

## National Pig Association

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## British Pig Association

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Dear Importer,

### Protecting the national pig herd of GB from disease

This letter is being sent to you to alert you to the potential disease threats that exist in addition to those requiring statutory testing by the Animal Health authorities when importing pigs from overseas into Great Britain.

Our geographical separation from the European Continent, and limited trade in live pigs from overseas, means that GB has managed to stay free of several non-statutory disease agents present in pigs elsewhere in Europe. Some of these agents cause serious disease in pigs (for example, North American strains of Porcine Reproductive and Respiratory Syndrome virus, PRRSv) while others have public health implications (for example, MRSA).

Clearly, it is highly desirable that disease agents not currently in GB pigs are kept out. Introduction of infection into GB in infected but apparently healthy pigs is a significant risk; the best means of preventing introduction is not to import live pigs and it is worth considering the necessity of your planned importation.

If you do decide to progress with importation of live pigs, it is very important that you consult with your veterinary surgeon to discuss the potential non-statutory disease risks to GB from pigs in the country from which importation will take place and how to avoid these risks. Careful selection of the source herd, inspection of herd records, and laboratory testing in the country of origin and again after arrival while in quarantine are amongst the actions that can be taken. Strict quarantine of imported stock for at least one month is essential and allows time for any test results to be received before imported pigs contact resident pigs. If onward sale of imported pigs is planned, this would provide purchasers with some assurance that they were buying healthy pigs.

Further information on non-statutory pathogen threats and testing methods is available on this link:

#### BIOSECURITY AND QUARANTINE INFORMATION -

[http://www.bpex.org.uk/2TS/health/Biosecurity\\_documents.aspx](http://www.bpex.org.uk/2TS/health/Biosecurity_documents.aspx)

We hope that you will take appropriate precautions and assist us in safeguarding the health and security of our national pig herd.

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Zoë Davies".

**Zoë Davies**

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Marcus Bates".

**Marcus Bates**

General Manager, National Pig Association

Chief Executive, British Pig Association