



# Import of Captive Birds from Third Countries Import Information Note (IIN) CBTC/2

December 2020

## Contents

1. Important Information .....	2
2. Scope .....	2
3. Country of origin .....	3
4. Premises of origin.....	4
5. Pre-export testing .....	4
6. Health certification/documentation .....	4
7. Identification and container for travel .....	4
8. Quarantine .....	5
9. Endangered species.....	5
10. Welfare of animals during transport .....	6
11. Veterinary checks.....	6
12. Norway, Liechtenstein and Switzerland .....	6
13. Safeguard measures .....	6
14. European Union legislation .....	7
15. Contact for further information .....	7

# 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.

The existing EU legislation 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).

- [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](#)

## 2. Scope

These notes explain the conditions which apply to imports of captive birds from Third Countries (countries outside the EU) into Great Britain.

The import rules for importing certain birds into the EU are laid down in [Commission Regulation \(EC\) No. 139/2013](#) (as amended). This Regulation applies to all birds apart from the following:

- Birds defined as poultry in Council Directive 2009/158/EC (For guidance on importing live poultry from Third Countries please see [IIN PTTC/2](#));
- Birds intended for approved conservation programmes;
- “Pet birds” (For guidance on importing pet birds from third countries please see [IIN PBTC/2](#));

- Birds intended for zoos, circuses, amusement parks or experiments;
- Birds destined for bodies, institutes or centres approved according to Article 13 of Directive 92/65/EEC (as amended);
- Pigeons for breeding, which must comply with the requirements for importing live poultry (see [IIN PTTC/2](#) for more information); and
- Birds imported from Andorra, Liechtenstein, Monaco, Norway, San Marino, Switzerland, and the Vatican City state.

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.

Imports from the EU prior to 1<sup>st</sup> January 2021 must comply with the requirements set out in the Import Information Note for imports from the EU.

<http://apha.defra.gov.uk/official-vets/Guidance/bip/iin/index.htm>

Further information regarding changes to the import requirements from 1<sup>st</sup> 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>

### 3. Country of origin

Annex I of Commission Regulation (EC) No 139/2013 details the third countries from which imports of captive birds are authorised:

1. Third countries or parts thereof listed in columns 1 and 3 of the table in Part 1 of Annex I to [Commission Regulation \(EC\) No 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.

## 4. Premises of origin

Captive birds must come from approved breeding premises which complies with conditions set out in article 4 of Commission Regulation (EC) No 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](#)

## 5. Pre-export testing

All captive birds imported from third countries 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. Please note that the only acceptable test for international trade is virus isolation as described by the Manual. The tests must be carried out at APHA Weybridge, another OIE reference laboratory for AI and ND, or a laboratory agreed by Defra.

## 6. Health certification/documentation

Consignments imported from third countries must be accompanied by a health certificate which conforms to the model laid down in Annex III of [Commission Regulation \(EC\) No. 139/2013](#), and which is signed by an official veterinarian or inspector of the veterinary authority in the country of origin.

Guidance on how to complete a health certificate can be found in [Commission Decision 2007/240/EC](#).

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

<https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/health-certificates-for-animal-and-animal-product-imports-to-great-britain>

## 7. Identification and container for travel

In accordance with Article 66(2) of [Commission 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 third 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 third country must complete a minimum of 30 days quarantine in an approved quarantine facility or centre in accordance with Article 11 of Commission Regulation (EC) No. 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](mailto: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. Veterinary checks

Consignments 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](#).

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 the EU. 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](#)
- [Trade in Animals and Related Products Regulations 2011](#)

Until July 2021, imports from the EU do not need to enter Great Britain via a BCP and are not subject to veterinary checks. APHA will continue to carry out identity and physical checks on EU imports of live animals at their destination based on assessments of biosecurity and public health risks until July 2021.

## 12. Norway, Liechtenstein and Switzerland

The EU has International Agreements with Iceland, Norway, Switzerland and Liechtenstein, which means that they implement EU veterinary legislation in relation to the movement of animals. Therefore animals from Norway, Switzerland and Liechtenstein must comply with the same requirements applying to animals from Member States.

## 13. 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](#)

## 14. European Union 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 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](mailto:Imports@apha.gov.uk)

Telephone: 03000 200 301





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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.