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.

Import Information Note (IIN) for the movement of hatching eggs and day-old chicks into Great Britain from EU Member States (IIN EGHE/1)

1. Scope

These conditions apply to movements of hatching eggs and day-old chicks from EU Member States and Norway, Switzerland and Liechtenstein into Great Britain.

“Poultry” is defined in Council Directive 2009/158/EC (as amended) as fowls, turkeys, guinea fowl, ducks, geese, quails, pigeons, pheasants, partridges and ratites reared or kept in captivity for breeding, the production of meat or eggs for consumption or for re-stocking supplies of game.

“Hatching eggs” are defined as eggs for incubation laid by poultry.

“Day-old chicks” are defined as all poultry that are less than 72 hours old, which have not yet fed. However muscovy ducks (Cairina moschata) or their crosses may be fed.

Council Directive 2009/158/EC, and this Importer Information Note, do not apply to the importation of poultry for exhibitions, shows or contests. Poultry for exhibition, show or contest must meet the requirements for captive birds, as detailed in Importer Information Note CBEU/1.

2. Conditions

All hatching eggs and day-old chicks moved from other Member States must comply
with the conditions of Council Directive 2009/158/EC. For consignments of 20 or more hatching eggs or day-old chicks (or any number of ratite hatching eggs or day-old chicks), Council Directive 2009/158/EC, in general, requires that:

- hatching eggs must originate from premises which have been approved by the veterinary authorities in the country of origin in accordance with the detailed requirements laid down;
- all hatching eggs and day-old chicks must be accompanied by an original health certificate which conforms to the relevant model laid down in the Directive and which is signed by an official veterinarian of the exporting Member State. The health certificate must:
  - be completed on the day of loading;
  - consist of a single sheet;
  - be made out to a single consignee;
  - be stamped and signed with ink of a different colour to that of the certificate; and
  - be valid for 5 days.

Consignments of hatching eggs and day-old chicks must travel in containers or boxes which:
- are unused, purpose-made disposable containers (to be used only once) or re-usable containers, which have been cleansed and disinfected before each new consignment;
- contain only birds/eggs of the same species, category and type from a single establishment; and
- are labelled with the name of the Member State and region of origin, the number of chicks/eggs, the species and the establishment number of the premises or hatchery of origin.

Boxes may be placed in other containers for transportation purposes with the information in the previous paragraph shown on the container. The flock of origin must be tested serologically for *Salmonella pullorum* and *Salmonella gallinarum* (and in the case of Turkeys, *Salmonella arizonae*) in the three months preceding the movement of the consignment at a level, which gives 95% confidence of detecting infection at 5% prevalence.

### 3. Conditions applicable to consignments of fewer than 20 hatching eggs or day-old chicks

In general Council Directive 2009/158/EC requires that consignments of fewer than 20 poultry (not including eggs or chicks of ratites), must at the time of consignment, have come from flocks which:

- have been held in the EU since hatching or for at least 3 months;
- present no clinical signs of contagious poultry disease at the time of consignment;
- satisfy the vaccination conditions of Annex III of Council Directive 2009/158/EC (if they are vaccinated);
are not the subject of any animal health restrictions applicable to poultry; and
are not located within an area which for animal health reasons is subject to
restrictive measures in accordance with EU legislation as a result of an
outbreak of disease to which poultry is susceptible
The flock of origin must be tested serologically for *Salmonella pullorum* and
*Salmonella gallinarum* (and in the case of Turkeys, *Salmonella arizonae*) in the
three months preceding the movement of the consignment at a level, which
gives 95 % confidence of detecting infection at 5 % prevalence.

All consignments must be accompanied by an original health certificate, which
conforms to the model 4 certificate laid down in Annex IV of Council Directive
2009/158/EC (as amended) and is signed by an official veterinarian or inspector of
the veterinary authority of the exporting Member State. The health certificate must:

- be completed on the day of loading;
- consist of a single sheet;
- be made out to a single consignee;
- be stamped and signed with ink of a different colour to that of the certificate;
- and
- be valid for 5 days

4. Health certification/documentation

The health certificates for EU trade can be found in Council Directive 2009/158/EC

- Model 1 is for hatching eggs
- Model 2 is for day-old chicks
- Model 4 is for poultry, day-old chicks and hatching eggs in lots of under 20
  (except for ratites and hatching eggs thereof)

5. Norway/Liechtenstein/Switzerland

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

6. 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

7. Safeguard measures

Situations where emergency safeguard action has been taken at very short notice, to
prohibit or restrict the importation of certain animals/products from certain countries
following an outbreak of serious disease in those countries may not be covered. Details of safeguard measures can be found in our Topical Issues page on the website.

- **Topical issues**

Alternatively you can keep up to date with amendments to legislation by checking the European Commission’s website.

- **European Commission’s website**

8. EU Legislation

Consolidated texts, which integrate the basic instruments of European 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 simple search option on the European Commission website. Once you have selected the relevant legislation, click the ‘linked documents’ tab, and then scroll down to ‘all consolidated versions’ and select the most recent version.

- **Simple search**

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’.

- **Official Journal of the European Union**

9. Other important advice and guidance

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.

10. Contact for further information on import requirements

For further information regarding import requirements, contact the APHA Imports team: