



IMPORTS AND EU POLICY TEAM

OVS Note/2018/05

Date: 16 April 2018

Audits of Border Inspection Posts (BIPs)

Purpose

1. To inform BIPs of the amended schedule of audits by APHA.

Background

2. APHA, Defra and the FSA reviewed the audit schedule of product BIPs in England during 2017.
3. As the audits have shown good compliance with the requirements of EU and UK legislation over the past 5 years, a reduction in the frequency of audits can be justified.
4. Self-assurance checks, also known as verification checks should continue as required by OVS note 2013/25 to ensure that the facilities and veterinary checks are in compliance with the legislation and checks are effective.
5. The new audit schedule will now consist of one audit per year and audits will alternate between the facilities and the veterinary checks procedures. APHA auditors will continue to check the documentation for at least 10 consignments during each audit and will request the relevant documents in advance of the audits as before.
6. The new schedule will reduce the number of visits by APHA staff from 45 to 15 visits per year.
7. No liaison visits will be undertaken unless there is a need for additional visits based on the audit findings or other information obtained by APHA/Defra or the FSA.
8. The number of audit teams has been reduced to 2 teams which means that Bristol, East Midlands, Manchester and Grimsby Immingham will now be visited by a new team of auditors.



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Action for BIPs

9. BIP staff to take note of the new audit schedule and provide the auditors with the required documentation when requested.
10. BIPs must continue to carry out quarterly self-assurance/verification checks as required by OVS notes 2011/35, 2013/25 and Section 20 of the BIP Manual

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