



A GUIDE TO THE IMPORTATION OF
PRODUCTS OF ANIMAL ORIGIN
FROM NON-EU COUNTRIES
INTO THE UK
BY
PORT HEALTH SERVICES

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The Port Health Service is part of the Environmental Health & Consumer Protection Division provided by Southampton City Council

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Disclaimer: The following information was last updated in August 2005. It is updated regularly but certain issues may change suddenly and without warning. It is the responsibility of the importer or agent to check if import conditions have changed.



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INTRODUCTION

This guide, produced by the Port Health Service of Southampton City Council is intended to assist importers who want to import products of animal origin (POAO), which originate or are dispatched from a country outside the EU to a Border Inspection Post such as Southampton. There is much EU legislation governing imports of these products and this guide aims to provide basic information about the relevant legislation, import requirements and who can be contacted for more information. **It is intended for guidance only and is not a comprehensive or detailed statement of exact legal requirements.** Import requirements will change from time to time and additional conditions may be required for some countries. It is therefore beneficial to contact this office, the Food Standards Agency (FSA) and the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA) to clarify any specific import conditions particular to your consignment, before it leaves the country of origin.

In all cases it is the owner and importer's responsibility to ensure they are aware of and comply with any legal requirements.

Why we have controls

The United Kingdom is free of the many diseases prevalent in other parts of the world that affect livestock and other animals. Controls are in place to help prevent the introduction of these diseases into the United Kingdom. The controls are also to protect public health. Systems are in place to ensure that products intended for consumption are produced in conditions, which meet good standards of hygiene.

PRODUCTS OF ANIMAL ORIGIN

The following are classed as "products of animal origin."

- ❖ Apiculture products
- ❖ Animal blood products for technical use
- ❖ Bones and bone products
- ❖ Bristles, wool, hair and feathers
- ❖ Crocodile and other reptile meat
- ❖ Eggs and egg products
- ❖ All fish and fishery products
- ❖ Fresh meat or offal, and products of bovine (beef), ovine (sheep), caprine (goat), porcine (pig) and equine (horse) species
- ❖ Frogs legs and snails
- ❖ Gelatine
- ❖ Hay and straw

- ❖ Hides and skins
- ❖ Honey
- ❖ Horns and horn products, hooves and hoof products
- ❖ Hunting trophies
- ❖ Lard and rendered fats
- ❖ Milk and milk products for human consumption
- ❖ Milk and milk products NOT for human consumption
- ❖ Pathogens
- ❖ Poultry, rabbit, game (farmed or wild) – meat and products
- ❖ Animal protein for human consumption
- ❖ Animal protein NOT intended for human consumption
- ❖ Processed pet food, raw material for the manufacture of pet food
- ❖ Raw material, blood, blood products, glands and organs from animals intended for pharmaceutical use
- ❖ Animal semen, embryos, ova
- ❖ Manure
- ❖ Ratites (e.g. Ostrich, Rhea)

PERSONAL LIMITS

Travellers or personal imports arriving in the EU from third countries are no longer allowed to bring in personal imports of meat, meat products, milk or milk products, on their person or in their luggage. They will have to meet the same conditions as for commercial imports. This has been formally adopted by the EU Commission and came into force on 1 January 2003.

The new rules do not apply to products carried by travellers from Greenland, Faroe Islands, Iceland, Andorra, San Marino, Liechtenstein, Switzerland and the candidate countries with the exception of Turkey. For products of animal origin not containing meat or milk, up to 1kg may be brought in as a personal import if it comes from a country approved to import that product into the EU.

Other items of foodstuffs other than above are still subject to national controls.

For full details of the individual countries and allowances please see the DEFRA web-site at:

http://www.defra.gov.uk/animalh/illegal/pdf/personal_import.pdf

TRANSHIPMENTS

Checks are to be carried out on transhipments depending on the amount of time spent at the Border Inspection Post (BIP) of entry.

Prior to arrival, the person responsible for the consignment must notify the Official Veterinary Surgeon (OVS) / Port Health Officer (PHO) of the estimated time of unloading, the BIP of destination and if necessary the exact location of the consignment.

OVS/PHO are permitted to allow transhipments to another BIP without carrying out veterinary checks if transhipment is within 7 days. **However, the OVS/PHO will carry out any checks they deem necessary in cases where they have reason to believe that the consignment may pose an animal or public health risk.**

COMMERCIAL IMPORTS

Please refer to Commission Decision 2002/349 **available at:**

http://europa.eu.int/eur-lex/pri/en/oj/dat/2002/l_121/l_12120020508en00060030.pdf

All products of animal origin arriving from countries outside the EU are subject to veterinary checks and can only be imported at approved Border Inspection Posts (BIPs). Southampton is one such approved BIP.

The consignment will be subjected to documentary, identity and physical checks to ensure compliance with animal and public health rules. All cleared consignments of Products of Animal Origin are issued with a Common Veterinary Entry Document (CVED) by Port Health Services. Customs entries may not be made until the CVED has been issued.

It is a legal requirement that Products of Animal Origin must not be removed from the Port unless a completed CVED has been provided for that consignment. It is an offence to do so and any person found guilty shall be liable to a fine or imprisonment under The Products of Animal Origin (Third Country Imports) (England) Regulations as amended.

Note: Veterinary checks are not required for fish & fishery products from Iceland. Veterinary checks are not usually required for any animal products from Norway and Faroe Islands.

DOCUMENTARY REQUIREMENTS

Pre-notification

The Products of Animal Origin (Third Country Imports)

(England) Regulations as amended (which implement Council Directive 97/78/EC) require pre-notification of the arrival of a consignment containing Products of Animal Origin at any European Seaport Border Inspection Post (BIP), including Southampton. In practice this means presenting the relevant paperwork of a CVED and health certificate to this office in advance of the consignments arrival.

Common Veterinary Entry Document (CVED)

These are standard forms based on EU requirements. A copy of the current CVED produced by the Southampton Port Health Authority is illustrated in this leaflet and a copy of the CVED can be downloaded at:

<http://www.efishbusiness.co.uk/formsandguides/CVEDNotification.pdf>

The agent/importer must complete all the relevant details on Page 1 of the CVED and present it to this office along with the health certificate and other specific documents. A CVED must be completed for each part of the consignment that has a public health certificate. Once the consignment and documents have been inspected the CVED is completed, signed and stamped by an Authorised Officer /Official Veterinary Surgeon, and the original and a copy are returned to the agent/importer. A copy must remain with the consignment until its arrival at the premises of destination stated on the health certification or documentation. NB. 1 CVED per Health Certificate: which identifies a consignment. The CVED must be original and double sided.

For a CVED to be issued the following original documents must be submitted to the Port Health Office:

1) Health Certificates

Health Certificates are obtained from the competent authority of the country of origin. They must contain specific pieces of information as listed in the relevant EU Decisions and Directives.

The Health Certificate must:

- ❖ Be the original copy.
- ❖ Have a unique reference number.
- ❖ Be fully completed.
- ❖ Have no unauthorised alterations or be defaced in any way, i.e. no Tippex, crossings out etc.
- ❖ Be drawn up in English (i.e. in the official language of the Member State where the checks are carried out. If necessary more than one language can be used).

- ❖ Be made out to a single recipient.
- ❖ Consist of a single sheet of paper (for meat, fish and fishery products).
- ❖ Be signed by the Official Veterinary Surgeon or equivalent Official Representative of the Competent Authority of the country of origin and have an official health stamp of the country of origin in a different colour to that of the printing ink.
- ❖ Be dated in relation to the date of loading of the products for dispatch towards the community. Health Certificates issued retrospectively will not be accepted.
- ❖ Detail the address(s) and approval number(s) of the processing plant of origin. This must correspond to that detailed on the packaging.

Where Health Certificates fail to comply with any of the above requirements, the consignment will be refused entry into the EU.

2) Invoices / Packing list

Invoices must relate to the consignment, be dated in relation to the date of dispatch, and preferably be in their original format. It is advisable that the following information is included:

Container number, consignee and consignor, details of species of fish or meat / types of product, percentage of fish or meat, net weight.

3) CVED Charges

We are required by EU legislation to make a charge for Veterinary Checks. At Southampton this is based upon the gross weight of the consignment. **Further to these charges, your consignment will be subject to charges for the transportation of the consignment to the inspection facility by Southampton Container Terminal or demurrage charges.** You will need to contact the individual shipping lines for their scale of charges. Payment for the veterinary checks must be received with the documents, failure to do so will result in delays in clearance; consignments cannot be released until the payment is received. Payment is made by cheque **made payable to Southampton City Council** or by holding a Southampton City Council account.

This will be changing in the near future: In Southampton we aim to make payment easier with a swipe card and direct debit facility.

4) Organic Products

As of 1st December 2003 the Organic Products (Imports from Third Countries) Regulations 2003 came into force.

All consignments of organic origin must be pre- notified to Southampton Port Health Authority 24 hours prior to the arrival of the vessel (or 6 hours if by air).

A Certificate of Inspection issued by an approved organisation must accompany each consignment of organic produce.

Original certificates relating to the consignment must then be presented to this office for endorsement and accompanied with a payment of £45. If it is paid by cheque, it must be payable to Southampton City Council.

If the certification is satisfactory, the certificate will be signed by a Port Health Officer and either released or examined. After all checks have been completed the certificate will be returned to the importer/agent.

SPECIFIC REQUIREMENTS FOR FRESH MEAT

Packaging (for example packing cases, paperboard boxes) must fulfil all rules of hygiene, and in particular:

- Must not alter the organoleptic characteristics of the meat
- Must not be capable of transmitting to the meat substances harmful to human health
- Must be strong enough to ensure effective protection of the meat during transportation and handling
- Must not be re-used for meat unless it is made of corrosion-resistant materials, which are easy to clean and has been previously cleaned and disinfected.

Fresh meat which has undergone a freezing process must bear an indication of the **month and year** in which it was frozen.

Fresh meat may not be transported in a vehicle or container, which is not clean and has not been disinfected.

Means of transport intended for transporting meat may in no case be used for transporting live animals or any products likely to affect or contaminate meat.

For more information: Council Directive 91/497/EEC (amending and consolidating Directive 64/433/EEC).

SPECIFIC REQUIREMENTS FOR FISH AND FISHERY PRODUCTS

Packaging and Markings

Packaging of consignments of fish and fishery products imported into the EU must comply with legal requirements laid down in Council Directive 91/493/EEC (as amended) which is implemented in the UK by The Food Safety (Fishery Products and Live Shellfish) (Hygiene) Regulations 1998.

- ❖ **All packaging must be indelibly marked with the country of origin and the processing establishment number (health mark),** corresponding to that detailed on the health certificate. This applies to both the inner and outer packaging.

- ❖ All markings must be fully legible and grouped together in a place where they are visible from the outside without any need to open the packaging.
- ❖ Please note that there are specific requirements for the labelling of consignments of live bi-valve molluscs under Directive 91/492/EEC.
- ❖ The packaging of fishery products must be carried out under hygienic conditions that do not cause or allow contamination of the products.
- ❖ Materials used in the packaging of fishery products must:
 - a) Protect the product from substances that are harmful to health.
 - b) Be strong enough to protect the fish.
 - c) Not affect the taste or smell of the fish.
- ❖ Packaging materials may not be re-used (with the exception of certain containers made of impervious, smooth and corrosion-resistant materials that are easy to clean and disinfect).

General Points to Note

❖ **Products Destined for Testing and Quality / Visual Assessment**

Consignments of fish and fishery products destined for such use are subject to the complete checks and must be issued with a Common Veterinary Entry Document (CVED).

❖ **Unauthorised Countries**

Imports of fishery products from certain third countries are not permitted and therefore it is important before importing fish and fishery products into the EU to check with this office or the Food Standards Agency whether it is possible to do so.

❖ **Live Fish Licences**

Live fish or shellfish e.g. lobsters, eels, mussels, clams etc. can only be imported into the UK if the importer has a current “live fish licence” issued by the Centre for Environment, Fisheries and Aquaculture Science (CEFAS). This is additional to the requirements for general fish and fishery products intended for human consumption.

PRODUCTS WHICH DO NOT REQUIRE VETERINARY CHECKS

Animal Health Conditions

The Importation of Animal Products and Poultry Products Order 1980 (as amended) and the Importation of Processed Animal Protein Order 1981 (as amended) prohibit the importation of meat and meat products, other animal products and processed animal protein, except under the authority of an import licence. Licences (which may be general or specific) contain conditions designed to ensure that animal products do not carry animal diseases into Great Britain. These import licences are issued by DEFRA.

CONSIGNMENTS THAT FAIL THE VETERINARY CHECKS

Where a consignment of Products of Animal Origin does not comply with animal or public health import conditions or where it constitutes a risk to animal or public health, a notice is served on the importer or agent under The Products of Animal Origin (Third Country Imports) (England) Regulations as amended.

The Notice will specify that the consignment must be re-exported out of the EU (and Iceland, Norway and Faroe Islands) by a given date or be used for non-human use or destroyed. However, where the consignment constitutes a health risk, the option for re-export will not be given. Destruction may be specified for rendering or incineration as required by the Animal by-Products Regulations. **Landfill disposal is not an option.**

There is the right of appeal against the officer's decision to a Magistrates Court. There is information about this procedure on the Notice. This right must be exercised within one month of the Notice being served.

❖ SAMPLING CHARGES

Charges will be made for Public Health Laboratory Services (PHLS) analysis and Public Analyst examination, and other accredited laboratory analysis if the product sampled or submitted **is of animal origin. This is calculated per health certificate and not on quantity.**

Future Changes to Legislation:

Communication to importers can be found in the DEFRA and FSA websites. The current status of any piece of legislation can also be checked on the Euro-lex site (Please see information at the back of this leaflet).

FINAL NOTE

Importers are responsible for ensuring that food they import is fit for human consumption and that it also meets all other UK labelling and composition standards. It must also comply fully with the provisions of the Food Safety Act 1990.

Southampton's CVED form:

EUROPEAN COMMUNITY		The Common Veterinary Entry Document, CVED	
Port Health Authority, Meridians House, Ocean Way, Ocean Village, Southampton SO14 3TJ 24 hrs tel: 023 8022 6631 fax: 023 8023 3859			
Part 1: Details of consignment presented	1. Consignor / Exporter	2. CVED reference number Border Inspection Post ANIMO Unit Number	s 12251 SOUTHAMPTON 07.113.99
	3. Consignee	4. Person responsible for load	
	5. Importer	6. Country of origin + ISO code	7. Country from where consigned + ISO code
	8. Delivery address		
	9. Arrival at BP (estimated date)	10. Veterinary documents Number(s) Date of issue Establishment of origin (where relevant) Veterinary approval number	
	11. Vessel name / Flight No. Bill of Lading No./ Airway Bill No. Wagon / Vehicle / Trailer No.		
	12. Nature of goods, Number and type of packages	13. Commodity Code (CN, minimum first 4 digits)	14. Gross weight (kg)
	Temperature Chilled: <input type="checkbox"/> Frozen: <input type="checkbox"/> Ambient: <input type="checkbox"/>		15. Net weight (kg)
	16. Seal number and Container number		
	17. Transhipment to EU BP ANIMO unit no.: 3rd country 3rd Country ISO code:	18. For transit to 3rd Country To 3rd Country + ISO code Exit BP: ANIMO unit no.:	
19. Conform to EU requirements Conforms <input type="checkbox"/> Does NOT conform <input type="checkbox"/>	20. For re-import <input type="checkbox"/>		
21. For internal market Human consumption: <input type="checkbox"/> Animal feedingstuff: <input type="checkbox"/> Pharmaceutical use: <input type="checkbox"/> Technical use: <input type="checkbox"/> Other: <input type="checkbox"/>	22. For NON-Conforming consignments Customs warehouse <input type="checkbox"/> Registered No. Free zone or Free warehouse <input type="checkbox"/> Registered No. Ship supplier <input type="checkbox"/> Registered No. Ship <input type="checkbox"/> Name Port		
23. Declaration I, the undersigned person responsible for the load detailed above, certify that to the best of my knowledge and belief the statements made in section 1 of this document are true and complete and I agree to comply with the legal requirements of directive 97/78/EC, including payment for veterinary checks, for repositioning of any consignment rejected after transit across the EU to a third country (Article 11.1.c), or costs of destruction if necessary.		Place and date of declaration Name of signatory Signature	

EUROPEAN COMMUNITY		The Common Veterinary Entry Document, CVED	
Port Health Authority, Meridians House, Ocean Way, Ocean Village, Southampton SO14 3TJ 24 hrs tel: 023 8022 6631 fax: 023 8023 3859			
Part 2: Decision on consignment	24. Previous CVED: No <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> Reference number:	25. CVED Reference Number:	
	26. Documentary Check: Satisfactory <input type="checkbox"/> Not satisfactory <input type="checkbox"/>	27. Identity Check: Seal check <input type="checkbox"/> OR Full identity check <input type="checkbox"/> Satisfactory <input type="checkbox"/> Not satisfactory <input type="checkbox"/>	
	28. Physical Check: Satisfactory <input type="checkbox"/> Not satisfactory <input type="checkbox"/> Not done 1. Reduced checks regime <input type="checkbox"/> 2. Other <input type="checkbox"/>	29. Laboratory tests: No <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> Tested for: Random <input type="checkbox"/> Suspicion <input type="checkbox"/> Results: Satisfactory <input type="checkbox"/> Not satisfactory <input type="checkbox"/> Released pending a result <input type="checkbox"/>	
	30. ACCEPTABLE for Transhipment: EU BP <input type="checkbox"/> ANIMO unit no.: 3rd country <input type="checkbox"/> 3rd Country ISO code:	31. ACCEPTABLE for Transit Procedure To 3rd Country + ISO code <input type="checkbox"/> Exit BP: ANIMO unit no.:	
	32. ACCEPTABLE for Internal Market: For Free Circulation Human consumption: <input type="checkbox"/> Animal feedingstuff: <input type="checkbox"/> Pharmaceutical use: <input type="checkbox"/> Technical use: <input type="checkbox"/> Other: <input type="checkbox"/>	33. ACCEPTABLE if channelled Article 8 procedure <input type="checkbox"/> Re-import of EU products (Article 15) <input type="checkbox"/>	
	35. NOT ACCEPTABLE 1. Re-export <input type="checkbox"/> 2. Destruction <input type="checkbox"/> 3. Transformation <input type="checkbox"/> By Date: <input type="checkbox"/>	34. ACCEPTABLE for Specific Warehouse Procedure (Articles 12.4 and 13): Customs warehouse <input type="checkbox"/> Free zone or Free warehouse <input type="checkbox"/> Ship supplier <input type="checkbox"/> Direct to a ship <input type="checkbox"/>	
	37. Details of Controlled Destinations (33-35): Approval no (where relevant): Address:	36. Reason for Refusal 1. Absence/invalid certificate <input type="checkbox"/> 2. Non approved country <input type="checkbox"/> 3. Non approved establishment <input type="checkbox"/> 4. Prohibited product <input type="checkbox"/> 5. ID: Mis-match with documents <input type="checkbox"/> 6. ID: Health mark error <input type="checkbox"/> 7. Physical hygiene failure <input type="checkbox"/> 8. Chemical contamination <input type="checkbox"/> 9. Micro biological contamination <input type="checkbox"/> 10. Other <input type="checkbox"/>	
	38. Consignment Resealed New seal no:		
	39. Full identification of border inspection post/competent authority and official stamp.	40. Official Veterinarian I the undersigned official veterinarian, or designated official agent, certify that the veterinary checks on this consignment have been carried out in accordance with EU requirements. Signature: Name (in Capital): Date:	
	41. Exit Transit BP: Formalities of exit from the EC, and checks made of transiting goods confirmed in accordance with Article 11.2(a) of Directive 97/78/EC. Date: Stamp	42. Customs Document Reference: 43. Subsequent CVED Number(s):	

USEFUL CONTACT NUMBERS

CEFAS (The Centre for Environment, Fisheries and Aquaculture Science)

Telephone 44 (0) 1305 206 673

CUSTOMS TARIFF HELPLINE

Telephone 0645 600 130

Southampton Customs 023 8079 7000

DEFRA (Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs)

International Animal Health Division Fresh Meat, Meat Products and Prep

Telephone 44 (0) 20 7904 8233 0207 904 6496

Fax 44 (0) 20 7904 6384 0207 904 6498

Website www.defra.gov.uk

Milk and Balai Products

Telephone-0207 904 6506/6511

DEFRA PLANT HEALTH

Telephone 44 (0) 20 7273 0748

+ 0131-334-0303.

Euro-lex

For up-to date legislation from the Official Journal of the
EU contact:

<http://www.europa.eu.int/eur-lex/en/oj/index.html>

MEDICINES CONTROL AGENCY

Telephone 44 (0) 20 7273 0288

Fax 0207 273 0733

FOOD STANDARDS AGENCY
Emergency Telephone Only 020 7270 8960

Telephone 020 7922 5073 / 7686

Fax 020 7972 5142

Website www.food.gov.uk

INTERVENTION BOARD - Issue Import Licences (for trading purposes)

Telephone 0118 958 3626

CITES (Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora)

Telephone 0117 372 8017

Fax 0117 372 8206

Website www.ukcites.gov.uk

SOUTHAMPTON CONTAINER TERMINALS

Telephone: 023 8070 1701

Fax: 023 8023 3859

If for any reason you require assistance, please do not hesitate to contact the Port Health department on:

Telephone: 023 8022 6631

Fax: 023 8023 3859 and 02380 630951

E-mail: port.health@southampton.gov.uk