



Animal &
Plant Health
Agency

Import of Raw Pet Food for Direct Sale Import Information Note (IIN) ABP/3D

December 2023

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1. General Information

This Import Information Note (IIN) must be read in conjunction with the IIN for general information for imports of animal by-products (ABP), which provides information on pre-notifications, veterinary checks, risk categories etc.

[General information for imports of animal by-products \(ABP\) \(defra.gov.uk\)](https://www.defra.gov.uk)

References to European Union (EU) legislation within this document are references to direct EU Legislation which has been assimilated in Great Britain (assimilated direct legislation), as defined in the Retained EU Law (Revocation and Reform) Act 2023 and can be viewed on the UK legislation website ([legislation.gov.uk](https://www.legislation.gov.uk)).

2. Scope

Import conditions for raw pet food for direct sale.

Raw pet food is defined in [Regulation \(EU\) 142/2011](#) as pet food containing certain Category 3 material which has not undergone any preserving process other than chilling or freezing.

Raw pet food may be manufactured from Category 3 material referred to in Article 10(a) and Article 10(b)(i) and (ii) of [Regulation \(EC\) 1069/2009](#).

3. Production standards

Raw pet food must have been produced and stored in accordance with the requirements of Annex XIII, Chapters I and II, of [Regulation \(EU\) 142/2011](#).

In particular raw pet food must be packed in new packaging preventing any leakage. Effective steps must be taken to ensure that the product is not exposed to contamination throughout the production chain and up to the point of sale.

4. Country of origin

Imports are permitted from trading partners listed in a document published by the Secretary of State, with the consent of the Scottish and Welsh Ministers for:

- [Non-EU countries](#)
- [EU and EFTA countries](#)

In the case of meat – may only be imported from the countries listed in the documents for fresh meat of ungulates and poultry and poultry products, from which imports of fresh meat are authorised from the same species and where only bone-in meat is authorised.

In the case of fish materials – may only be imported from countries listed in Annex II to [Regulation \(EU\) 2019/626](#).

5. Approved establishments

Products must be produced in an establishment approved to export to Great Britain. Importers should check prior to importation that the premises are listed on the correct list. If the establishment or plant is not listed importers are urged to contact the company concerned who should contact their competent authority immediately. If the plant is not included on the appropriate list when veterinary checks are carried out the consignment is likely to be held and could be rejected and re-exported or destroyed.

Consolidated lists of approved plants are available on data.gov.uk.

The above link does not include approved establishments in the EU. Until those are included please use the list found via this [link](#).

6. Sampling

Random samples must be taken from raw pet food during production and/or during storage (before despatch) to verify compliance with the standards laid down in paragraph 6 of Chapter II of Annex XIII of [Regulation \(EU\) 142/2011](#) in respect of salmonella and enterobacteriaceae.

Attestation '[AH/P801 Approved establishment and testing](#)' in GBHC562 'Model health certificate for raw petfood for direct sale or animal by-products to be fed to fur animals (PET-R)' covers these sampling requirements. The intention of this attestation is that in the case of raw petfood, the competent authority assures themselves, prior to signing the certificate, that the sampling has been carried out prior to dispatch, **during or after storage at the processing plant** and complies with microbiological GB requirements.

There is no requirement for the sampling to be carried out by the competent authority.

7. Health certification/documentation

Imports to Great Britain must be accompanied by the appropriate health certificate (*), which can be found on GOV.UK.

The health certificates are based on the requirements included in [Regulation \(EU\) 142/2011](#).

[Petfood: model health certificates - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#)

(*) Please note that this requirement will be introduced for animal products from EU and EFTA countries in the high and medium risk categories from 31st January 2024. Further information regarding risk categories can be found at the link below.

[Import risk categories for animals and animal products imported from the EU to Great Britain, from 31 January 2024 - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#)

8. Labelling requirements

The product must have been packed in final packaging which bear labels indicating 'RAW PETFOOD – NOT FOR HUMAN CONSUMPTION' and then in leak-proof and officially sealed boxes/containers or in new packaging preventing any leakage and officially sealed

boxes/containers which bear labels indicating “RAW PETFOOD – NOT FOR HUMAN CONSUMPTION” and the name and the address of the establishment of destination.

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

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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.