



Animal &  
Plant Health  
Agency

## APHA Briefing Note 03/26

# Frequency rates for physical checks on certain goods entering the EU

**Date issued: 28 January 2026**

### Purpose

To inform OVAs of revised frequency rates for physical checks on certain consignments of goods of animal origin entering the Union.

### Background

In December last year, the Commission [announced](#) a reinforcement of controls on products imported into the Union. Within the measures listed, was an increase in the frequency of checks on consignments of goods of animal origin entering the Union.

Commission Implementing Regulation [2019/2129](#) establishes rules for the uniform application of frequency rates for identity checks and physical checks on certain consignments of goods of animal origin entering the Union. Article 5(3) of this Regulation states that the frequency rates of physical checks is made automatically in TRACES.

The Commission recently wrote to Defra stating that the frequency rates will now be updated every four months; previously this had been reviewed every six months. The last series of rate changes was made on 1 October 2025, and the Commission has launched the next series of rate changes effective from 1 February this year.

In October, many categories of products were subject to increased minimum frequency of checks. These increased rates are retained from February 1 and 'Other ABP' has also increased from 5% to 15%.

APHA is an Executive Agency of the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs and also works on behalf of the Scottish Government, Welsh Government and Food Standards Agency to safeguard animal and plant health for the benefit of people, the environment and the economy.

## Action

The frequency rates for different categories of products can be reviewed through TRACES. There is a dedicated functionality within this system allowing any user to consult the applied frequency rates for physical checks on goods of animal origin from all third countries.

This function is available in the 'Publications' section under 'Frequencies of Physical Checks'

(<https://webgate.ec.europa.eu/tracesnt/publication/frequency-of-checks/index#!/search>)

## Further Information

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