



Animal &  
Plant Health  
Agency

# Import of Treated Feathers, parts of Feathers and Down

## Import Information Note (IIN) ABP/22B

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# 1. Important Information

Import Information Notes are technical documents containing import requirements and are for use by importers and veterinary staff.

Please be aware that import conditions may be updated due to changes in policy or legislation. Please ensure that you check the current version of the Import Information Note online.

Importers should note that the information given relates only to animal health and public health conditions of import. It does not give guidance on other conditions that may need to be met.

EU legislation as it stood on 31 December 2020 that the UK already complies with has been incorporated into our domestic law as “retained EU law” under the European Union (Withdrawal) Act 2018. References in our guidance and certification to such EU instruments should be taken to be references to this “retained EU law”. Our current standards will remain in force, without amendment, in the immediate months after our EU exit as part of UK domestic law (apart from corrections to make the EU legislation fully operable).

You can find further information on legislation, including Relevant EU Exit Statutory Instruments in the legislation section of this import information note.

Please note that any links to legislation provided in this document are for information purposes only and may not be the most recent version.

Further information regarding changes to the import controls from an EU country from 1 January 2021 can be found on GOV.UK at the below link:

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/import-animal-by-products-and-high-risk-food-and-feed-not-of-animal-origin-from-the-eu-to-great-britain>

## 2. Scope

Import conditions for treated feathers, parts of feathers and down.

Treated feathers, parts of feathers and down must only be derived from Category 3 materials referred to in Article 10(b)(v), 10(h) and 10 (n) of [Retained EU Regulation 1069/2009](#).

As stated in Annex XIV, Chapter II, Section 6(a) of Retained EU Regulation 142/2011, decorative feathers/treated feathers carried by travellers for their own private use/ treated feathers or down sent to private individuals for non-industrial purposes can be imported without restrictions.

References to imports into Great Britain in this Import Information Note also includes imports into the Channel Islands and the Isle of Man.

References to trading partners includes non-EU, EU and EFTA countries. Import requirements from non-EU and EU countries will be differentiated, where required, in this Import Information Note.

Information regarding transits can be found on gov.uk:

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/transiting-animals-and-animal-products-through-great-britain>

### 3. Non-permitted imports

The following feathers, parts of feathers and down are **not** permitted:

Any untreated feathers and parts of feathers and down which have **not** been treated with a steam current or by another method that ensures that no unacceptable risks remain.

### 4. Production standards

#### (a) Treated feathers for private use/non-industrial purposes

As stated in Annex XIV, Chapter II, Section 6(a) of [Retained EU Regulation 142/2011](#), decorative feathers/ treated feathers carried by travellers for their own private use/ treated feathers or down sent to private individuals for non-industrial purposes can be imported without restrictions.

#### (b) Other treated feathers, parts of feathers or down

The treated feathers, parts of feathers and down must have been produced and stored in accordance with the requirements of Annex X, Chapter II, Section 6 of Retained EU Regulation 142/2011, and in particular must have been treated with a steam current for 30 minutes or by another method that ensures no acceptable risks remain.

Other treatment methods that are acceptable:

- Machine washing with a detergent or another method to remove organic material from the feathers followed by one or more of the following treatments:
  1. A heat treatment of at least 48 degrees Celsius for a minimum of 2 weeks;
  2. Irradiation with at least 20 kGy;
  3. Fifty-three ml of 40 % formaldehyde per cubic metre for at least 8 hours at 22- 24 °C;
  4. Fifty-three ml of 40% formaldehyde and 35 grams of potassium permanganate per cubic metre for 8 hours at 22 – 24 °C

5. Soaked in 10%; formalin for 4 – 4.5 hours;
6. Hydrochloric acid solution for 1 hour at 52 °C;
7. Methyl-bromide: 24 to 32 g/m<sup>3</sup> for 24 hours;
8. Hydrogen peroxide for 3 hours;
9. Heat treatment of 74°C for at least 30 minutes.

## 5. Country of origin

Imports are permitted from any trading partner.

## 6. Approved establishments

Products must be produced in an establishment approved to export to Great Britain. Importers should check prior to importation that the premises are listed on the correct list.

Consolidated lists of approved establishments/plants are available on:

- [data.gov.uk](https://data.gov.uk) for **non-EU countries**
- and [here](#) for **EU Countries**

If the establishment or plant is not listed, importers are urged to contact the company concerned, who should contact their competent authority immediately. If the plant is not included on the appropriate list when veterinary checks are carried out the consignment is likely to be held and could be rejected and re-exported or destroyed.

## 7. Health certification/documentation

### **(a) Treated feathers for private use/non-industrial purposes**

No documentation is required for treated decorative feathers/ treated feathers carried by travellers for their own private use/ consignments of treated feathers or down sent to private individuals for non-industrial purposes.

### **(b) Other treated feathers, parts of feathers or down**

No health certificate is required, but consignments must be accompanied by a commercial document completed by the exporter not more than 2 weeks prior to dispatch stating the name and address of the exporter, approval number of the premises of origin, description of the consignment, name of the exporter, signed and dated. The commercial document must also state:

1. that the feathers have been obtained from birds that did not show any clinical signs of avian notifiable diseases;
2. that the feathers originated from an area with no restrictions due to avian notifiable diseases;
3. the specific processing treatment used to treat the feathers which must confirm to the approved methods listed in Section 4 above.

**NOTE:** Unless the commercial document states that the feathers have been factory washed and treated with hot steam at 100°C for at least 30 minutes (or treated by another method described in point 4 above), the consignment must be sent directly to a registered establishment or plant for such treatment once it has been imported.

## 8. Pre-notifications of imports

### **(a) Treated feathers for private use/non-industrial purposes**

Pre-notification is not required for these imports.

### **(b) Other treated feathers, parts of feathers or down**

From 1 January 2022, imports from the EU to Great Britain (GB) must be pre-notified. Please use the Import of products, animals, food and feed system (IPAFFS).

You must submit your notification in IPAFFS at least one working day before your consignment is due to arrive. You can submit your notification up to 30 days in advance.

Further information regarding IPAFFS is available on [GOV.UK](https://www.gov.uk).

For pre-notifications from other trading partners see section below.

## 9. Veterinary checks

### **(a) Treated feathers for private use/non-industrial purposes**

Veterinary checks are not applicable to these imports.

### **(b) Other treated feathers, parts of feathers or down**

**Until the end of 2023, imports from the EU, and certain imports from Greenland and EFTA countries, do not need to enter Great Britain via a Border Control Points (BCP) and are not subject to veterinary checks at the border.**

**However BCP checks will be required on EU goods from the end of 2023.**

You can find additional information on imports from EFTA countries and Greenland in section 10.

- Consignments from trading partners (other than the EU, and some imports from Greenland and EFTA countries) may only be imported through an approved Border Control Post (BCP).
- The person responsible for the consignment must give notice of the proposed entry of the consignment at least one working day before arrival (with a derogation to 4 hours before arrival if there are logistical constraints).
- The notification shall be made to the inspection staff at the BCP using the Import of products, animals, food and feed system (IPAFFS). Further information regarding IPAFFS can be found on [GOV.UK](https://www.gov.uk).
- Any other electronic means agreed with the BCP to inform about the intended arrival of a consignment in advance are not to be considered as an official pre-notification.

Following satisfactory checks at the BCP (for which a charge is levied), consignments may then circulate freely within Great Britain. If the consignment does not meet the import requirements, the consignment may be rejected and either re-exported or destroyed.

- [Further guidance on veterinary checks on animal products](#)
- [Border Control Posts](#)

The Trade in Animals and Related Products Regulations 2011 ([TARP 2011](#)) (applicable in England) and EU Exit amendments to TARP 2011 can be found [here](#).

## 10. EFTA countries and Greenland

The UK government recognises that Norway, Switzerland and Liechtenstein implement EU veterinary legislation in relation to the movement of animals and animal products.

Therefore, animals and animal products from Norway, Switzerland and Liechtenstein must comply with the same requirements and controls applying to live animals and animal products from EU Member States. This also applies to Iceland for products of animal origin for human consumption, composite products and aquaculture.

Furthermore, in relation to imports from Faroe Islands this also applies to fishery products and aquaculture only. In relation to imports from Greenland this applies to fishery products and fish by-products only too.

## 11. Safeguard measures

Emergency safeguard action can be taken at very short notice to prohibit or restrict the importation of certain products from certain countries following an outbreak of disease or a public health issue. Information on the latest updates concerning disease outbreaks which may affect imports into the UK can be found on our Topical Issues page on the website.

Further information on the International and UK monitoring of animal diseases may be found on the animal disease monitoring website.

Importers can get the latest news about exotic notifiable disease outbreaks from the APHA subscription service.

- [Topical issues](#)
- [Animal diseases: international and UK monitoring](#)
- [Exotic notifiable disease outbreak subscription service](#)

## 12. Legislation.gov.uk

Consolidated legal texts, which integrate the basic instruments of retained EU legislation with their amendments and corrections in a single, non-official document, are available. Each consolidated text contains a list of all legal documents taken into account for its construction.

You can search for consolidated texts by inputting the 'document number' and 'year' and then clicking the option 'All UK Legislation (including originating from the EU)' on [legislation.gov.uk](https://www.legislation.gov.uk).

Once you press 'search', you can find the relevant legislation listed with the full title of the legislation. Once you have selected the legislation, you may see the following message at the top of the page:

"Changes to legislation: There are outstanding changes not yet made to XXX. Those changes will be listed when you open the content using the Table of Contents below. Any changes that have already been made to the legislation appear in the content and are referenced with annotations."

Please note that the consolidated text may not contain the latest amendment to the legislation, as it takes several weeks for this to be updated. EU Exit amendments to legislation may take several months too. We advise to read the legislation alongside the EU Exit amendments made in the below UK laws:

- [The Import of, and Trade in, Animals and Animal Products \(Miscellaneous Amendments\) \(EU Exit\) Regulations 2020](#)

- [The Official Controls \(Animals, Feed and Food, Plant Health etc.\) \(Amendment\) \(EU Exit\) Regulations 2020](#)
- [The Official Controls \(Animals, Feed and Food, Plant Health etc.\) \(Amendment\) \(EU Exit\) \(No. 2\) Regulations 2020](#)
- [The Aquatic Animal Health and Alien Species in Aquaculture, Animals, and Marketing of Seed, Plant and Propagating Material \(Legislative Functions and Miscellaneous Provisions\) \(Amendment\) \(EU Exit\) Regulations 2020](#)
- [The Animals, Aquatic Animal Health, Invasive Alien Species, Plant Propagating Material and Seeds \(Amendment\) \(EU Exit\) Regulations 2020](#)
- [The Trade in Animals and Animal Products \(Legislative Functions\) and Veterinary Surgeons \(Amendment\) \(EU Exit\) Regulations 2019](#)

Texts provided in this section are intended for information only. Please note that these texts have no legal value. For legal purposes please refer to the texts published in [legislation.gov.uk](http://legislation.gov.uk).

Further information on changes in relation to EU legislation and UK law can be found on [legislation.gov.uk](http://legislation.gov.uk). Please continue to use legislation.gov.uk to find EU retained law applicable to Great Britain. Please avoid using the EU Commission website for information on imports into Great Britain.

## 13. Northern Ireland

### **Movements from Northern Ireland**

Trade movements from Northern Ireland into Great Britain are treated as national movements and as such, no animal health conditions are applicable in respect of those movements. You can find additional information on movements from NI to GB [here](#).

### **Movements to Northern Ireland**

Northern Ireland continues to apply EU law and EU requirements as laid down by the Northern Ireland Protocol. Please seek advice from DAERA on the import requirements for direct imports to Northern Ireland.

<https://www.daera-ni.gov.uk/articles/introduction-importing-animals-and-animal-products>

## 14. Contact for further information

For further information regarding import requirements, contact the Animal and Plant Health Agency (APHA) Imports team:

Centre for International Trade - Carlisle  
Eden Bridge House



Lowther Street  
Carlisle  
CA3 8DX

Email: [Imports@apha.gov.uk](mailto:Imports@apha.gov.uk)

Telephone: 03000 200 301



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The Animal and Plant Health Agency (APHA) is an executive agency of the Department for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs, and also works on behalf of the Scottish Government and Welsh Government.