



United States
Department of
Agriculture

Animal and
Plant Health
Inspection Service

March 16, 2001

Subject: Foot and Mouth Disease (FMD) Alert

To: All MCI Units Within the United Kingdom (UK), Spain, The BENELUX, Germany, Italy, Turkey, Greece, and The Balkans

You have been thoroughly informed through the media of the FMD situation going on in the UK. As of this date, 250 infestation sites have been identified, plus one confirmed case in Northern Ireland. A confirmed case has also been identified in the Loire valley of France, a situation that suggests that the infestation is still in its expanding mode and therefore, with possibilities of reaching farther within the European continent.

FMD is a highly virulent animal disease, caused by a virus that affects cloven-hoofed domestic animals, such as cattle, sheep, goats, and pigs. It also affects some wild animals, such as deer, hedgehogs, and wild hogs. Horses, dogs, and cats are not affected by the virus, but may act as carriers in their saliva or in the case of horses, in their hoofs. The viral infection in affected animals produces an acute infection that is rapidly transmitted to the rest of the herd. The virus could be easily transmitted by farm equipment and animals, persons footwear and clothing, vehicles transiting through infected farmland, and even blown by the wind to distances of up to 25 miles. To cope with the infestation extreme measures are taken to include access barriers to delimited contaminated areas and destruction and burning of even suspected affected farm animals.

Since the disease appears to be showing not only in this part of the world, but also in South America, the United States (US) are very concerned about the possibility of its entry into its mainland or offshore territories and is therefore implementing very stringent measures to prevent this entry. Hence, the following advisory calls for more stringent measures to be implemented throughout our European pre-clearance activities for all military or military associated property been shipped into the Customs Territory of the US (CTUS).

1. All European MCI units should increment the degree of inspections performed on military personal property, cargo, and military equipment (vehicles, armament, milvans, etc.).
2. For personal property, more detailed attention should be given during briefings of military personnel and relatives to make a determination on the "high-risk" or "low-risk status" of the individual shipments. As customary, all "high-risk" identified shipments should be thoroughly inspected, specially for items that are in the outside (OHAs). A higher percentage than the normally requested 3% for "low-risk" shipments should be given for households residing within farmland or in proximity to

farm animals. MCI units are particularly called to become more active in their advisory function to US installations mail facilities. All animal products (fresh meats, processed meats, suspected canned meats, animal parts, hair, milk, etc.) are prohibited entry into the CTUS now from the entire Europe.. (Commercially produced hard cheese which contains no meat bits inside is not restricted at this time. Neither is butter, but yogurt is).

3. Garden tools, bicycles, and other outside items with exposition to the ground should be carefully examined for total freedom of soil and a preventive disinfection with a commercial recommended disinfectant should be applied. This is more critical for areas with identified cases of FMD, as the UK, but also serves as a preventive measure for other FMD non-designated areas.
4. Military cargo, including pallets, field canvas tents, wooden crates, footwear, clothing, and other military goods that have been used in open farmland or in proximity to farm animal herds, should be thoroughly cleaned, as has been the regular practice within this pre-clearance program, and additionally *disinfected with a commercial approved disinfectant* if proceeding from a FMD contaminated or risky area. This applies at this moment for all military cargo coming out of the UK for the CTUS or other within theater destination and also applies for any cargo shipped into the CTUS from the Port of Istres, France.
5. All military rolling equipment, to include trucks, humbees, tanks, field cannons, etc. will be extremely well washed and cleaned before shipment into the CTUS. In addition, if originating in the UK and as an additional precautionary measure if originating in any other area within theater, will be given a disinfection treatment with an approved commercial disinfectant.
6. Because military equipment may move in several directions within theater, all equipment originated in the UK with destination within theater is required to be extremely well cleaned for freedom from soil and given a treatment with a commercial approved disinfectant. As an additional preventive precaution, military rolling equipment originating from other in-theater areas and intended for shipment into the CTUS, will be given this same disinfection treatment. As equipment is moved within theater, there is the risk of bringing a FMD viral infestation into another military operating area and from there into the CTUS.
7. It is the policy of the US military to assist its hosting nations in preventing any spread of animal or plant disease by means of its field operations. Therefore and for as long as this FMD epidemic may be active, the same precautions described in Number 6 above, should be applied for military rolling and other equipment at risk destined for movement among the in-theater nations.

Any particular questions or concerns should be addressed to one of the following:

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Approved disinfectants:

- Bleach, 5.25% concentration
Add 1 gallon of chlorine bleach
to 50 gallons of water.
mix thoroughly.
- 4% sodium carbonate with 0.1% sodium silicate (soda ash)
- Add 15 pounds to 45 gallons of water
- Virkon S
mix as directed on label.