PROCESS FOR IMPORTING FOOD PRODUCTS OF ANIMAL ORIGIN INTO THE EUROPEAN UNION

1. The Competent Authority in the despatching country contacts the European Commission to request approval

2. The Commission visits the country and establishments to check hygiene standards are equivalent to those in the EU

3. Approval is proposed, accepted or rejected. Updated list of approved countries are published in the Official Journal of the European Community and notified to Member States electronically

4. A Commission Decision is drawn up giving the format for health certification and a list of approved establishments.

5. The Competent Authority in country of despatch issues and stamps the health certificate as for the Commission Decision

6. Products of animal origin must be imported into the EU through Border Inspection Posts (BIPs).

7. The importer must notify the Border Inspection Post of the arrival of consignments.

8. The Official Veterinary Surgeon or Official Fish Inspector (for fishery products) carry out a:

- Document check
- Identity check
- Physical check

9. If checks are satisfactory, a Common Veterinary Entry Document (CVED) is issued for that consignment of goods. It can then be imported into the EU.

If the consignment fails the checks then it must be either:

- **Re-exported**
- **Destroyed**

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