



Animal &  
Plant Health  
Agency

## Import of Pet Birds

### Import Information Note (IIN) PBTC/2

March 2023

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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

The conditions for imports of pet birds into Great Britain

“Pet birds” are considered to be all species of birds (except poultry as detailed below) which are accompanying their owners, or a natural person responsible for such animals on behalf of the owner, and are not intended to be sold or transferred to another owner.

The maximum number of pet birds that can travel with one owner or their representative is five in accordance with [Retained EU Decision 2007/25](#).

“Poultry” is defined in retained EU Regulation 798/2008 as ‘fowls, guinea fowl, ducks, geese, quails, pigeons, pheasants, partridges and ratites (Ratitae) reared or kept in

captivity for breeding, the production of meat or eggs for consumption or for re-stocking supplies of game.’ These species are not normally permitted to be imported as “captive or pet birds” unless they are not for the production of meat or eggs for consumption or for re-stocking supplies of game. They must instead meet the requirements laid down for imports of live poultry - see [IIN PTTC/2](#).

Species of birds listed as species of special concern under the [retained EU Regulation 1143/2014](#) on the prevention and management of the introduction and spread of invasive alien species cannot be imported as pets. See [section 10](#) for more information.

For non-pet birds of prey and other captive birds that come under the Balai regime see [IIN CBTC/2](#). 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

Imports are permitted from trading partners, listed in [Retained EU Decision 2007/25](#).

A full list of OIE members is available on their website: <https://www.oie.int/en/who-we-are/members/>

### 4. Health certification/documentation

Consignments imported from any trading partner must be accompanied by a health certificate which conforms to the model certificate referred to in [Retained EU Decision 2007/25](#) and which is signed by an official veterinarian or inspector of the veterinary authority in the country of origin.

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>

Pet birds imported from non-EU trading partners into Great Britain must be accompanied by an Import Licence which is issued by the Animal and Plant Health Agency (APHA) Centre for International Trade Imports (see Section 13 below for contact details).

Until the end of 2023, pet birds imported from EU trading partners, Greenland and EFTA countries into Great Britain, do not need to be accompanied by an Import Licence.

From November 2022 consignments originating in an EU Member State may enter Great Britain without being accompanied by the original paper Health Certificate. This arrangement is only applicable to EU Member States who use the Trade Control and Expert System (TRACES NT) to generate Export Health Certificates for live animal consignments which are currently subject to Sanitary and Phytosanitary (SPS) controls. It may also apply to Member States whose national systems have the capacity to interface with, and send certificates to TRACES NT.

## 5. Identification and container for travel

Pet birds must be individually identified bearing a number which permits tracing to their premises of origin. The identification may be by clip, leg band, microchip or tag.

The container should be IATA compliant and should be cleansed and disinfected before use.

## 6. Ports of Entry

Pet birds from non-EU trading partners may only enter Great Britain via an approved point of entry as specified in the Import Licence. The approved points of entry for pet birds are Edinburgh, Gatwick and Heathrow airports.

Contact details for the approved pet points of entry are available on the Guidance for the Import of Pet Birds from Third Countries form (IB38) available from the Centre for International Trade Imports (see Section 13 below for contact details).

Until the end of 2023, pet birds from EU trading partners may enter GB via any point of entry.

Pet birds that require CITES import/export permits would need to enter GB via a CITES designated point of entry.

## 7. Veterinary checks on imports

The importer must give notification of the import of pet birds from EU and non-EU trading partners to the APHA Centre for International Trade Imports (see Section 13 below for contact details) at least one working day before the expected arrival into Great Britain, but longer notification would be desirable.

Checks on pet birds from non-EU trading partners will be carried out by APHA staff at the approved pet point of entry.

Checks on pet birds from EU trading partners may be carried out at a point agreed with APHA staff, so these imports must be notified to the Centre for International Trade (APHA)

– Carlisle. Where such checks have been agreed, birds must not be removed until the checks have been completed. This point does not apply to birds that require CITES checks.

## 8. 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.

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/farm-animal-welfare-during-transportation>

## 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

Email: [wildlife.licensing@apha.gov.uk](mailto:wildlife.licensing@apha.gov.uk)

## 10. Invasive non-native (alien) species

It is the importer's responsibility to check whether their species of pet is included on the list of species of special concern under the retained EU Regulation 1143/2014 before importation takes place.

The import of pet (companion) animals that are listed as species of special concern under this Regulation is prohibited by [law](#).

Please check the list of invasive alien species of special concern on Gov.UK via this [link](#):

- [Invasive non-native \(alien\) animal species: rules in England and Wales - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/topics/invasive-species)

## 11. 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](#)

## 12. 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](https://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](https://legislation.gov.uk).

Further information on changes in relation to EU legislation and UK law can be found on [legislation.gov.uk](https://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.

## 13. 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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This publication is available at [www.gov.uk/government/publications](http://www.gov.uk/government/publications)

Any enquiries regarding this publication should be sent to us at:

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Centre for International Trade - Carlisle  
Eden Bridge House  
Lowther Street  
Carlisle  
CA3 8DX

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[www.gov.uk/apha](http://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.