



Notice to Importers 2938 issued on 31 December 2020 by Import Controls policy and licencing team, Department for International Trade.

IMPORT OF CERTAIN EQUIPMENT AND PRODUCTS WHICH COULD BE USED FOR CAPITAL PUNISHMENT, TORTURE OR OTHER CRUEL, INHUMAN OR DEGRADING TREATMENT OR PUNISHMENT

This notice explains that once the UK leaves the EU, certain goods will be subject to a UK import ban or licensing requirement due to their potential use as “torture equipment”. This notice replaces all previous Notices to Importers on this issue.

UK “Torture equipment” import ban

1. The import of goods that could be used for capital punishment, torture or other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatments or punishments are banned from being imported into the UK. The list of banned imports is set out in the attached table. This import ban remains in force when the UK leaves the EU.
2. The UK has introduced the Trade in Torture etc. Goods (Amendment) (EU Exit) Regulations 2019, that applies in Great Britain. This legislation amends Regulation (EC) No 2019/125 of 16 January 2019 concerning trade in certain goods which could be used for capital punishment, torture or other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment (the “Torture Goods Regulation”), to the prevent, remedy or mitigate deficiencies in retained EU legislation arising from the UK’s withdrawal from the European Union. The Torture Goods Regulation will also have direct effect in Northern Ireland under Annex 2 of the NI Protocol.

Derogations

3. Museums may import the goods listed in the table for public display in a museum in view of their historic significance. You will need an import licence. Import licences are issued with a validity period of twelve months from the date of issue, with a possible extension of up to twelve months.

Applying for an import licence

4. You can apply for an import licence at www.ilb.trade.gov.uk. Guidance on registration and applications is available at www.ilb.trade.gov.uk.

Digital Import Licences

5. DIT only issues digital import licences. Digital import licences are sent directly to HMRC’s customs declaration system. You will need the import licence number to link your import licence to your import entry.

Enquiries

6. Import controls: enquiries.ilb@trade.gov.uk

This document is for information purposes only and has no force in law. Please note that where legal advice is required, importers should make their own arrangements.

TABLE SHOWING COVERAGE OF THE IMPORT BAN ON GOODS WHICH COULD BE USED FOR CAPITAL PUNISHMENT, TORTURE OR OTHER CRUEL, INHUMAN OR DEGRADING TREATMENT OR PUNISHMENT

HS code	Description	Coverage
	Goods designed for the execution of human beings	
Ex 44219097 Ex 82089000	Gallows and guillotines and blades for guillotines	
Ex 85437090 Ex 94017900 Ex 94018000 Ex 94021000	Electric chairs for the purpose of execution of human beings	
Ex 94060038 Ex 94060080	Airtight vaults, made of e.g. steel and glass, designed for the purpose of execution of human beings by the administration of a lethal chemical substance	
Ex 84138100 Ex 90189050 Ex 90189060 Ex 90189084	Automatic drug injection systems designed for the purpose of execution of human beings by the administration of a lethal chemical substance	
	Goods which are not suitable for use by law enforcement authorities to restrain human beings	
Ex 85437090	Electric shock devices which are intended to be worn on the body by a restrained individual, such as belts, sleeves and cuffs, designed for restraining human beings by the administration of electric shocks having a no-load voltage exceeding 10 000 Volts	
Ex 73269098 Ex 76169990 Ex 83015000 Ex 39269097 Ex 42033000 Ex 42034000 Ex 42050090	Thumb-cuffs, finger-cuffs, thumbscrews and finger-screws <i>Note:</i> This item includes both serrated and non-serrated cuffs and screws	
Ex 73269098 Ex 7616 9990 Ex 83015000 Ex 39269097 Ex 42033000 Ex 42034000 Ex 42050090 Ex 62171000 Ex 63079098	Bar fetters, weighted leg restraints and gang chains comprising bar fetters or weighted leg restraints 1Bar fetters are shackles or ankle rings fitted with a locking mechanism, linked by a rigid bar which is typically made of metal 2This item includes bar fetters and weighted leg restraints which are linked to ordinary handcuffs by means of a chain	
Ex 73269098 Ex 76169990 Ex 83015000 Ex 39269097 Ex 42033000 Ex 42034000 Ex 42050090 Ex 62171000 Ex 63079098	Cuffs for restraining human beings, designed to be anchored to a wall, floor or ceiling	
Ex 94016100 Ex 94016900 Ex 94017100 Ex 94017900 Ex 94018000 Ex 94021000	Restraint chairs: chairs fitted with shackles or other devices to restrain a human being <i>Note:</i> This item does not prohibit chairs only fitted with straps or belts	

Ex 94029000 Ex 94032020 Ex 94032080 Ex 94035000 Ex 94037000 Ex 94038100 Ex 94038900	Shackle boards and shackle beds: boards and beds fitted with shackles or other devices to restrain a human being <i>Note:</i> This item does not prohibit boards and beds only fitted with straps or belts	
Ex 94029000 Ex 94032020 Ex 94035000 Ex 94037000 Ex 94038100 Ex 94038900	Cage beds: beds comprising a cage (four sides and a ceiling) or similar structure enclosing a human being within the confines of the bed, the ceiling or one or more of the sides of which are fitted with metal or other bars, and which can only be opened from outside	
Ex 94029000 Ex 94032020 Ex 94035000 Ex 94037000 Ex 94038100 Ex 94038900	Net beds: beds comprising a cage (four sides and a ceiling) or similar structure enclosing a human being within the confines of the bed, the ceiling or one or more sides of which are fitted with nets, and which can only be opened from outside	
	Portable devices which are not suitable for use by law enforcement authorities for the purpose of riot control or self-protection	
Ex 93040000	Batons or truncheons made of metal or other material having a shaft with metal spikes	
Ex 39269097 Ex 73269098	Shields with metal spikes	
	Whips	
Ex 66020000	Whips comprising multiple lashes or thongs, such as knouts or cats o'nine tails	
Ex 66020000	Whips having one or more lashes or thongs fitted with barbs, hooks, spikes, metal wire or similar objects enhancing the impact of the lash or thong	