



ABP AND TSE POLICY TEAM

OVS Note/2018/08

Date: 24th May 2018

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 CONTAINERS – CHANGE TO GENERAL AUTHORISATION

Purpose

1. To inform BIPs of a change to the 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. OVS Note 2016/06 was issued on 9th March 2016 to inform BIPs of the availability of a general authorisation to permit 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.
5. Due to concerns on the possibility of other preservation methods being used, additional wording has been added to the general authorisation to state that only an alcohol and water solution can be used as a preservation method. The use of formaldehyde or any other preservation substance during any stage of the preservation process is prohibited.



6. Therefore General authorisation IMP/GEN/16/02 has been revoked and an amended General authorisation IMP/GEN/18/01 will be made available shortly on the Gov.uk website.

Action for OVSs

8. To be aware that the use of formaldehyde or any other preservation substance (other than an alcohol and water solution) during any stage of the preservation process is prohibited for pearls in oyster shells (containing oyster flesh) dispatched in sealed, ready to sell or use containers.
9. To be aware that General authorisation IMP/GEN/16/02 has been revoked and replaced by General authorisation IMP/GEN/18/01.
10. To inform importers of the changes.

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