**35/2014**

**REQUEST**

This is a request concerning the import of dried dates from Israel and the Palestinian Territories. Please limit the scope of your research to imports since February 2005.
1. Considering that the Port Health Authority keeps a record of the nature of the consignments that come through, does it hold any record of consignments of dried dates imported from:
a) Israel
b) the Palestinian Territories
c) the Israeli settlements in the Palestinian Territories (for which there is a separate list of origin postcodes)?
2. If such consignments were received, please provide, for each individual consignment:
a) the date at which it was received
b) the place of origin (including postcode where applicable) as stated on export documents
c) the weight of the consignment.

**RESPONSE**

Suffolk Coastal Port Health Authority (SCPHA) has delivered the imported food service at Harwich International Port on behalf of Tendring District Council since October 2004. This work is subject to contract arrangement.

In the course of its work SCPHA retains basic datasets of information relating to imports of animal origin e.g. chicken fish, non animal origin imports e.g. nuts dates, imports with unclear descriptions to verify the contents). Such information is extracted from the manifests that are available through the Destin8 port manifesting system. SCPHA is only interested in consignments which arrive at its ports of responsibility from outside the European Union (third country goods). Third country imports on which import formalities have been completed in other European ports are classed as being in free circulation. Consignments which arrive from other European ports are assumed to be in free circulation in the absence of any information to the contrary. SCPHA has no interest in any goods in free circulation and does not retain any information on such consignments.

Basic data held consists of:

Place of arrival
Unique consignment number
Container number
Arrival date
Unique vessel identifier
Vessel name
Weight of consignment
Number of packages in consignment
Agent dealing with the consignment at the port of available in Destin8
Port health status – if one has been allocated a D would denote that the consignment has been electronically detained
D8 code – these are internally determined codes to categorise consignments into types e.g. G2 – dried fruit, V3 – tinned vegetables
Description of import

Most records will consist only of this information, where a product is subject to additional legal checks or is a product of interest for which documentation is obtained further information may be manually added to the basic dataset. The nature of the data added is dependent on the product and the legal requirements for it.

Dates are not a product which have been or currently are subject to specific legal requirements; they have also not been or currently are a product of interest. We would therefore only hold a basic dataset of information for such imports.

Our records indicate there have been no imports of third country dates through Harwich International Port since February 2005.

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