



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.

Import Information Note (IIN) – Conditions for import of live animal(s) returned to Great Britain from countries outside the European Union (EU) (IIN RATC/2)

1. Scope

All animals being returned via a Border Inspection Post after being refused entry to a country outside the EU.

2. Country of dispatch

Any country from which the species is permitted under existing EU legislation, although requests to return animals from non-authorised countries may be considered.

All requests will be treated as an import from that third country and be dealt with on a case by case basis.

3. Request for re-import

All requests for re-import of animals must be made in writing to Animal and Plant Health Agency (APHA) (see contact details below). The request should indicate through which BIP the returned consignment will be imported. Consignments must not be shipped until a written authorisation has been received from APHA. You will need to provide the information required in section 4 below.

4. Documentation to accompany returned animal(s)

Any person who presents returned animals to an Official Veterinary Surgeon (OVS) shall in addition to the written authorisation also present the following documents:

- the export certificate relating to the returned animal(s) or a copy authenticated as true by the authority which issued it;
- a statement from the authorities in the third country of the reasons why the returned animal(s) was/were refused by the third country;
- details from the authorities in the third country of the premises in which the animal(s) was/were kept since leaving GB e.g. in quarantine/isolation etc;
- a declaration by the person responsible for the returned animal(s) that the import conditions relating to transport have been complied with in relation to the returned animal(s);
- a declaration by the person responsible for the animal(s) that the animal(s) has not been in contact with any other animal of a lesser health status since leaving GB.
- a copy of APHA's written authorisation that the animal(s) may re-enter Great Britain.

5. Veterinary checks

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 animals, the person responsible for the consignment must give notice of the proposed entry of the consignment at least one working day before the expected arrival on European Union territory. 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 282/2004, as amended.

The Official Veterinary Surgeon (OVS) will carry out veterinary checks (for which a charge will be levied) in accordance with EU legislation. On completion of these checks they will complete the CVED. The CVED should accompany the consignment to the first point of destination. The OVS will retain the original certification.

Consignments checked in another Member State must be accompanied by a CVED issued from the point of entry into the Union.

- [Further guidance on veterinary checks on live animals](#)
- [Border Inspection Posts](#)
- [Trade in Animals and Related Products Regulations 2011](#)

6. Return of animals via a non-UK BIP

Consignments of animals returned from third countries should be via a UK BIP. Requests for return via a BIP in another MS would have to be authorised by the

Competent Authority of that Member State as well as the UK. All animals must be returned to the premises of origin.

7. Movement of returned animal(s)

A returned animal(s) should not be removed from a Border Inspection Post (BIP) of arrival without the written authorisation of the duty Official Veterinary Surgeon.

The person responsible for the returned animal(s) and any carrier who has charge of it for the time being shall ensure that the Common Veterinary Entry Document (CVED) issued for the returned animal(s) accompanies it until the animal reaches destination.

The owner of the animal/person responsible shall give immediate written notification of the arrival at destination of the returned animal to the [local APHA office](#).

8. Welfare of animals during transport

Importers are reminded that they must comply with rules on the welfare of animals during transport. For information on the rules see GOV.UK.

- [Welfare of animals during transport](#)

9. Deaths of Animals in transit

If an imported animal dies in transit to, or at a port or airport in Great Britain, the person in charge of the animal must report the death to the local Regional Operations Director/Field Team Leader/Director of Operations (Scotland). The carcase of the animal can only be disposed of in accordance with any directions given by a veterinary inspector.

10. Rabies risks

Importers and owners of imported animals are advised that rabies occurs in domestic livestock in some countries. Importers should pay special attention to the health of any imported animal during its first 6 weeks in England and notify the relevant local APHA office of any signs of disease. Symptoms of rabies in cattle are an abnormal change of behaviour, anxiety, aggressiveness, frequent bellowing, excessive saliva with choking, difficulty in eating, grinding of teeth, constipation and diarrhoea with severe straining & tail swishing and difficulty in movement with progressive paralysis. Death may occur after the third to seventh day.

Rabies is a compulsorily notifiable disease therefore, if importers see signs of abnormal behaviour or ill health, they should report this to the local APHA office or the importer's veterinary surgeon immediately.

11. Safeguard measures

Situations where emergency safeguard action has been taken at very short notice, to prohibit or restrict the importation of certain animals/products from certain countries following an outbreak of serious disease in those countries may not be covered. Details of safeguard measures can be found in our Topical Issues page on the website.

- [Topical issues](#)

Alternatively you can keep up to date with amendments to legislation by checking the European Commission's website.

- [European Commission's website](#)

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 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](#)

13. Other important advice and guidance

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.

14. 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.gsi.gov.uk

Telephone: 03000 200 301

Fax: 0208 0260 498