Import of Beeswax for Technical and Cosmetic purposes from Third Countries
Import Information Note (IIN) ABP/32
December 2020

Contents

1. Important Information .................................................................................................................. 2
2. Scope ........................................................................................................................................ 2
3. Production standards ..................................................................................................................... 3
4. Country of origin .......................................................................................................................... 3
5. Approved establishments .............................................................................................................. 3
6. Health certification/documentation ................................................................................................ 4
7. Veterinary checks .......................................................................................................................... 4
8. Iceland, Norway, Liechtenstein and Switzerland ......................................................................... 5
9. Safeguard measures ..................................................................................................................... 5
10. European Union legislation ........................................................................................................ 5
11. Contact for further information ................................................................................................ 6
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

This IIN covers beeswax for technical and cosmetic purposes and purposes other than feeding to farmed animals. In some cases the IIN for intermediate products (IIN ABP 20) may also be appropriate, and importers should check the conditions of both IINs before proceeding.

Beeswax in the form of honeycomb is not permitted to be imported.

For imports of beeswax for apiculture use (bee-keeping) please see guidance in IIN ABP 13.

The beeswax must only be derived from Category 3 materials referred to in Article 10(e) of Regulation (EC) 1069/2009.

- Regulation (EC) No 1069/2009
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.


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


3. Production standards

- The beeswax must have been produced in accordance with the requirements of Annex XIV, Chapter II, Section 1, Table 2, row 10 of Regulation (EU) No 142/2011.

- It must be refined before importation;

OR

- It must have been processed in accordance with processing methods 1 to 5 or 7, as set out in Annex IV, Chapter III of Regulation (EU) No 142/2011 before importation.

- Regulation (EU) No 142/2011

4. Country of origin

In accordance with the requirements of Annex XIV, Chapter II, Section 1, Table 2 row 10 of Regulation (EU) No 142/2011 the beeswax can come from any Third Country.

5. Approved establishments

Products must be produced in an establishment approved to export to the EU. Importers should check prior to importation that the premises are listed on the correct list for the Third Country concerned. 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.

Consolidated lists of approved plants are available on the European Commission’s website.
• Lists of approved plants/establishments

6. Health certification/documentation

The beeswax must be imported with a commercial document attesting to the refinement or processing method as per point 3 above.

7. Veterinary checks

Consignments 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.

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 the EU unless there is a requirement for products to be monitored in accordance with Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) 2019/1666. 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

• Trade in Animals and Related Products Regulations 2011

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.
8. 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.

9. 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

10. 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'.

11. 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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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.