



Animal &  
Plant Health  
Agency

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

March 2021

## Contents

1. Important Information.....	2
2. Scope.....	2
3. Country of origin .....	4
4. Health certification/documentation .....	4
5. Pre-notifications of imports .....	4
6. Veterinary checks .....	4
7. EFTA countries and Greenland .....	5
8. Great Britain and Crown Dependencies.....	5
9. Northern Ireland.....	6
10. Welfare of animals during transport .....	6
11. Death of animals in transit .....	6
12. Endangered species .....	6
13. Plant Health .....	7
14. Controls on non-native species.....	7
15. Pets.....	7
16. Safeguard measures.....	7

17. Legislation.gov.uk .....	8
18. Contact for further information .....	9

## 1. Important Information

Import Information Notes are technical documents containing import requirements and are for use by importers and 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.

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.

EU legislation as it stood on 31 December 2020 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).

You can find further information on legislation, including Relevant EU Exit Statutory Instruments in the legislation section of this import information note.

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

Further information regarding changes to the import controls from an EU country from 1 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>

## 2. Scope

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

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

References to imports into Great Britain in this 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. Import requirements from non-EU and EU countries will be differentiated, where required, in this Import Information Note.

Information regarding transits can be found on gov.uk:

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/transiting-animals-and-animal-products-through-great-britain>

Further information regarding changes to the import requirements from 1<sup>st</sup> 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>

## **IMPORT REQUIREMENTS**

All live animals from the EU will be required to enter Great Britain via a Border Control Post from March 2022 for identity and welfare checks, but not physical checks. There will also be a requirement for an owner/exporter declaration that the animals are fit to travel.

Commercial movements of these animals from countries other than Europe are required to be pre-notified on IPAFFS and enter GB through a BCP.

Commercial movements of these animals can enter GB from the EU with commercial documents through any point of entry, until March 2022 when they may be required to enter through a BCP as part of the phased imports regime.

All commercial transport of all vertebrate animals including reptiles and amphibians will be subject to the provisions of [Retained EU regulation 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 in [gov.uk](https://www.gov.uk).

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

- Comply with CITES (please see [GOV.UK website – CITES pages](#))
- Comply with The Invasive Non-Native Species EU Exit Regulations 2019 on the prevention and management of the introduction and spread of invasive alien species
- 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.

See [data.gov.uk](https://data.gov.uk) for specific listing and certification requirements for EU and EFTA countries.

### 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. Pre-notifications of imports

From 1 January 2021, you must notify the Animal Plant Health Agency (APHA) of imports from the EU to Great Britain (GB) of live animals, please use the Import of products, animals, food and feed system (IPAFFS).

You must submit your notification in IPAFFS at least one working day before your consignment is due to arrive. You can submit your notification up to 30 days in advance.

Further information regarding IPAFFS is available on [GOV.UK](https://gov.uk).

For pre-notifications from other trading partners see section below.

### 6. Veterinary checks

Until March 2022, imports from the EU, and certain imports from Greenland and EFTA countries, do not need to enter Great Britain via a BCP and are not subject to veterinary checks at the border.

You can find additional information on imports from EFTA countries and Greenland in section 7.

Consignments from trading partners (other than the EU, and some imports from Greenland and EFTA countries) 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](https://www.gov.uk). BCP checks will be required on EU Live animals from March 2022.

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 Great Britain. 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 live animals](#)
- [Border Control Posts](#)

The Trade in Animals and Related Products Regulations 2011 ([TARP 2011](#)) (applicable in England) and EU Exit amendments to TARP 2011 can be found [here](#).

## 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 too.

## 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

### Movements from 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](#).

### Movements to Northern Ireland

Northern Ireland continues to apply EU law and EU requirements as laid down by the Northern Ireland Protocol. Please seek advice from DAERA on the import requirements for direct imports to Northern Ireland.

<https://www.daera-ni.gov.uk/articles/introduction-importing-animals-and-animal-products>

## 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. Death 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](mailto:wildlife.licensing@apha.gov.uk)

## 13. 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](#)

## 14. 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 on the non-native species section of GOV.UK.

- [Non-natives species information](#)

## 15. Pets

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

## 16. 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](#)

## 17. 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](http://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](https://legislation.gov.uk).

Further information on changes in relation to EU legislation and UK law can be found on [legislation.gov.uk](https://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.

## 18. 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



© Crown copyright 2021

You may re-use this information (excluding logos) free of charge in any format or medium, under the terms of the Open Government Licence v.3. To view this licence visit [www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/doc/open-government-licence/version/3/](http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/doc/open-government-licence/version/3/) or email [PSI@nationalarchives.gov.uk](mailto:PSI@nationalarchives.gov.uk)

This publication is available at [www.gov.uk/government/publications](http://www.gov.uk/government/publications)

Any enquiries regarding this publication should be sent to us at:

Animal and Plant Health Agency  
Centre for International Trade - Carlisle  
Eden Bridge House  
Lowther Street  
Carlisle  
CA3 8DX

Email: [Imports@apha.gov.uk](mailto:Imports@apha.gov.uk)

[www.gov.uk/apha](http://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.