



Animal &
Plant Health
Agency

APHA Briefing Note 09/26

Inspection rates for physical checks on certain goods entering the EU

Date issued: 06 March 2026

Purpose

- To inform Official Veterinarians (OVs) of EU physical check frequency changes for certain consignments of goods of animal origin despatched from GB.
- To request OVs to take extra care in undertaking certification of these types of commodities.

Background

1. In December last year, the Commission [announced](#) reinforced official controls on products entering the EU. As part of these measures, the Commission indicated that the frequency of physical checks may be increased for certain commodities and countries of origin where non-compliance has been detected at EU Border Control Posts.
2. Increased rates highlight categories of products of particular concern to the European Commission. Some rates apply specifically to GB origin goods, while others apply to multiple countries.
3. Commission Implementing Regulation 2019/2129 establishes rules for the uniform application of physical check rates for certain consignments of goods of animal origin entering the EU. Article 5(3) of this Regulation states that the adjustments to these frequency rates is automatically managed in TRACES.NT.
4. The Commission recently wrote to Defra stating that the review cycle for frequency rates has been reduced from six months to four months. The last set of rate changes

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under the previous six-month cycle took effect from 1 October 2025. The latest set of rate changes took effect from 1 February this year and will apply until 31 May 26.

5. In October 2025, many GB origin categories of products were subject to increased minimum physical check rates. These increased rates were maintained in the 1 February 26 update. The latest update also increased the physical check rate on the category 'Other ABP' from 5% to 15%.
6. APHA will not issue repeat Briefing Notes for each revision of these rates.

Action

The rates are partly determined by the record of detected problems by country of despatch. OVs are asked to be extra vigilant in undertaking certification of the types of commodities listed in this Briefing Note to minimise the likelihood of these products being rejected and staying at higher check rates.

Further Information

APHA's Centre for International Trade – Carlisle, email: exports@apha.gov.uk Telephone: 03000 300 201

Annex

The categories subject to increased levels of physical checks, are defined by [Commission Implementing Regulation \(EU\) 2019/2129](#), and need to be understood in that context.

At 50%

Poultry meat (not minced, not preparations, not products)

Eggs for human consumption

At 30%

Egg products, ambient temperature

Honey

Other meat and meat products

Other fishery products (i.e. other than aquaculture and LBM, their default is 30%)

Rendered fat for Human Consumption

At 15%

Other ABP

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The rates can be checked by persons that have a login access to TRACES.NT. Look for the dedicated function within this system to check the rates for physical checks on goods of animal origin by category and country, available in the 'Publications' section under 'Frequencies of Physical Checks'.

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

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