Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs Scottish Government Welsh Government



Suggested Checklist to be Used at Product Border Control Post/ Inspection Centre: Verification Checks VC24

				-	
Site details (Comments	
Name of Border Control Post (BCP) /Inspe	ection	Centr	e (IC)		
Name and title of person completing repor	t				
Date of inspection					
Non-compliances identified?				Yes No	
Inspection Centres					
1.1 Office Facilities and Equipment - Pri	incipa	I Offi	ce		
Item	Yes	No	Comments		
Telephone					
Internet / Wi -Fi connection					
Photocopier Scanner/printer					
IPAFFS access					
Sufficient archiving capacity for documentation, provide detail if not at the principal office.					

1.2 Minimum Office Facilities, Equipment and Documentation at an Inspection Centre Comments Item No Yes Telephone Internet / Wi-Fi connection Relevant parts of the Compendium of Veterinary Checks available online or equivalent A specific record of the consignments examined at the Inspection Centre 2. Hygiene Facilities Used by BCP Staff Comments Item Yes No Toilet Changing room Handwash facilities in Toilet/changing room Are the above facilities solely for use by personnel working in the IC and shared only with other personnel involved in official controls? Adequate system of ensuring shoes are cleaned before entering and leaving the IC. Describe briefly Is protective clothing dedicated to the IC worn in the IC by Local Authority as well as BCP operator staff? Is there a separate system e.g., colour coded clothing for handling HC and NHC consignments. Describe briefly Are the facilities clean and well maintained? Lockers/provision for outdoor clothes. If alternative arrangement, please describe Suitable storage for clean overalls. Describe briefly Suitable arrangements for disposal or laundering of dirty/used overalls. Describe briefly Shower (only in ICs handling bulk/unpackaged NHC goods)

3. Handling Areas and Protection of Goods during Loading and Unloading No Yes Comments Item Is the unloading area enclosed and covered by a roof? Are suitable measures taken to protect consignments during loading and unloading? Please describe. Is the cold chain suitably maintained for product awaiting inspection? Please describe. For Inspection Centres handling packaged goods only, using common unloading areas, are HC and NHC goods kept and handled separately during and after loading and unloading? Please describe. For Inspection Centres handling packaged and unpackaged HC and NHC, is there a documented risk assessment demonstrating the avoidance of cross contamination. including detail of time separation? 4. Storage Rooms General Yes Comments No Item Are storage rooms immediately available for use at all times? Are there sufficient storage rooms for the simultaneous storage of ambient, chilled, and frozen products (or the temperature-controlled categories for which the IC is designated)? Is the IC designated for unpackaged products? If yes, describe the storage arrangements Are the storage rooms capable of holding at least one average consignment of each category of goods? Is there a contingency plan for additional storage in exceptional circumstances? Do temperature-controlled storage rooms have a system in place of monitoring and recording operating temperatures? If containers are used for storage, are they permanently sited and linked by covered enclosed walkways to protect goods during loading and unloading? Individual Storage Rooms Storage Storage Storage Item Storage Storage Storage Comments room 1 room 2 room 3 room 4 room 5 room 6 Name: Name: Name: Name: Name: Name: Does each storage room have the following? Yes No Yes No Yes No Yes No Yes No Yes No Clean smooth walls, floor and ceiling in sound condition Adequate drainage

Adequate lighting (natural or artificial)													
Only applicable to IC Designated and Handling bulk													
Item					Yes	No							
Are there appropriate facilities to store bulk consignments consignments, other goods and consignments? Please de		tely fron	n other b	bulk									
5. Inspection Rooms General													
Item					Yes	No	Comm	ents					
Are the inspection rooms (IR) separate rooms and only us consignments?	sed for ir	nspectio	n of										
Are separate inspection rooms provided for HC and NHC	goods?												
If no, is there an SOP to control risk of cross contamination	n?												
Individual (Indicate the type of inspection room in the box	next to t	he IR n	umber)		•								
Item	IR1 Name:	:	IR2 Name	:	IR3 Name:		IR4 Name:		IR5 Name:		IR6 Name:		Comments
Does each inspection room have the following:	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	
Clean smooth walls in sound condition													
Clean smooth floor in sound condition													
Clean smooth ceiling in sound condition													
Temperature control (where appropriate)													
Adequate drainage. If no drain, a wet vacuum, or similar cleaning method is acceptable													
An examination table with smooth washable surfaces easy to clean and disinfect.													
Supply of hot and cold water													
Adequate lighting (natural/artificial)													
Hand washing facilities													
Soap dispenser with soap in it													
Paper towels for drying hands													
Suitable storage for equipment													

Item			IR2 Name:		IR3 Name:		IR4 Name:		IR5 Name:		IR6 Name:		Comments
Non-hand operated taps on hand washing facilities													
Dispenser for hand sanitiser with sanitiser in it													
Separate sinks for washing equipment													
System of knife sterilisation available (state method e.g., hot water at 82°C/ultraviolet/chemical)													
Coved wall to floor junctions													
If no coving present, are the floor/wall junctions clean and sufficiently sealed?													
6. Equipment													
Item	IR1 Name:		IR2 Name:		IR3 Name:		IR4 Name:		IR5 Name:		IR6 Name:		Comments
	Yes	No											
Equipment suitable for opening boxes and packaging (including suitable can-opener for tinned goods)													
Scale													
Sampling equipment													
Sample containers													
Knife													
Saw													
Scissors													
Drill for core sampling or other means of taking such samples													
Thermometer – surface temperature													
Thermometer – core temperature													
PH meter for fresh products (HC only)													
Refrigerator and freezer for storage of samples prior to despatch													
Are containers for transport of samples available?													
Thawing equipment or microwave oven													

Item	IR1 IR2 Name: Na		R2 lame:		IR3 Name:		IR4 Name:		IR5 Name:		Comments
Individually numbered seals (metal or plastic) with BCP		\Box									
identification											
Official tape for re-sealing opened boxes											
						1	1				
Item						Yes	No	Comm	ents		
Equipment to open containers											
Access to a weighbridge. If not describe arrangements fo individual pallets	r weighing a full	consign	ment e	e.g., wei	gh						
Separate set of tools for HC and NHC consignments (or s	ystem of cleaning	g tools b	efore	re-use)							
Calibration records for thermometers?											
7. General Hygiene											
Checklist		Yes	No	Comm	ents						
Briefly describe the arrangements for cleaning and disinfe	ction of the IC										
Is the IC cleaned to a satisfactory standard? This applies t	•										
Are disinfectants virucidal and bactericidal and suitable for premises handling food i.e., BS EN 1276 or BS EN 13697	standard?										
Is a Defra approved disinfectant immediately available if the spillage which poses a risk to animal health?											
Is cleaning equipment kept in a dedicated store and HC at equipment kept separately e.g., in separate cupboards or coded?											
Are the cleaning stores neat and tidy and only used for ap equipment?	propriate										
Are there cleaning protocols and timetables and evidence by the Enforcement Authority?	of enforcement										

Section 8 - Summary of Deficiencies and Recommendations for Further Action/Follow up Visit

Please enter in the table below any deficiencies identified and the time by which these deficiencies should be corrected.

Deficiency	Action Required	Target Completion Date	Actual Completion Date and Comments
Signature			
Name in BLOCK LETTERS		Date	

Verification Checks: Procedures

1. Identification and Selection of Consignments for Veterinary Checks

Item	Yes	No	Comments
Does the Enforcement Authority (Port Health / Local Authority) conduct a random check of manifests?			
In the case of an inadequate manifest description (i.e. 'groupage'), is there a documented procedure in place to ensure that the consignment is prevented from leaving the port prior to additional checks being carried out?			
Is there liaison between Port Health and UK Border Force (UKBF) to ensure all eligible consignments covered by veterinary checks legislation are dealt with appropriately?			
Give details of methods of communication with UKBF, dates of liaison meetings etc.			

2. Documentary checks: (assessed by looking at CHEDs, associated documents and procedures)

Item	Yes	No	Comments
Is the OVs/ OFI present at the BCP during all veterinary checks?			
Are all details supplied as required by part 1 of the Common Health Entry Document (CHED) on the document used for pre-notification?			
Is enforcement action taken by the OVs/OFI if consignments are not pre-notified? Please describe.			
Certificate is an original			
Certificate is issued by the competent authority of the consigning country			
Certificate accurately matches model health certificates			
Certificate printed on a single or linked sheets of paper			
Certificate completed fully with no omissions or spaces			
Certificate has no unauthorised alterations (e.g., use of opaque correction fluid)			
Certificate signed before the consignments left the control of the Competent Authority			
Certificate is made out to a single recipient			
Country of origin is approved for trade with the UK			
Establishment of origin is on the approved list to trade with UK			
Certificate has an English translation			

Item	Yes	No	Comments
Signed and stamped by the authorised person in a colour other than black			
The name and status of the authorised person is written clearly on the health certificate			
Information on the certificate corresponds with the CHED and other documents accompanying the consignment			
Is the Defra <u>list</u> in relation to Retained EU Commission Decision 2011/163 (approval of residue plans) checked regularly to ensure only eligible consignments can enter UK?			
Are Intensified Official Controls in place for the commodity/country			
3. Identity Checks:			
Item	Yes	No	Comments
Are the following identity checks conducted			
Verification of container seals			
Verification of official stamp or identification mark with those on the certificate			
Inspection of labelling information on packages			
Do some identity checks include packages distributed throughout the container i.e., involve a partial or full turn out of the container/means of transport?			
Is the container re-sealed after opening and the seal number entered on the CHED?			

4. Physical Checks:

4. i flysical officers.			-
Item	Yes	No	Comments
Are the following checks conducted?			
Appropriate temperature conditions of the consignment have been maintained			
Products have been maintained in the required state during transport			
No damage or abnormalities during transport			
Surface/core temperature of the consignment			

Item	Yes	No	Comm	nents
Verification of number of packages				
Checks on the weights of individual units of packaged goods and of the whole consignment (if necessary)				
Verification that packaging and wrapping is in accordance with UK rules – material used, condition of packaging, identification marks and labels				
Is 1% of the consignment (minimum 2, maximum 10) or minimum of 5 samples for loose product selected for physical checks				
Visible condition of product				
Organoleptic examination after thawing – smell, colour, consistency, taste (if appropriate)				
Are samples selected to be representative of the whole consignment? Briefly describe how this is achieved.				
In the event of any doubt or if access to the whole consignment is not possible, are the following conducted?				
full unloading of the consignment				
additional physical/laboratory testing				
5. Sampling Procedures:				
Checklist		Yes	No	Comments
Is sampling conducted in accordance with the national monitoring plan and are all of the fol criteria included in the plan: microbiological criteria, residues, heavy metals, histamines.	lowing			
Are suitable measures taken to prevent contamination of samples?				
Is there a satisfactory supply of containers for samples?				
Is the following information included on sample seals/labels?				
individual ID				
name and/or number of BCP				

date of sampling

traceability?

despatch?

reference number of sample

temperature-controlled conditions?

If the above-mentioned best practice method is not followed, do the sample labels allow full

Where necessary, are samples properly and securely stored in a refrigerator/freezer prior to

Where necessary, are arrangements made to ensure that samples are transported under suitable

If testing has been conducted due to irregularities or previous positive results, are consignments held until test results are negative?		
Are consignments sampled when Defra/FSA require the next ten to be sampled as set out in Article 65 of Retained EU Regulation 2017/625 and CIR (EU) 2019/1873		
Have samples been taken under Article 65 of Retained EU Regulation 2017/625. If so, provide details		
Are the laboratories used by Port Health approved as stated in the BCP Manual		

6. Common Veterinary Entry Document (CHED)

Completion of CHEDs

Checklist	Yes	No	Comments
Is the CHED in the correct format as required by Annex II of Commission Implementing Regulation (CIR) 2019/1715?			
Examine several CHEDs at random:			
Are all the boxes on part 1 completed correctly by the agent?			
Does the outcome option on the CHED correspond with the checks conducted?			
Is the file copy of the CHED signed and legible?			
Is a certified copy of the original health certificate provided to the Importer by the Enforcement Authority?			
Where a physical check is not conducted on a consignment, is the correct box of Part II.5 completed (reduced checks regime)?			
Is the official BCP stamp in the correct format?			
Are the charges for checks made as required by Article 79 of Retained EU Regulation 2017/625			
Does internal / peer review of CHEDs (with their associated documents) cover all Official Fish Inspectors (OFI)/Official Veterinarians (OVs)?			
Did the OVs/OFI sign the CHED?			

7. Rejected Consignments

rejected consignments.

Describe the procedure whereby the enforcement authority audits the destruction of

Do the commercial documents (CDs) issued for rejected consignments comply with the requirements of the Animal By-Product Regulations?

Is there a suitable audit trail for consignments that were destroyed or re-exported?

7.1 Rejected consignments: procedures					
Checklist	Yes	No	Con	mments	
Does an OV/OFI personally verify all irregularities?					
Re-exported consignments: Is the Competent Authority of the country of origin informed that the consignment will be returned?					
If the consignment is to be re-exported to a different country, has the Competent Authority of that country confirmed that they are prepared to accept the consignment?					
Are rejected consignments properly identified and kept separate from other goods pending decision to re-export, transform or destroy?					
Is the OVs/OFI in control of the rejected consignments and are adequate measures taken to ensure that the consignments cannot leave the BCP without authorisation?					
For rejected consignments: Is only one option in Part II.17 and Part II.18 of the CHED completed?					
For rejected consignments: Are health certificates stamped and endorsed 'Unacceptable for Entry to UK' when returned to the person responsible for the load					
For rejected consignments: Is the CHED signed on the day that the notice of rejection is issued?					
Is the register for follow up action completed for each rejected consignment?					
7.2 Control and disposal					
Checklist	\	Yes	No	Comments	
Does the BCP have the services of establishment(s) approved under The Animal By-Products (ABP) Regulations for the disposal of rejected consignments?					
Briefly describe the arrangements for disposal of rejected consignments, i.e., packaged (cardboard or plastic), canned goods, bulk consignments	l				

8. Monitored Consignments and use of IPAFFS

Checklist	Υ	N	Comments
Have any monitored consignments been imported in the reporting period?			
Are monitored consignments sealed before leaving the BCP/IC?			
Is the register for follow up consignments up to date for all monitored consignments?			
Is the control section of IPAFFS completed for all monitored and transit consignments?			
Is IPAFFS fully operational and being used for every consignment checked at the BCP/IC?			
Are all consignments entered onto IPAFFS and validated on the same day?			
Is IPAFFS being consulted by the OVs/OFI when doing documentary checks?			

9. Transhipped Goods, Transiting Goods

Description	Checklist	Yes	No	Comments
Transhipped Goods	Is the OVs informed of the arrival of transhipments?			
	Are the required checks conducted on transhipped goods within the stated time limits? (Goods subject to animal health requirements – documentary checks required if transhipment period exceeds 3 days at an airport or 30 days at a seaport. Goods not subject to animal health requirements documentary checks required if transhipment period exceeds 90 days at airport or seaport)			
	Is correct action carried out for consignments which are in excess of the time periods specified above, in accordance with Art. 13(4) of EU 2019/2124? Please add any relevant comments			
	Is there a system in place to check that consignments have left at the time specified on the notification to the BCP/IC?			
Transiting Goods	Is the OVs pre-notified of the intention to transit goods?			
	Are checks conducted to ensure that the country of origin is approved to export similar product to the UK?			
	Are documentary and Identity checks conducted for transiting goods?			
	Are transit health certificates received when appropriate			
	Is the CHED properly annotated?			
	Are transiting containers sealed?			
	Are consignments sent by T1 customs procedure			

	Are arrangements made to ensure that consignments leave the UK via a BCP within 15 days (pre-notification of BCP of exit and confirmation of exit)?						
Non- conforming goods Is there a documented procedure for non-conforming goods destined for an approved warehouse, NATO or US military base or for ship's supplies on a vessel leaving UK territory in accordance with retained CIR (EU) 2019/2128? Please describe.							
10. Appointm	10. Appointment and training of OVS, OFI and use of Technical Assistants						
Checklist		Yes	No	Comments			
	s (including locums) been trained by the Secretary of State or completed the ning course and practical training?						
Have all OVS	s been appointed in writing by the Local Authority?						
	ully qualified Environmental Health Officers and/or received training as ction 3.5.2 of the Food Law (Practice Guidance) England?						
Have all OFIs	attended either the online or residency course provided by the FSA?						
Are training records for all OVs, OFIs, authorised officers and other BCP staff easily available?							
	staff members ensure that they maintain their professional knowledge (to OFI, administration staff and technical assistants)						
Are trained as	ssistants employed to assist with the checks on consignments?						
If so, is the O	VS/OFI responsible for the final decision?						
Is there an active system in place, with annual confirmation, to ensure that all BCP staff members do not have a conflict of interest with the functions that they carry out at the BCP?							
11. General A	Appraisal						
Checklist		Yes	No	Comments			
Are there sufficient staff in post to effectively carry out the number of checks required?							
Are the OFIs able to find the latest model health certificates, establishment, and country lists?							
Are the OVs able to find the latest model health certificates, establishment, and country lists?							
Is the OVS/OFI familiar with instructions for composite products?							
Is the OVS/OFI familiar with instructions for compound products?							
Are the OFI and OVs able to carry out checks to a satisfactory standard with the knowledge they have?							
Are RASFF communications checked and actioned where appropriate?							

12. Summary of Deficiencies and Recommendations for Further Action/Follow up Visit

Deficiency Action Required Target Date

Deficiency	Action Required	Target Date for Completion	n	Actual Completion Date and Comments
Signature				
Name in BLOCK LETTERS			Date	

Guidance Notes for Completion of Checklists

Section 1. Facilities

Office Facilities and Equipment

- 1. At some ports, the principal office may be some distance from one or more Inspection Centres where the veterinary checks are actually conducted. Each inspection centre is required to have the minimum office equipment as listed in section 1.2 Minimum Office Facilities and Equipment at Inspection Centre.
- 2. Where there is more than one POA IC at a BCP specific records must be kept of the checks carried out at each POA IC.
- 3. A separate facilities section of this form should be completed for each Inspection Centre.

Section 2. Hygiene Facilities for Use by BCP Staff

1. The minimum requirements for the hygiene facilities are as described. These facilities are for the exclusive use of BCP inspection and BCP operator staff and are not intended for use by drivers or other port or airport workers not directly involved with the BCP. Protective clothing must be removed when officials or support staff leave the inspection facilities.

Section 3. Handling Areas and Protection of Goods during Loading and Unloading

Physical Requirements

- 1. Suitable arrangements must be in place to protect the consignment from environmental and weather contamination. This can be achieved by means of a sealed dock between the container and the loading bay of the inspection facility, or a moveable awning to protect the goods from adverse weather conditions and environmental contamination when unloading from a container placed on the ground.
- 2. In the case of non-containerised consignments of fishery products for human consumption, consignments of animal by-products consisting of wool, bulk processed animal protein, loose manure or guano and consignments of high-volume bulk goods referred to in Article 47 (1)(d) and (e) of Retained Regulation (EU) 2017/625 and Article 3 (4) of Retained CIR (EU)2019/1014 provides derogation from the above mentioned structural requirements.
- 3. In the case of fishery products mentioned in point 2 above, it is sufficient to ensure that satisfactory arrangements are in place to avoid contamination during loading and unloading. Unloading and landing operations must proceed rapidly to ensure the fishery products are placed under temperature control in transport, storage, or market facilities, or in an establishment, without unnecessary delay. In addition, equipment and handling practices should not cause damage to the edible parts of the fishery products. This derogation applies to BCPs handling fishery products only. BCPs handling both fishery products and products of animal origin (POA) must fully comply with regulatory requirements for the protection of goods during loading and unloading.
- 4. If the unloading bay is not under temperature control, it should be used only for rapid transfer of goods to the storage or inspection rooms.
- 5. The temperature of consignments must be maintained during all parts of the inspection process and a controlled environment in the inspection room is therefore required if the BCP is designated for temperature-controlled products (except that germinal products can be imported via an ambient only BCP if they are transported in a sealed, temperature-controlled flask).

Section 4. Storage Rooms

- 1. Under legislation there should be sufficient storage for all categories of consignment the BCP is approved for. The three possible categories are:
 - ambient (non-temperature controlled) storage
 - chilled storage
 - frozen storage.
- 2. If goods are packaged, consignments for human consumption and non-human consumption (NHC) may be stored in a single storage room providing there is adequate separation and labelling
- 3. The storage space should be sufficient for an average size consignment. This will depend on the type of port (seaport or airport) and the knowledge of BCP throughput and size of consignment. The walls and floors should have smooth surfaces to ease cleansing and must have adequate lighting and drainage.
- 4. Storage facilities may also be located in a commercial store within the customs-controlled area of the port or airport and must be stored under hygienic conditions. Goods stored there must be properly identified by barcodes or other electronic means or labelling. Where the goods may pose a risk to animal or human health, they

shall be detained in a separate lockable room or areas fenced off from all other goods stored in the commercial storage facility. See Retained CIR (EU) 2019/1014 Art 3 (11) and (12).

Section 5. Inspection Rooms

1. The minimum requirements are as described in the checklist, which also include facilities required under 'best practice' arrangements.

Section 6. Equipment

- 1. All required equipment, as described in the checklist, must be in the inspection room, available for use when needed and in no other place.
- 2. If there is more than one inspection room, the Local Authority (LA) may dedicate inspection rooms for a specific commodity to prevent cross contamination e.g., all uncooked products could be examined in one room while all cooked products could be examined in another room.
- 3. If a room is only used for ambient stable products, there is no requirement for a:
 - pH meter
 - thermometer.
- 4. If a room is used for products 'Not for Human Consumption', there is no requirement for a:
 - pH meter
 - thermometer.

Section 8. Summary of deficiencies and Recommendations for Further Action/Follow up visit

1. Follow up action must be taken for all deficiencies identified during the verification checks and deficiencies must be addressed as soon as possible. The Operator should correct structural deficiencies within a reasonable timescale and the Enforcement Authority (EA) must ensure that actions agreed are completed.

Veterinary Checks: Procedures

Section 1. Identification and Selection of Consignments

- 1. The OVS/OFI should have access to all manifests and do occasional spot checks of the manifests. The UK Border Force (BF) and HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC) are responsible for preventing illegal imports at port and airports and EAs are no longer required to check every manifest.
- 2. Good co-operation should exist between the EA and BF on a local level and all contact should be recorded. Formal meetings between all enforcement authorities carrying out checks at a port or airport where a BCP is in operation are encouraged.

Section 2. Documentary Checks

- 1. The EA must be pre-notified via Part I of a CHED completed on IPAFFS when a consignment of Products of Animal Origin (POA) subject to veterinary checks arrives in the UK and the notification must be completed before the consignment arrives in UK.
- 2. Prenotification must be at least 24 hours in advance of the arrival of the consignment. A minimum of 4 hours may be permissible with prior EA agreement.
- 3. The OVS/OFI/PHSO must complete a documentary check on all consignments (see Retained EU Regulation 2017/625 Art 45(1) (a), 52,54 and 55).
- 4. Completed CHEDs must be checked to see whether the documentary checks are carried out correctly (see Retained EU CIR 2019/2130 Art 2). Errors are often made by Importers or their agents when entering data into IPAFFS and documentary checks at BCPs should pick up such mistakes. Common errors are:
 - incorrect descriptions of the commodity
 - wrong species or treatment type selected
 - wrong country of origin selected
 - weights different to that stated on the health certificate.
- 5. The information on the manifest, the health certificate and other commercial documents with the consignments must all be the same and if they are not, an explanation must be provided.

- 6. If the consignment consists of a commodity for which an approved establishment exists, the establishment must also be checked on the lists published on gov.uk. It is important to check this list and not just the message in IPAFFS as the IPAFFS message does not specify that a fishery product establishment is approved for aquaculture products.
- 7. The original health certificates must be kept at the BCP and can be checked when carrying out checks on the CHEDs to ensure that all the criteria, as set out in the checklist, have been met and that the information on the health certificate is the same as the information on the first part of the CHED.
- 8. The certificate must also be compared to the model health certificate for the particular commodity as set out in the legislation by reviewing the:
 - model health certificates on the Export of Live Animals and Animal Products on the government website and the archive site (see OVS Note 21/12 for the link to the archive site)
 - Importer Information Notes on the Defra website which will provide helpful guidance on where to find the model health certificate.
- 9. Consignments for human consumption can only be imported from Countries that have a residue monitoring plan in place for the particular commodity. The relevant Government website pages on countries with approved residue control plans can be found from the page Exporting to Great Britain: approved countries for animals and animal products.
- 10. Safeguard measures are the result of UK legal declarations made in response to a public or animal health risk in an exporting country. The Decisions are normally sent to BCPs with an OVS note and can be found on the Imports, exports and EU trade of animals and animal products: topical issues page on the government website. They can also be found in Part 1 of the Compendium for Veterinary Checks legislation. This section must be checked before any checks are done at a BCP to ascertain whether any of the commodities seen at the BCP are subject to a Safeguard measure.

Section 3. Identity Checks

- 1. 100% of goods must be subject to identity checks unless imported under the Canadian or New Zealand equivalence agreement or some animal by-products such as greasy wool. If the seal is specified on the health certificate the identity check may be a seal check only. If the seal number is unspecified the container must be brought to the BCP for the contents to be checked.
- 2. Identity checks should be carried out as directed in Retained EU CIR 2019/2130 Art 3.

Section 4. Physical Checks

1. The level of physical checks is laid out in Retained EU CIR 2019/2129 and varies with the category of the consignment. Section 5 and Appendix E of the BCP Manual summarises Retained EU CIR 2019/2129 Annex I, and gives the procedure for physical checks. Some physical checks must involve a random selection of boxes throughout a container and may require a full turn or partial turnout. The enforcement authority should have arrangements in place to ensure that the level of physical checks at the BCP does not fall below that specified.

Section 5. Sampling Procedures

- 1. Sampling of imported consignments forms part of the physical checks in Retained EU CIR 2019/2130 Annex II para 5 and should be risk based or carried out on 1% of consignments selected for physical checks in accordance with the national monitoring plan. The consignment may be released from the BCP pending results if the samples were taken as random samples and not due to a suspicion that there may be an irregularity with the consignment.
- 2. If the EA has any suspicion that a consignment poses a risk to public or animal health it must be sampled under Art 65 (1) (2) and (3) of Retained EU CIR 2017/625. The consignment must be detained until the results are received and should be destroyed or re-exported if the results are unsatisfactory.
- 3. OVS notes may also request additional sampling. See Retained EU CIR 2019/1873 on Intensified Official Controls. IPAFFS will select consignments for sampling
- 4. The EA must monitor the level of sampling monthly using IPAFFS and other records and act to correct any deficiencies e.g., ensuring sampling targets will be met..

Section 6. Common Veterinary Entry Document (CHED)

- 1. CHEDs must have the correct format as laid down in retained EU CIR 2019/1715 Annex II.
- 2. At least 10 CHEDs should be examined at full throughput BCPs starting with the most frequently imported commodity and checks should eventually be carried out on all commodities checked at the BCP.
- 3. Completed CHEDs must be inspected to ensure they are complete and accurate. In the case of rejected consignments only one of the options in Part II.18 (details of controlled destination) must be completed.
- 4. The BCP stamp must also be checked to ensure that it is in the format as described in paragraph 6 of Section 5 of the BCP Manual.
- 5. Original health documents and copies of CHEDs must be archived at the BCP for a minimum of three years.

Section 7. Rejected Consignments

- 1. The OVS and OFI are responsible for the decisions taken on a consignment.
- 2. Section 14 of the BCP Manual provides instructions for EA staff when dealing with rejected consignments and the checklist provides a summary of the most important action required.

Section 8. Monitored Consignments and Use of IPAFFS

- 1. The requirements for monitoring are that the:
 - EA must seal the consignment
- 2. Part II.13 of the CHED must be completed by the OVS/OFI and the destination premises details entered after a check that the destination premises is approved for the commodity.

Section 9. Transhipped and Transiting Goods

Transhipped Goods

- 1. Transhipped consignments are destined for another Country and must remain within the curtilage of the seaport or airport, to be transferred to another vessel or aeroplane.
- 2. There should be a system in place to ensure that consignments leave as notified by the carrier/person responsible for the consignment.
- 3. See details in OVS Note 2020/3

Transiting Goods

- 1. Transits are consignments that originate in one country and are destined for another Country but crossing UK by rail, road or inland waterway to reach the country of destination.
- 2. The commodities do not comply fully with the import requirements for free circulation in the UK.
- 3. Consignments for human consumption are often produced in establishments that are not approved to export to UK and therefore public health rules cannot be complied with.
- 4. All animal health requirements must be met for commodities destined for human consumption.
- 5. For all consignments of Animal By-Products the full health certificate required for import must be provided for transit.
- 6. UK legislation provides transit health certificates for most commodities for human consumption. Consignments can only transit from countries approved to export the commodity to UK.
- 7. The importer/person responsible for the load must provide a written undertaking that the consignment will be destroyed if not accepted by the country of destination prior to entry. The T1 Customs procedure is required and the number of the T1 document must be indicated in the appropriate section of the CHED.
- 8. Documentary and identity checks must be carried out. Physical checks will be in cases where the OVS at the BCP suspects irregularities or has reason to believe that the consignment may pose an animal or public health risk. The consignment must be sealed before leaving the BCP of entry.
- 9. A CHED must be completed with the appropriate section completed to indicate the Country of destination. The CHED will be sent on IPAFFS to the BCP exit point of UK where the control section of the CHED can be completed as the consignment leaves UK. The OVS must check that the proposed BCP exit point is approved for the category of product transiting UK.

- 10. The register of follow up action must be completed for such consignments.
- 11. If an entry BCP has not received confirmation that a consignment has left UK after 15 days, the entry BCP must contact the exit BCP to check that the consignment has not been exported. If the consignment cannot be located, the OVS at the BCP of entry must inform HMRC/BF and APHA.

Section 10. Appointment of OVS, OFI and Use of Technical Assistants

- 1. To be appointed as a BCP OVS by the EA, veterinarians must:
 - complete the distance learning course
 - attend a three-day practical training course at an approved BCP
- 2. Veterinarians must complete both parts of the course before they can be appointed as a BCP OVS by the LA. OVs must be appointed by the EA in writing and copies of the appointments retained at the BCP.
- 3. Checks must be made to ensure that all OVs including locum OVs are fully trained and have either attended the BCP update training days or received cascade training.
- 4EU Retained CIR 2017/625 Art 5 states that there should be no conflict of interest for officials who perform official checks and CAs must have a system in place to ensure that there is no conflict of interest.

Section 11. General Appraisal

- 1. An assessment of the staffing levels at the BCP and that the OVS/OFI can cope with the number of checks required at the BCP must be made.
- 2. The OVS/OFI must be able to produce the legislation applicable for the commodities checked at the BCP.
- 3. Assessment can be achieved by requesting the OVS/OFI to demonstrate how they obtain:
 - the list of approved Countries
 - list of countries that have an approved residue monitoring plan
 - model health certificates
 - the list of approved establishments (where applicable)
 - details of safeguard decisions.
- 4. Assessment of whether veterinary checks are conducted to an acceptable standard can be ascertained by:
 - holding discussions with the OVS/OFI
 - checks on the IPAFFS data
 - checks on CHEDs completed at the BCP.

5. Follow up action must be taken for all deficiencies identified during the verification checks and deficiencies must be addressed as soon as possible. This VC24 form must be submitted to BCP audit team (BCP.Enquiries@apha.gov.uk) within 10 days of being completed.

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.