



Animal &
Plant Health
Agency

Import of Equine Genetic Material from EU Countries

Import Information Note (IIN) EGEU/1

August 2019

Contents

1. Important Information.....	2
2. Scope.....	2
3. Norway/Liechtenstein/Switzerland	2
4. Health Certificate	2
5. Approved Centres	3
6. Pre-notifications of Intra-Union Trade	3
7. EU Exit - Notification of Import.....	3
8. Safeguard measures.....	4
9. EU Legislation.....	4
10. Contact for further information on import requirements.....	5

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

Import conditions for equine semen, ova and embryos (genetic material) from EU Member States.

3. 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 and genetic material. Therefore genetic material from Norway, Switzerland and Liechtenstein must comply with the same requirements applying to Member States.

4. Health Certificate

Each consignment must be accompanied by the relevant model health certificate laid down in [Commission Decision 2010/470](#).

The UK will continue to accept the model health certificates set out under EU instruments for consignments imported to the UK in the immediate months after EU exit. However you can also find UK versions of EU Import Health Certificates on [GOV.UK](https://www.gov.uk) for consignments imported after the UK leaves the EU.

5. Approved Centres

The genetic material must come from an approved semen collection/storage centre or an approved embryo collection/production team. A list of the approved establishments is available on the European Commission's website.

- [List of approved centres](#)

The centre and/or region of the country from which the products are collected must not be any under official restrictions from the competent authorities for animal health reasons and must not be under suspicion, outbreak or existence of a notifiable disease.

6. Pre-notifications of Intra-Union Trade

When genetic material moves from an EU Member State to Great Britain, the veterinary authorities of that Member State are required to enter the details of the movement into TRACES so that the Member State of receipt is made aware of the movement.

TRACES is an internet-based system for the application of health certification for intra-EU trade in live animals, genetic material and some animal products. TRACES also aids in the monitoring of such movements, as well as covering aspects concerning animal welfare during transport and animal health controls.

Importers must notify the Animal and Plant Health Agency (APHA) at least 24 hours before the arrival of the consignment. To do this, importers should complete the [Importer notification form](#) and return it to GBImports@apha.gov.uk.

7. EU Exit - Notification of Import

If the UK leaves the EU without a deal, you cannot use the EU's TRACES (Trade Control and Expert System) to notify the UK authorities about an import from the EU.

Instead, importers must notify the Animal and Plant Health Agency (APHA) at least 24 hours before the arrival of the consignment. To do this, complete the [Import notification form](#) and return it to GBImports@apha.gov.uk. Notification can be carried out up to 30 days prior to consignment arrival. It is recommended that notification is done as soon as possible to avoid delays.

Upon receiving a new notification, APHA will provide you with a Unique Notification Number (UNN) within one working day. You must make sure the number is recorded either on the health certificate for the consignment or on its commercial documentation.

Once the health certificate or commercial document has been issued with the UNN recorded, a copy of this should be sent to APHA at the following email address:

- SM-Defra-APHAEnglandImports@apha.gov.uk if the consignment is going to England
- SM-Defra-APHAScotlandImports@apha.gov.uk if the consignment is going to Scotland
- SM-Defra-APHAWalesImports@apha.gov.uk if the consignment is going to Wales

Further information regarding imports after the UK leaves the EU is available on [GOV.UK](https://www.gov.uk).

8. Safeguard measures

Emergency safeguard action can be taken at very short notice to prohibit or restrict the importation of certain products 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](#)

9. EU 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.

- [Simple search](#)

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'.

- [Official Journal of the European Union](#)

10. Contact for further information on import requirements

For further information regarding import requirements, contact the 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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Any enquiries regarding this publication should be sent to us at:

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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.