



Animal &
Plant Health
Agency

Import of Canine and Feline Semen

Import Information Note (IIN) CFS/1

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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

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 Retained EU Regulation [576/2013](#) 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 Retained EU Regulation [576/2013](#).

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>

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 for a specific licence (see Section 13.).

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 Retained EU Regulation 576/2013.

(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 against rabies. The rabies 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 [listed country](#) then semen can be collected 21 days after the first rabies vaccination or booster where there has been a break in the vaccination cover.

(iv) In the case of [unlisted countries](#), a blood sample must be taken at least 30 days after the first rabies vaccination or after a booster which is considered a first vaccination due to a lapse in the vaccination cover, and tested at an accredited laboratory in compliance with Regulation 576/2013. 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 576/2013 (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 Retained EU Regulation 576/2013.

(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 or straws;
- f) indelible identification marking on the ampoules or straws 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 premises where the semen is collected, processed and stored must be registered with the competent authority of the country of origin.
- (ii) 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.
- (iii) 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.
- (iv) 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. Pre-notifications of imports

To notify the Animal Plant Health Agency (APHA) of imports from the EU to Great Britain (GB) of live animals and germinal products, 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. You must also upload any documents that will accompany your consignment (e.g. health certificates) to the IPAFFS notification.

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

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

7. Veterinary checks

Until the end of 2023, imports from the EU, and certain imports from Greenland, Faroe Islands 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 on section 8.

Consignments from trading partners (other than the EU, and some imports from Greenland, Faroe Islands 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 goods from the EU, Greenland, Faroe Islands and EFTA countries from the end of 2023.

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](#).

8. 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.

9. Great Britain and Crown Dependencies

Trade movements between Great Britain, the Channel Islands and the Isle of Man are treated as national movements. However imports from the Crown Dependencies (CDs) must be in accordance with an [Import Licence](#) and consignments must comply with the conditions in the licence which may require the consignment to be accompanied by a health certificate.

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>

10. 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 in respect of those movements. 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>

11. 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](#)

12. 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.

13. 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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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.