
REPORT TO:	ENVIRONMENTAL & DEVELOPMENT SERVICES	AGENDA ITEM: 12
DATE OF MEETING:	2 nd October 2003	CATEGORY: DELEGATED
REPORT FROM:	ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH MANAGER	OPEN PARAGRAPH NO:
MEMBERS' CONTACT POINT:	Carl Jacobs 595717	DOC:
SUBJECT:	Food Enforcement – Authorisation Under European Communities Act 1972	REF: c:\myfiles\com\ES\ Authorisation
WARD(S) AFFECTED:	All	TERMS OF REFERENCE: ES13

1.0 Recommendations

- 1.1 That the Committee authorises the following Officers to Act and enforce the powers of the following pieces of legislation.

The legislation

European Communities Act 1972

Products of Animal Origin (Third Country Imports) (England) Regulations 2002
(As amended)

Products of Animal Origin (Imports & Exports) Regulations 1996

TSE (England) Regulations 2002

The Meat(Enhanced Enforcement Powers) Regulations 2000

The Officers

Carl Jacobs, Ian Moore, Lisa Forshaw, Katie Day, Sue Shaw

2.0 Purpose of Report

- 2.1 Following investigations undertaken throughout the country by Environmental Health Departments, the Food Standards Agency has requested that all Local Authorities step up their surveillance and enforcement activities in relation to illegally imported meat products into the United Kingdom. As a consequence of this they have requested that officers obtain additional powers under the above legislation in order to investigate, detain and seize illegally imported foods. Many of these powers are additionally enforced by the Meat Hygiene Service. The Committee report also ensures that should officers be challenged in Court that as to their powers we are able to show clearly that the named officers are appropriately authorised.

3.0 Detail

- 3.1 All Local Authorities are responsible for imported food controls and it is a common misconception that it is solely a Port Health Responsibility. As 50% of all food items on sale in the UK are imported some food illegally imported will evade Port Health checks. As a consequence the Food Standards Agency have requested Local Authorities to increase their vigilance and actively look for illegally imported products of animal origin.
- 3.2 The Products of Animal Origin (Third Country Imports) (England) Regulations 2002 (as amended) and Products of Animal Origin (Imports & Exports) Regulations 1996 both pieces of legislation relate to the illegal import of meat products.
- 3.3 The TSE (England) Regulations 2002 relate to the removal of Specified Risk Material which should be removed and disposed of at the point of slaughter. This includes the Brains, Spinal Cord, Tonsils, Thymus, Spleen and Intestines of Bovine Animals. The primary reason for the removal of these parts of the bovine animal is to reduce the spread of BSE (bovine spongiform encephalopathy).
- 3.4 On rare occasions some risk material can be found on carcasses of meat and joints on sale in retail premises (normally spinal cord). This is due to it slipping through the inspection process at slaughter houses which is under the control of the Meat Hygiene Service or imported from European Countries and again missed on inspection. This legislation gives us powers to deal with this situation should it occur.
- 3.5 The Meat (Enhanced Enforcement Powers) Regulations 2000 are primarily used where meat is found by Environmental Health Officers that has not been inspected by Authorised Meat Inspectors at recognised slaughter houses.

4.0 Financial Implications

- 4.1 None

5.0 Background Papers

- 5.1 None