



Animal &
Plant Health
Agency

Import of Pet Invertebrates (other than bees, molluscs and crustaceans), Amphibians (except salamanders) and Reptiles

Import Information Note (IIN) BLLV/8

January 2024

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1. Important Information

Import Information Notes (IINs) are technical documents containing import requirements and are for use by importers and border officials.

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 IIN [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.

References to European Union (EU) legislation within this document are references to direct EU Legislation which has been assimilated in Great Britain (assimilated direct legislation), as defined in the Retained EU Law (Revocation and Reform) Act 2023 and can be viewed on the UK legislation website (legislation.gov.uk).

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

References to imports into Great Britain in any 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.

The Border **Target Operating Model** (TOM) is the new approach to importing into Great Britain that will be progressively introduced from the end of January 2024. Guidance on the TOM can be found here:

[The Border Target Operating Model: August 2023 - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/news/the-border-target-operating-model-august-2023)

2. Scope

Conditions for importing pet invertebrates, amphibians and reptiles. This includes insects (with the exception of bees) and ornamental aquatic invertebrates (such as coral and star fish) and their genetic material.

This IIN does not include salamanders, bees, or aquatic invertebrates such as crustaceans, molluscs.

3. Definitions

Pet animals are defined in Regulation (EU) 576/2013 as:

Pet animal means an animal of a species listed in Annex I accompanying its owner or an authorised person during a non-commercial movement, and which remains for the duration of such non-commercial movement under the responsibility of the owner or the authorised person.

Annex I, Part B of the aforementioned Regulation includes invertebrates (except bees, crustaceans and molluscs), amphibia and reptiles.

Pet reptiles

Reptiles are cold-blooded, egg-laying vertebrates, e.g., snakes and tortoises.

Pet amphibians

Amphibians are animals that live on land and breed in water, e.g. frogs and toads. Salamanders are subject to animal health requirements and therefore are not covered by this IIN.

Pet invertebrates (except bees molluscs & crustaceans)

Invertebrates are animals that do not have a backbone, e.g. ants, beetles and worms.

4. Out of scope

The following pets are out of scope of this IIN as they are subject to animal health requirements.

Pet crustaceans and molluscs

For information on importing pet crustaceans (such as crabs and shrimps) into England and Wales you should contact CEFAS (The Centre for Environment, Fisheries and Aquaculture Science). ([Fish Health Inspectorate](#))

For information on importing pet crustaceans (such as crabs and shrimps) into Scotland, you should contact Marine Scotland. ([Marine Scotland](#))

Pet bees

You can find information on importing bees from the Food and Environmental Research Agency ([FERA](#)), noting they are not under the scope of this import information note. More information about imports of Bees via this [link](#).

Salamanders

These amphibians are subject to animal health requirements with regard to the fungal disease *Batrachochytrium salamandrivorans* (Bsal disease) and they have to enter GB with health certification laid out in Decision (EU) 2018/320. For more information about the importation of salamanders see [IIN BSAL/1](#).

5. Country of origin

Imports are permitted from any trading partner.

6. Import requirements

With certain exceptions (see below) pet invertebrates, pet reptiles and pet amphibians in scope of this IIN can enter GB accompanied by their owner or an authorised person. There are no animal health import requirements for these animals. They do not need to be accompanied by a health certificate or undergo veterinary checks on entry into GB and therefore they do not need to be imported via a Border Control Post (BCP).

These animals can be brought into Great Britain as long as they are accompanied by their owner and a signed declaration from the owner saying that the animals are fit and healthy to complete the journey and they are not for sale.

You should contact the airline/shipping line to ensure that they are prepared to carry the animal(s).

There are 30 species of invasive non-native (alien) animal that are listed as of special concern because of their:

- invasiveness
- ability to establish in several nations across Europe.

They cause severe problems for native animals and the environment.

You must therefore comply with [Regulation \(EU\) 1143/2014](#) on the prevention and management of the introduction and spread of invasive alien species (please see section 13 below). Please check the species you are proposing to import are not included in this [list](#).

In addition the importer must comply with the following requirements relating to importing certain animals into GB:

- Comply with CITES (please see [GOV.UK website](#))
- Comply with Plant Health rules regarding the import of certain invertebrate species. Many non-native invertebrates have the potential to be plant pests in the UK and are therefore prohibited under [plant health rules](#).

7. 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.

8. Great Britain and Crown Dependencies

Trade movements between Great Britain, the Channel Islands and the Isle of Man are treated as national movements and as such, no animal health conditions are applicable to this type of animals.

For movements to the CDs, please check the Isle of Man, Jersey or Guernsey websites to ascertain their import conditions:

Isle of Man: <https://www.gov.im/categories/business-and-industries/agriculture/>

Jersey: <https://www.gov.je/Industry/FarmingFishing/FarmingLivestock/Pages/default.aspx>

Guernsey: <https://gov.gg/article/119655/Imports--Exports>

9. Northern Ireland

Trade movements from Northern Ireland into Great Britain are treated as national movements and as such, no animal health conditions are applicable. You can find additional information on movements from NI to GB [here](#). Invasive Alien Species listed as being of special concern under Regulation (EU) 1143/2014 on the prevention and management of the introduction and spread of invasive alien species may not be brought from NI to GB.

10. 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. All animals including invertebrates must be transported in an appropriate way for the species involved.

- [Welfare of animals during transport](#)

11. Deaths of animals in transit

If an imported animal dies in transit to, or at a port or airport in Great Britain, the carcase of the animal would need to be disposed of in line with ABP regulations. If any clarification is required with regards to ABP disposal, you can contact your local APHA office.

12. 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.gov.uk

13. Invasive non-native (alien) animal species

It is the importer's responsibility to check their species of pet is **not included** on the list of species of special concern under the retained EU Invasive Alien Species Regulation (EU) 1143/2014 before **importation takes place**.

The import of companion (pet) animals that are listed as species of special concern under this Regulation is prohibited by law, please check the list in this [link](#).

14. Safeguard measures

Emergency safeguard action can be taken at very short notice to prohibit or restrict the importation of certain animals 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](#)

15. 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.

16. 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.