



Import of Captive Birds

Import Information Note (IIN) CBTC/2

March 2021

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1. Important Information

Import Information Notes are technical documents containing import requirements and are for use by importers and 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.

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.

EU legislation as it stood on 31 December 2020 that the UK already complies with has been incorporated into our domestic law as “retained EU law” under the European Union (Withdrawal) Act 2018. References in our guidance and certification to such EU instruments should be taken to be references to this “retained EU law”. Our current standards will remain in force, without amendment, in the immediate months after our EU exit as part of UK domestic law (apart from corrections to make the EU legislation fully operable).

You can find further information on legislation, including Relevant EU Exit Statutory Instruments in the legislation section of this import information note.

Please note that any links to legislation provided in this document are for information purposes only and may not be the most recent version.

Further information regarding changes to the import controls from an EU country from 1 January 2021 can be found on GOV.UK at the below link:

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/importing-animals-animal-products-and-high-risk-food-and-feed-not-of-animal-origin-from-1-january-2021#import-from-an-eu-country-from-1-january-2021>

2. Scope

These notes explain the conditions which apply to imports of captive birds into Great Britain.

The import rules for importing certain birds are laid down in [Retained EU Regulation 139/2013](#). This Regulation applies to all birds apart from the following:

- Birds defined as poultry in Retained EU regulation 139/2013 (For guidance on importing live poultry please see [IIN PTTC/2](#));

- Birds intended for approved conservation programmes;
- “Pet birds” (For guidance on importing pet birds please see [IIN PBTC/2](#));
- Birds intended for zoos, circuses, amusement parks or experiments;
- Birds destined for bodies, institutes or centres approved according to the Balai regime
- Racing pigeons which are introduced into GB from a neighbouring country where they are normally resident, which are immediately released with the expectation that they will fly back to that country (i.e. pigeon racing).
- There are separate conditions for Avian Influenza vaccinated captive birds, and queries on these imports should be directed to the Animal and Plant Health Agency (APHA) Centre for International Trade-Imports, Carlisle.

References to imports into Great Britain in this Import Information Note also includes imports into the Channel Islands and the Isle of Man.

References to trading partners includes non-EU, EU and EFTA countries. Import requirements from non-EU and EU countries will be differentiated, where required, in this Import Information Note.

Information regarding transits can be found on gov.uk:

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/transiting-animals-and-animal-products-through-great-britain>

3. Country of origin

Annex I of Retained EU Regulation 139/2013 details the countries from which imports of captive birds are authorised:

1. Countries or parts thereof listed in columns 1 and 3 of the table in Part 1 of Annex I to [Retained EU Regulation 798/2008](#), where column 4 of that table provides for a model veterinary certificate for breeding or productive poultry other than ratites (BPP);
2. Argentina;
3. Philippines: National Capital Region.

Both Regulations may be subject to change and should be checked prior to import.

See data.gov.uk for specific listing and certification requirements for EU and EFTA countries.

4. Premises of origin

Captive birds must come from approved breeding premises which complies with conditions set out in article 4 of Retained EU Regulation 139/2013; and must have been kept in the premises of origin for at least 21 days before export or since hatching.

- [List of approved Breeding Facilities](#)
- <https://data.gov.uk/dataset/4698a65d-1a3b-42d1-981e-df869e04185b/export-of-animals-and-animal-products-to-the-uk>

5. Pre-export testing

All captive birds imported to Great Britain must be subjected to a laboratory virus detection test 7 to 14 days prior to export, with negative results for any avian influenza or Newcastle disease virus. The birds must **not** have been vaccinated against avian influenza. All tests to be carried out in accordance with Chapter 3.3.4 and 3.3.14 of the Manual of Diagnostic tests and vaccines for Terrestrial Animals of the OIE (including virus isolation and RT-PCR). The tests must be carried out at an OIE reference laboratory for AI and ND.

6. Health certification/documentation

Imports to Great Britain from 1 January 2021 must be accompanied by the appropriate health certificate, which can be found on GOV.UK.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/birds-live-health-certificates>

7. Identification and container for travel

In accordance with Article 66(2) of [Retained EU Regulation 865/2006](#) all birds must be identified with an individual identification number by means of a uniquely marked seamlessly closed leg-ring or a microchip.

ID numbers of leg-rings or microchips must bear at least the ISO code of the exporting country performing the identification and a unique serial number. The ID number must be registered on the accompanying health certificate, as well as on the outside of the container that the birds are being transported in.

All birds must be transported in new containers which must bear the unique ID number that corresponds with the ID number provided on the accompanying health certificate.

8. Quarantine

Captive birds imported into Great Britain from an approved country must complete a minimum of 30 days quarantine in an approved quarantine facility or centre in accordance with Article 11 of Retained EU Regulation 139/2013. Imported birds shall be transported directly from the Border Control Post (BCP) of entry in Great Britain to an approved quarantine facility or centre.

The total journey time to an approved quarantine facility or centre must not normally exceed nine hours. When vehicles are used for this journey, they shall be sealed by the competent authorities with a tamper proof seal.

During the quarantine period an official veterinarian will inspect the quarantined birds at the beginning and end of the quarantine period, and further inspections may be carried out if the official veterinarian feels it necessary due to the current disease situation. All quarantine and inspection costs will be met by the importer.

9. Endangered species

The import of some species of animals may require export and import certificates under the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES). CITES permits must be issued in advance of import and they can take up to **15 working days** to process. Applicants should be aware of this when applying for their permits. Those species requiring CITES permits must be moved in compliance with CITES guidelines for the transport and preparation for shipment of live animals.

- [GOV.UK website – CITES pages](#)

For further information please contact the APHA – CITES team:

Centre for International Trade - Bristol
Horizon House
Deanery Road
Bristol
BS1 5AH

Tel: +44 (0) 3000 200 301

Fax: +44 (0) 28 415 2510

Email: wildlife.licensing@apha.gov.uk

10. 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](#)

11. Pre-notifications of imports

From 1 January 2021, you must notify the Animal Plant Health Agency (APHA) of imports from the EU to Great Britain (GB) of live animals, please use the Import of products, animals, food and feed system (IPAFFS).

You must submit your notification in IPAFFS at least one working day before your consignment is due to arrive. You can submit your notification up to 30 days in advance.

Further information regarding IPAFFS is available on [GOV.UK](https://www.gov.uk).

For pre-notifications from other trading partners see section below.

12. Veterinary checks

Until March 2022, imports from the EU, and certain imports from Greenland and EFTA countries, do not need to enter Great Britain via a BCP and are not subject to veterinary checks at the border.

You can find additional information on imports from EFTA countries and Greenland in section 13.

Consignments from trading partners (other than the EU, and some imports from Greenland and EFTA countries) may only be imported through an approved Border Control Post (BCP). 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 Import of products, animals, food and feed system (IPAFFS). Further information regarding IPAFFS can be found on [GOV.UK](https://www.gov.uk). BCP checks will be required on EU live animals from March 2022.

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.

Following satisfactory checks at the BCP (for which a charge is levied), consignments may then circulate freely within Great Britain. If the consignment does not meet the import requirements, the consignment may be rejected and either re-exported or destroyed.

- [Further guidance on veterinary checks on live animals](#)
- [Border Control Posts](#)

The Trade in Animals and Related Products Regulations 2011 ([TARP 2011](#)) (applicable in England) and EU Exit amendments to TARP 2011 can be found [here](#).

13. EFTA countries and Greenland

The UK government recognises that Norway, Switzerland and Liechtenstein implement EU veterinary legislation in relation to the movement of animals and animal products.

Therefore, animals and animal products from Norway, Switzerland and Liechtenstein must comply with the same requirements and controls applying to live animals and animal products from EU Member States. This also applies to Iceland for products of animal origin for human consumption, composite products and aquaculture.

Furthermore, in relation to imports from Faroe Islands this also applies to fishery products and aquaculture only. In relation to imports from Greenland this applies to fishery products and fish by-products only too.

14. Great Britain and Crown Dependencies

Trade movements between Great Britain, the Channel Islands and the Isle of Man are treated as national movements. However for imports from the Crown Dependencies (CDs) must be in accordance with an [Import Licence](#) and consignments must comply with the conditions in the licence which may require the consignment to be accompanied by a health certificate.

For movements to the CDs, please check the Isle of Man, Jersey or Guernsey websites to ascertain their import conditions:

Isle of Man: <https://www.gov.im/categories/business-and-industries/agriculture/>

Jersey: <https://www.gov.je/Industry/FarmingFishing/FarmingLivestock/Pages/default.aspx>

Guernsey: <https://gov.gg/article/119655/Imports--Exports>

15. Northern Ireland

Movements from Northern Ireland

Movements from Northern Ireland into Great Britain are treated as national movements. However they must be in accordance with an [Import Licence](#) and consignments must comply with the conditions in the licence which may require it to be accompanied by a health certificate. You can find additional information on movements from NI to GB [here](#).

Movements to Northern Ireland

Northern Ireland continues to apply EU law and EU requirements as laid down by the European Commission. Please seek advice from DAERA on the import requirements for direct imports to Northern Ireland.

<https://www.daera-ni.gov.uk/articles/introduction-importing-animals-and-animal-products>

16. Safeguard measures

Emergency safeguard action can be taken at very short notice to prohibit or restrict the importation of certain animals 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](#)

17. Legislation.gov.uk

Consolidated legal texts, which integrate the basic instruments of retained EU 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 inputting the 'document number' and 'year' and then clicking the option 'All UK Legislation (including originating from the EU)' on legislation.gov.uk.

Once you press 'search', you can find the relevant legislation listed with the full title of the legislation. Once you have selected the legislation, you may see the following message at the top of the page:

"Changes to legislation: There are outstanding changes not yet made to XXX. Those changes will be listed when you open the content using the Table of Contents below. Any changes that have already been made to the legislation appear in the content and are referenced with annotations."

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. EU Exit amendments to legislation may take several months too. We advise to read the legislation alongside the EU Exit amendments made in the below UK laws:

- [The Import of, and Trade in, Animals and Animal Products \(Miscellaneous Amendments\) \(EU Exit\) Regulations 2020](#)

- [The Official Controls \(Animals, Feed and Food, Plant Health etc.\) \(Amendment\) \(EU Exit\) Regulations 2020](#)
- [The Official Controls \(Animals, Feed and Food, Plant Health etc.\) \(Amendment\) \(EU Exit\) \(No. 2\) Regulations 2020](#)
- [The Aquatic Animal Health and Alien Species in Aquaculture, Animals, and Marketing of Seed, Plant and Propagating Material \(Legislative Functions and Miscellaneous Provisions\) \(Amendment\) \(EU Exit\) Regulations 2020](#)
- [The Animals, Aquatic Animal Health, Invasive Alien Species, Plant Propagating Material and Seeds \(Amendment\) \(EU Exit\) Regulations 2020](#)
- [The Trade in Animals and Animal Products \(Legislative Functions\) and Veterinary Surgeons \(Amendment\) \(EU Exit\) Regulations 2019](#)

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 legislation.gov.uk.

Further information on changes in relation to EU legislation and UK law can be found on legislation.gov.uk. Please continue to use legislation.gov.uk to find EU retained law applicable to Great Britain. Please avoid using the EU Commission website for information on imports into Great Britain.

18. Contact for further information

For further information regarding import requirements, contact the Animal and Plant Health Agency (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



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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.