



Animal &  
Plant Health  
Agency

# Import of Treated Wool, Hair and Fur Import Information Note (IIN) ABP/23B

May 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 treated wool, hair and fur.

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.

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 Chapter VIII, Article 25 point 2 of [Retained EU Regulation 142/2011](#), the treated wool, hair and fur must have undergone one of the following treatments:

- a) wool and hair which has been factory-washed or which has been treated by another method which ensures that no unacceptable risks remain;
- b) furs which have been dried at an ambient temperature of 18 °C for a period of at least two days at a humidity of 55 %;
- c) wool and hair produced from animals other than those of the porcine species, which has been treated by factory-washing which consisting of the immersion of the wool and hair in series of baths of water, soap and sodium hydroxide or potassium hydroxide;
- d) wool and hair produced from animals other than those of the porcine species, which is dispatched directly to a plant producing derived products from wool and hair for the textile industry and has been treated by at least one of the following methods:
  - chemical depilation by means of slaked lime or sodium sulphide,
  - fumigation in formaldehyde in a hermetically sealed chamber for at least 24 hours,
  - industrial scouring which consists of the immersion of wool and hair in a water-soluble detergent held at 60–70 °C,
  - storage, which may include the journey time, at 37 °C for eight days, 18 °C for 28 days or 4 °C for 120 days.

### 4. Country of origin

Imports are permitted from any country.

## 5. Health certification/documentation

No health certificate is required. However, a commercial document stating at least details of the consignor and consignee, country of origin, amount, treatment/ processing method and species of the wool, hair or fur must accompany the consignment for traceability purposes and may be required at the point of entry into GB.

**NOTE: If the product is stored as per point 3(d) above, the temperature, dates and storage information must be provided on the commercial document otherwise the product will be classed an untreated product.**

## 6. Veterinary checks

These products are not subject to veterinary checks. However please be aware that officials could ask for the information as required by this IIN.

## 7. 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.

## 8. 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](#)

## 9. 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](https://legislation.gov.uk).

Further information on changes in relation to EU legislation and UK law can be found on [legislation.gov.uk](https://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.

## 10. 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.