

Lead Food officers

REHIS

SFELC

17th May 2017

FSS/ENF/17/013

Dear Colleagues,

**RUSSIA : QUESTIONNAIRE FOR APPROVAL OF COMPANIES/ENTERPRISES
EXPORTING ANIMAL PRODUCTS**

Action Required: Circulate the attached questionnaires to relevant food businesses for completion and return to FSS.

You may be aware that Russia introduced a ban (known popularly as a 'political embargo') on import from the EU of certain animal products for human consumption in 2014. This ban has been extended over the years and continues to apply to this day.

As a consequence of the ban, a number of companies have not been able to export their products to Russia. The ban is not encompassing, and therefore some other companies have been able to continue to export permitted products.

The Russian authorities are now seeking to rationalise the list of approved companies and to ensure that those still intending to re-establish trade if the embargo is lifted at some point, continue to meet Russian standards.

To take this process forward the Russian authorities have issued a number of questionnaires to be completed by the companies that are currently on their website and which have not exported their products to Russia for more than 18 months.

For companies that have historically traded with Russia but not within the last 18 months and where responsibility for official controls on those sites falls to local authorities, it has been agreed with the FSA, with FSS and with DAERA that the LAs

will be responsible for circulating the questionnaires (attached) to the relevant companies within their areas. Commodities are likely to include, fishery and dairy products, but there may be others and LAs will be aware of these.

The questionnaires are individual and product specific, and are being made available to all UK competent authorities via both FSA and FSS.

In terms of the content of the company specific questionnaires, ***the responsibility for completing them lies exclusively with the companies involved.***

LAs are not expected quality check or otherwise be involved in their completion, although final decisions of any involvement lies with the LA. Although the EU Commission has advised that the responses should be translated into Russian, there has been no consensus amongst the EU Member States on the approach to take. In the circumstances, it should be left to the companies to decide whether to submit them in English only or bilingual in Russian too.

The deadline for returning the questionnaires to Russia is 1 June. If possible, the completed questionnaires should be returned directly to FSS at Exports@fss.scot by Wednesday 24th May or as soon after this date as is practicable, to enable Defra to meet their deadline.

Yours Sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Patrick Smyth". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'P' and a trailing dot at the end.

Patrick Smyth

Senior Environmental Health Manager

Food Standards Scotland