



Animal &
Plant Health
Agency

Veterinary Checks on Animal Products from Third Countries

Import Information Note (IIN) VCAP

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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

General conditions applicable to animal products subject to veterinary checks imported into Great Britain from outside the European Union in accordance with [Regulation \(EU\) 2017/625](#) and the Trade in Animals and Related Products Regulations 2011.

The list of animal products that are subject to veterinary checks are published in [Decision 2007/275](#) (as amended) and include products for human consumption, animal by-products and germinal products(semen and embryos). Detailed import conditions are laid down in specific [Import Information Notes](#) on particular animal products.

Live shellfish for direct human consumption is checked in accordance with veterinary checks on products of animal origin. You should contact the [Food Standards Agency](#) for advice on import conditions for live shellfish and other fishery products.

3. Pre-notification

Animal products that require veterinary checks are checked on entry into the EU to ensure that they meet the import conditions. These checks must be carried out at an approved Border Control Post (BCP). BCPs are approved for different categories of animal products and you should ensure your proposed entry point is approved for the category of product you wish to import.

- [Contact details for EU BCPs](#)

Checks are carried out by official veterinary surgeons or, for fishery products, specially trained Environmental Health Officers employed by the local or port health authority.

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.

It is a legal requirement to provide this notification and you may be charged an additional fee or the checks may be delayed if you fail to notify the BCP in advance. Ideally this should be done via the European Commission's web-based system known as TRACES. The Importer or their agent should contact the BCP of entry to arrange registration on TRACES and receive further information on how consignments must be presented to the BCP.

4. Presentation

On arrival the consignment must be presented to the BCP without delay and it will be subject to documentary, identity checks and possibly a physical examination. Importers are responsible for presenting the consignment to the BCP. If you fail to present the consignment your consignment may be rejected. Consignments presented for import at a BCP must be accompanied by the original health certificate(s); faxed or photocopied certificates are not acceptable. The BCP will retain the original health certification unless the consignment is in transit to a third country or is being transhipped to another EU BCP for the physical check.

The consignment will not be permitted to leave the BCP, nor the customs clearance area, except with a CHED provided by the BCP confirming that all the veterinary checks have been carried out. The products must be taken directly to the place of destination, which must be the address given on the CHED. The CHED must accompany the consignment to the first point of destination.

If veterinary checks on a previous consignment from the same establishment have identified a serious animal or public health risk, your consignment may be subject to additional checks (usually laboratory analysis). You will be responsible for the cost of the sampling and the consignment must be held at the BCP until the result is known.

5. Fees

A fee will be charged for veterinary checks carried out at BCPs on imports of animal products from third countries. Details of the charge made for BCP checks on animal products are available from the inspectors at the relevant BCP.

BCP operators, who are independent of Defra or the local authority, may charge for the use of their facilities. The level of their fees is a matter between the operator and the importer.

6. Imports via other Member States

If a consignment has been checked in a BCP in another EU Member State before its arrival in Great Britain then further checks are not required on entry into Great Britain. However you will need to provide a copy of the CHED if asked to do so by enforcement officers.

7. Transit/transhipments to another Member State or third country

Special rules are in place for goods which travel across the EU to a third country or are temporarily held in one BCP before moving to a BCP in another Member State. The European Commission have issued guidance on these movements which is available at the link below.

- [Commission Guidance on Transits and Transhipments](#)

8. Common Health Entry Document (CHED)

On completion of the veterinary checks the BCP inspector will complete and sign the CHED providing the necessary fees have been paid. The CHED will record the outcome of the checks. It should accompany the consignment to the specified destination and should be kept there for inspection by enforcement officers as proof the consignment was checked on entry. If the consignment is to be split in the port as it is destined for two or more locations, the inspector will issue separate CHEDs for each part of the load: an additional fee will be charged for each CHED.

9. Rejected consignments

If your consignment fails to meet the import requirements for that product the consignment will be rejected. If your consignment is rejected it must be re-exported outside the EU or

destroyed. If the BCP inspector considers the consignment to be a risk to public or animal health, they will require the consignment to be destroyed.

Consignments rejected by the BCP are classed as category 2 animal by-products and destruction should be carried out in accordance with the Animal By-products Regulations.

If the consignment is to be re-exported, you will need to confirm to the BCP that the consignment will be accepted by the relevant third country before the BCP releases the consignment for re-export.

10. Exemptions from the veterinary checks

Consignments of animal products from the Faroe Islands, Iceland, Lichtenstein, Norway and Switzerland do not require veterinary checks on entry.

Some animal products do not require veterinary checks on entry into the EU. Please see Annex 1 for a list of some of the products exempt from checks. If in any doubt, please contact the APHA Imports team (contact details below) as your consignment may be rejected if you incorrectly fail to present it for veterinary checks.

11. Monitored consignments (post import controls)

Consignments of animal products which are considered to be a higher risk to animal health must be taken directly to the specified destination on the CHED. The importer must confirm arrival of the consignment to APHA (see contact details below). The BCP will advise you if your consignment is subject to these additional controls.

12. Consignment returned to the UK from a third country

Consignments which have been exported to a country outside the EU and returned to the EU must be checked on entry. Special rules are in place for returned consignments. Consignment may only be returned to the EU establishment of origin or sent for destruction. Details are available in IIN RPTC/1.

- [IIN RPTC/1](#)

13. 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](#)

14. 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 '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](#)'.

15. Contact for further information

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

To confirm arrival of channelled consignments, please contact the relevant mailbox below:

Mailbox	Counties
ImportsNorthern@apha.gov.uk	Cleveland, Cheshire, Cumbria, Derbyshire, Durham, Greater Manchester, Lancashire, Leicestershire, Lincolnshire, Merseyside, Northamptonshire, North Lincolnshire, North East Lincolnshire, Northumberland, Nottinghamshire, Staffordshire,, Tyne and Wear, West Midlands, East Yorkshire, North Yorkshire, South Yorkshire, West Yorkshire.
ImportsSouthern@apha.gov.uk	Bedfordshire, Berkshire, Buckinghamshire, Cambridgeshire, Essex, Hampshire, Hertfordshire, Isle of Wight, Kent, Greater London, Norfolk, Oxfordshire, Suffolk, Surrey, East Sussex, West Sussex
ImportsWestern@apha.gov.uk	Avon, Cornwall, Devon, Dorset, Gloucestershire, Herefordshire, Isles of Scilly, Shropshire, Somerset, Warwickshire, Worcestershire, Wiltshire

For destinations in Scotland, contact AyrlImports@apha.gov.uk.

For destinations in Wales, contact APHA.CymruWales@apha.gov.uk.

Annex 1

Exemptions from veterinary checks

- Consignments originating from an EU member state, the Faroe Islands Iceland, Lichtenstein, Norway and Switzerland
- Certain personal imports which form part of travellers' luggage and small consignments sent to a private person. Personal imports of meat, milk and their products are not permitted. Further information is on the gov.uk website.
- [Information on personal imports](#)
- Incoming ship or aircraft stores brought in on one vessel or aircraft for direct transfer to another.
- Research and Diagnostic samples, which remain subject to licensing prior to importation. However some samples may need to go to a BCP - see [IIN on research samples](#).
- Fresh fishery products immediately landed from a third country flagged vessel.

- Products listed in Annex II of [Commission Decision 2007/275/EC](#).
- Products not subject to animal health controls under EU law. Consignments may need to be licensed prior to import.
- Composite products that meet the requirements of Article 6 of Commission Decision 2007/275/EC (See [IIN on composite products for more information](#))



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Any enquiries regarding this publication should be sent to us at:

Animal and Plant Health Agency
Centre for International Trade - Carlisle
Eden Bridge House
Lowther Street
Carlisle
CA3 8DX

Email: Imports@apha.gov.uk

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.