

CHAPTER 33**BORDER CONTROLS WITH
NORTHERN IRELAND****INTRODUCTION**

If FMD is confirmed in the United Kingdom, or is strongly suspected in Northern Ireland, a ban on the import of animals and animal products of FMD susceptible species will be imposed. This chapter sets out the resources necessary and the protocols to be used to enforce this ban.

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1. INTRODUCTION OF BORDER CONTROLS BETWEEN IRELAND AND NORTHERN IRELAND (NI)

- 1.1 If FMD is confirmed in the United Kingdom, or is strongly suspected in Northern Ireland, a ban on the import of animals and animal products of FMD susceptible species will be imposed.
- 1.2 The CVO will inform the CVO in Northern Ireland of this decision.
- 1.3 The Assistant Secretary, Animal Health will inform Garda Headquarters of the decision.
- 1.4 The NDCC will inform the SVIs in border county DVOs that checkpoints should be set up at border crossing points.
- 1.5 The SVIs will contact local Gardai to make arrangements for the setting up and operation of border check points in their areas.

2. DESIGNATION OF BORDER CROSSING POINTS

- 2.1 The border with NI comprises:
 - 400 km (250 miles)
 - 191 vehicle crossing points.
- 2.2 In 2001 the number of checkpoints established to cover all crossing points was 141.
- 2.3 To achieve greater efficiency, certain checkpoints will be designated as DAF-staffed and all agriculture-related vehicles will be directed to use these crossing points. A list of the 33 designated crossing points used in 2001 is given in **Annex 1**.
- 2.4 A press release will be issued directing importers to use these crossing points.
- 2.5 In addition to Gardai at these designated check points, there will be a 24 hour presence of DAF personnel (TAOs) for the purpose of checking for animals and animal products and for disinfection of vehicles.
- 2.6 A VI will be on call to assist the Gardai and technical staff with any problems.
- 2.7 Smaller crossing points will be manned by Gardai only, with a VI on-call.
- 2.8 If there are heavy volumes of traffic and drivers attempt diversions to avoid bottle-necks at existing designated crossings, additional designated border crossings may be required.

3. PERSONNEL

- 3.1 Rostering of staff at border crossing points should take account of the numbers of vehicles for inspection and the necessity for spraying all, or only high-risk, vehicles.
- 3.2 **Annex 2** shows the number of TAO personnel manning each shift at nominated crossing points in Donegal during 2001. The different levels of traffic and the necessity to allocate breaks during the day, account for the different manning levels.
- 3.3 All TAO staff carrying out checks on vehicles must be authorised under Section 17A of the Diseases of Animals Act, 1966 (see Chapter 25, **Legal Basis** for a summary of powers of authorised officers, and Chapter 7, **Staffing and Logistics** on authorisation of staff).
- 3.4 Farm Relief Service (FRS) personnel may be required to assist TAOs.
- 3.5 The function of FRS personnel is to carry out vehicle spraying and to maintain the automatic sprayers. FRS personnel will be supervised by TAO staff.
- 3.6 The number of FRS personnel required will vary between crossing points depending on the numbers of vehicles requiring individual spraying. Maintenance of automatic washers will require personnel to be available 24 hours a day.

4. ACCOMMODATION

- 4.1 If FMD is confirmed in NI, movement controls will be in place for at least one month. It will be necessary to ensure that accommodation is available for personnel and storage facilities for equipment at **each** designated border crossing.
- 4.2 Some former customs posts may be available for use.
- 4.3 Where these are not available, it will be necessary to hire a caravan locally. A list of local suppliers is maintained at each border county DVO.
- 4.4 Connections for the supply of electricity and water may be made by contacting the local Office of Public Works office.
- 4.5 It may be necessary to arrange a secure location elsewhere for temporary storage of seized product pending disposal by rendering.

5. EQUIPMENT

- 5.1 The equipment required for border crossing points is listed in **Annex 3**.
- 5.2 Each DVO maintains a list of suppliers of equipment.

6. PROCEDURES

6.1 Disinfection of vehicles

- a) This will be carried out by FRS personnel, under the supervision of TAO staff.
- b) The NDCC in collaboration with the DVO SVI will determine whether all vehicles or only high-risk vehicles are to be disinfected.
- c) A list of disinfectants which are approved for use against FMD, and suitable for use on vehicles, is provided in **Annex 3**.

6.2 Checks for the import of animals or animal products

- a) These will be carried out by TAOs under the supervision of a VI.
- b) The protocol for checking vehicles is set out in **Annex 4** below.
- c) Any product seized must be destroyed in a high risk rendering plant, in accordance with the rules for disposal of Category 2 waste set out in Regulation 2002/1774/EC.

6.3 Records

The following records must be kept at the DVO:

- Staff rotas
- Daily log of operations in place
- Faxes sent/received
- Invoices for equipment bought/hired
- Circulars
- Commission Decisions imposing EU safeguard measures (and implementing S.Is)
- Seizures at crossing points (bags/day/crossing point and type of product)
- Disposals at rendering plant.

7. COMMUNICATIONS

- 7.1 Efficient and effective communications between the NDCC, DVO, Gardai and personnel manning the border crossing points are essential.
- 7.2 When FMD has been confirmed in NI or GB, the Gardai will nominate a Liaison Officer for all border checks. In 2001, the Liaison Officer was located in Sligo.
- 7.3 All updates on import rules will be faxed (and e-mailed if this is possible) from the NDCC to the Garda Liaison Officer, Regional SSVI and DVO SVI.
- 7.4 If time permits, the updates will be condensed into a short, user-friendly summary to facilitate non-DAF personnel.
- 7.5 The Garda Liaison Officer will communicate the updates to Gardai at **non-designated** crossing points.
- 7.6 The protocol for communications between the DVO and **designated** border crossing points is set out in **Annex 5** below.

ANNEX 1

BORDER CROSSING POINTS DESIGNATED FOR IMPORT OF AGRICULTURAL VEHICLES AND PRODUCTS (staffed by DAF personnel, FRS and Gardai) 2001	
COUNTY	CROSSING POINT
Leitrim (3)	Rossinver Kiltyclogher Blacklion, Co. Cavan
Donegal (9)	Muff Bridgend Killea Lifford Castlefin Clyhore Pettigo Carrigans Cloghfin
Monaghan (8)	Ardhamill Bridge Ballinacorry Bridge Tullynagrow Tyholland Moybridge Innishannon Newtownbutler Rd, Clones Concession Rd, Clones
Cavan (4)	Leggykelly Concession Rd., Aghalane Scotchtown, Ballyconnell Mullan, Swanlinbar
Louth (9)	Omeath Dromad Drumbilla Castleblaney Concession Rd., Carrickaneena Dungooley Cross Ballybinaby Cross Courtbane Carrickedmond

ANNEX 2

EXAMPLE OF STAFF ROSTERING IN DONEGAL 2001		
REF NO.	ORDER CROSSING POINT	TAO ROTA W/B 12/03/01
1	Muff	4 TAOs
2	Bridgend	5 TAOs
3	Killea	4 TAOs
4	Lifford	5 TAOs
5	Castlefin @ Kilcleen	4 TAOs
6	Pettigo	4 TAOs
7	Ballyshannon @ Clyhore	4 TAOs
8	Carrigans	5 TAOs
9	Cloughfin from 27/04/01	3 TAOs

Shift Times	1 X 8.00a.m. - 4.00p.m. 1 X 4.00p.m. - midnight 1x midnight - 8.00a.m.	3 TAOs
	1 X 8.00a.m. - 4.00p.m. 1 x noon - 8.00 p.m 1 X 4.00p.m. - midnight 1 x midnight - 8.00a.m.	4 TAOs
	2 X 8.00a.m. - 4.00p.m. 2 X 4.00p.m. - midnight 1x midnight - 8.00a.m.	5 TAOs

ANNEX 3

EQUIPMENT AND SERVICES REQUIRED FOR BORDER CROSSING POINTS

1. Water drums and tanks to be filled by contractor supplying mobile water until permanent supply installed by OPW / Local Authority
2. Rubber or carpet mats
3. Signs
4. Knap-sack sprayers
5. Automatic sprayers (e.g. “Mud-blaster” or “Jet Wash”)
6. Forklifts for the installation and removal of some automatic sprayers
7. Torches
8. Electrical or gas heaters
9. Bins and liners for the collection of seized material
10. Waterproof protective clothing
11. Fluorescent vests
12. Hot meals from local food outlets
13. Van to collect seized product for disposal
14. Disinfectants suitable of use on vehicles:
 - Citric acid
 - Virkon S
 - Viracid
 - Sanomatic

ANNEX 4**PROTOCOLS FOR CHECKS FOR ILLEGALLY IMPORTED PRODUCTS OR ANIMALS AT BORDER CROSSINGS**

1. TAO staff will operate in conjunction with GardaI at designated border crossing points.
2. Under Section 17A of the Diseases of Animals Act, 1966, authorised TAO staff may:
 - a) question motorists and transporters as to whether they are bringing any animals or products such as:
 - meat or meat products
 - milk or milk products
 - hay, straw or peat moss litter
 - working dogs or greyhounds
 - horses
 - farm machinery
 - b) require the production of any official health certificate, disinfection certificate or import licence (depending on the product).
 - c) search any vehicle to determine whether any items listed in (a) are present.
 - d) seize and detain, or reject any illegally imported product.
3. Seized product must be placed in bins and plastic sacks provided at each border crossing point.
4. Seized material will be collected each day for storage pending destruction by rendering.

ANNEX 5**PROTOCOL FOR COMMUNICATIONS WITH BORDER CROSSING POINTS**

1. Updated circulars regarding current prohibitions on imports will be sent from the NDCC by e-mail and/or fax to all DVO SVIs, Regional SSVIs and Garda Liaison Officer.
2. If time permits, the updates will be condensed into a short, user-friendly summary to facilitate non-DAF personnel.
3. A person will be designated to log all faxes and e-mails received by the SVI at the DVO.
4. Copies will be sent immediately to all area VIs and DSs with overall responsibility for communications with TAOs at border crossing points.
5. Urgent changes will be issued immediately by telephone to all border crossing points by the DS (or may be brought to border crossing points, for local hard copy reference, by supervisory SAO/DS on the same evening or the next day).
6. A copy of all circulars must be kept on file in the DVO and at each border crossing point.
7. A list of mobile telephone numbers for all supervisory officers (SVI, VIs, DS) will be available at border crossing points and circulated to Gardai.
8. Each border crossing point will be equipped with a designated mobile phone.
9. All reports will be communicated by fax to the NDCC (or Staffing and Logistics Unit if so directed).