The Department of Agriculture for Northern Ireland, being a Department designated(1) for the purposes of section 2(2) of the European Communities Act 1972(2) in relation to the common agricultural policy of the European Economic Community, in exercise of the powers conferred on it by the said section 2(2) and of every other power enabling it in that behalf, hereby makes the following Regulations:

**Citation and commencement**

1. These Regulations may be cited as the Fresh Meat (Import Conditions) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1997 and shall come into operation on 19th May 1997.

**Interpretation**

2.—(1) In these Regulations—

“animal health and certification Decision” means any Decision under the third countries Directive specified in Schedule 1 concerning animal health conditions and veterinary certificates for imports of fresh meat from specified States;

“approved establishments Decision” means any Decision under the third countries Directive specified in Schedule 2 on lists of establishments in specified States approved for the importation of fresh meat or, where indicated in Part II of the Schedule, of certain categories of fresh meat;

“border inspection post” has the meaning given by Article 2(2)(g) of Council Directive 90/675/EEC of 10th December 1990 laying down the principles governing the organisation of

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(1) S.I.1972/1811
(2) 1972 c. 68
veterinary checks on products entering the Community from third countries(3), as amended by Council Regulation (EEC) No. 1601/92(4);

“EEA Agreement” means the Agreement on the European Economic Area(5) signed at Oporto on 2nd May 1992 as amended by the Protocol(6) signed at Brussels on 17th March 1993;

“EEA State” means a State which is a Contracting Party to the EEA Agreement;

“free zone” and “free warehouse” have the meaning given by Article 1(2) of the Products of Animal Origin Regulations;


“import” means brought into Northern Ireland by any means whatsoever;

“non-importation Decision” means a Decision specified in Schedule 3;

“relevant EEA State” means an EEA State other than Iceland;

“the Products of Animal Origin Regulations” means the Products of Animal Origin (Import and Export) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1993(9);

“samples” means fresh meat imported into Northern Ireland for exhibition, special studies or analysis;

“special importation requirement” means, in relation to a State specified in any paragraph of Schedule 4, any requirement specified in that paragraph relating to that region or State;

“the licensing Order” means the Landing of Carcases and Animal Products Order (Northern Ireland) 1985(10);

“the third countries Directive” means Council Directive 72/462/EEC of 12th December 1972(11), on health and veterinary problems upon importation of bovine, ovine and caprine animals and swine, fresh meat or meat products from third countries as amended by the provisions listed in paragraph 2 of Schedule 5;

“the third country list” means the list in the Annex to Council Decision 79/542/EEC(12) of 21st December 1979, drawing up a list of third countries from which Member States authorise imports of bovine and porcine animals, equidae, sheep and goats, fresh meat and meat products as amended by the provisions listed in paragraph 4 of Schedule 5;

“third country” means a State which is not a relevant EEA State.

(2) Unless the context otherwise requires, expressions used in these Regulations and the fresh meat Directive have the same meaning in these Regulations as in that Directive.

(3) The following expressions, in particular, are defined in Article 1 of the fresh meat Directive—

(a) “meat” and “fresh meat”; and

(b) “wrapping” and “packaging”.

(4) Any reference in these Regulations to a Community Instrument or an Instrument relating to the European Community or the European Economic Area is a reference to that Instrument as amended, modified or otherwise affected by the instruments listed as amending, modifying or

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(3) O.J. No. L373, 31.12.90, p. 1
(4) O.J. No. L173, 26.7.92, p. 13
(5) O.J. No. L1, 3.1.94, p. 1
(6) O.J. No. L1, 3.1.94, p. 571
(7) O.J. No. L268, 24.4.91, p. 69
(8) O.J. No. L57, 2.3.92, p. 1
(9) S.R. 1993 No. 304 as amended by S.R. 1995 No. 112
(10) S.R. 1985 No. 161 as amended by S.R. 1995 No. 315
(11) O.J. No. L302, 31.12.72, p. 28
(12) O.J. No. L146, 14.6.79, p. 15
affecting it; in particular all the Directives referred to in these Regulations have been adapted by the Act of Accession to the European Union of the Republic of Austria, the Republic of Finland and the Kingdom of Sweden (13).

(5) The Interpretation Act (Northern Ireland) 1954 (14) shall apply to these Regulations as it applies to a Measure of the Northern Ireland Assembly.

**Fresh meat to which the Regulations apply**

3. Subject to regulations 4, 5, 6, 7 and 12, these Regulations apply to fresh meat intended for human consumption.

**Fresh meat originating in Great Britain, the Isle of Man or the Channel Islands**

4. These Regulations shall not apply to imports of fresh meat originating in Great Britain, the Isle of Man or any of the Channel Islands.

**Fresh meat for crew and passengers on board means of transport operating internationally**

5.—(1) Subject to paragraph (2), these Regulations do not apply to fresh meat which is for consumption by the crew and passengers on board means of transport operating internationally.

(2) Where such fresh meat, including kitchen waste, is unloaded, it shall be destroyed, except where such unloading is solely for the purpose of transferring such fresh meat, directly or after being placed under customs supervision, from one means of transport to another.

**Personal imports**

6. These Regulations do not apply to imports of fresh meat—

(a) forming part of a traveller’s personal luggage and intended for his personal consumption, or

(b) sent as small packages on a non-commercial basis,

provided that the fresh meat so imported comes from:

(a) an EEA state and the quantity does not exceed 10kg; or

(b) a third country, or part thereof, listed in Schedule 1, and the quantity does not exceed 1kg.

**Fresh meat imported under authorisation, or for international organisations or visiting forces**

7. In relation to the fresh meat described in paragraphs (a) to (c), regulation 11(1)(c), (d) and (e) shall not apply to—

(a) fresh meat imported with the authorisation of the country of destination for uses other than human consumption;

(b) fresh meat which is intended exclusively for the supply of international organisations;

(c) fresh meat which is intended exclusively for consumption by members of a visiting force or their dependants (as defined in Section 11 of the Visiting Forces Act 1952 (15)).

(13) O.J. No. C241, 29.8.94, p. 21
(14) 1954 c. 33 (N.I.)
(15) 1952 c. 67
Transhipment and storage of fresh meat consigned to a relevant EEA State from a third country

8. Fresh meat consigned to a relevant EEA State from a third country may be transhipped through, and stored in, Northern Ireland, provided that—
   (a) it complies with the conditions of the relevant EEA State to which it is consigned;
   (b) it is not unloaded in Northern Ireland or is unloaded at a border inspection post in Northern Ireland; and
   (c) during its time in Northern Ireland it remains in a border inspection post, free zone or free warehouse except during any journey to another border inspection post, free zone or free warehouse.

Fresh meat subject to a non-importation Decision

9. A person shall not import any fresh meat to which a non-importation Decision applies.

Fresh meat originating in a relevant EEA State

10. A person shall not import fresh meat which originated in a relevant EEA State other than the United Kingdom unless—
   (a) it has been obtained in accordance with Articles 3, 4 and 8a of Council Directive 72/461/EEC on health problems affecting intra-Community trade in fresh meat as amended by the provisions listed in paragraph 1 of Schedule 5;
   (b) subject to regulation 12, it has been obtained from animals slaughtered in an establishment on a list of approved establishments drawn up by the relevant EEA State under Article 10 of the fresh meat Directive; and
   (c) it satisfies any special importation requirement.

Fresh meat originating in a third country

11.—(1) A person shall not import fresh meat which originates in a third country unless—
   (a) it is derived from animals which have remained for at least three months before being slaughtered, or since birth if they were less than three months old when slaughtered, in a third country on the third country list for which imports of fresh meat of the species concerned are indicated as “authorised” on that list;
   (b) it has been obtained in accordance with the animal health requirements set down in—
      (i) Articles 14(2) and (3) of the third countries Directive; and
      (ii) the relevant animal health and certification Decision;
   (c) in the case of half carcases, half carcases cut into no more than three cuts, quarters or offal—
      (i) the requirements of Chapters VI to VIII, XIV and XV of Annex I to the fresh meat Directive are satisfied; and
      (ii) it is derived from animals slaughtered in an establishment on a list in the relevant approved establishments Decision;
   (d) in the case of cuts smaller than quarters, boned meat, or offal, or sliced livers of bovine animals,—

(i) the requirements of Chapters VI to X, XII, XIV and XV of Annex I to the fresh meat Directive are satisfied; and

(ii) it is derived from carcases cut up in an establishment on a list in the relevant approved establishments Decision;

(e) it bears a health mark applied in accordance with Chapter XI of Annex I to the fresh meat Directive which—

(i) complies with paragraph 50 of that Chapter; or

(ii) indicates, in clearly legible form—

(aa) the name of the country of origin in capitals, an abbreviation of its name or the International Organisation for Standardisation’s Code for the country as referred to in the third country list; and

(bb) the veterinary approval number of the establishment from which it has been consigned as assigned by the relevant approved establishments Decision;

(f) it is accompanied by—

(i) documentation in accordance with Article 3.1.A(f) of the fresh meat Directive; or

(ii) a public health certificate conforming to the model laid down in Annex A to the third countries Directive and an animal health certificate in accordance with the relevant animal health and certification Decision;

(g) it satisfies any special importation requirement; and

(h) in the case of fresh meat derived from swine or solipeds, it has been examined or treated for trichinae in accordance with Council Directive 77/96/EEC on the examination for Trichinae (Trichinelle spiralis) upon importation from third countries of fresh meat derived from domestic swine as amended by the provisions listed in paragraph 3 of Schedule 5.

(2) A person shall not import fresh meat which originates in a third country—

(a) derived from boars or cryptorchid pigs;

(b) derived from animals to which hormonal substances prohibited under Directives 81/602/EEC concerning the prohibition of certain substances having a hormonal action and of any substances having a thyrostatic action or 88/146/EEC prohibiting the use in livestock farming of certain substances having been administered;

(c) which has been treated with ionising or ultra-violet radiation;

(d) derived from animals to which tenderisers or other products likely to affect adversely the composition or organoleptic characteristics of the meat have been administered;

(e) to which, for the purpose of health marking, any colouring matter other than those referred to in paragraph 58 of Chapter XI of Annex I to the fresh meat Directive has been added;

(f) derived from animals which have been found—

(i) to have any form of tuberculosis;

(ii) to be carrying any cysticerci bovis or cysticerci cellulosae, whether live or dead; or

(iii) in the case of swine, to have trichinae;

(g) derived from animals slaughtered too young; or

(h) in pieces of less than 100 grams.

(17) O.J. No. L26, 31.1.77, p. 67

(18) O.J. No. L222, 7.8.81, p. 32

(19) O.J. No. L70, 16.3.88, p. 16
(3) A person shall not import from a third country any mechanically recovered meat, or any blood, bovine head or any muscular or other tissue of a bovine head other than the tongue.

**Importation and treatment of samples and their packaging**

12.—(1) Regulations 10(b), 11(1)(c), (d) and (e) shall not apply to samples.

(2) Samples shall be taken directly from the port or airport of entry to the address at which they are to be exhibited, studied or analysed.

(3) Samples shall not be used for human consumption or sold.

(4) All residues of the samples and all of their packaging shall be destroyed by incineration or by other means sufficient to destroy pathogenic agents.

(5) It is the duty of the person having possession of these samples for the time being—

(a) to comply with the requirements of paragraph (2); and

(b) to ensure that there is no contravention of paragraph (3).

(6) It is the duty of the person having possession of the samples at the time of the completion or abandonment of the exhibition, special study or analysis for which the samples are intended to comply with the requirements of paragraph (4).

**Certificates and other documents**

13. Any certificate or other document required for any of the purposes of these Regulations is invalid for that purpose unless—

(a) it is in English and at least one of the official languages of the country of destination where this is a Member State other than the United Kingdom;

(b) it is the original, or where the consignment has entered the European Community through a border inspection post, a copy of the certificate provided and authenticated by the official veterinarian responsible for that border inspection post;

(c) it consists of a single piece of paper; and

(d) it is made out to a single consignee.

**Offences and Penalties**

14. A person who contravenes any provision of these Regulations shall be guilty of an offence and liable—

(a) on summary conviction, to a fine not exceeding the statutory maximum or to imprisonment for a term not exceeding three months or to both; and

(b) on conviction on indictment, to a fine or to imprisonment for a term not exceeding three months or to both.

**Disapplication of the Imported Food Regulations and licensing Order**

15.—(1) The Imported Food Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1991(20) shall not apply to fresh meat to which these Regulations apply.

(2) The licensing Order shall not apply to any fresh meat to which these Regulations apply.

(3) The licensing Order shall not apply to samples other than those coming from a third country.
Modification of the Products of Animal Origin Regulations

16.—(1) In their application to the import of fresh meat to which these Regulations apply, the Products of Animal Origin Regulations shall be modified in accordance with paragraphs (2) and (3).

(2) Regulations 8, 9 and 11 of the Products of Animal Origin Regulations shall be construed as if the conditions of import in regulation 10 of these Regulations (fresh meat originating in a relevant EEA State) were the “health requirements” referred to in regulations 8, 9 and 11.

(3) Regulation 19 of the Products of Animal Origin Regulations shall be construed as if the conditions of import in regulation 11 of these Regulations (fresh meat originating in a third country) were the “health requirements” referred to in regulation 19.

(4) Regulation 22 of the Products of Animal Origin Regulations shall be construed as if the conditions of import in regulations 10 and 11 of these Regulations were the “health requirements” referred to in regulation 22.

Sealed with the Official Seal of the Department of Agriculture for Northern Ireland on

17th April 1997.

R. S. Johnston
Assistant Secretary
SCHEDULE 1

Animal Health and Certification Decisions

Argentina


Australia


Belize


Botswana


Brazil

5. The South American Decision.

Bulgaria


Canada


Chile

8. The South American Decision.

Colombia

9. The South American Decision.

Costa Rica

Croatia

Cuba

Cyprus

Czech Republic
   Commission Decision 96/131/EC (O.J. No. L30, 8.2.96, p. 51).

Greenland

Guatemala

Honduras

Hungary

Iceland

Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia
   Commission Decision 83/70/EEC (O.J. No. L47, 19.2.83, p. 25);
   Commission Decision 91/73/EEC (O.J. No. L43, 16.2.91, p. 45);

Madagascar
Malta

Mexico

Morocco

Namibia

New Zealand

Panama

Paraguay
28. The South American Decision.

Poland

Romania

Slovak Republic

Slovenia
South Africa


Swaziland


Switzerland

   Commission Decision 93/148/EEC (O.J. No. L58, 11.3.93, p. 63);

Turkey


United States of America


Uruguay

38. The South American Decision, as amended for Uruguay by—
   Commission Decision 94/334/EC (O.J. No. L148, 15.6.94, p. 12);
   Commission Decision 95/443/EC (O.J. No. L258, 28.10.95, p. 65);

Zimbabwe

   Commission Decision 94/171/EC (O.J. No. L78, 22.3.94, p. 41);
SCHEDULE 2

Approved Establishments Decisions

Part I

States

Argentina

   Commission Decision C(95) 843 (O.J. No. C98, 21.4.95, p. 4);
   Commission Decision C(95) 1780 (O.J. No. C193, 27.7.95, p. 6).

Australia


Botswana

   Commission Decision C(94) 1676 (O.J. No. C189, 12.7.94, p. 8);

Brazil

   Commission Decision C(95) 1172 (O.J. No. C147, 14.6.95, p. 6);

Bulgaria


Canada

Chile

Croatia

Czech Republic

Greenland

Guatemala

Hungary
    Commission Decision C(94) 3453 (O.J. No. C355, 14.12.94, p. 8); and

Iceland

Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia

Madagascar
Malta

United Mexican States

Morocco

Namibia

New Zealand
   Commission Decision C(94) 2696 (O.J. No. C298, 26.10.94, p. 3);
   Commission Decision C(95) 1351 (O.J. No. C157, 23.6.95, p. 3).

Paraguay

Poland

Romania

Slovak Republic
   Commission Decision C(95) 2065 (O.J. No. C227, 1.9.95, p. 2).
Slovenia


South Africa

   Commission Decision 90/433/EEC (O.J. No. L223, 18.8.90, p. 21);

Swaziland


Switzerland

   Commission Decision C(96) 304 (O.J. No. C45, 17.2.96, p. 3).

Turkey


United States of America


Uruguay


Zimbabwe

Part II
Limitation of Certain Decisions

The Decisions specified in paragraphs 1, 5 and 31 of Part I of this Schedule are limited to the importation of fresh beef and veal, sheepmeat and meat of domestic solipeds.

SCHEDULE 3

Non-Importation Decisions

Albania
1. Commission Decision 89/197/EEC (O.J. No. L73, 17.3.89, p. 53) concerning the import by Member States of fresh meat from Albania (which bans all imports of fresh meat from Albania).

Bosnia-Herzegovina

Greece

SCHEDULE 4

Special Importation Requirements

Sardinia
1. Commission Decision 95/108/EC (O.J. No. L79, 7.4.95, p. 29) concerning health protection measures against African swine fever in Sardinia (which permits the movement from Sardinia of fresh pigment originating in certain provinces of Sardinia and subject to certain conditions).

South America
2. The offal to which Article 3 of the South American Decision applies may only be imported from—
   (a) Argentina;
   (b) Brazil;
   (c) Chile;
   (d) Colombia;
   (e) Paraguay;
   (f) Uruguay,
in accordance with an authorisation in writing granted by the Department.

SCHEDULE 5

Amendments to Community Legislation


   - Council Directive 81/476/EEC (O.J. No. L186, 8.7.81, p. 20);
   - Council Directive 84/336/EEC (O.J. No. L177, 4.7.84, p. 22);
   - Council Directive 87/64/ECC (O.J. No. L34, 5.2.87, p. 52);
   - Commission Decision 87/231/EEC (O.J. No. L99, 11.4.87, p. 18);
   - The Act concerning the conditions of accession of the Kingdom of Norway, the Republic of Austria, the Republic of Finland and the Kingdom of Sweden and the adjustments to the Treaties on which the European Union is founded (O.J. No. C241, 29.8.94, p. 21).

2. Council Directive 72/462/EEC of 12th December 1972 on health and veterinary inspection problems upon importation of bovine, ovine and caprine animals and swine, fresh meat or meat products from third countries (O.J. No. L302, 31.12.72, p. 28) has been amended by and must be read subject to:

   - Council Directive 87/64/EEC (O.J. No. L34, 5.2.87, p. 52);
Council Directive 91/266/EEC (O.J. No. L134, 29.5.91, p. 45);
Council Regulation (EEC) No. 1601/92 (O.J. No. L173, 27.6.92, p. 13);
The Act concerning the conditions of accession of the Kingdom of Norway, the Republic of Austria, the Republic of Finland and the Kingdom of Sweden and the adjustments to the Treaties on which the European Union is founded (O.J. No. C241, 29.8.94, p. 21).

3. Council Directive 77/96/EEC has been amended by and must be read subject to:
The Act concerning the conditions of accession of the Hellenic Republic to the European Communities (O.J. No. L291, 19.11.79, p. 17);
Council Directive 81/476/EEC (O.J. No. L186, 8.7.81, p. 20);
Council Directive 84/319/EEC (O.J. No. L167, 27.6.84, p. 34);
The Act concerning the conditions of accession of the Kingdom of Norway, the Republic of Austria, the Republic of Finland and the Kingdom of Sweden and the adjustments to the Treaties on which the European Union is founded (O.J. No. C241, 29.8.94, p. 21).

4. The Annex to Council Decision 79/542/EEC of 21st December 1979 drawing up a list of third countries from which the Member States authorise imports of bovine animals, swine, equidae, sheep and goats, fresh meat and meat products (O.J. No. L146, 14.6.79, p. 15) as replaced by the Annex to Commission Decision 93/453/EEC (O.J. No. L201, 11.8.93, p. 28), has been amended by and must be read subject to:
Commission Decision 94/59/EC (O.J. No. L27, 1.2.94, p. 53);
Commission Decision 94/310/EC (O.J. No. L137, 1.6.94, p. 72);
Commission Decision 94/453/EC (O.J. No. L187, 22.7.94, p. 11);
Commission Decision 94/561/EC (O.J. No. L214, 19.8.94, p. 17);
Commission Decision 96/132/EC (O.J. No. L30, 8.2.96, p. 52);
The Act concerning the conditions of accession of the Kingdom of Norway, the Republic of Austria, the Republic of Finland and the Kingdom of Sweden and the adjustments to the Treaties on which the European Union is founded (O.J. No. C241, 29.8.94, p. 21).
EXPLANATORY NOTE

(This note is not part of the Regulations.)


The Regulations apply to fresh meat for human consumption obtained from bovine animals, swine, sheep and goats and solipeds (horses etc.) (regulation 3).

Exempt from the Regulations are, fresh meat for the crew and passengers on board international transport (regulation 5), personal imports (regulation 6) from EEA States and third countries and fresh meat imported under authorisation, or for international organisations or visiting forces (regulation 7).

Provision is made for the transhipment through, and storage in, Northern Ireland of fresh meat consigned from a third country to an EEA State (regulation 8).

The Regulations prohibit the import of fresh meat into Northern Ireland other than in accordance with the provisions of the Regulations (regulations 9, 10 and 11) and provide for the importation and treatment of samples and their packaging (regulation 12).

The Regulations set out certain requirements for certificates and documents needed for the purposes of the Regulations (regulation 13) and make provision regarding offences and penalties (regulation 14).