

10 June 2009

Ref: 19/09

To: Importers / Agents / Airlines

The Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food operates Border Inspection Posts (BIPs) at Dublin and Shannon Airports which are currently approved to inspect the imports of the following categories of live animals:

Dublin Airports

"E" = Registered equidae

"O" = Other animals

Shannon Airports

"E" = Registered equidae

"O" = Other animals

"U" = Ungulates

All Border Inspection Posts are subject to regular audit by the Food and Veterinary Office (FVO) of the European Commission. The latest FVO report related to an audit carried out during 2008, which listed several "shortcomings" with respect to the facilities for category "O" at the BIPs at both Dublin Airport and Shannon Airport

DAFF has assessed the additional upgraded facilities that would be required to address this issue and has consulted the OPW to estimate potential costs.

These costs are such that in view of the current economic situation and the existing level of trade, neither DAFF nor the relevant Airport Authority is in a position to fund the required upgrades to these facilities.

I am therefore writing to advise you that from 3 August 2009, the Border Inspection Post in Dublin Airport and Shannon Airport will no longer be approved for category "O".

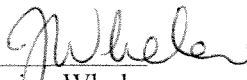
The consequence is that after this date, consignments of ALL live animals that require BIP checks (other than registered equidae at both airports or ungulates in the case of Shannon) can no longer be imported directly into Ireland from a country outside the EU but will have to undergo border inspection checks at a Border Inspection Post approved for category "O" in another Member State, e.g., Heathrow or Frankfurt.

Note: This decision does not affect the importation of pet animal as pets do not require BIP checks but are subject to other import rules (e.g., PETS scheme or quarantine).

Where applicable Irish import licences will still be required. These can be obtained from Animal Health Division as per usual procedures. The Border Inspection Post of choice will also require 24 hours advance notice of the intended import on Part 1 of the attached CVED form. Information on the list of current Border Inspection Posts in the EU is available at: http://ec.europa.eu/food/animal/bips/approved_bips_en.htm

If you require any further assistance / clarification please contact Mr. Marc Cronin, SVI at marc.cronin@agriculture.gov.ie or on 01 5058680.

Yours sincerely


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Animal Health Division