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Food & Rural Affairs

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IMPORTS AND EU POLICY TEAM

OVS Note/2016/06

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IMPORTS OF PEARLS IN OYSTER SHELLS (CONTAINING OYSTER FLESH) WHICH HAVE BEEN PRESERVED IN AN ALCOHOL AND WATER SOLUTION AND DISPATCHED IN SEALED, READY TO SELL OR USE CONTAINERS.

Purpose

1. To inform BIPs of the availability of a General authorisation for the import of Pearls in oyster shells (containing oyster flesh) which have been preserved in an alcohol and water solution and dispatched in sealed, ready to sell or use containers.

Background

2. Regulations (EC) [No 1069/2009](#) and (EU) [No 142/2011](#) lay down the health rules with regards imports of animal by-products not intended for human consumption.
3. Commission Decision [\(2007/275/EC\)](#) requires that shells containing soft tissue and flesh is imported into a Border Inspection Post and be required to be vet checked prior to release.
4. As there are currently no EU harmonised import conditions for Pearls in oyster shells (containing oyster flesh) which are not for human consumption and, due to the preservation method used, these products are deemed to be a very low risk to animal health and therefore no health conditions are required for importing such products.
5. To assist importers and Port Health authorities a new General authorisation IMP/GEN/16/02 has been created and will be available shortly on the [gov.uk website](http://gov.uk). Importers should ensure that the General authorisation is used when importing these products and conditions on the authorisation are complied with.



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IN PEOPLE

Action for OVSS

6. To be aware of the new General authorisation available for use.

Contact point for enquiries

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Imports and EU Policy Team