



Animal &  
Plant Health  
Agency

# Import of Meat Preparations for Human Consumption

## Import Information Note (IIN) MP/04

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 products of animal origin (POAO), which provides information on pre-notifications, veterinary checks, risk categories etc.**

**[General information for imports of products of animal origin \(POAO\) for human consumption \(defra.gov.uk\)](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 meat preparations for human consumption.

Meat preparations are defined in Annex I point 1.15 of [Regulation \(EC\) 853/2004](#) as “fresh meat, including meat that has been reduced to fragments, which has had foodstuffs, seasonings or additives added to it or which has undergone processes insufficient to modify the internal muscle fibre structure of the meat and thus to eliminate the characteristics of fresh meat”.

Meat preparations can be derived from domestic bovines, porcines, ovines, caprines, poultry, lagomorphs, wild game and farmed game that has passed ante and post-mortem inspections and been declared fit for human consumption.

For wild game, a trained person must have carried out an examination, as appropriate, to identify whether there are any characteristics to indicate that the meat presents a risk to public health.

Meat preparations originating from the EU must have been chilled to an internal temperature of not more than +4°C or frozen at an internal temperature of not more than -18°C at the production plant(s) of origin.

Meat preparations originating from other trading partners must be frozen at an internal temperature of not more than -18°C at the production plant(s) of origin.

## 3. Country of origin

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

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

Meat preparations are only permitted from trading partners authorised for import into Great Britain of fresh meat of that species in accordance with the following documents:

- Fresh meat of ungulates - Meat of bovines, ovines, caprines, porcines, wild cloven-hoofed game, farmed cloven hoofed game, farmed wild swine and wild swine
- Poultry and poultry products - Poultry meat, ratite meat and farmed and wild feathered game
- Meat of wild leporidae, of certain wild land mammals and of farmed rabbits - Other farmed game and rabbits

**In addition**, the country of origin must be listed for the appropriate species in a document published by the Secretary of State, with the consent of the Scottish and Welsh Ministers, in accordance with Decision (EU) 2011/163 on the approval of residue monitoring plans submitted by third countries. The relevant documents are accessible using the links above.

## 4. Approved establishments

Meat preparations must be produced in an establishment approved to export to Great Britain.

Consolidated lists of approved plants are available on [data.gov.uk](https://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](#).

## 5. Health certification/documentation

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

[Meat products: model health certificates - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/guidance/meat-products-model-health-certificates)

**(\*) Please note that this requirement will be introduced for animal products from EU and EFTA countries in the high and medium risk categories from 31<sup>st</sup> 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 \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/guidance/import-risk-categories-for-animals-and-animal-products-imported-from-the-eu-to-great-britain-from-31-january-2024)

## 6. Health and identification marks

Meat products referred to above must bear an identification mark in accordance with the requirements of [Regulation \(EC\) 853/2004](https://eur-lex.europa.eu/eli/reg/2004/853/oj). The mark must be applied before the product leaves the establishment.

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

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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.