



Animal &
Plant Health
Agency

Import of Research and Diagnostic Samples from Third Countries

Import Information Note (IIN) ABP/30

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1. Important Information

Import Information Notes are technical documents containing import requirements, and are for use by 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.

Please note that any links to legislation provided in this document are for information purposes only and may not be the most recent version. Please see the EU legislation paragraph below for further information regarding how to find consolidated versions of the legislation.

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.

The existing EU legislation 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).

- [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](#)

2. Scope

Import conditions for research and diagnostic samples from Third Countries.

Research and Diagnostic Samples are defined in Regulation (EU) No 142/2011 as ‘animal by-products and derived products intended for the following purposes:

- examination in the context of diagnostic activities or analysis for the promotion of progress in science and technology,
- in the context of educational or research activities.

They:

- Must be imported in accordance with the requirements laid down in Regulation (EU) No 142/2011.
- Must have been authorised by the competent authority of the country of destination.

Any subsequent use of research and diagnostic samples for purposes other than those referred to above shall be prohibited. They cannot for example be used for commercial use.

[Regulation \(EU\) No 142/2011](#)

Imports from the EU prior to 1st January 2021 must comply with the requirements set out in the Import Information Note for imports from the EU.

<http://apha.defra.gov.uk/official-vets/Guidance/bip/iin/index.htm>

Further information regarding changes to the import requirements from 1st January 2021 can be found on GOV.UK at the below link:

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/importing-animals-animal-products-and-high-risk-food-and-feed-not-of-animal-origin-from-1-january-2021#import-from-an-eu-country-from-1-january-2021>

3. Production standards

Research and diagnostic samples must have been produced and stored in accordance with the requirements of Annex VI, Chapter I, Section 1 of Regulation (EU) No 142/2011.

Users that handle research and diagnostic samples shall take all necessary measures to avoid the spreading of diseases communicable to humans or animals during the handling of the materials under their control, in particular by way of the application of good laboratory practice.

The consignment must be sent directly from the point of entry to the authorised user.

4. Country of origin

Research and diagnostic samples can be imported from any country, but please note the information below about disposal.

5. Health certification/documentation

Imports from third countries must be accompanied by a commercial document which must specify:

- a. the description of the material and the animal species of origin;
- b. the category of the material as defined in Regulation 1069/2009;
- c. the quantity of the material;

- d. the place of origin and the place of dispatch of the material;
- e. the name and the address of the consignor;
- f. the name and the address of the consignee and/or user.

6. Authorisation

Prior to importation authorisation must be obtained from the Animal and Plant Health Agency (APHA).

Some [general authorisations](#) (GAs) are available, but if you cannot comply with any of the GAs, you will need a specific authorisation. To apply for a specific authorisation please fill in an application form and send it to [APHA Centre for International Trade](#).

- [Application form](#)

7. Approval or Registration of destination premises

Any operator, establishment or plant that generates, transports, handles, processes, stores, places on the market, distributes, uses or disposes of animal by-products including research and diagnostic samples, trade samples or display items must be registered or approved by APHA under Animal By-Products Enforcement Regulations before commencing operations. This requirement is provided for in Article 23 or Article 24 of Regulation (EC) No 1069/2009. Further information including the registration form is available on the GOV.UK website.

- [Regulation \(EC\) No 1069/2009](#)
- [Approval/registration procedures](#)

8. Transporters/couriers

Any independent hauliers (including couriers) of animal by-products including research and diagnostic samples, trade samples or display items should also be registered as described above. The registration process only needs to be done once for each haulier.

9. Veterinary checks

Research and diagnostic samples are not subject to veterinary checks. However, operators shall present research and diagnostic samples which are intended to be imported via an EU Member State at an approved Border Control Post (BCP) listed on the

[EU Commission website](#). At the BCP, those research and diagnostic samples shall not be subject to veterinary checks. The competent authority of the BCP shall inform the competent authority of the country of destination of the introduction of the research and diagnostic samples.

Consignments must be pre-notified to the relevant BCP, by completion of Part I of the Common Health Entry Document (CHED) or by electronic means as agreed with the BCP.

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

Until July 2021, imports from the EU do not need to enter Great Britain via a BCP and are not subject to veterinary checks. APHA will continue to carry out identity and physical checks on EU imports of live animals at their destination based on assessments of biosecurity and public health risks until July 2021.

10. Iceland, Norway, Liechtenstein and Switzerland

The EU has International Agreements with Iceland, Norway, Switzerland and Liechtenstein, which means that they implement EU veterinary legislation in relation to the movement of animal products. Therefore animal products from Iceland, Norway, Switzerland and Liechtenstein must comply with the same requirements applying to animal products from Member States.

11. Disposal or re-export of research and diagnostic samples

Unless they are kept for reference purposes or re-dispatched to the third country of origin, research and diagnostic samples and any products derived from the use of those samples must be disposed of:

- a. as waste by incineration;
- b. by pressure sterilisation and (see Processing Method 1 in Chapter III, Annex IV of Regulation (EU) No 142/2011) subsequent disposal or use in accordance with Articles 12 to 14 of Regulation (EC) No 1069/2009; or
- c. in accordance with point 4(b) of Section 1 of Chapter I of Annex VI of Regulation (EU) No 142/2011 in cases of:
 - i. quantities not exceeding 2000 ml; and
 - ii. provided the samples or derived products have been produced and dispatched from third countries or parts of third countries, from which Member States authorise imports of

fresh meat of domestic bovine animals, which are listed in Part I of Annex II to Regulation (EU) No 206/2010.

- [Regulation \(EC\) No 1069/2009](#)

12. 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](#)

13. European Union legislation

Consolidated texts, which integrate the basic instruments of Union 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 using the 'find results by document number' option on the [European Commission website](#). Once you have selected the relevant legislation, click 'document information', and then scroll down to 'all consolidated versions' and select the most recent version.

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.

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 the '[Official Journal of the European Union](#)'.

14. Samples from EU Member States

Research and diagnostic samples coming from EU Member States do not need to be licenced or authorised but must comply with EU rules on animal by-products.

Display items coming from EU Member States do not need to enter through a BCP and do not require vet checks.

You may wish to include a copy of the facilitation letter with any consignments from EU countries.

- [Facilitation letter](#)

15. 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.