Import of Milk, Dairy Products, Colostrum, and Colostrum Based Products for Human Consumption from Third Countries

Import Information Note (IIN) MKDR/1

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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.

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 raw milk, dairy products, colostrum and colostrum based products for human consumption from Third Countries.

Raw milk’ is defined in Regulation No (EC) 853/2004 as milk produced by the secretion of the mammary gland of farmed animals that has not been heated to more than 40 °C or undergone any treatment that has an equivalent effect.

‘Dairy products’ are defined as processed products resulting from the processing of raw milk or from the further processing of such processed products.

‘Colostrum’ means the fluid secreted by the mammary glands of milk-producing animals up to three to five days post parturition that is rich in antibodies and minerals and precedes the production of raw milk.

‘Colostrum-based products’ means processed products resulting from the processing of colostrum or from the further processing of such processed products.

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:

4. Country of origin


Please note that colostrum can only be imported from countries listed in Column A of that Regulation.

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.

Milk exported from EU Member States to outside the EU can also be used.

5. Approved establishments

Products must be produced in an establishment approved to export to the EU. Consolidated lists of approved plants are available on the European Commission’s website.

6. Health certification/documentation

Consignments imported from third countries must be accompanied by a health certificate as laid out in Commission Regulation (EU) 605/2010 signed by an official veterinarian of the veterinary authority in the country of origin.

The model health certificate required will depend on the product and the country of origin:
• Model health certificate ‘milk-RMP’ is for dairy products derived from raw milk for human consumption from third countries or parts thereof authorised in column A of Annex I of Commission Regulation (EU) 605/2010 (as amended).

• Model health certificate ‘milk-HTB’ is for dairy products from the milk of cows, ewes, goats and buffaloes for human consumption from third countries or parts thereof authorised in column B of Annex I of Commission Regulation (EU) 605/2010 (as amended).

• Model health certificate ‘milk-HTC’ is for dairy products for human consumption from third countries or parts thereof in column C of Annex I of Commission Regulation (EU) 605/2010 (as amended).

• Model health certificate ‘milk-RM’ is for raw milk intended for human consumption from third countries or parts thereof in column A of Annex I of Commission Regulation (EU) 605/2010 (as amended).

• Model health certificate ‘C/CP’ for colostrum of cows, ewes, goats and buffaloes intended for human consumption from third countries listed in column A of Commission Regulation (EU) No 605/2010 (as amended)

For dairy products for transit through/storage in the European Union, model certificate ‘milk-T/S’ should be used.

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. Health and identification marks

Products referred to above must bear an identification mark in accordance with the requirements of Regulations (EC) No 853/2004. The mark must be applied before the product leaves the establishment.

9. 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**

10. 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.

11. 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.
12. 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'.

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