



Ref: VITT 1200/FMD-Ecuador  
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## Foot and Mouth Disease – Ecuador

**Note:** Defra's International Animal Health (FFG-IAH) monitors outbreaks of high impact diseases around the world. Foot and mouth disease (FMD) is among those diseases of major concern that would have a significant impact if introduced into the UK.

### Disease Report

An outbreak of foot and mouth disease (FMD type O) in cattle has been reported in Esmeraldas, western Ecuador (see map). This outbreak started in mid May and was attributed to introduction of live cattle. Source of these cattle is under investigation and disease control measures, including movement controls are in place. Vaccination against FMD is practised in Ecuador. This outbreak coincides with the beginning of the first vaccination phase in 2008 (OIE, 2008).



### Situation Assessment

FMD is present in Ecuador. There was a major

epidemic of FMD throughout Ecuador in 2002 with both FMD type A and type O strains. Sporadic cases caused by FMD type O were reported in subsequent years in cattle and pigs. Ecuador is not on the approved list for the export of FMD susceptible animals or their products to the EU or the UK. Therefore, Imports of susceptible animals and their products to the EU and UK are banned.

### Conclusion

The likelihood of the introduction of FMD by legal trade from Ecuador to the UK before and after this outbreak is considered negligible because legal imports are not allowed.

The likelihood of FMD virus being introduced by illegal imports remains present and is difficult to estimate. This again emphasise the importance of ensuring that enforcement agencies are vigilant and that a ban on swill feeding is effectively applied in the UK.

We do not intend to carry out and publish a full risk assessment on this outbreak and will continue to monitor the situation.

### References

OIE (2008): ECU 22-05-08 OIE Alert - Foot and mouth disease (e-mail of 22 May 2008).