Import of Certain Highly Refined Products for Human Consumption from Third Countries
Import Information Note (IIN) GCC/1
February 2020

Contents
1. Important Information ....................................................................................................... 2
2. Scope ................................................................................................................................... 2
3. Production standards ....................................................................................................... 2
4. Country of origin .............................................................................................................. 3
5. Approved establishments ................................................................................................. 3
6. Health certification/documentation ................................................................................... 3
7. Special arrangements for New Zealand ........................................................................... 4
8. Special note on products originating in China ............................................................... 4
9. Specified risk material (SRM) .......................................................................................... 4
10. Veterinary checks .......................................................................................................... 4
11. Iceland, Norway, Liechtenstein and Switzerland ........................................................... 5
12. Safeguard measures ....................................................................................................... 5
13. European Union legislation ............................................................................................ 6
14. Contact for further information ....................................................................................... 6
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.

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 highly refined Chondroitin sulphate, Hyaluronic acid, other hydrolysed cartilage products, Chitosan, Glucosamine, Rennet, Isinglass and amino acids derived from bovine and equine animals, sheep, goats, pigs, poultry and fishery products for human consumption from Third Countries.

3. Production standards

In order to be able to meet these requirements, the products must have been produced in accordance with the conditions laid down in:


- **Regulation (EC) No 178/2002** laying down the general principles and requirements of food law, establishing the European Food Safety Authority and laying down procedures in matters of food safety;

- **Regulation (EC) No 852/2004** on the hygiene of foodstuffs;


- **Regulation (EU) 2017/625** laying down specific rules for the organisation of official controls on products of animal origin intended for human consumption; and on official controls performed to ensure the verification of compliance with feed and food law, animal health and animal welfare rules.
More detailed information on the food hygiene legislation can be found on the Food Standards Agency website.

4. Country of origin

Consignments may only be imported if they come from the following third countries or regions thereof:

- in the case of raw materials derived from ungulates, third countries listed in column 1 of the table in Part 1 of Annex II to Regulation (EU) No 206/2010, or from South Korea, Malaysia, Pakistan or Taiwan;
- in the case of raw materials derived from fishery products, all third countries or regions thereof that are listed in Annex II to Regulation (EU) 2019/626;

In addition, the country of origin must be listed for the appropriate species in Commission Decision 2011/163/EU (as amended) on the approval of residue monitoring plans submitted by third countries.

5. Approved establishments

The raw animal material from which the product is derived must come from an establishment which is approved to export to the EU, fresh meat of the relevant species or the fishery products for human consumption. Consolidated lists of approved plants are available on the European Commission’s website.

- Lists of approved plants/establishments

Note – The raw material or finished product cannot be produced or handled in an establishment approved only for animal by-products not intended for human consumption.

6. Health certification/documentation

Consignments imported from third countries must be accompanied by a health certificate which conforms to the model laid down in Part XI of Annex III of Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2019/628 and which is signed by an official veterinarian of the veterinary authority in the country of origin.

Guidance on how to complete a health certificate can be found in Commission Decision 2007/240/EC.
7. Special arrangements for New Zealand

Commission Decision 2015/1084 (EU) amended The New Zealand Equivalence Agreement. Annex V of the Decision provides the certification requirements. Products for which full equivalence have been agreed, must be accompanied by the model health certificate provided for in Annex 1 of Decision 2015/1901.

8. Special note on products originating in China

If the product or raw material is sourced from China it will be subject to the requirements of Commission Decision 2002/994/EC (as amended). The raw animal material must be listed in the Annex to the Decision. Each consignment of products derived from animal material listed in Part II of that Annex must be accompanied by an attestation from the Chinese Competent Authorities, that the products have been subjected, prior to despatch, to a chemical test to detect in particular the presence of chloramphenicol and nitrofuran and its metabolites. In addition, for aquaculture fishery products referred to in Part II of the Annex there must also have been a chemical test for the presence of malachite green and crystal violet and their metabolites. The attestation must also include the results of all these tests.

9. Specified risk material (SRM)

For meat derived from bovine, ovine or caprine animals must meet the relevant requirements of Regulation (EC) No 999/2001, which lays down the rules for the prevention, control and eradication of TSEs.

In addition, Commission Decision 2007/453/EC (as amended) categorises the countries or regions, according to their BSE risk.

10. Veterinary checks

Consignments may only be imported through an approved Border Control Post (BCP). Consignments must be pre-notified to the relevant BCP, by completion of Part I of the Common Health Entry Document (CHED). The requirements for minimum pre-notification time are set out in Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2019/1013.

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 document drawn up in accordance with the model CHED set out in the Annex II Part 2 Section B to Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2019/1715.
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 the EU unless there is a requirement for products to be monitored in accordance with Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) 2019/1666. 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 Control Posts
- Trade in Animals and Related Products Regulations 2011

11. Iceland, 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 animal products. Therefore animal products from Iceland, Norway, Switzerland and Liechtenstein must comply with the same requirements applying to animal products from Member States.

12. 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
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 ‘find results by document number’ option on the European Commission website. Once you have selected the relevant legislation, click ‘document information’, 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

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