

Animal product imports project: public health expert opinion elicitation

Area of research interest: [Foodborne pathogens](#)

Project status: Completed

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Important

This report describes an expert knowledge elicitation exercise that was conducted by FSA in 2021. The exercise aimed to assess and categorise the risks of different categories of POAO imported into the UK at that time, based on the likelihood of containing hazards at levels that are a potential public health concern. This work was performed to create a data source for other risk assessment activities relating to imported POAO, but the conclusions of this report did not directly inform imported food policy in GB.

Summary

Food products can be categorised (e.g. high, medium, low) based on potential for causing illness or serious harm (i.e. growth or presence of microbial pathogens, presence of chemical contaminants, biotoxins etc). This type of categorisation can be a useful tool for describing the food safety risks associated with different types, or groups, of imported commodities.

An expert knowledge elicitation (EKE) approach was developed by the FSA, aimed to assess and categorise the inherent food product safety risks of different Products Of Animal Origin (POAO) imported in the UK. Experts rated the worst-case likelihood of relevant microbiological pathogens, biotoxins and chemical contaminants being present at levels which are of potential public health concern when eaten in various POAO categories.

This report describes the EKE approach and the estimates and views of the experts, based on the information available to them, at that time.

Research report

PDF

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