



Animal &
Plant Health
Agency

Import of Canned Pet Food

Import Information Note (IIN) ABP/3A

January 2024

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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 \(ABP\) \(defra.gov.uk\)](https://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 canned pet food.

Canned pet food is defined in [Regulation \(EU\) 142/2011](#) as heat-processed pet food contained within a hermetically sealed container. This also includes pet food in pouches provided that it has received a heat treatment in a hermetically sealed container.

Canned pet food may be manufactured from:

- a. Category 3 material, other than material referred to in Article 10 (n), (o) and (p) of [Regulation \(EC\) 1069/2009](#);
- b. In the case of imported pet food or pet food produced from imported materials, from Category 1 material comprising of animal by-products derived from animals which have been submitted to illegal treatment as defined in Article 1(2)(d) of [Directive 96/22](#) (as amended).

3. Production standards

Canned pet food must have been produced and stored in accordance with the requirements of Annex XIII, Chapters I and II, of [Regulation \(EU\) 142/2011](#).

In particular, and in accordance with in Point 3 (a) of Chapter II of Annex XIII of [Regulation \(EU\) 142/2011](#), canned pet food must be subjected to a heat treatment to a minimum Fc value of 3.

4. Country of origin

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 of canned pet food are permitted from countries listed in the documents for fresh meat of ungulates and:

- Japan
- Ecuador
- Sri Lanka
- Taiwan
- Saudi Arabia (only processed petfood of poultry origin)

In the case of processed petfood derived from fish materials, imports are permitted from countries listed in Annex II to [Regulation \(EU\) 2019/626](#).

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. 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 data.gov.uk.

The above link does not include approved establishments in the EU. Until those are included please use the list found via this [link](#).

6. Health certification/documentation

Imports to Great Britain must be accompanied by the appropriate health certificate (*), which can be found on GOV.UK.

The health certificates are based on the requirements included in Annex XV Chapter 3(A) of Regulation (EU) 142/2011.

[Petfood: model health certificates - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/petfood-model-health-certificates)

(*) Please note that this requirement will be introduced for animal products from EU and EFTA countries in the high and medium risk categories from 31st January 2024. Further information regarding risk categories can be found at the link below.

[Import risk categories for animals and animal products imported from the EU to Great Britain, from 31 January 2024 - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/import-risk-categories-for-animals-and-animal-products-imported-from-the-eu-to-great-britain-from-31-january-2024)

7. 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.