COMMISSION

COMMISSION DECISION

of 28 July 1978

concerning animal health conditions and veterinary certification for imports of fresh meat from Argentina

(78/693/EEC)

THE COMMISSION OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES,

Having regard to the Treaty establishing the European Economic Community,

Having regard to Council Directive 72/462/EEC of 12 December 1972 on health and veterinary inspection problems upon importation of bovine animals and swine and fresh meat from third countries (1), and in particular Articles 16 and 28,

Whereas the situation regarding foot-and-mouth disease in Argentina may constitute a serious danger for Community livestock because of the trade with that country; whereas certain Member States have already adopted protective measures in this respect;

Whereas the necessary steps should therefore be taken at Community level to reduce the risk of introduction of disease by ensuring that imports from Argentina of fresh meat fulfil conditions which will ensure the protection of Community livestock;

Whereas it is necessary to lay down health requirements for imports of fresh meat from Argentina; whereas it is necessary to take account of the situation in Argentina regarding foot-and-mouth disease and particularly of the situation in various parts there at present;

Whereas the measures adopted by Member States must be adapted to the particular health situation of each third country; whereas they must be modified in the light of any developments therein;

Whereas special conditions may be laid down for certain Member States because of their special animal health situations until common Community measures are adopted for the control and eradication of foot-and-mouth disease; whereas these conditions must be at least as strict as those which the same Member States apply in intra-Community trade;

Whereas specific measures of animal health protection should be adopted on a Community basis as provided for by the Directive;

Whereas the measures provided for in this Decision are in accordance with the opinion of the Standing Veterinary Committee,

HAS ADOPTED THIS DECISION:

Article 1

1. Member States shall authorize the importation of fresh meat from Argentina as follows:

(a) deboned fresh meat of bovine animals, sheep and goats, excluding offals, from which have been removed the major accessible lymphatic glands, conforming to the guarantees laid down in the animal health certificate in accordance with Annex A and which must accompany the consignment;

(b) fresh meat, with or without bone, of bovine animals, sheep and goats born, reared and

(1) OJ No L 302, 31. 12. 1972, p. 28.

slaughtered in those regions of Argentina south of the 42nd parallel, conforming to the guarantees laid down in the animal health certificate in accordance with Annex B and which must accompany the consignment;

(c) fresh meat of domestic solipeds, conforming to the guarantees laid down in the animal health certificate in accordance with Annex C and which must accompany the consignment;

(d) in addition to the offals which may be imported under point (b), the following offals of bovine animals:

— completely trimmed hearts,

— completely trimmed livers,

— completely trimmed tongues without bone, cartilage or tonsils,

conforming to the guarantees laid down in the animal health certificate in accordance with Annex D and which must accompany the consignment.

2. Member States shall not authorize the import of categories of fresh meat from Argentina other than those mentioned in paragraph 1.

Article 2

1. Until the adoption by the Council of Regulations concerning the control and eradication of foot-and-mouth disease within the Community and until 31 December 1982 at the latest, and while continuing to prohibit vaccination against foot-and-mouth disease:

(a) Denmark, Ireland and the United Kingdom in respect of Northern Ireland may, in respect of the deboned fresh meat of bovine animals, sheep and goats referred to under Article 1 (1) (a), the fresh meat of bovine animals, sheep and goats referred to under (b) thereof and the offals referred to under (d) thereof, continue to refuse to authorize such imports;

(b) the United Kingdom may, in respect of the deboned fresh meat of sheep and goats referred to under Article 1 (1) (a), the fresh meat of bovine animals, sheep and goats referred to under (b) thereof and the offals referred to under (d) thereof, continue to require additional conditions currently in force which must be at least as strict as those which apply in intra-Community trade.

2. The United Kingdom shall immediately inform the Commission of the additional conditions currently in force.

Article 3

This Decision shall not apply to imports of glands and organs authorized by the country of destination for pharmaceutical manufacturing purposes.

Article 4

This Decision shall be examined with a view to adaptation to Council Regulations concerning the control and eradication of foot-and-mouth disease within the Community, and in any case before 1 July 1982.

Article 5

This Decision shall enter into force on 1 October 1978. However, the certificates currently used, amended if necessary in accordance with the provisions of this Decision, may be used until 31 March 1979.

Article 6

This Decision is addressed to the Member States.

Done at Brussels, 28 July 1978.

For the Commission

Finn GUNDELACH

Vice-President

ANNEX A

ANIMAL HEALTH CERTIFICATE

for deboned fresh meat (1) of bovine animals, sheep and goats, excluding offals, intended for consignment to the European Economic Community

Country of destination .....

Reference to the public health certificate .....

Exporting country, Argentina.

Ministry .....

Department .....

References .....

(Optional)

I. Identification of meat

Meat (2) of .....

(Animal species)

Nature of cuts (3) .....

Nature of packaging .....

Number of cuts or packages .....

Net weight .....

II. Origin of meat

Address(es) and veterinary approval number(s) of the approved slaughterhouse(s) .....

.....

Address(es) and veterinary approval number(s) of the approved cutting plant(s) .....

.....

III. Destination of meat

The meat will be sent from: .....

(Place of loading)

to: .....

(Country and place of destination)

by the following means of transport (4) .....

Name and address of consignor .....

Name and address of consignee .....

IV. Attestation of health

I, the undersigned, official veterinarian, certify that:

1. the deboned fresh meat described above is obtained from:

— animals which have remained in the territory of Argentina for at least three months before being slaughtered or since birth in the case of animals less than three months old,

— in the case of bovine animals:

(i) animals having spent this period in a region in which foot-and-mouth disease vaccination of bovine animals is regularly carried out and officially controlled ([5]); or

(ii) animals which have been born, reared and slaughtered south of the Barrancas/ Colorado rivers boundary ([5]),

— animals which come from holdings in which there has been no outbreak of foot-and-mouth disease in the previous 60 days, and around which within a radius of 25 km there has been no case of foot-and-mouth disease for 30 days,

— animals which have been transported direct from their holding of origin to the approved slaughterhouse concerned without passing through a market, without contact with animals which do not comply with the conditions required for export of their meat to the Community, and, if conveyed in a means of transport, the latter has been cleaned and disinfected before loading,

— animals which have passed the ante-mortem health inspection referred to in Chapter V of the Annex to Directive 72/462/EEC at the slaughterhouse during the 24 hours before slaughter and have in particular been subject to examination of the mouth and feet and showed no evidence of foot-and-mouth disease,

— in the case of fresh meat from sheep and goats, animals which have not come from a holding which for health reasons is subject to prohibition as a result of an outbreak of ovine or caprine brucellosis during the previous six weeks;

2. the deboned fresh meat is obtained from an establishment or establishments in which, after a case of foot-and-mouth disease has been diagnosed, further preparation of meat for export to the European Community has only been authorized after slaughter of all animals present, removal of all meat, and the total cleaning and disinfection of the establishments under the control of an official veterinarian;

3. the deboned fresh meat described above originates from carcases which have matured at a room temperature of more than + 2 °C for at least 24 hours before the bones were removed;

4. ..... ([6]).

Done at ....., on .....

Seal

.....

(Signature of official veterinarian)

([1]) Fresh meat: means all parts fit for consumption from domestic bovine animals, sheep and goats which have not undergone any preserving process; however, chilled and frozen meat shall be considered as fresh meat.

([2]) Only deboned fresh meat from bovine animals, sheep and goats from which the major accessible lymphatic glands have been removed is authorized for importation.

([3]) Fresh meat is only authorized for importation when all bones have been removed.

([4]) For railway wagons or lorries the registration number should be given, for aircraft the flight number and for ships the name.

([5]) Delete as appropriate.

([6]) Additional conditions required by the United Kingdom.

ANNEX B

ANIMAL HEALTH CERTIFICATE

for fresh meat (1) of bovine animals, sheep and goats, intended for consignment to the European Economic Community

Country of destination .....

Reference to the public health certificate .....

Exporting country, Argentina.

Ministry .....

Department .....

References .....

(Optional)

I. Identification of meat

Meat (2) of .....

(Animal species)

Nature of cuts .....

Nature of packaging .....

Number of cuts or packages .....

Net weight .....

II. Origin of meat

Address(es) and veterinary approval number(s) of the approved slaughterhouse(s) .....

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Address(es) and veterinary approval number(s) of the approved cutting (plant(s) .....

.....

III. Destination of meat

The meat will be sent from: .....

(Place of loading)

to: .....

(Country and place of destination)

by the following means of transport (3) .....

Name and address of consignor .....

Name and address of consignee .....

IV. Attestation of health

I, the undersigned, official veterination, certify that:

1. the fresh meat described above is obtained from:

   — animals born, reared and slaughtered in regions of Argentina situated south of the 42nd parallel,

— animals which come from holdings in which there has been no outbreak of foot-and-mouth disease in the previous 60 days, and around which within a radius of 25 km there has been no case of foot-and-mouth disease for 30 days,

— animals which have been transported direct from their holding of origin to the approved slaughterhouse concerned without passing through a market, without contact with animals which do not comply with the conditions required for export of their meat to the Community, and, if conveyed in a means of transport, the latter has been cleaned and disinfected before loading,

— animals which have passed the ante-mortem health inspection referred to in Chapter V of the Annex to Directive 72/462/EEC at the slaughterhouse during the 24 hours before slaughter and have in particular been subject to examination of the mouth and feet and showed no evidence of foot-and-mouth disease,

— in the case of fresh meat of sheep and goats, animals which have not come from a holding which for health reasons is subject to prohibition as a result of an outbreak of ovine or caprine brucellosis during the previous six weeks;

2. the fresh meat is obtained from an establishment or establisments, in which after a case of foot-and-mouth disease has been diagnosed, further preparation of meat for export to the European Community has only been authorized after slaughter of all animals present, removal of all meat, and the total cleaning and disinfection of the establishment under the control of an official veterinarian;

3. ..... (4).

Done at ....., on .....

Seal

.....

(Signature of official veterinarian)

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(1) Fresh meat: means all parts fit for consumption from domestic bovine animals, sheep and goats which have not undergone any preserving process; however, chilled and frozen meat shall be considered as fresh meat.

(2) Importation of carcase fresh meat of bovine animals, sheep and goats is only authorized when originating from animals born, reared and slaughtered south of the 42nd parallel of Argentina.

(3) For railway wagons or lorries the registration number should be given, for aircraft the flight number and for ships the name.

(4) Additional conditions required by the United Kingdom.

ANNEX C

ANIMAL HEALTH CERTIFICATE

for fresh meat (1) of domestic solipeds intended for consignment to the European Economic Community

Country of destination .....

Reference to the public health certificate .....

Exporting country, Argentina.

Ministry .....

Department .....

References .....
(Optional)

I. **Indentification of meat**

Meat of domestic solipeds.

Nature of cuts .....

Nature of packaging .....

Number of cuts or packages .....

Net weight .....

II. **Origin of meat**

Address(es) and veterinary approval number(s) of the approved slaughterhouse(s) .....

.....

Address(es) and veterinary approval number(s) of the approved cutting plant(s) .....

.....

III. **Destination of meat**

The meat will be sent from: .....
(Place of loading)

to: .....
(Country and place of destination)

by the following means of transport (2) .....

Name and address of consignor .....

Name and address of consignee .....

IV. **Attestation of health**

I, the undersigned, official veterinarian, certify that the fresh meat described above is obtained from animals which have remained in the territory of Argentina for at least three months before being slaughtered or since birth in the case of animals less than three months old.

Done at ....., on .....

Seal

.....

(Signature of official veterinarian)

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(1) Fresh meat: means all parts fit for consumption from domestic solipeds which have not undergone any preserving process; however, chilled and frozen meat shall be considered as fresh meat.

(2) For railway wagons or lorries the registration number should be given, for aircraft the flight number and for ships the name.

ANNEX D

ANIMAL HEALTH CERTIFICATE

for offal (1) of bovine animals intended for consignment to the European Economic Community

Country of destination .....

Reference to the public health certificate .....

Exporting country, Argentina.

Ministry .....

Department .....

References .....

(Optional)

I. Identification of offal

Offal of bovine animals.

Nature of offals .....

Nature of packaging .....

Number of packages .....

Net weight .....

II. Origin of offal

Address(es) and veterinary approval number(s) of the approved slaughterhouse(s) .....

.....

Address(es) and veterinary approval number(s) of the approved cutting plant(s) .....

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III. Destination of offal

The offal will be sent from: .....

(Place of loading)

to: .....

(Country and place of destination)

by the following means of transport (2) .....

Name and address of consignor .....

Name and address of consignee .....

IV. Attestation of health

I, the undersigned, official veterinarian, certify that:

1. the offal described above is obtained from:

   — bovine animals which have remained in the territory of Argentina for at least three months before being slaughtered or since birth in the case of animals less than three months old,

— bovine animals:

(i) having spent this period in a region in which foot-and-mouth disease vaccination of bovine animals is regularly carried out and officially controlled [3]; or

(ii) which have been born, reared and slaughtered south of the Barrancas/Colorado rivers boundary [3],

— bovine animals which come from holdings in which there has been no outbreak of foot-and-mouth disease in the previous 60 days, and around which within a radius of 25 km there has been no case of foot-and-mouth disease for 30 days,

— bovine animals which have been transported direct from their holding of origin to the approved slaughterhouse concerned without passing through a market, without contact with animals which do not comply with the conditions required for export of their meat to the Community, and, if conveyed in a means of transport, the latter has been cleaned and disinfected before loading,

— bovine animals which have passed the ante-mortem health inspection referred to in Chapter V of the Annex to Directive 72/462/EEC at the slaughterhouse during the 24 hours before slaughter and have in particular been subject to examination of the mouth and feet and showed no evidence of foot-and-mouth disease;

2. the offal is obtained from an establishment or establishments in which, after a case of foot-and-mouth disease has been diagnosed, further preparation of meat for export to the European Community has only been authorized after slaughter of all animals present, removal of all meat, and the total cleaning and disinfection of the establishments under the control of an official veterinarian;

3. the offal described above has matured at a room temperature of more than + 2 °C for at least three hours;

4. ..... [4].

Seal

Done at ....., on .....

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(Signature of official veterinarian)

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[1] Only hearts and livers from which lymphatic glands, adhering connective tissue and fat have been completely removed and tongues without bone, cartilage and tonsils of bovine animals are authorized for importation.

[2] For railway wagons or lorries the registration number should be given, for aircraft the flight number and for ships the name.

[3] Delete as appropriate.

[4] Additional conditions required by the United Kingdom.