



Regulatory News Alerts & Updates

Regulatory Alert: Foot and Mouth Disease (FMD) Outbreak in Germany

January 22, 2025

BACKGROUND:

Foot and Mouth Disease (FMD) is a highly contagious viral disease affecting cattle, sheep, pigs and other cloven-hoofed animals. It is responsible for significant economic losses due to its negative effect on production of livestock and disruption to international trade in animals and products of animal origin. World Organization for Animal Health (WOAH) grants FMD- free status for countries in which the disease is not present.

What has happened?

Following confirmation on January 10, 2025, by the German Chief Veterinary Officer of a detection of FMD in a herd of farmed water buffalo, Germany has now lost its FMD free status. As a result, in accordance with the requirements of the WOAH, Export Health Certificates (EHC) can no longer be issued for exports from Germany in many cases. This means that the export from Germany of the following products is currently practically impossible:

- milk and dairy products
- meat and meat products
- hides and skins
- salted natural casings
- animal semen and blood products

Countries worldwide, including the European Union (EU) Member States have introduced preventative measures relating to products originating in, and exported from Germany. These include restrictions on import of specific products from Germany with immediate effect due to the FMD outbreak. For example, Great Britain has suspended the import of some animal products and by-products.

The responsible authorities in each country must be consulted to verify measures in place.

In accordance with Commission Implementing Decision (EU) 2025/87, protection and surveillance zones were established in Brandenburg, Germany and will remain applicable until February 11, 2025, unless extended. Intra- EU movements of products originating outside of the protection and surveillance zones is currently allowed, subject to measures implemented at destination.

What does it mean to FedEx and customers?

German exporters are recommended to enquire about the current restrictions, via the importer, at the veterinary authority responsible for the destination.

Importers worldwide should consult their authorities on the latest developments and requirements as these can change very quickly.

FedEx Teams should remain vigilant while processing shipments containing potentially affected commodities. Important to remember that the following commodities that may be affected by the outbreak of FMD are already prohibited from FedEx network, unless specific exceptions apply:

1. Live animals
2. Animal carcasses, insects and pets
3. Perishable foodstuffs and foods and beverages requiring refrigeration or other environmental control

Additionally, each country has a list of specific prohibitions on top of the above- mentioned products, that can be found on [FedEx.com](https://www.fedex.com) .

Timeline for Implementation: January 10, 2025

References:

German Ministry of Food and Agriculture

<https://www.bmel.de/EN/topics/animals/animal-health/foot-and-mouth-disease.html>

Friedrich- Loeffler- Institute (updates on the situation in Germany) (Dutch and English)

<https://www.fli.de/en/startpage/>

EU Commission Implementing Decision (EU) 2025/87

<https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX:32025D0087>

Australian Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry

<https://www.agriculture.gov.au/biosecurity-trade/import/industry-advice/2025/06-2025>

United Kingdom Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs

[https://www.gov.uk/guidance/imports-and-exports-of-animals-and-animal-products-topical-issues#foot-and-mouth-disease-fmd-in-germany%3A%7E%3Atext%3Din%20the%20UK.-%2CFoot%20and%20mouth%20disease%20\(FMD\)%20in%20Germany%2CFMD%2C%20will](https://www.gov.uk/guidance/imports-and-exports-of-animals-and-animal-products-topical-issues#foot-and-mouth-disease-fmd-in-germany%3A%7E%3Atext%3Din%20the%20UK.-%2CFoot%20and%20mouth%20disease%20(FMD)%20in%20Germany%2CFMD%2C%20will)

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United States Animal and Plant Inspection Service

<https://content.govdelivery.com/accounts/USDAAPHIS/bulletins/3cc5a64>

FedEx – Global Shipping Restrictions and Prohibited Items

<https://www.fedex.com/en-gb/shipping/international-prohibited-items.html>