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## Foot and Mouth Disease – Ecuador

**Note:** Defra's Food and Farming Group 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.

### Disease Report

Two outbreaks of foot and mouth disease (FMD type O) in cattle were reported in Manabi, western Ecuador (OIE, 2007a). These outbreaks were detected in May and were associated with cattle movements. Earlier reports of FMD in Ecuador in 2007 were of FMD (type O) outbreaks in pigs in Imbabura during March and in pigs in Azuay during January (OIE, 2007b). Vaccination against FMD is practised in Ecuador.



### Situation Assessment

FMD is present in Ecuador. There was a major epidemic of FMD throughout Ecuador in 2002 with both type A and type O strains. Sporadic cases were reported in subsequent years. It is considered that the system of markets encourages long distance movements of cattle with a consequent risk of disease transmission (Lindholm and others, 2007). Ecuador is not approved for the export of FMD susceptible animals or their products to the EU or the UK.

### 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 imports of susceptible animals and their products to the EU and UK are banned. The likelihood of FMD virus being introduced by illegal imports remains present and is difficult to estimate. The importance of ensuring that enforcement

agencies are vigilant and that a ban on swill feeding is effectively applied in the UK is again emphasised. FFG-IAH does not intend to carry out and publish a full risk assessment on this outbreak but will continue to monitor the situation.

### References

Lindholm, A., Hewitt, E., Torres, P., Lasso, M., Echeverria, C., Shaw, J. and Hernandez, J. (2007). Epidemiologic Aspects of a Foot-and-Mouth Disease Epidemic in Cattle in Ecuador. *International Journal Applied Research Veterinary Medicine*. 5 (1): 17-24.

OIE (2007a) Foot and mouth disease, Ecuador. ECU 20-06-07 OIE Alert Message. (Received by e-mail 20/06/2007).

OIE (2007b) Weekly Disease Information. (viewed 20/06/2007)  
 ([http://www.oie.int/wahid-prod/public.php?page=weekly\\_report\\_index&admin=0](http://www.oie.int/wahid-prod/public.php?page=weekly_report_index&admin=0))