



Animal &
Plant Health
Agency

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

Import Information Note (IIN) ABP/43

June 2022

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1. Important Information

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

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.

EU legislation as it stood on 31 December 2020 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).

You can find further information on legislation, including Relevant EU Exit Statutory Instruments in the legislation section of this import information note.

Please note that any links to legislation provided in this document are for information purposes only and may not be the most recent version.

Further information regarding changes to the import controls from an EU country from 1 January 2021 can be found on GOV.UK at the below link:

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/import-animal-by-products-and-high-risk-food-and-feed-not-of-animal-origin-from-the-eu-to-great-britain>

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 [Retained EU Regulation 142/2011](#) allows the competent authority 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 that are 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.

References to imports into Great Britain in this Import Information Note also includes imports into the Channel Islands and the Isle of Man.

References to trading partners includes non-EU, EU and EFTA countries. Import requirements from non-EU and EU countries will be differentiated, where required, in this Import Information Note.

Information regarding transits can be found on gov.uk:

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/transiting-animals-and-animal-products-through-great-britain>

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 12 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

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](#)

Animal by-products from terrestrial invertebrates including any of their transformation forms, such as larvae, and derived products therefrom, must come from countries listed in the document for fresh meat of ungulates, and Taiwan, Japan, Ecuador or Sri Lanka.

Animal by-products from aquatic animals, aquatic invertebrates and derived products from those products, must come from countries listed in Annex II to [Retained EU Decision 2019/626](#).

6. Pre-notifications of imports

From 1 January 2022, imports from the EU to Great Britain (GB) must be pre-notified. Please use the Import of products, animals, food and feed system (IPAFFS).

You must submit your notification in IPAFFS at least one working day before your consignment is due to arrive. You can submit your notification up to 30 days in advance.

Further information regarding IPAFFS is available on [GOV.UK](#).

For pre-notifications from other trading partners see section below.

7. Veterinary checks

Until the end of 2023, imports from the EU, and certain imports from Greenland and EFTA countries, do not need to enter Great Britain via a Border Control Points (BCP) and are not subject to veterinary checks at the border.

However BCP checks will be required on EU goods from the end of 2023.

You can find additional information on imports from EFTA countries and Greenland in section 8.

- Consignments from trading partners (other than the EU, and some imports from Greenland and EFTA countries) 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](https://www.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 Great Britain. 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](#)

The Trade in Animals and Related Products Regulations 2011 ([TARP 2011](#)) (applicable in England) and EU Exit amendments to TARP 2011 can be found [here](#).

8. EFTA countries and Greenland

The UK government recognises that Norway, Switzerland and Liechtenstein implement EU veterinary legislation in relation to the movement of animals and animal products. Therefore, animals and animal products from Norway, Switzerland and Liechtenstein must comply with the same requirements and controls applying to live animals and animal products from EU Member States. This also applies to Iceland for products of animal origin for human consumption, composite products and aquaculture.

Furthermore, in relation to imports from Faroe Islands this also applies to fishery products and aquaculture only. In relation to imports from Greenland this applies to fishery products and fish by-products only too.

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. Legislation.gov.uk

Consolidated legal texts, which integrate the basic instruments of retained EU 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 inputting the 'document number' and 'year' and then clicking the option 'All UK Legislation (including originating from the EU)' on legislation.gov.uk.

Once you press 'search', you can find the relevant legislation listed with the full title of the legislation. Once you have selected the legislation, you may see the following message at the top of the page:

"Changes to legislation: There are outstanding changes not yet made to XXX. Those changes will be listed when you open the content using the Table of Contents below. Any changes that have already been made to the legislation appear in the content and are referenced with annotations."

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. EU Exit amendments to legislation may take several months too. We advise to read the legislation alongside the EU Exit amendments made in the below UK laws:

- [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](#)

- [The Official Controls \(Animals, Feed and Food, Plant Health etc.\) \(Amendment\) \(EU Exit\) \(No. 2\) Regulations 2020](#)
- [The Aquatic Animal Health and Alien Species in Aquaculture, Animals, and Marketing of Seed, Plant and Propagating Material \(Legislative Functions and Miscellaneous Provisions\) \(Amendment\) \(EU Exit\) Regulations 2020](#)
- [The Animals, Aquatic Animal Health, Invasive Alien Species, Plant Propagating Material and Seeds \(Amendment\) \(EU Exit\) Regulations 2020](#)
- [The Trade in Animals and Animal Products \(Legislative Functions\) and Veterinary Surgeons \(Amendment\) \(EU Exit\) Regulations 2019](#)

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 legislation.gov.uk.

Further information on changes in relation to EU legislation and UK law can be found on legislation.gov.uk. Please continue to use legislation.gov.uk to find EU retained law applicable to Great Britain. Please avoid using the EU Commission website for information on imports into Great Britain.

11. Northern Ireland

Movements from Northern Ireland

Trade movements from Northern Ireland into Great Britain are treated as national movements and as such, no animal health conditions are applicable in respect of those movements. You can find additional information on movements from NI to GB [here](#).

Movements to Northern Ireland

Northern Ireland continues to apply EU law and EU requirements as laid down by the Northern Ireland Protocol. Please seek advice from DAERA on the import requirements for direct imports to Northern Ireland.

<https://www.daera-ni.gov.uk/articles/introduction-importing-animals-and-animal-products>

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



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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.