Import of Food for Pet Ornamental Aquatic Vertebrates and Invertebrates, Reptiles and Amphibians from Third Countries

Import Information Note (IIN) ABP/43

February 2020

Contents

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

2. Scope

This IIN covers the importation of food intended for ornamental aquatic vertebrates and invertebrates, reptiles and amphibians which are kept as pets only and which are not intended for food or feed use.

Annex XIV, Chapter IV, Section 2 of Regulation (EU) No 142/2011 allows the competent authority of Member States to authorise imports of certain material “for purposes other than feeding to farmed land animals” provided there is “no unacceptable risk for the transmission of diseases communicable to humans or animals”.

Food intended for ornamental aquatic vertebrates (e.g. cold water and tropical fish) and invertebrates (e.g. coral/ starfish), reptiles and amphibians kept as pets and not intended for use as food or feed can be imported into GB with an authorisation if the product contains mixtures of the following animal by-products:

(a) animal by-products from aquatic animals and derived products from aquatic animals;

(b) aquatic invertebrates and derived products from aquatic invertebrates;

(c) terrestrial invertebrates, including any of their transformation forms, such as larvae, and derived products therefrom;

(d) products generated by the animals referred to in points (a), (b) and (c), such as fish eggs.
3. Authorisation

Importers wishing to import such food products under an authorisation should apply for a specific authorisation using an application form IV58 to the contact address in Section 10 below.

Each application will be considered on a case by case basis - applying for an authorisation does not guarantee that one will be issued.

Importers must ensure that the following information is submitted with the application form:

- A complete list of all ingredients in the product;
- The percentage of each animal by-product in the product;
- The country of origin of each animal by-product used;
- The processing methods for each animal by-product including temperatures and timings

4. Production standards

All of the animal by-products must have undergone a treatment to ensure that there is no risk of the transmission of disease to humans or animals. The treatment methods, including those that are not traditional processing methods, will be considered on a case by case basis.

5. Country of origin

Animal by-products from terrestrial invertebrates including any of their transformation forms, such as larvae, and derived products therefrom, must come from third countries listed in Part 1 of Annex II to Commission Regulation (EU) no 206/2010, Taiwan, Japan, Ecuador or Sri Lanka;

- Commission Regulation (EU) No 206/2010

Animal by-products from aquatic animals, aquatic invertebrates and derived products from those products, must come from third countries listed in Annex II to Commission Decision 2006/766/EC.

- Commission Decision 2006/766/EC
6. Veterinary checks

Consignments may only be imported through an approved Border Control Post (BCP). Consignments must be pre-notified to the relevant BCP, by completion of Part I of the Common Health Entry Document (CHED). The requirements for minimum pre-notification time are set out in Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2019/1013.

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 document drawn up in accordance with the model CHED set out in the Annex II Part 2 Section B to Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2019/1715.

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

7. 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.

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. 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’.

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

Telephone: 03000 200 301
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Animal and Plant Health Agency
Centre for International Trade - Carlisle
Eden Bridge House
Lowther Street
Carlisle
CA3 8DX

Email: Imports@apha.gov.uk

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.