



Animal &
Plant Health
Agency

Import of Canine and Feline Semen

Import Information Note (IIN) CFS/1

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

There are two ways to import canine or feline semen into Great Britain.

- There is a [general licence](#) for donor animals that comply with the import conditions of Regulation (EU) No.576/2013 or Regulation (EU) No. 998/2003 at the time of collection. This means that the donor animal is eligible to enter Great Britain, except for tapeworm treatment, under that Regulation.
- You can apply for a specific licence for donor animals that cannot comply with the import conditions of Regulation 576/2013 or Regulation 998/2003.

3. Procedure

You can import canine and feline semen in accordance with the general licence provided that you can comply with all the conditions. If you cannot comply with all the conditions of the general licence you should contact the Animal and Plant Health Agency (APHA) Centre for International Trade (CIT)-Imports, Carlisle for an application form (see paragraph 7.).

4. Health Conditions for the import of Canine and Feline semen

1. The general licence to import dog or cat semen from donors that are compliant with the conditions in Regulation (EU) No 576/2013 or Regulation (EU) No. 998/2003.

(i) The donor animal must be permanently identifiable by a transponder or a clearly readable tattoo applied before 03 July 2011(ii) Immediately before the first collection of semen the donor animal must be scanned for its microchip to check that the number on the microchip complies with the records held for the animal by the veterinary surgeon. The animal must have been identified with a transponder or a clearly readable tattoo before it can be vaccinated. The vaccination cover must have been maintained by giving boosters before the expiry date of the previous vaccination.

(iii) If the animal is resident in a [European Union Member State or a listed Third Country](#) then semen can be collected 21 days after the first vaccination or booster where there has been a break in the vaccination cover.

(iv) In the case of [unlisted Third Countries](#), a blood sample must be taken at least 30 days after the first vaccination or after a booster where there has been a break the vaccination cover and tested at an accredited laboratory in compliance with Regulation 576/2013 or Regulation 998/2003. Semen can be collected 3 months after the blood sample provided that the result of the test was satisfactory.

(v) Immediately before the first collection of semen the donor animal must be subjected to veterinary examination and show no clinical signs of infectious or contagious disease.

(vi) The semen must be accompanied by a Veterinary Certificate signed by an authorised veterinary officer of the Government giving the following information:

- a) name and address of the owner of the donor animal;
- b) address of the premises at which the semen was collected and processed;
- c) name, species, breed, sex, colour, date of birth and the transponder or a clearly readable tattoo number of the donor animal;
- d) a statement confirming that the donor animal complies with the import conditions of Regulation (EU) No. 576/2013 or Regulation 998/2003 (with the exception of the treatment for Echinococcus) and is eligible to enter Great Britain under that Regulation at the time of semen collection;
- e) dates of collection of the semen to be exported;
- f) number of ampoules; and
- g) the indelible identification marking on the ampoules of semen.

2. Specific licence to import dog or cat semen into Great Britain from donors that are **not compliant** with the conditions in Regulation (EU) No. 576/2013 or Regulation 998/2003.

- (i) The donor animal must be permanently identifiable by a transponder or a clearly readable tattoo applied before 03 July 2011.
- (ii) Immediately before the first collection of semen the donor animal must be scanned for its transponder or a clearly readable tattoo.
- (iii) Immediately before the first collection of semen the donor animal must be subjected to a veterinary examination and show no clinical signs of infectious or contagious disease.
- (iv) At least fifteen days after the collection of semen the donor animal must be subjected to a veterinary examination and show no clinical signs of infectious or contagious disease.
- (v) The semen must be accompanied by a veterinary certificate signed by an authorised veterinary officer of the Government giving the following information:
 - a) name and address of the owner of the donor animal;
 - b) address of the premises at which the semen was collected and processed;
 - c) name, species breed, sex, colour, date of birth and the transponder or a clearly readable tattoo number of the donor animal.
 - d) dates of collection of the semen to be exported;
 - e) number of ampoules;
 - f) indelible identification marking on the ampoules of semen; and
 - g) a statement confirming that the Donor animal was examined 15 days or more after the collection of the semen and showed no clinical signs of infectious or contagious disease.

5. Semen Collection and Storage

- (i) The semen must be consigned in sealed ampoules or straws; each ampoule or straw must be permanently identified and the identification mark of each noted on the veterinary certificate.
- (ii) The sealed ampoules or straws must be kept in a container which is unused or sterile and which does not contain other semen that does not meet the same standards.
- (iii) The sealed ampoules or straws containing the semen must be securely packed in a container; on arrival at the destination address any wrapping must be incinerated and all non-disposal items must be thoroughly cleansed and disinfected.

6. Consignments from the EU

- (i) For the purposes of this licence EU countries also include Norway, Switzerland, Lichtenstein

(ii) The semen must be accompanied by the original signed licence or a copy of the General Licence, as appropriate, and a completed veterinary certificate. The local APHA office must be informed of the intended import at least 24 hours before the expected arrival of the semen.

- [Local APHA office](#)

7. Consignments from a Third Country

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](#).

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 97/78EC](#). 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](#)
- [Border Inspection Posts](#)
- [Trade in Animals and Related Products Regulations 2011](#)

8. Norway, Liechtenstein and Switzerland

The EU has International Agreements with Iceland, Norway, Switzerland and Liechtenstein, which means that they implement EU veterinary legislation in relation to the movement of animals. Therefore animals from Norway, Switzerland and Liechtenstein must comply with the same requirements applying to animals from Member States.

9. 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](#)

10. 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](#)'.

11. 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



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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.