Import of Birds and Hatching Eggs from Third Countries for Conservation and to Balai Approved Premises

Import Information Note (IIN) BTC/2

March 2019

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1. Important Information

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.

The existing EU legislation that the UK already complies with will be 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”. Under the Withdrawal Act we will ensure that current EU standards 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).

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.

2. Scope

This IIN explains the import requirements for birds and hatching eggs that are:

- imported for conservation programmes approved by the competent authority in the Member State of destination (Conservation Birds);
- destined for zoos, circuses, amusement parks, research (for birds to move to these establishments, the premises must be approved in accordance with Article 13 of Directive 92/65/EEC);
- destined for other premises approved in accordance with Article 13 of Directive 92/65/EEC.

3. Approved Premises

Premises can be approved for the following categories:

- display, educational purposes
- research or scientific purposes
• conservation.

The facility at the premises of birds imported for conservation programmes approved by the Competent Authority will be agreed by Animal and Plant Health Agency (APHA) when an application is received.

Other birds can only go to premises that are approved under Council Directive 92/65/EEC (Balai Directive). Contact the APHA Live Animal Exports Team for further information regarding premises approval under the Balai Directive - LiveAnimalExports.Carlisle@apha.gsi.gov.uk

4. Pre-export requirements

• the birds must have been kept continuously in a bio secure establishment, isolated from other birds which do not have the same health status for at least 30 days until the date of dispatch;

• the birds must have been subjected within 48 hours prior to dispatch, to a clinical inspection and found free from obvious signs of disease;

• Newcastle Disease (ND) and Avian Influenza (AI) in poultry and other birds kept in captivity, psittacosis in psittacines are notifiable diseases in the country of origin;

• the birds must come from a holding which is not under animal health restrictions in connection with any diseases referred to above;

• AI and ND outbreaks must not have been notified either in the holding or in the surrounding area within a radius of 10km for at least 30 days;

• no outbreaks of psittacosis have been reported in the establishment of origin during the last 60 days;

• The birds must be subjected to a laboratory virus isolation or RT – PCT test seven to 14 days prior to shipment with negative results for any AI and ND virus. The tests must be carried out at APHA Weybridge or another OIE reference laboratory or a laboratory agreed by Defra. The test for and AI and ND must be carried out on both oropharyngeal and cloacal swabs;

• all virological and serological testing of samples must be carried out in accordance with Chapter 2.3.4 and 2.3.14 of the Manual of Diagnostic tests and vaccines for Terrestrial Animals of the OIE.
5. Documentation

The import may only take place under a specific import licence for which the importer must apply for. The application form can be requested from the APHA Imports Team, Centre for International Trade - Carlisle.

All birds must be accompanied by a valid health certificate as required by the licence, which must be in English, signed by an Official Veterinarian (OV) appointed by the Competent Authority.

6. Identification and container for travel

All birds must be identified with an individual identification number, by means of a uniquely marked seamlessly closed leg-ring or a microchip, in accordance with Article 66(2) of Commission Regulation 865/2006.

ID numbers of leg-rings or microchips must bear at least the ISO code of the exporting third country performing the identification and a unique serial number. The ID number must be registered on the accompanying health certificate, as well as on the outside of the container that the birds are being transported in.

All birds must be transported in new containers which must bear the unique ID number that corresponds with the ID number provided for on the accompanying health certificate.

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 products, the person responsible for the consignment must give notice of the proposed entry of the arrival before the consignment is unloaded from the means of transport that brought it into Great Britain. 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 136/2004, as amended.

In the event the UK leaves the EU in March 2019 with no deal in place, the EU will no longer allow the UK to access TRACES, the European Commission’s online tool for managing notifications and official controls. To ensure those involved in importing live animals, animal products and high-risk food and feed could continue to do so, a new system is being developed to take the place of TRACES. In this outcome, notifications should be submitted to the BIP via the new system.
An update on this new system, which is called Import of Products, Animals, Food and Feed System (IPAFFS), is available on [GOV.UK](https://www.gov.uk).

Following satisfactory checks at the BIP (for which a charge is levied), consignments may then circulate freely within the EU unless there is a requirement for products to be channelled in accordance with Article 8(4) of Directive 97/78/EC. 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 animal products](https://www.gov.uk)
- [Border Inspection Posts](https://www.gov.uk)
- [Trade in Animals and Related Products Regulations 2011](https://www.gov.uk)

### 8. Post-import requirements

- the APHA Imports Team, Centre for International Trade - Carlisle must be notified of the arrival of the consignment at the Balai premises within 24 hours;
- post import isolation must take place within the premises of destination approved under Article 13 and Annex C of the Balai Directive. Isolation will normally be for 30 days and release from isolation will be confirmed by APHA on satisfactory receipt of negative sample results;
- the birds must be tested during the isolation period for AI and ND. The Approved Veterinarian of the destination premises must submit cloacal and oropharyngeal swabs taken between day seven and 15 of the isolation and submit the samples to the APHA Weybridge laboratory. All tests will be at the importers expense.
- birds found dead on arrival or that died from unexplained causes during the isolation period must be submitted to the APHA Weybridge laboratory for virus isolation at the importer's expense;
- the birds must remain on the Balai approved facility for at least 90 days in total. They may move to another Balai approved facility if APHA is informed but release from Balai conditions for imported birds must be agreed by APHA (Directive 92/65/EEC Annex C(4) applies).

### 9. 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 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.
10. 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

11. 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

12. 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

13. European Union legislation

Consolidated texts, which integrate the basic instruments of Union 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 using the simple search option on the European Commission website. Once you have selected the relevant legislation, click the ‘linked documents’ tab, and then scroll down to ‘all consolidated versions’ and select the most recent version.

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.

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 the 'Official Journal of the European Union'.

14. 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
Fax: 0208 0260 498