Animal & Plant Health Agency

Import of Research and Diagnostic Samples

Import Information Note (IIN) ABP/30

February 2024

Contents

1. General Information

This Import Information Note (IIN) must be read in conjunction with the IIN for general information for imports of animal by-products (ABP), which provides information on pre-notifications, veterinary checks, risk categories etc.

General information for imports of animal by-products (ABP) (defra.gov.uk)

References to European Union (EU) legislation within this document are references to direct EU Legislation which has been assimilated in Great Britain (assimilated direct legislation), as defined in the Retained EU Law (Revocation and Reform) Act 2023 and can be viewed on the UK legislation website (legislation.gov.uk).

2. Scope

Import conditions for research and diagnostic samples.

Research and Diagnostic Samples are defined in Regulation (EU) 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) 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.

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) 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 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 (EC) 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

Please note that this requirement will not come into force for animal products imported from EU and EFTA countries until February 2025. See section 11 for further information regarding importing research and diagnostic samples from the EU.

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) 1069/2009. Further information including the registration form is available on the GOV.UK website.

- 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.

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

Unless they are kept for reference purposes, transferred or re-dispatched to the third country of origin, research and diagnostic material, products derived from their use and waste shall be disposed of appropriately, in accordance with either:

- Animal By-Product Regulations (Regulation (EC) 1069/2009 and Regulation (EU) 142/2011).

    a. as waste by incineration;

    b. by pressure sterilisation and (see Processing Method 1 in Chapter III, Annex IV of Regulation (EU) 142/2011) subsequent disposal or use in accordance with Articles 12 to 14 of Regulation (EC) 1069/2009; or

    c. in accordance with point 4(b) of Section 1 of Chapter I of Annex VI of Regulation (EU) 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) 206/2010.

    or

- The Waste (England and Wales) Regulations 2011/The Waste (Scotland) Regulations 2012.

Any transfer of material from the authorised user to any other user must be pre-authorised by APHA.

11. 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.

Research and diagnostic samples coming from EU Member States do not need to enter through a BCP and do not require vet checks.

Until an authorisation is required, display items from the EU need to be accompanied by a commercial document. See the link below for further information regarding what to include in a commercial document.

Import animal by-products from the EU to Great Britain - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)

12. 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

This publication is available at www.gov.uk/government/publications

Any enquiries regarding this publication should be sent to us at:

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www.gov.uk/apha

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.