



Animal &  
Plant Health  
Agency

# Import of Commercial Reptiles, Amphibians and Invertebrates and their Genetic Material Import Information Note (IIN) BLLV/9

January 2024

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## 1. General Information

**This Import Information Note (IIN) must be read in conjunction with the IIN for general information for imports of live animals and germplasm, which provides information on pre-notifications, veterinary checks, risk categories etc.**

**[General information for imports of live animals and germplasm \(defra.gov.uk\)](https://www.defra.gov.uk)**

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](https://legislation.gov.uk)).

## 2. Scope

The import conditions for commercial imports of reptiles, amphibians and invertebrates, which include insects (with the exception of honeybees and bumblebees) and aquatic invertebrates (such as coral and star fish) and their genetic material.

This IIN does not include salamanders, honeybees and bumblebees, or aquatic animals such as crustaceans, molluscs and fish.

### IMPORT REQUIREMENTS

All commercial transport of all vertebrate animals including reptiles and amphibians will be subject to the provisions of [Regulation \(EC\) 1/2005](#). All animals including invertebrates must be transported in an appropriate way for the species involved.

Invertebrates, Reptiles, Amphibians for research, educational activities or research related to product development activities (not applicable for bees, molluscs and crustaceans) will require prior authorisation to enter GB. This will include to enter on licence, apply through CITC and then enter at any port of entry).

You can find additional information on non-harmonised animals on [gov.uk](https://gov.uk).

### Entry into GB requirements relevant to these commodities:

- Comply with CITES (please see [GOV.UK website – CITES pages](#))
- Comply with the [Regulation \(EU\) 1143/2014](#) on the prevention and management of the introduction and spread of invasive alien species. Species listed as species of special concern under this regulation cannot be imported for commercial purposes.
- Comply with Plant Health – Pests
- There are no animal health import requirements for these non-harmonised animals.

## 3. Country of origin

Imports are permitted from any trading partner.

## 4. Health certification/documentation

Animals within the scope of this IIN do not have animal health requirements, and therefore such imports into Great Britain do not need to be accompanied by veterinary health certification. However, consignments must be accompanied by:

- a commercial invoice and packing list containing detailed list of species, number of animals, premises of origin and premises of destination, contact details of the importer, and intended use of the animal (pet food, ornamental, pet sales, etc).
- an exporter declaration that the animals are 'fit to travel'.

## 5. 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>

## 6. 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](#).

## 7. Plant Health

Many invertebrates have the potential to be serious plant pests in Europe and are therefore prohibited under plant health rules. A summary of these rules can be found on the plant health pages of GOV.UK.

- [Plant Health pages](#)

## 8. Pets

A separate Importer Information Note is available for imports of pet reptiles, amphibians, and invertebrates. See further [Import Information Note \(IIN\) BLLV/8](#).

## 9. 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](mailto: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.