



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



7 August 2001

## **ANIMAL BIOSECURITY POLICY MEMORANDUM 2001/19**

### **FRANCE AND BELGIUM: 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 France and Belgium, effective 7 August 2001.

The Director of Quarantine has approved the lifting of the temporary FMD restrictions on product from France and Belgium. This decision takes effect from 7 August 2001.

On 14 March 2001, Australia temporarily suspended imports of animals susceptible to FMD and their products 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 included key epidemiological data identified as significant by Australian veterinarians who had participated in the United Kingdom (UK) eradication campaign.

France has provided a detailed response that presented all the necessary information to confirm its FMD-free status. There were two outbreaks which were detected on 12 and 23 March 2001. France has supplied information on its control and eradication measures as well as its tracing, surveillance, monitoring and prevention activities. The eradication measures included the slaughter of the infected herds, susceptible species within the potential area of airborne spread of the virus and those linked in epidemiological terms to the outbreaks. The French were able to trace animals imported from the UK, Netherlands and Ireland during the danger periods which were culled along with all animals of susceptible species in contact with them.

Under OIE rules, a country formerly free from FMD without vaccination regains that free status three months after the last reported outbreak if no vaccination occurred.

Genetic material and dairy products produced from milk collected between 5 February and 23 June 2001 from France will not be eligible for importation.



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Biosecurity Australia has obtained sufficient information on Belgium from a submission from the European Commission to satisfy the needs of the questionnaire. Belgium has been free from FMD since 1976. Dairy products are imported from Belgium.

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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