



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.

Import Information Note (IIN) – Movement of certain rabies susceptible animals under the Balai Directive (Council Directive 92/65/EEC) into Great Britain (IIN BLLV/5a)

1. Scope

The conditions that apply to movement of certain rabies susceptible animals (listed in Schedule 1, Parts 1 and 2 of the Rabies (Importation of Dogs, Cats and Other Mammals) Order 1974), are laid down in [Council Directive 92/65/EEC \(as amended\)](#), known as the Balai Directive. The Balai Directive covers animals and products which are not covered by other EU legislation. Movements under this directive are described as being ‘commercial’ moves or ‘trade’.

For conditions that apply to the movement of cats, dogs and ferrets under the Balai directive please see [IIN BLLV 5b](#).

For conditions that apply to the movement of primates see [IIN BLLV 6](#).

For conditions that apply to anteaters, gliders, and certain possums from non-EU countries see [IIN BLLV 10](#).

2. Norway/Liechtenstein/Switzerland

The EU has International Agreements with Norway, Switzerland and Liechtenstein, which means that they implement EU veterinary legislation in relation to the commercial movement of live animals. Therefore live animals from Norway, Switzerland and Liechtenstein must comply with the same requirements applying to live animals from Member States.

3. UK and Crown Dependencies

Trade movements between Great Britain, Northern Ireland, the Channel Island and the Isle of Man are treated as national movements and as such, no animal health conditions are applicable.

4. Conditions for EU Trade

This Import Information Note covers those species listed below that can be commercially imported or traded between Member States. It is broadly broken down into lagomorphs (rabbits and hares), rodents, bats and carnivores (other than dogs, cats and ferrets).

Importers of animals from the EU must notify the Animal and Plant Health Agency (APHA) at least 24 hours before the arrival of the consignment. To do this, importers should complete the [Importer notification form](#) and return it to the e-mail address applicable to the destination of the consignment. Further details can be found on the form.

All consignments of animals moving for EU trade with a harmonised health certificate must be entered on TRACES.

a) Lagomorphs (hares and rabbits)

Lagomorphs can be imported from EU Member States without undergoing quarantine provided that they can meet the following conditions:

- they do not come from a holding nor have been in contact with animals that have come from a holding on which rabies is present or suspected to have been present in the last month;
- they come from a holding on which there are no signs of myxomatosis;
- they were born on a registered holding and kept in captivity since birth; and are accompanied by a health certificate based on Part 1, Annex E of Council Directive 92/65/EEC (as amended) with the appropriate statement for lagomorphs completed.

If these conditions can be met, no licence will be required under the Rabies (Importation of Dogs, Cats and Other Mammals) Order 1974. If these conditions cannot be met, a licence will be required and the animals will have to be quarantined.

b) Rodents, Hyraxes, Xenarthra, Eulipotyphyla, Marsupials and Dermoptera

Rodents, hyraxes, xenarthra, eulipotyphyla, marsupials and dermoptera can be imported from Member States without undergoing quarantine providing that they meet the following conditions:

- they were born on the holding of origin and kept in captivity since birth;
- they do not show any obvious signs of disease;
- they do not come from a holding subject to any animal health restrictions; and
- they are accompanied by an owner's declaration confirming these conditions.

If these conditions can be met, no licence will be required under the Rabies (Importation of Dogs, Cats and Other Mammals) Order 1974. If these conditions cannot be met, a licence will be required and the animals may have to be quarantined. Contact the CIT imports team for further information (see section 6).

c) Bats

A licence will be required under the Rabies (Importation of Dogs, Cats and Other Mammals) Order 1974. Bats must spend 4 months in quarantine unless exempted, with the exception of vampire bats, which must spend their lives in quarantine. Please see Section 6 below for more information regarding rabies quarantine.

d) Other carnivores and other rabies susceptible animals

All other animals covered by Schedule 1, Part II of The Rabies (Importation of Dogs, Cats and Other Mammals) Order 1974 (as amended) will require a licence under the Rabies (Importation of Dogs, Cats and Other Mammals) Order 1974 and must spend 4 months in quarantine unless they are exempted from quarantine. The animals must be accompanied by a health certificate completed by an official veterinarian of the country of origin which states that a clinical examination was carried out by an authorised veterinarian 24 hours before the dispatch of the animals and that the animals were in good health and fit to travel. Please note that for any of the above additional health conditions may be set.

Please see Section 6 below for more information regarding rabies quarantine.

5. Imports from third countries

All categories of animals covered by this IIN from non EU countries must be licensed into quarantine unless an exemption is granted. Please note that for any of the above additional health conditions may be set.

Please see Section 6 below for more information regarding rabies quarantine.

6. Rabies quarantine

The Rabies (Importation of Dogs, Cats and other mammals) Order 1974 (As amended), requires that rabies susceptible animals (animals covered by Schedule 1, Part II of The Rabies (Importation of Dogs, Cats and Other Mammals) Order 1974 (as amended)) are quarantined for four months on arrival into the UK. The list of species covered by the Order can be found in the [RM01A](#).

It is possible to import some animals covered by the Order, into Zoos or Wildlife Parks without the need for quarantine, if certain conditions can be met. In order to decide if quarantine is necessary an application form (RM01) has been produced which, when completed fully, will enable a decision to be made.

Applications for import licences should be sent to the Centre for international Trade (CIT) – Carlisle, no later than four weeks before the proposed import date. The CIT Import

team will then carry out a risk assessment based on the information contained in the RM01. If an exemption can be granted a landing licence ID102 will be issued. If quarantine is required the importer will be notified by the CIT Import Team and a landing licence RM3 will be issued.

For a copy of the application form or the guidance note see the GOV.UK [website](#).

The animals must also be accompanied by a health certificate completed by an official veterinarian of the country of origin which states that a clinical examination was carried out by an authorised veterinarian 24 hours before the dispatch of the animals and that the animals were in good health and fit to travel.

7. Veterinary Checks

Consignments may only be imported through an approved Border Inspection Post (BIP). Consignments must be pre-notified to the relevant BIP, by completion of Part I of the Common Veterinary Entry Document (CVED) or by electronic means as agreed with the BIP.

For animals, the person responsible for the consignment must give notice of the proposed entry of the consignment at least one working day before the expected arrival on European Union territory. The notification shall be made to the inspection staff at the BIP using the document drawn up in accordance with the model Common Veterinary Entry Document (CVED) set out in the Annex to Commission Regulation (EC) No 282/2004, as amended.

The Official Veterinary Surgeon (OVS) will carry out veterinary checks (for which a charge will be levied) in accordance with EU legislation. On completion of these checks they will complete the CVED. The CVED should accompany the consignment to the first point of destination. The OVS will retain the original certification. Consignments checked in another Member State must be accompanied by a CVED issued from the point of entry into the Union.

- [Further guidance on veterinary checks on live animals](#)
- [Border Inspection Posts](#)
- [Trade in Animals and Related Products Regulations 2011](#)

8. Welfare of animals during transport

Importers are reminded that they must comply with rules on the welfare of animals during transport. For information on the rules see GOV.UK.

- [Welfare of animals during transport](#)

9. Endangered species

The import of some species of animals may require export and import certificates under the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES). CITES permits must be issued in advance of import and they can take up to **15 working days** to process. Applicants should be aware of this when applying for their permits. Those species requiring CITES permits must be moved in compliance with CITES guidelines for the transport and preparation for shipment of live animals.

- [GOV.UK website – CITES pages](#)

For further information please contact the APHA – CITES team:

Centre for International Trade - Bristol
Horizon House
Deanery Road
Bristol
BS1 5AH

Tel: +44 (0) 3000 200 301

Fax: +44 (0) 28 415 2510

Email: wildlife.licensing@apha.gsi.gov.uk

10. Controls on non-native species

Some species of animals which are not native to the UK may have controls which prohibit their release and control how they may be kept or used within the UK. Further information is available here <https://www.gov.uk/nonnative-wildlife>

11. Death of animals in transit

If an imported animal dies in transit to, or at a port or airport in Great Britain, the person in charge of the animal must report the death to the local Regional Operations Director/Field Team Leader/Director of Operations (Scotland). The carcass of the animal can only be disposed of in accordance with any directions given by a veterinary inspector.

12. 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](#)

13. HM Revenue & Customs

Customs approve a range of procedures by which goods may be imported into the UK. Although not an exhaustive list and you will need to check prior to importation, some of the points you may need to consider when importing those goods are:

- you will need to make a formal declaration to Customs which gives details of the goods being imported either at importation, or if approved, subsequently.
- you may have to pay Customs duty and/or VAT on the goods being imported
- in addition to the animal health requirements your goods may also be subject to other import controls such as those on endangered species (this includes their horns, furs and skins etc.) which require the presentation of separate documentation

To seek advice on these or any other aspects of Customs procedures you are advised to contact the National Advice Service

- [GOV.UK HMRC National Advice Service page](#)

To find the correct commodity code/tariff please visit their webpage:-

- [GOV.UK HMRC Commodity Code assistance](#)

14. Other important advice and guidance

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.

15. Contact for further information on import requirements

For further information regarding import requirements, contact the APHA Imports team:

Centre for International Trade - Carlisle
Eden Bridge House
Lowther Street
Carlisle
CA3 8DX
Email: Imports@apha.gsi.gov.uk
Telephone: 03000 200 301
Fax: 0208 0260 498