored by Defra. The verification of catch certificates of imported seafood is delegated to the Local Authority Port Health Authority operating at the Border Inspection Post (BIP).

**C. Central Competent Authorities (CCAs) and subsidiary authorities in each member state of EU-27 responsible for veterinary checks on imports of seafood\***

<p><b>Austria</b></p>	<p><b>Ministry of Health (BMG)</b>                  In the BMG, Department II/B/10 is responsible for supervising Border Inspection Posts (BIPs) and coordinating activities related to imports of animals and food of animal origin.</p> <p>Based on the Federal Constitution, the Federal Government is, as far as veterinary services and border controls are concerned, directly responsible for import controls. The official veterinarians working at the BIPs are federal employees and there is a direct line of command from the BMG to the BIPs.</p>
<p><b>Belgium</b></p>	<p><b>Federal Agency for the Safety of the Food Chain (FASFC)</b>                  The FASFC is the CCA for import controls of live animals and products of animal origin. Within FASFC, Directorate General (DG) Control Policy establishes process standards and develops the</p>

	<p>control program. DG Control is responsible for inspection/audit services, enforcement of process standards and the supervision of the Border Inspection Posts (BIPs).</p> <p>The Provincial Control Unit (PCU) are, <i>inter alia</i>, administratively responsible for the relevant BIPs. The transposition of legislation on imports of animals and food of animal origin is the responsibility of FASFC.</p> <p>The FASFC is responsible for import controls at BIPs. Analysis of samples is conducted in one of the five FASFC laboratories, in an approved laboratory, or in the national reference laboratory.</p>
<p><b>Bulgaria</b></p>	<p><b>Bulgarian Food Safety Agency (BFSA)</b>  The BFSA is the CCA for import controls of products of animal origin and live animals. The Border Control Directorate (BCD) is responsible for policy making and co-ordination of controls. The BCD drafts legislation, issues instructions and monitors the activities of the BIPs.</p> <p>The monitoring programmes, instructions and checklists for import controls developed by the Organization and Management of Border Control Department (OMBCD) are disseminated and available in all BIPs. The BIPs submit monthly reports to the OMBCD on controls carried out. The TRACES registration system is used to record data on consignments. Planned supervisory checks on a verification of proper implementation of EU legislation by BIPs official veterinarians are carried out by OMBCD within BCD at central level for each BIP twice per year.</p> <p>Customs Authorities support veterinary authorities for identification and selection of incoming consignments for veterinary checks.</p> <p>Laboratory tests of imported products of animal origin are performed in the laboratories of the Regional Food Safety Directorate (RFSD), Central Laboratory for Veterinary Control and Ecology (CLVCE), National Diagnostic and Research Veterinary Institute (NDRVI) and external laboratories.</p>
<p><b>Croatia</b></p>	<p><b>Border Veterinary Inspection and International Trade Service (BVIITS) within the Veterinary and Food Safety Directorate of the Ministry of Agriculture</b>  The BVIITS has eight departments: seven Border Veterinary Inspection Posts (BIPs) and International Trade Department (ITD). BVIITS is responsible for import and transit controls of live animals, products of animal origin and feed of non-animal origin. The Border Veterinary Inspection Department (BVID) supports the seven BIPs, drafts the procedures and prepares guidelines and information for border veterinary inspectors.</p>

	<p>The ITD drafts legislation and models of health certificates and issues import permissions and import bans and is responsible for conducting risk analysis of international trade.</p> <p>The CVI laboratories are used for analyses of imported and transited goods. Some other laboratories may be used occasionally for specialised analysis.</p>
<b>Cyprus</b>	<p><b>Department of Veterinary Services</b> The Department of Veterinary Services is the central competent authority for imports of live animals and products of animal origin. Controls are implemented by the BIPs.</p>
<b>Czech Republic</b>	<p><b>Ministry of Agriculture (MA)</b> The MA Food Authority is responsible for policy and legislation. The State Veterinary Administration (SVA) Department for External Affairs Import and Export Controls (DEAIEC) is responsible for import controls and for supervision of BIPs. The SVA receives RASFF notifications.</p>
<b>Denmark</b>	<p><b>Danish Veterinary and Food Administration (DVFA), Ministry of Environment and Food</b> Within the DVFA, the International Trade Division (ITD) is responsible at central level for: veterinary checks on imports of live animals (in co-operation with the Animal Health Division) and products of animal origin; the transposition of EU legislation on imports of products of animal origin and compound products (including import restrictions) into national law (the Animal Health Division is responsible for transposing legislation on import conditions regarding live animals); and the organisation of a harmonised implementation in the different Food Inspection Units (FIUs) through instructions, manuals, training and supervision.</p> <p>The Food and Feed Safety Division carries out microbiological risk evaluation. The Division for Chemistry and Food Quality carries out chemical risk evaluation and the Animal Welfare and Veterinary Medicine Division carries out veterinary medicine risk evaluation. For animal health the evaluation is carried out by the Animal Health Division.</p> <p>The FIUs are responsible for checking products of animal origin and live animals presented for checks at the border inspection posts (BIPs). The ITD supervises BIP checks and provides instructions. It also liaises with and co-ordinates services on BIP matters.</p>
<b>Estonia</b>	<p><b>Ministry of Rural Affairs (MRA) Food Safety Department (FSD)</b> The Veterinary and Food Board (VFB) is the competent authority for veterinary checks of live animals and products of animal and non-animal origin in BIPs. The Department of Trade, Import and Export of the VFB at central level has administrative and supervisory responsibilities for the BIPs.</p> <p>The VFB has contracts with three laboratories authorised to</p>

	<p>undertake analyses concerning official control activities, namely: the Agricultural Research Centre (pesticide residues, mycotoxins and other contaminants); the Health Board laboratories (pesticide residues, certain contaminants and additives); and the Veterinary and Food Laboratory (veterinary drug and hormone residues, heavy metals).</p>
<b>Finland</b>	<p><b>Animal and Plant Health Unit of the Food Department in the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry</b>  The Animal and Plant Health Unit of the Food Department in the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry is responsible for legislation and strategic guidance on import controls of products of animal origin and live animals.</p> <p>The Finnish Food Safety Authority (Evira) is responsible for import controls at the four Border Inspection Posts (BIPs).</p> <p>The system for identification and selection of the consignments is based on pre-notification by the importer. The system is supported by the electronic systems used by Customs. The Customs electronic system ITU (which is used for free-release of consignments) flags the relevant CN-codes which indicate the need for veterinary checks. In addition, the new computerised transit system (NCTS) system has a module which also flags the relevant CN-codes.</p> <p>Evira's laboratory carries out analyses for residues in foodstuffs. Animal disease and serology diagnostics are also carried out by Evira. Bacterial analyses are undertaken by Evira's laboratory and MetropoliLab. The laboratories send the results of the analysis to the BIP in question and the operator. In the case of an irregularity, the BIP immediately informs the operator with a view to appropriate action. If indicated, the BIP also informs the local CA.</p>
<b>France</b>	<p><b>Directorate-General for Food (DGAL)</b>  The CCA for import controls is DGAL within the Ministry holding the agricultural portfolio (McA). The Directorate-General of Customs and Indirect Taxes (DGDDI) cooperates with DGAL.</p> <p>The French Veterinary and Phytosanitary Border Inspection Service (SIVEP) oversees and coordinates the border inspection posts (BIPs) and liaises with other agencies, primarily the customs authority.</p> <p>The BIPs use the laboratories approved by the McA for analyses.</p>
<b>Germany</b>	<p><b>Federal Ministry of Food and Agriculture (BMEL)</b>  The BMEL is the CCA for issuing Federal legislation for import controls of live animals and food of animal origin. The competent divisions are Division 323 (Animal diseases - Crisis centre; Intra-Community trade and imports) and Division 314 (meat hygiene, food hygiene) for imports of food of animal origin.</p> <p>The customs authorities are involved in checking compliance with</p>



	<p>animal health regulations during import and export controls and can stop consignments of the relevant animals and goods for this purpose. The Federal Ministry for Finance and its designated customs offices collaborate with <i>Land</i> or district and municipal authorities at border inspection posts and entry points with regard to import and export controls of products of animal origin.</p> <p>The national Regulation on the import of food of animal origin, the <i>LebensmitteleinfuhrVerordnung</i>, was adapted to address Community law on food hygiene by means of the Order of 8 August 2007 implementing the provisions of Community Food Hygiene Law. Responsibility for implementation of veterinary import/transit controls lies with the <i>Länder</i>. The <i>Länder</i> implement Federal legislation including the directly applicable legislation of the EU.</p>
Greece	<p><b>Directorate General of Sustainable Animal Production and Veterinary Services (DGSAPVS)</b></p> <p>The CCA for controls on imports of animals and food of animal origin is the DGSAPVS. The Directorate of Animal Health (DAH), in co-operation with the Directorate of Hygiene and Safety for Food of Animal Origin (DHSFAO), is responsible for coordination on BIP matters. BIPs are under the direct responsibility of the DGSAPVS. The veterinary staff of the BIPs are directly employed by the Ministry of Rural Development and Food (MRDF) as official veterinarians. Customs authorities are part of the Ministry of Finance.</p> <p>The central services are responsible for supervision and monitoring of BIPs and communicating legislation to them. In addition the central service co-ordinate the TRACES database, provide training and liaise with Customs. Guidelines for implementing control procedures, mainly in the form of circulars or manuals, are sent regularly to BIPs.</p>
Hungary	<p><b>Ministry of Agriculture (MA): Department of Food Chain Control (DFCC)</b></p> <p>The competent authorities are the DFCC in MA (Inspection and Audit Division) and the National Food Chain Safety Office, Directorate for Animal Health and Animal Welfare (NFCSSO-DAHAW), Live Animal Trade Supervision Department.</p> <p>The BIPs are required to send food samples to laboratories operated by the National Food Chain Safety Office Food and Feed Safety Directorate (FFSD). The BIPs are required to send live animal samples to laboratories operated by the National Food Chain Safety Office Veterinary Diagnostic Directorate. The FFSD laboratories comprise four central and nine regional laboratories (including two specialist radio-analytical laboratories).</p>
Ireland	<p><b>Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine (DAFM)</b></p> <p>DAFM, through the State Veterinary Service (SVS), is the CCA for veterinary import control of products of animal origin and live animals (including live fish). DAFM operates the controls on illegal imports.</p>

	<p>Customs co-operate with DAFM on control of the imports of live animals and products of animal origin from non-EU countries at BIPs.</p>
<b>Italy</b>	<p><b>Directorate-General for Animal Health and Veterinary Medicine (DGAHVM) of the Ministry of Health (MH)</b>  The DGAHVM is the CCA for import controls on animals and food of animal origin.</p> <p>Controls on imported animals, food of animal origin and feedingstuffs are carried out at 24 Border Inspection Posts (BIPs) which report directly to MH. The veterinarians staffing the BIPs are directly employed by MH as official veterinarians or as veterinarians under contract. The latter are also responsible for veterinary checks and are authorised to sign the Common Veterinary Entry Document.</p> <p>The laboratories of the Experimental Zoo-prophylaxis Institutes (IZS) provide analytical services to the BIPs.</p>
<b>Latvia</b>	<p><b>Food and Veterinary Service (FVS)</b>  The CCA for import controls of animals and food of animal origin is the FVS Border Control Department (BCD). The FVS has overall responsibility for co-ordinating the activities of the BCD and for compiling annual data on import controls.</p>
<b>Lithuania</b>	<p><b>State Food and Veterinary Service (SFVS)</b>  Responsibility for import controls lies with the BIPs which are subdivisions of Border Food and Veterinary Control Department (BFVCD) of the SFVS. Overall co-ordination of the BIP system is the responsibility of the BFVCD, for which BIPs are directly accountable.</p> <p>The National Food and Veterinary Laboratory Risk Assessment Institute (NFVRAI) is the reference laboratory designated to perform laboratory analyses of imported animals and products of animal origin.</p>
<b>Luxembourg</b>	<p><b>Ministry of Health</b>  The Ministry of Health is the CCA for import controls on products of animal origin and the Ministry of Agriculture, Viticulture and Consumer Protection is the CA for controls on live animals. The single BIP, under the responsibility of the Public Health Division of Veterinary Service Administration (ASV), carries out these controls.</p> <p>Analysis of samples taken from imported products is provided by the Veterinary Medicine Laboratory (LMVE), the National Health Laboratory (LNS) and, if required, by accredited laboratories in other Member States</p>
<b>Malta</b>	<p><b>Veterinary Regulation Department (VRD)</b>  The VRD is responsible for import controls on animals and food of animal origin.</p> <p>Analyses of samples taken for the monitoring of residues in foodstuffs imported from third countries are carried out in the National Veterinary Laboratory (NVL) and in a number of accredited</p>

	laboratories in Italy and the UK.
<b>Netherlands</b>	<p><b>Ministry of Health, Welfare and Sports (VWS)</b> VWS is responsible for policy and legislation relating to import controls of food of animal origin.</p> <p>Joint teams of Customs and the Netherlands Food and Consumer Product Safety Authority (NVWA) carry out documentary and seal checks on veterinary consignments. Full identity checks and physical checks are carried out by NVWA staff. The NVWA has overall responsibility for import/transit control.</p> <p>The NVWA laboratory carries out analyses on samples taken at BIPs.</p>
<b>Poland</b>	<p><b>Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development (MARD)</b> The General Veterinary Inspectorate (GVI) is the competent authority for implementation of policy and controls and supervision of Border Inspection Posts (BIP) and the recruitment of heads of BIP. The Borders Office, reporting to the Chief Veterinary Officer, is directly responsible for import controls and for the BIPs.</p> <p>The GVI supervises and co-ordinates the Border Veterinary Inspectorate (BVI) and District Veterinary Inspectorates (DVI), whose responsibilities include the control of: warehouses in free zones; customs warehouses approved for storing products of animal origin not compliant with EU import requirements; ship suppliers approved in accordance with Council Directive No. 97/78; commercial and non-commercial movement of pets, catering waste; implementation of Regulation (EC) No. 206/2009.</p> <p>Customs authorities co-operate with the BVI on the basis of guidelines prepared by Ministry of Finance in the case of products of animal origin not complying with EU import requirements. The guidelines concern customs warehouses and transit.</p>
<b>Portugal</b>	<p><b>General Directorate for Food and Veterinary (DGAV)</b> Import controls at BIP are the responsibility of DGAV. The supervision of BIP is under the regional services of the Regional Food and Veterinary Directorates (DSAVR) of DGAV or autonomous regions and at central level under the responsibility of the Directorate of Strategy, Communication and Internationalization (DSECI) of DGAV. The Custom and Tax Authority carry out certain import controls, <i>inter alia</i> checking for illegal imports of veterinary products and live animals.</p> <p>The bulk of testing is carried out in national laboratories: National Institute for Agro-Food and Veterinarian Research (INIAV), Portuguese Institute for Sea and Atmosphere (IPMA) and the National Institute of Health (INSA). However, some chemical testing is carried out in other EU laboratories (LGC and NEOTRON).</p>
<b>Romania</b>	<b>The General Directorate for Official Control (GDOC) of the National Sanitary Veterinary and Food Safety Authority</b>



	<b>(NSVSFA)</b>
<b>Slovakia</b>	<p><b>Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development (MARD)</b> MARD is the central competent authority responsible for policy-making and legislation.</p> <p>The State Veterinary and Food Administration (SVFA) is the competent authority for the organisation of controls on imports of animals and food of animal origin. Within SVFA, the Department of International Affairs, Imports and Exports (DIAIE) drafts legislation, issues instructions and methodological guides, organises training for inspectors and prepares agreements on cooperation with other authorities.</p> <p>DIAIE manages and co-ordinates the operation of border inspection posts (BIPs).</p> <p>Laboratory testing of samples taken at BIP is performed by the three Veterinary and Food Institutes and the Veterinary Institute.</p>
<b>Slovenia</b>	<p><b>Administration of the Republic of Slovenia for Food Safety, Veterinary Sector and Plant Protection (AFSVSPP)</b> The AFSVSPP Food Safety, Veterinary and Plant Health Inspection (FSVPHI, or the Food Safety Inspection Office) has the administrative and supervisory responsibilities for all the BIPs. The Food Safety Inspection Office cooperates with other AFSVSPP Divisions, primarily with the International Affairs Division, the Veterinary Public Health Section of the Food, Feed and Medicinal Products Division, and with the Animal Health and Welfare Division.</p> <p>Samples of consignments taken at BIPs are submitted to the National Veterinary Institute (NVI), National Laboratory for Health, Environment and Food (NLHEF) or other designated laboratories (where appropriate).</p>
<b>Spain</b>	<p><b>Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food (MAPA)</b> <b>Ministry of Health, Consumption and Social Welfare (MSCBS)</b> MAPA and MSCBS have direct technical and functional responsibility for import controls as central competent authorities.</p> <p>In MAPA, the Sub-directorate General for Health Agreements and Border Controls (SGASCF) is responsible for animal health issues (imports of live animals, reproductive material and animal by-products).</p> <p>In MSCBS, the Sub-directorate General of Foreign Health (SGSE) is responsible for controls on imports of products of animal origin intended for human consumption. SGSE has 19 Directorates for Health Area, one in each Autonomous Community and autonomous city. Operationally, BIP staff report directly to MAPA and MSCBS through the Government Delegations.</p>
<b>Sweden</b>	<b>National Food Agency (NFA)</b>

	<p>The NFA-Food Control Department (FCD), is responsible for the import control of animal products intended for human consumption. The central service is based at NFA headquarters in Uppsala.</p> <p>Official veterinarians attached to the Swedish Board of Agriculture's District Veterinarian Department (SBA-DVD) are responsible for operational controls of live animals and animal products not intended for human consumption.</p> <p>For food of animal origin, the NFA uses private laboratories or NFA's own laboratories.</p>
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\*Information was gathered from the EU Member State country profiles available on 28 November 2018 on the European Commission's "Country Profiles" page here: [http://ec.europa.eu/food/audits-analysis/country\\_profiles](http://ec.europa.eu/food/audits-analysis/country_profiles).

A list of BIPs in the EU, with contact details, is available from [https://ec.europa.eu/food/animals/vet-border-control/bip-contacts\\_en](https://ec.europa.eu/food/animals/vet-border-control/bip-contacts_en)

**D. Competent authorities in each member state of the EU with the responsibility for carrying out checks relating to the prevention of imports of seafood as foreseen by anti-illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing regulations.**

Member State Competent Authorities (CAs) that deal with IUU catch certificates are laid out in

"List of Member States and their competent authorities concerning Articles 15(2), 17(8) and 21(3) of Council Regulation (EC) No 1005/2008", OJ C 39, 2.2.2018, p. 24–30, available from <https://europa.eu/lbQ44Mh>

It lists competent authorities responsible for the:

- a) validation of catch certificates for domestic catches;
- b) verification of catch certificates of imported fish; and
- c) validation and verification of re-exported fish.

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