



Department of  
**AGRICULTURE  
FISHERIES &  
FORESTRY -  
AUSTRALIA**



9 April 2002

## **ANIMAL BIOSECURITY POLICY MEMORANDUM 2002/13**

### **UNITED KINGDOM: LIFTING OF TEMPORARY FMD RESTRICTIONS**

This Animal Biosecurity Policy Memorandum (ABPM) advises stakeholders of the lifting of the temporary Foot and Mouth Disease (FMD) restrictions on product from the United Kingdom (UK).

The Director of Quarantine has approved the lifting of the temporary FMD restrictions on product from the UK. This decision takes effect immediately.

In February 2001, Australia temporarily suspended imports of animals susceptible to FMD and their products from the UK, and in March 2001 from the European Union (EU) and other countries where FMD is present. As part of the undertaking to review the temporary restriction, Biosecurity Australia sent a questionnaire to the embassies of each Member State and the EU delegation in Canberra. The questionnaire was based on the Office International des Epizooties (OIE) International Animal Health Code definitions for FMD-free zones and on key epidemiological data identified as significant by Australian veterinarians who had participated in the UK eradication campaign.

The last outbreak of FMD reported in the UK was on 30 September 2001. Since then the UK veterinary authorities have implemented detailed monitoring and surveillance throughout the country to confirm the absence of disease. This has involved the destruction of a large number of suspect stock following intensive sero-surveillance. Details of this program have been made available in the form of daily briefings from the UK's Department of Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA). On 14 January 2002, when Northumberland County was declared free, the UK had met all requirements to be recognised by the OIE as an FMD-free country without vaccination (ie, a country formerly free from FMD without vaccination regains that free status three months after the last reported outbreak has been stamped out if no vaccination occurred). The OIE gave this recognition on 21 January 2002. Since then the European Commission and New Zealand have recognised the UK's freedom. In late March Canada followed suit.

The UK has responded to the Australian FMD questionnaire. In addition, Animal Biosecurity has reviewed the information supplied by the UK to the OIE FMD Commission, observations made by an AFFA epidemiologist whilst in the UK during the FMD outbreak and the report of a delegation of Canadian and United States government epidemiologists who visited the UK between 10 and 17 February 2002 to liaise with counterparts in DEFRA and to assess DEFRA's surveillance processes.



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FMD restrictions have now been lifted for all EU Member States. The Australian Quarantine and Inspection Service will continue to apply the intensified quarantine border control systems put in place soon after the EU outbreak.

I would be grateful if you would pass details of this notice to other interested parties, who should advise Biosecurity Australia if they wish to be included in future communications on this matter.

#### Confidentiality

Respondents are advised that, subject to the *Freedom of Information Act 1982* and the *Privacy Act 1988*, all submissions received in response to Animal Biosecurity Policy Memoranda will be publicly available and may be listed or referred to in any papers or reports prepared on the subject matter of the Memoranda.

The Commonwealth reserves the right to reveal the identity of a respondent unless a request for anonymity accompanies the submission. Where a request for anonymity does not accompany the submission the respondent will be taken to have consented to the disclosure of his or her identity for the purposes of Information Privacy Principle 11 of the Privacy Act.

The contents of the submission will not be treated as confidential unless they are marked 'confidential' and they are capable of being classified as such in accordance with the Freedom of Information Act.

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