



# FPC PRESS RELEASE

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## **FPC CALLS FOR MORE EVIDENCE TO INFLUENCE REVIEW OF BURDENSOME 'HIGH RISK' IMPORT CONTROLS**

The Fresh Produce Consortium (FPC) is calling on importers to provide evidence and share their experience of the impact of EC Regulation 669/2009 which introduced increased controls on so-called 'high risk' imports of certain fresh produce in January this year.

"This poorly thought out Regulation fails to meet standards for effective, risk-based and proportionate regulation," said Nigel Jenney, Chief Executive of FPC. "Increased checks, delays in clearance, additional storage costs, damage and loss of products and their disposal have devastated many importers and suppliers of highly perishable products. The full impact of the Regulation must be put in front of the Food Standards Agency and the European Commission to influence its review."

"There is no recognition of the fact that highly reputable companies have made considerable investment in securing accreditation from Globalgap and others, with independently verified records of pesticide monitoring. We shall be calling on the FSA and the Commission to take this into account through the implementation of an assured trader scheme."

The Food Standards Agency has given a tight timeframe for the industry to provide evidence in order to prepare for the European Commission's first quarterly review of the Regulation which takes place in June. The review will focus on the list of 'high risk' products in Annex I, but evidence has been requested additionally on the effects of the Regulation on businesses and Port Health Authorities.

The Regulation introduced increased controls, as defined in Annex I of the Regulation, setting out the frequency of physical checks and pesticide residue monitoring required for certain foodstuffs from third countries. Currently the list includes bananas, mangos, yard long beans, melon bitter, Lauki, peppers and aubergines from the Dominican Republic; pears and vegetables like peppers, courgettes and tomatoes from Turkey; and vegetables including yard long beans, aubergines and brassica from Thailand.

FPC supports the objective of this Regulation to safeguard public health where a real risk is identified and agrees that the inclusion of certain products must be on the basis of sound evidence of risk guided by established criteria. However, there is still a lack of clarity and transparency regarding the criteria being used for inclusion of products on the Annex I list, particularly where these are not linked to alerts by the Rapid Alert System for Food and Feed.

“We are asking any importer or agent to contact FPC urgently regarding how the Regulation affects them and their products so that we can meet the FSA’s deadline and provide a robust case with regard to the impact on UK importers,” added Nigel Jenney.

**Ends**

**Notes for editors:**

1. The Fresh Produce Consortium (FPC) is the UK’s fresh produce trade association and is based in Peterborough. The FPC has represented the fresh produce sector for many years and is recognized across the UK and EU as the voice of the industry.
2. Extensive membership covers the complete spectrum of industry businesses including growers, importers, wholesalers, retailers, distributors, processors, packers, food service companies and other allied organisations.
3. Evidence and feedback on the impact of EC Regulation 669/2009 can be provided to: [sian@freshproduce.org.uk](mailto:sian@freshproduce.org.uk) by Friday 21 May.

**Ends**