



To: Feed and food law enforcement authorities in England.
Port Health Authorities in England.

Changes to Import Authorisations for Insects into the European Union		11 March 2020
Summary: Requirements for the update to the importation of insects.		Notification • Imports
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Dear Colleague,

The conditions for the importation into the UK of most products of animal origin for human consumption are set out in EU legislation. Enforcement of import controls at the border is laid down the [Trade in Animals and Related Products Regulation 2011](#) as amended. Regulation 15.5 of those Regulations states:

(5) If there are no legislative requirements relating to the consignment, the official veterinary surgeon must not issue a CHED unless the importation has been authorised in writing under this paragraph by— (a) the Food Standards Agency, for any product for which only public health requirements apply; or (b) the Secretary of State, for any other product.

As there were no legislative requirements for imports of insect meat, the Animal and Plant Health Agency issued authorisations permitting imports of insect products subject to appropriate import conditions. The European Union has now implemented harmonised rules for the importation of insect meat/products and as such an import authorisation is no longer required. However, you must ensure that imports comply with the import conditions laid down in the legislation.

Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2019/1981 has amended Article 20 of Implementing Regulation (EU) 2019/626 so that consignments of insects intended for human consumption shall only be authorised for the entry into the Union if such foods have originated in and been consigned from a third country or region thereof, listed in Annex IIIa of Regulation (EU) 2019/1981.

To date, only three countries have given the EU sufficient guarantee that they comply with the requirements and should therefore be listed as authorised for the entry into the Union of insects.

The countries currently listed in Annex IIIa of Regulation (EU) 2019/1981 are Canada, Switzerland and South Korea.

In summary, to import insects for human consumption you need to ensure that:

- the country of origin is listed in Annex IIIa of Regulation (EU) 2019/1981 or any subsequent amendments to Regulation (EU) 2019/626
- that you are only importing one of the 7 insect species permitted under novel food legislation (and note this list will change as determinations are made)

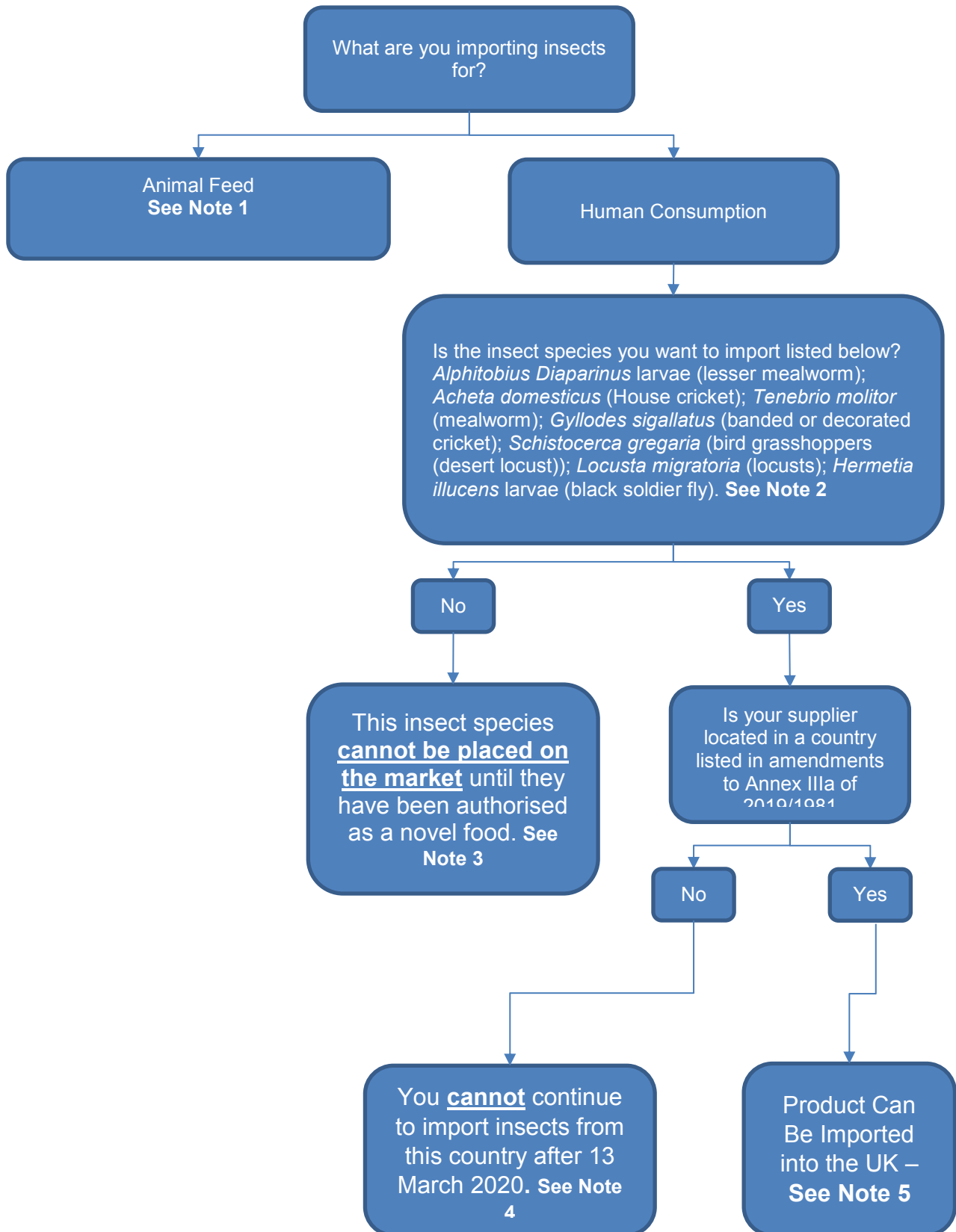
To help you understand how these changes may impact on your business. A flow chart and accompanying notes are supplied at Annex 1. If you have any further questions email [Imported Food](#).

Yours sincerely,

Food Standards Agency and Animal Plant Health Authority

11 March 2020

Annex 1 – Flow Chart for Importation of Insects



Note 1

This flow chart is specifically for insects for human consumption. Insects for animal feed have different legal requirements than insects for human consumption. Contact the [FSA animal feed policy team](#) for further advice.

Note 2

In the UK, any species of whole insect marketed in the EU before the end of 2017 can continue to be sold subject to a novel food application having been submitted by 1 January 2019. Transition measures in Regulation (EU) 2015/2285 on novel foods, allow foods that have been legally on sale in the EU prior to the regulations to continue to be sold. The transition measures were intended to give businesses time to comply with the new requirements.

These transition arrangements, under the Novel Food Regulations (EU) 2015/2283, ended on 31 December 2019. For the 7 listed species of insects currently going through the authorisation process, the transition period is still in place. This is to give additional time for these applications to reach a conclusion. Once these have been concluded, the outcome will determine if they can continue to be sold or not.

The list of 7 insects will be amended as authorisations for new insects are considered and determined. An up to date list of authorisations can be found on the [European Commission website](#) and we will also be providing information on which species remain within the novel food transition arrangements on the [FSA website](#).

Note 3

To legally market any other insects or insect products, you need to either show a significant history of consumption in the UK or EU before May 1997 or apply for and obtain novel food authorisation. If you have evidence of a history of consumption in the EU prior to May 1997 or are unsure of the status of your product, a consultation process is available.

Under the Withdrawal Agreement, the FSA, will no longer be able to act as lead authority for the receipt and processing of applications for EU-wide regulatory approvals. The FSA will therefore no longer be able to act as a lead authority for consultation requests for novel foods. Businesses established in the UK wishing to place affected goods on the market will need to submit these applications to the European Commission, or the lead authority of a member state, where permissible.

The outcome of the process will be made publicly available on the Commission's website. If your product is novel, then you will need to apply for authorisation.

You must ensure you do either of these before you market or sell your products.

There are [two authorisation routes](#) under [Regulation \(EU\) 2015/2283 on novel foods](#); a full application (for new products) and a traditional food application (for products that have 25 years' continuous use by a significant number of people in a country outside the EU). Both require a dossier of information submitted to the European Commission through [an electronic portal](#).

Annex 1 – Flow Chart for Importation of Insects

Note 4

Any third country, or region thereof, must be approved and listed to export consignments of insects intended for human consumption.

Before a country is approved to export these products to the EU, an evaluation of the country and its competent authority will be carried out by DG SANTE, Directorate F - Health and food audits and analysis.

This process is therefore between both the DG SANTE and the competent authority in the 3rd country. We would recommend advising any supplier in a third country to contact their Competent Authority with regards to getting listed for export of consignments of insects for human consumption.

Note 5

Products imported should be accompanied with a model official certificate for the entry into the union for placing on the market of insects intended for human consumption as laid down in Part XIII, of Annex III of [Commission Implementing Regulation \(EU\) 2019/628](#) concerning model official certificates for certain animals and goods and amending Regulation (EC) No 2074/2005 and Implementing Regulation (EU) 2016/759 as regards these model certificates.

In addition to coming from a listed third country, the certificate also lays down specific requirements that the insects were produced in accordance with, in particular:

- That they come from (an) establishment(s) implementing a programme based on the hazard analysis and critical control points (HACCP) principles in accordance with Article 5 of Regulation (EC) No 852/2004;
- That they have been handled and, where appropriate, prepared, packaged and stored in a hygiene manner in accordance with the requirements of Annex 1 (primary production) or Annex II (other stages) to Regulation (EC) No 852/2004;
- That they comply with the requirements once laid down in Section XVII of Annex III to Regulation (EC) No 853/2004, including as regards the use of substrates for feeding.