

To: Heads of Environmental Health Services;
Lead Food Officers

25 August 2015

FSS-ENF- 15-010

Dear Colleagues

FOR YOUR INFORMATION

BAN ON EXPORTS OF BROWN CRABS TO HONG KONG FROM ANGLESEY

The Centre for Food Safety (CFS) of the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (FEHD) in Hong Kong announced on 19 August that imports of brown crabs from the Isle of Anglesey have been banned with immediate effect, see press article at:

<http://www.info.gov.hk/gia/general/201508/19/P201508190952.htm>

This is because two samples from brown crabs exported to Hong Kong from Anglesey were detected with levels of cadmium, an environmental metallic contaminant, in excess of the Hong Kong maximum permitted level of 2mg/kg. (For brown crabs sold in the UK, EU regulation (1881/2006) sets a maximum permitted level for the white meat of 0.5mg/kg. There is no EU limit set for the brown meat.)

It should be noted, however, part of the batch exported by the Isle of Anglesey County Council contained crabs which originated from Scotland.

While this ban currently applies only to crabs exported by companies based on Anglesey, you will wish to be aware that the CFS announcement also states that they will be carrying out enhanced surveillance of aquatic products imported from the whole of the UK.

Defra are working with the Hong Kong authorities to find a workable solution so trade can resume as soon as possible. They have published the attached message to industry on the 'Topical Issues' of their Exports webpages, advising that no further exports of brown crabs, from Anglesey, are sent to Hong Kong until the situation is resolved <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/imports-and-exports-of-animals-and-animal-products-topical-issues>.

Should you require further advice on the content of this letter, you can contact me via any of the ways listed below.

Yours sincerely,



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