



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 cats, dogs and ferrets under the Balai Directive (Council Directive 92/65/EEC) into Great Britain (IIN BLLV/5b)**

### **1. Scope**

The movement of cats, dogs and ferrets is governed by two regimes, the Balai Directive (92/65/EEC (as amended)) for what are termed ‘commercial movements’ and the Pet Travel Regulation (576/2013/EEC) for cats, dogs and ferrets that comply with pet requirements. It is important that cats, dogs and ferrets travel under the correct regime for the type of movement.

**This IIN covers the commercial movement for the trade in cats, dogs and ferrets as laid down in Directive 92/65/EEC (as amended).**

It also covers:

- The movements of groups of more than five cats, dogs or ferrets per person travelling;
- The movement of cats, dogs and ferrets involving a change of ownership and/or for rehoming, including rescue animals (see below);
- Pet animals that are not able to fulfil the requirement of the Pet Travel regulation for travelling within five days of their owner or owner’s representative.

This IIN does not cover the movement of pet animals that comply with the Pet Travel regulation (Regulation (EU) No 576/2013) i.e. five or fewer cats, dogs or ferrets, being accompanied by their owner or owner’s representative within five days of movement, and not intended to be sold or transferred to another owner or travelling for a competition or event. Information for these movements can be found at: [Pet Travel - Information for pet owners](#)

Rescue animals or animals being moved for rehoming are classed as commercial movements. This was re-confirmed at the Working Party of Chief Veterinary Officers on 13 November 2013. They must therefore travel under the Balai Directive (92/65/EEC, as amended)

## **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**

Cats, dogs and ferrets may be traded without undergoing quarantine providing that they meet the following conditions:

- they are from a premises registered with the EU Member State of origin;
- they have been identified by a microchip (or a clearly readable tattoo applied before 03 July 2011) prior to vaccination;
- after 12 weeks of age, have been vaccinated against rabies;
- after vaccination (or the last of the primary course of vaccinations) they must wait for a minimum of 21 days before travelling;
- in the case of dogs (other than those travelling directly from Ireland, Finland, Norway or Malta) be treated for *Echinococcus multilocularis* (tapeworm) with an approved product not less than 24 hours and not more than 120 hours prior to arrival in the UK;
- they are accompanied by a passport (modelled on Annex I of Commission Decision 2003/803/EC or modelled on Annex III of EU No 577/2013 if the passport is issued on or after 29<sup>th</sup> Dec 2014) containing the rabies vaccination and *Echinococcus* treatment where required, as well as a completed Section X entry;
- they are accompanied by a health certificate in accordance with Part 1 of Annex E of Directive 92/65/EEC (as amended) issued by the veterinary authorities in the Member State of origin (also known as the Intra Trade

Animal Health Certificate (ITAHC) or TRACES certificate). [Commission Decision 2013/518/EU](#) contains the version of the health certificate currently required; and

- in addition to the original health certificate that must accompany the consignment, Member States are required to notify the UK authorities via TRACES (Trade Control and Expert System).

Importers 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.

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 the animals will require a licence and must be quarantined. Contact the Imports team - Animal and Plant Health Agency (APHA) for further information.

An F1 hybrid of a dog or cat with a non-domestic species e.g. wolf or serval is not eligible for entry to the UK under the Pets Regulations and should be licensed into quarantine.

## **5. Imports from third countries**

### **a) Approved third countries**

Paragraph seven of [Commission Implementing Decision 2013/519/EU](#) states that the imports of dogs, cats or ferrets into the Union are authorised only from territories and third countries listed in one of the following:

- Annex I to [Decision 2004/211/EC](#)
- in Part 1 of Annex II to [Regulation \(EU\) No 206/2010](#)
- or in Annex II to [Implementing Regulation \(EU\) No 577/2013](#).

Dogs, cats and ferrets from countries not listed in accordance with Decision 2013/519/EU are not allowed to be imported into the EU.

### **b) General requirements for imports from third countries**

Dogs, cats and ferrets which are not accompanied pets can be imported from an approved third country without a licence under the Rabies (Importation of Dogs, Cats and Other Mammals) Order 1974, provided that;

- the animals are accompanied by a health certificate in accordance with the model in the Annex to [Commission Implementing Decision 2013/519 \(as amended\)](#);
- they come from a premises registered by the competent authority of origin;
- they are clinically examined by an Official Veterinarian 48 hours before movement;
- the animals enter the EU via a Border Inspection Post (see Section 5.e below).

### **c) Imports from approved countries listed in Regulation (EU) No 577/2013**

In addition to the general requirements in Section 5.b cats, dogs and ferrets imported from third countries listed in Annex II to [Implementing Regulation \(EU\) No 577/2013](#) must meet the following health requirements:

- they have been identified by a microchip (or a clearly readable tattoo applied before 03 July 2011) prior to vaccination;
- after 12 weeks of age, have been vaccinated against rabies;
- after vaccination (or the last of the primary course of vaccinations) they must wait for a minimum of 21 days before travelling;
- in the case of dogs be treated for *Echinococcus multilocularis* (tapeworm) with an approved product not less than 24 hours and not more than 120 hours prior to arrival in the UK.

### **d) Imports from approved countries that are not listed in Regulation (EU) No 577/2013**

Dogs, cats and ferrets from countries not listed in Annex II to [Implementing Regulation \(EU\) No 577/2013](#) can still be imported to the EU provided they come from territories and third countries listed in:

- Annex I to [Decision 2004/211/EC](#),
- **Or** in Part 1 of Annex II to [Regulation \(EU\) No 206/2010](#)

In addition to the general requirements in Section 5.b above, cats, dogs and ferrets imported from these approved countries must meet the following health requirements:

- they have been identified by a microchip (or a clearly readable tattoo applied before 03 July 2011) prior to vaccination;
- after 12 weeks of age, have been vaccinated against rabies;

- at least 30 days after vaccination (or the last of the primary course of vaccinations) blood sample must be drawn and sent to a European Union (EU) approved laboratory for testing;
- a satisfactory blood test result must show the rabies antibody titre was equal to or greater than 0.5 IU/ml;
- the animal must complete a waiting period of **3 calendar months** after the date that the sample was drawn;
- in the case of dogs be treated for *Echinococcus multilocularis* (tapeworm) with an approved product not less than 24 hours and not more than 120 hours prior to arrival in the UK.

### **e) 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](#)

### **f) Rabies quarantine**

If the above 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 the animals will require a licence and must be quarantined. Contact the APHA Imports team for further information.

- [GOV.UK – quarantine pages](#)

## **6. 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](#).

## **7. 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](mailto:wildlife.licensing@apha.gsi.gov.uk)

## **8. 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>

## **9. 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

carcase of the animal can only be disposed of in accordance with any directions given by a veterinary inspector.

## **10. 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](#)

## **11. Contacts for 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.

## **12. 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](mailto:Imports@apha.gsi.gov.uk)  
Telephone: 03000 200 301  
Fax: 0208 0260 498