



Import of Trade Samples

Import Information Note (IIN) ABP/8B

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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

Import conditions for Trade Samples from Third Countries.

Trade samples are animal by-products or derived products intended for particular studies or analyses authorised by the competent authority in accordance with Article 17(1) of Regulation (EC) No 1069/2009 with a view to carrying out a production process, including the processing of animal by-products or derived products, the development of feeding stuff, pet food or derived products, or the testing of machinery or equipment.

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.

<http://apha.defra.gov.uk/official-vets/Guidance/bip/iin/index.htm>

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

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/importing-animals-animal-products-and-high-risk-food-and-feed-not-of-animal-origin-from-1-january-2021#import-from-an-eu-country-from-1-january-2021>

3. Production standards

Trade samples must have been produced and stored in accordance with the requirements of Annex VI, Chapter I, Section 2 of Regulation (EU) No 142/2011.

- [Regulation \(EU\) No 142/2011](#)

4. Country of origin

The approved country list for trade samples is laid down in Annex XIV, Chapter III, Section 2 of Regulation (EU) No 142/2011. This states that trade samples must originate from:

- Third countries referred to in the column “third countries’ list” of row 14 of Table 2 of Section 1 of Chapter II of Annex XIV of Regulation (EU) No 142/2011;
- in the case of trade samples which consist of milk, milk-based products or milk-derived products, authorised third countries listed in Annex I to Commission Regulation (EU) No 605/2010;

- [Regulation \(EC\) No 1069/2009](#)

5. Health certification/documentation

Imports from third countries must be accompanied by a health certificate, which conforms to the model laid down in Annex XV, Chapter 8 of Regulation (EU) No 142/2011, and which is signed by an official veterinarian/inspector of the country of origin.

The health certificate must either confirm that the consignment is labelled ‘TRADE SAMPLE NOT FOR HUMAN CONSUMPTION’ or that the consignment meets the requirements laid down in the certificate.

Guidance on how to complete a health certificate can be found in Annex XV of [Regulation \(EU\) No 142/2011](#).

Imports to Great Britain from 1st January 2021 must be accompanied by the appropriate health certificate, which can be found on GOV.UK.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/health-certificates-for-animal-and-animal-product-imports-to-great-britain>

6. Authorisation

Prior to importation authorisation must be obtained from the Animal and Plant Health Agency (APHA). To apply for an authorisation please complete the application form and return it to [APHA Centre for International Trade](#).

- [Application form](#)

Consignments which have not been authorised prior to import will not be permitted into the UK and will have to be destroyed or re-exported.

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 Animal Plants and Health Agency (APHA) under Animal By-Products Enforcement Regulations before commencing operations. This requirement is provided for in Article 23 or 24 of Regulation (EC) No 1069/2009. Further information including the registration form is available on the GOV.UK website.

- [Regulation \(EC\) No 1069/2009](#)
- [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

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.

10. Movement from the BCP to the premises of destination

Following the veterinary checks provided for in [Commission Implementing Regulation \(EU\) 2019/1715](#), and in accordance with the conditions laid down in [Commission Delegated Regulation \(EU\) 2019/1666](#), the animal by-products must be transported directly from the BCP under Customs procedures to an establishment as laid down in Annex XIV, Chapter III, Section 2 of Regulation (EU) No 142/2011.

11. Disposal or re-export of trade samples

Unless they are kept for reference purposes or re-dispatched to the third country of origin, trade samples shall be disposed of or used in accordance with Articles 12, 13 and 14 of Regulation (EC) No 1069/2009.

12. Trade samples for machine testing

If trade samples are used for testing of machinery, the testing shall be carried out:

- a. with dedicated equipment; or
- b. with equipment which is cleaned and disinfected before it is used for purposes other than the testing.

During transport to the registered establishment or plant, the trade samples must be packaged in leak-proof containers.

13. Samples from EU Member States

Trade samples coming from EU Member States do not need to be licenced or authorised, but must comply with EU rules on animal by-products.

Display items coming from other member states do not need to enter through a BCP and do not require vet checks.

You may wish to include a copy of the facilitation letter with any consignments from EU countries.

- [Facilitation letter](#)

14. 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.

15. 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](#)

16. 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'](#).

17. 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.