

**Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine**

**Trader Notice MPD 003/2014**

**To: All Food Business Operators at Russian Federation/Customs Union (RF/CU)  
Approved Milk Processing Establishments.**

**Subject: Veterinary Certification of dry milk powders to the Russian Federation**

**Background**

Following the RF/CU audit which took place in May 2014, DAFM was notified of temporary restrictions effective from the 23<sup>rd</sup> of June 2014.

**Update**

Last week the Department submitted our response to the preliminary Russian audit findings via Embassy Moscow, in which we addressed their preliminary list of system related violations. The original Russian letter imposed temporary restrictions on the inspected plants, but also asked DAFM not to certify exports of finished milk products (dry milk powders) from all Irish plants. The reasons for those restrictions were not stated, and the wording of the powder restriction required interpretation and after considerable discussion it was decided that it only applied to finished product and not to ingredients.

DAFM's response to Rosselkhoznadzor points to our understanding that the powder restriction refers to finished products only, and that we will continue certification of ingredients. The temporary restriction on the inspected plants remains in place for all dairy products from those plants.

On this basis, export certification for non-finished dairy powders (ingredients) from approved dairy manufacturers will continue. It is important to note however that there is still some uncertainty around this issue and notwithstanding the Department's willingness to certify, exports are carried out by companies at their own risk.

**Meat and Milk Policy**

**18<sup>th</sup> July 2014**