Foot and mouth: suspension of beef from Botswana

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EU suspends beef imports from Botswana due to foot and mouth disease

Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2026/914 of 21 April 2026 amending Annexes V, XIII and XIV to Implementing Regulation (EU) 2021/404 as regards the entries for Botswana, Canada, the United Kingdom and the United States in the lists of third countries, territories, or zones thereof authorised for the entry into the Union of consignments of certain animals and products of animal origin

Update

Following a new outbreak of foot and mouth disease (FMD) in Botswana, the European Union (EU) has suspended imports of beef from the zones of the country that were still authorised to export to the EU (zones BW-1, BW-2, BW-3, and BW-5). As a result, all exports of beef to the EU from Botswana have been suspended.

Impacted products

Beef

What is changing?

Beef can only be exported from countries, or in some cases specific regions within a country, that have been authorised and listed by the EU (Regulation 2021/404, Annex XIII).

Several regions of Botswana were authorised by the EU as meeting the animal health requirements for the export of matured and de-boned beef.

However, due to a new outbreak of FMD confirmed on 1 April 2026 in the region of Barolong, the EU has suspended imports of beef from those zones that were still authorised: BW-1, BW-2, BW-3, and BW-5. As a result, all exports of beef to the EU from Botswana have been suspended.

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Why?

Following notification of the FMD outbreak by Botswana, the World Organisation for Animal Health (WOAH) suspended the status of several zones in the country as "FMD-Freezones where vaccination is not practised". The only EU-approved slaughterhouse in Botswana is in the region of Barolong, where the FMD outbreak occurred. Due to the risk of introducing FMD into the EU, and as EU rules do not allow the transport of animals from the farm to the slaughterhouse through zones not listed for exports to the EU (Delegated Regulation 2020/692, Art. 124(c)), consignments of beef from Botswana are no longer authorised.

Timeline

No consignments of beef from Botswana slaughtered and certified after **1 April 2026** may enter the EU market.

Consignments certified before 1 April 2026 are permitted onto the EU market until 29 June 2026 (90 days).

Background

This suspension of exports follows measures relating to FMD in Botswana taken by the EU in November 2023 (see Animal health list: identification of ungulates; and amended veterinary disease control zones in Botswana) and February 2026 (see Foot and mouth: restrictions on fresh beef from Botswana).

The EU's Animal Health Law (Regulation 2016/429) provides a framework for monitoring animal health issues and responding to risks. To export products of animal origin to the EU, non-EU countries must demonstrate that they meet EU animal health requirements in relation to particular species and categories of animals or products.

Regulation 2020/692 sets out the animal health requirements for imports into the EU.

Regulation 2021/404 establishes the list of authorised non-EU countries ("third countries") that meet the EU's animal health requirements. The list is regularly updated, for example if there is an outbreak of a notifiable disease, or an improvement in the animal health situation, within a country.

Regulation 2021/405 (Art. 3) states that to export fresh meat to the EU, countries must be listed both in Regulation 2021/404, Annex XIII and Regulation 2021/405, Annex -I (see Lists of non-EU countries for public health and animal health – explained).

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In addition, from 3 September 2026, non-EU countries must also be authorised and listed in relation to the use of antimicrobials (Regulation 2024/2598; see List of non-EU countries compliant with new EU antimicrobial requirements).

Resources

Online resources from the European Commission:

- EU entry conditions
- Establishment Lists
- Access2Markets: Exporting from the EU, importing into the EU – all you need to know

The procedure for non-EU countries to apply for listing is described at the end of the following factsheets:

- European Union import conditions for poultry and poultry products
- EU import conditions for fresh meat and meat products

World Organisation for Animal Health: Terrestrial Animal Health Code

Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2024/2598 laying down the list of third countries or regions thereof authorised for the entry into the Union of certain animals and products of animal origin intended for human consumption […] as regards the application of the prohibition on the use of certain antimicrobial medicinal products

Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2021/405 laying down the lists of third countries or regions thereof authorised for the entry into the Union of certain animals and goods intended for human consumption

Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2021/404 laying down the lists of third countries, territories or zones thereof from which the entry into the Union of animals, germinal products and products of animal origin is permitted

Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2020/2235 laying down rules for the application of Regulations (EU) 2016/429 and (EU) 2017/625 as regards model animal health certificates, model official certificates and model animal health/official certificates, for the entry into the Union and movements within the Union of consignments of certain categories of animals and goods, official certification regarding such certificates

Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) 2020/692 as regards rules for entry into the Union, and the movement and handling after entry of consignments of certain animals, germinal products and products of animal origin

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Regulation (EU) 2017/625 on official controls and other official activities performed to ensure the application of food and feed law, rules on animal health and welfare, plant health and plant protection products (Official Controls Regulation)

Regulation (EU) 2016/429 on transmissible animal diseases and amending and repealing certain acts in the area of animal health (Animal Health Law)

Sources

Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2026/914 as regards the entries for Botswana, Canada, the United Kingdom and the United States in the lists of third countries, territories, or zones thereof authorised for the entry into the Union of consignments of certain animals and products of animal origin

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