Research and diagnostic samples, trade samples, and display items from other EU member states, Switzerland, Norway, Iceland, Liechtenstein, the Isle of Man and the Channel Islands

Date: 19 February 2020

Consignments of research and diagnostic samples, trade samples or display items as defined in the Animal By-product (ABP) legislation (see Annex) and not intended for human consumption, coming into England from another Member State of the European Union or Switzerland, Norway, Iceland, Liechtenstein, the Isle of Man, and the Channel Islands do not need individual authorisations. However, the products must be produced, processed, transported, handled, labelled, stored, used and disposed of in accordance with the relevant requirements of:


Any operator, establishment or plant that generates, transports, handles, processes, stores, places on the market, distributes, uses or disposes of animal by-products including research and diagnostic samples, trade samples or display items must be registered or approved by the Animal and Plant Health Agency (APHA) under the Animal By-Products Enforcement Regulations (ABPE) before commencing operations. This requirement is provided for in Articles 23 or 24 as appropriate of Regulation (EC) No 1069/2009. Further information including the registration form is available on GOV.UK.

There are restrictions and prohibitions on the carriage of certain products and substances by post, guidance for which is available from the following sites:

- Department of Transport: http://www.dft.gov.uk/pgr/freight/dgt1/
Royal Mail websites:

- Restricted goods:  
  http://www.royalmail.com/despatch-inward-mail-services/hints-and-tips/restricted-goods

- Prohibited goods:  

Please note this letter only covers the products referred to above. If you wish to import live animals or animal pathogens, you will need to contact:

imports@apha.gsi.gov.uk / Tel. 03000 200 301

I would suggest you include a copy of this letter with any consignments of this material you bring in from EU countries in case you experience any problems on entry.

Yours faithfully

Rachel Wallace
Centre for International Trade - Carlisle, Imports Manager

Annex:

The following definitions are in Annex I of Regulation (EU) No 142/2011:

- 'research and diagnostic samples' means animal by-products and derived products intended for the following purposes: examination in the context of diagnostic activities or analysis for the promotion of progress in science and technology, in the context of educational or research activities;

- 'trade samples' means animal by-products or derived products intended for particular studies or analyses with a view to carrying out a production process or developing feeding stuffs or other derived products, including testing of machinery, for use in an establishment or plant which is:
  - producing feeding stuffs, or products for uses other than food and feed; or
  - processing animal by-products or derived products;

- importers are reminded that consignments of research and diagnostic samples or trade samples cannot be for commercial resale.

- 'display item' means animal by-products or derived products intended for exhibitions or artistic activities.