



Animal &
Plant Health
Agency

Import of Untreated Wool and Hair Import Information Note (IIN) ABP/23A

June 2022

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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 untreated wool and hair.

This IIN only covers untreated wool and hair as defined below. If you wish to import treated wool, hair and fur please refer to [IIN ABP 23B](#).

Wool and hair are defined as:

- ‘Wool’ means the natural fibre grown by sheep or lambs.
- ‘Fine animal hair’ means the hair of alpaca, llama, vicuna, camel (including dromedary), yak, angora, Tibetan, Kashmir or similar goats (but not common goats), rabbit, (including Angora rabbit), hare, beaver, nutria or muskrat.

- ‘Coarse animal hair’ means all other animal hair than ‘fine animal hair’ with the exception of, inter alia, pigs’ bristles or pigs’ hair.
- ‘Horsehair’ is defined as hair of the manes or tails of equine or bovine animals.

Untreated wool and hair are defined in [Retained EU Regulation 142/2011](#) as wool and hair, **OTHER** than wool/hair which has:

- (a) undergone factory washing;
- (b) been obtained from tanning;
- (c) been treated by another method that ensures that no unacceptable risks remain;
- (d) been produced from animals other than those of the porcine species, and has undergone factory-washing which consisting of the immersion of the wool in series of baths of water, soap and sodium hydroxide or potassium hydroxide; or
- (e) been produced from animals other than those of the porcine species, is intended for being dispatched directly to a plant producing derived products from wool for the textile industry and has undergone at least one of the following treatments:
 - (i) chemical depilation by means of slaked lime or sodium sulphide;
 - (ii) fumigation in formaldehyde in a hermetically sealed chamber for at least 24 hours;
 - (iii) industrial scouring which consists of the immersion of wool in a water-soluble detergent held at 60–70 °C;
 - (iv) storage, which may include the journey time, at 37 °C for eight days, 18 °C for 28 days or 4 °C for 120 days.

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. Production standards

In accordance with Annex XIV, Chapter II, Table 2. Point 8 and Chapter VIII, Article 25 point 2 of [Retained EU Regulation 142/2011](#) untreated wool and hair:

Must **either**:

- a) be securely enclosed in packaging and dry and must be sent **directly** to a plant producing derived products for uses outside the feed chain or a plant carrying out intermediate operations under conditions which prevent the spreading of pathogenic agents.

OR

- b) be wool and hair that is dry and securely enclosed in packaging, produced from animals other than those of the porcine species, which is intended for dispatch to a plant producing derived products from wool and hair for the textile industry and meets all of the following requirements:
 - i) the consignment was produced at least 21 days before the date of entry into Great Britain kept in a country or region thereof which is:
 - o listed in the document published by the Secretary of State, with the consent of the Scottish and Welsh Ministers for fresh meat of ungulates at the links below. The country must be authorised for imports of fresh meat of ruminants not subject to supplementary guarantees A and F mentioned therein;
 - [Non-EU countries](#)
 - [EU and EFTA countries](#)
 - o free of foot-and-mouth disease, and, in the case of wool and hair from sheep and goats, of sheep pox and goat pox in accordance with the basic general criteria listed in Annex II to [Directive 2004/68](#);

The animal by-products must only be derived from Category 3 materials referred to in Article 10(h) and 10(n) of [Retained EU Regulation 1069/2009](#).

4. Country of origin

For wool and hair as per Section 3(a) above:

Imports are permitted from any country.

For wool and hair as per Section 3(b) above:

Imports are permitted from trading partners listed in a document published by the Secretary of State, with the consent of the Scottish and Welsh Ministers for:

- [Non-EU countries](#)
- [EU and EFTA countries](#)

Imports are permitted from countries listed in the document for fresh meat of ungulates which are authorised for imports of fresh meat of ruminants not subject to supplementary guarantees A and F mentioned therein.

5. 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 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.

6. Health certification/documentation

For wool and hair as per Section 3(a) above:

A commercial document stating at least the consignor and consignee, country of origin, amount and species of the wool or hair for traceability purposes.

For wool and hair as per Section 3(b) above:

The consignment is accompanied by a importers' declaration as required in accordance with Chapter 21 of [Annex XV of Retained EU Regulation 142/2011](#).

NOTE: the approved establishment of origin must be stated on the commercial documents and importers declaration, including the approval number of the establishment

7. Pre-notifications of imports

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://gov.uk).

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

8. Veterinary checks

Until the end of 2023, imports from the EU, and certain imports from Greenland, Faroe Islands 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 9.

- Consignments from trading partners (other than the EU, and some imports from Greenland, Faroe Islands 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://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](#).

9. 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.

10. Movement to premises of destination

Untreated wool and hair as defined in Section 3(a) above:

a) Once released at the BCP the untreated wool and hair must be sent **directly** to a plant producing derived products for uses outside the feed chain or a plant carrying out intermediate operations under conditions which prevent the spreading of pathogenic agents which has been approved or registered in accordance with Article 23 or Article 24 and Article 44 of [Retained EU Regulation 1069/2009](#).

Untreated wool and hair as defined in Section 3(b) above:

b) Once released at the BCP the untreated wool and hair must be sent to a plant producing derived products from wool and hair for the textile industry which has been approved or registered in accordance with Article 23 or Article 24 and Article 44 of [Retained EU Regulation 1069/2009](#).

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 .

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.

Further information on changes in relation to EU legislation and UK law can be found on 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. 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

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.