



Animal &  
Plant Health  
Agency

# Import of Birds and Hatching Eggs to Approved Premises under the Balai regime Import Information Note (IIN) BTC/2

January 2024

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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 live animals and germplasm, which provides information on pre-notifications, veterinary checks, risk categories etc.**

**[General information for imports of live animals and germplasm \(defra.gov.uk\)](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

This IIN explains the import requirements for captive birds and hatching eggs not in scope of [Regulation \(EU\) 139/2013](#) and destined to premises approved under the Balai regime.

## 3. Approved Premises

Premises can be Balai approved for the following categories:

- display, educational purposes
- research or scientific purposes
- conservation.

Captive birds not covered by Regulation (EU) 139/2013 can only go to premises that are approved under the Balai Regime. Contact the APHA Imports Team for further information regarding premises approval - [Imports@apha.gov.uk](mailto:Imports@apha.gov.uk)

## 4. Pre-export requirements

- the birds must have been kept continuously in a bio-secure establishment, isolated from other birds which do not have the same health status for at least 30 days until the date of dispatch;
- the birds must have been subjected within 48 hours prior to dispatch, to a clinical inspection and found free from obvious signs of disease;
- Newcastle Disease (ND) and Avian Influenza (AI) in poultry and other birds kept in captivity, psittacosis in psittacines are notifiable diseases in the country of origin;
- the birds must come from a holding which is not under animal health restrictions in connection with any diseases referred to above;
- AI and ND outbreaks must not have been notified either in the holding or in the surrounding area within a radius of 10km for at least 30 days;
- no outbreaks of psittacosis have been reported in the establishment of origin during the last 60 days;
- The birds must be subjected to a laboratory virus isolation or RT – PCR test 7 to 14 days prior to shipment with negative results for any AI and ND virus. The test for and AI and ND must be carried out on both oropharyngeal and cloacal swabs;
- all virological and serological testing of samples must be carried out in official laboratories designated by the competent authority of the country of despatch using

diagnostic procedures 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.

## 5. Documentation

Birds imported from non-EU trading partners into Great Britain must be accompanied by an Import Licence.

Imports of Avian Influenza vaccinated birds require additional import licence.

For further information or to apply for either of the above licences please contact APHA Centre for International Trade Imports (See Section 8 for contact details).

Until late 2024, birds imported from EU trading partners, Greenland, and EFTA countries into Great Britain, do not need to be accompanied by an Import Licence.

Imports to Great Britain 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>

## 6. Identification and container for travel

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

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 for on the accompanying health certificate.

## 7. Post-import requirements

- the APHA Imports Team, Centre for International Trade - Carlisle must be notified of the arrival of the consignment at the Balai premises within 24 hours in order to carry out the relevant checks;
- post import isolation must take place within the premises of destination approved under Balai regime. Isolation will normally be for 30 days and release from isolation will be confirmed by APHA on satisfactory receipt of negative sample results;

- the birds must be tested during the isolation period for AI and ND. The Approved Veterinarian of the destination premises must submit cloacal and oropharyngeal swabs taken between day 7 and 15 of the isolation and submit the samples to the APHA Weybridge laboratory. All tests will be at the importer's expense.
- birds found dead on arrival or that died from unexplained causes during the isolation period must be submitted to the APHA Weybridge laboratory for virus isolation at the importer's expense;
- the birds must remain on the Balai approved facility for at least 90 days in total. They may move to another Balai approved facility if APHA is informed but release from Balai conditions for imported birds must be agreed by APHA.

## 8. 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.