

# GOVERNMENT OF ST HELENA

## TERMS OF REFERENCE

### CONSULTANCY TO DEVELOP IMPORT HEALTH STANDARDS FOR MEAT, FISH AND DAIRY PRODUCE FOR ST HELENA ISLAND

#### 1. Background

The island of St. Helena, a South Atlantic overseas territory of the United Kingdom (UK) is of volcanic origin and covers 47 square miles in the South Atlantic Ocean. St. Helena is over 4,000 miles from the UK, 700 miles southeast of Ascension Island and 1,700 miles from South Africa. is currently served by a single supply ship, running between Cape Town in South Africa and Ascension Island in the mid-Atlantic. Local production is limited, with an average of 275 tonnes of fruit and vegetables from South Africa, and 271 tonnes of meat, 10.5 tonnes of fish and 464 tonnes dairy produce imported each year from both South Africa and the UK.

In 2013 St Helena initiated the development of a national biosecurity framework to strengthen the biosecurity system of the island in anticipation of air access in 2016. This includes a national biosecurity policy, updated legislation and an implementation plan. Import health standards and /or zoosanitary certification exist for a range of imported risk goods, including fruit and vegetables, plant material for growing purposes, honey and bee products, pet cats, dogs and live fish, poultry and eggs, and genetic material, namely frozen semen for artificial insemination: see <http://www.sainthelena.gov.sh/import-health-standards/>.

There is growing awareness of the risks of the unregulated importation of meat, fish, dairy produce and animal feeds, and a need to draft appropriate import health standards to regulate their import. Imported frozen chicken meat has been implicated in the recent outbreak of Newcastle Disease on the island.

#### 2. Objective

To prepare draft import health standards for imported meat, fish, dairy products and animal feeds to protect St Helena Island from the risk of introduced animal and public health diseases, and minimise the risk of residues and contaminants injurious to health.

#### 3. Main Tasks

The main tasks to be undertaken, done in **two stages**; firstly for meats, and secondly for fish, dairy products and livestock feeds, are as follows:

## **Stage 1: Meat**

1. Obtain a holistic view of the issues by conferring with stakeholders. This will help to establish needs, limitations, trade routes, existing suppliers, and other potential sources for products.
2. Review the animal and public health diseases of concern for St Helena Island transmissible in meat and meat products (ie those diseases which do not occur on the island but do in the countries of origin of the imported produce), and identify a list of priority diseases of concern. Disease categories include:
  - a. Exotic veterinary diseases affecting domestic livestock;
  - b. Diseases of animals affecting humans (zoonoses);
  - c. Human diseases affecting humans via meat and meat products due to poor handling and processing.
3. Carry out an import risk assessment for each of the diseases listed in (2).
4. Review the measures taken by suppliers or supplying nations and therefore risk assess other potential threats in imported meat and meat products. These include:
  - a. Physical contaminants: eg: grit, glass, metal, plastic, rust, paint etc;
  - b. Chemical contaminants: eg: pesticides, disinfectants, machinery oil, veterinary drugs/growth hormones, chlorinated water, heavy metals etc;
  - c. Other biological contaminants: eg: flies(whole/faeces), moulds, parasites etc.
5. Consider the chain of traceability created by the suppliers and supplying nations – ‘from farm to fork and back’.
6. On this basis identify appropriate sources and import categories of meat.
7. Draft import health standards for the different categories of meat identified in the tasks above, taking into consideration the import health standards developed for other island states such as New Zealand, Australia and the Falkland Islands. Format to be used is that developed for existing biosecurity risk goods, see <http://www.sainthelena.gov.sh/import-health-standards/>.

## **Stage 2: Fish, dairy produce and livestock feeds**

*Livestock* (to include poultry) are domesticated animals raised in an agricultural setting to produce commodities such as food, fiber and labor.

Repeat the tasks in Stage 1 but this time for **fish, dairy produce and livestock feeds**:

1. Obtain a holistic view of the issues by conferring with stakeholders. This will help to establish needs, limitations, trade routes, existing suppliers, and other potential sources for products.
2. Review the animal and public health diseases of concern for St Helena Island transmissible in fish, dairy produce and animal feeds (ie those diseases which do not occur on the island but do in the countries of origin of the imported produce), and identify a list of priority diseases of concern. Disease categories include:
  - a. Exotic veterinary diseases affecting domestic livestock;
  - b. Diseases of animals affecting humans (zoonoses. Note: particular attention must be paid to the inclusion of MBM in animal feeds as a source of TSEs, principally BSE);
  - c. Human diseases affecting humans via fish and dairy produce due to poor handling and processing.
3. Carry out an import risk assessment for each of the diseases listed in (2).
4. Review the measures taken by suppliers or supplying nations and therefore risk assess other potential threats in fish, dairy produce and animal feeds. These include:
  - a. Physical contaminants: eg: grit, glass, metal, plastic, rust, paint etc;
  - b. Chemical contaminants: eg: pesticides, disinfectants, machinery oil, veterinary drugs/growth hormones, chlorinated water, heavy metals etc;
  - c. Other biological contaminants: eg: flies (whole/faeces), moulds, parasites etc.
5. Consider the chain of traceability created by the suppliers and supplying nations.
6. On this basis identify appropriate sources and import categories of fish, dairy produce and animal feeds.
7. Draft import health standards for the different categories of fish, dairy produce and animal feeds identified in the tasks above, taking into consideration the import health standards developed for other island states such as New Zealand, Australia and the Falkland Islands. Format to be used is that developed for existing biosecurity risk goods, see <http://www.sainthelena.gov.sh/import-health-standards/>.

#### **4. Deliverables**

- Work plan for the contract;
- Import risk assessments for identified categories of meat, fish, dairy produce and animal feed;

- Draft import health standards for identified categories of meat, fish, dairy produce and livestock feeds.
- Recommended sourcing of these categories appropriate to the island's trade routes and locality which would meet the required standards.

## 5. Reporting

This is a desk exercise and it is not expected that the consultant will need to visit St Helena Island. Work will be carried out under the supervision of the Senior Veterinary Officer (SVO) of the Agriculture and Natural Resources Division, St Helena Government, through telephone conferences and email correspondence. Material will be provided by the SVO and his team, sourced via the internet and publications, and through the consultants' personal professional network of contacts.

## 6. Qualifications, Experience and Skills Required

The successful candidate will have:

- Demonstrable experience of carrying out import risk assessments for meat, fish and dairy products;
- Experience in biosecurity operations, preferably in the context of small Island developing states;
- Ideally, experience in developing import health standards for biosecurity risk goods;
- Ability to deliver high quality products on time and to the appropriate level;
- Ability to write and communicate fluently in English.
- Knowledge and experience of the South Atlantic UK Overseas Territories is desirable but not essential.

## 7. Timing

The consultancy support is required to begin by the end of January 2015 and to be completed by the end of July 2015.

### Timetable of Work

During the 6 month contract the following milestones are expected to be met:

1. **Detailed work plan** to be delivered within **two weeks** of commencing work;

2. **First draft of at least one import risk assessment** and import health standard to be presented to SVO by the **end of the second month**, to check that progress is on the right track;
3. **Final draft import risk assessments and import health standards** to be presented to SVO by the **end of the fifth month**, for review by the biosecurity team;
4. **Final deliverables** to be presented to the SVO by the **end of the sixth month**.