



Animal By Products Team

OVS NOTE 2024/59

13 December 2024

IMPORT AUTHORISATIONS FOR IMPORTS OF ABP FROM THE EU AND EFTA MEMBER STATES FROM 1 FEBRUARY 2025

Purpose

1. To inform you about changes to the published guidance on importing 'Research & Diagnostic Samples' from the EU and EFTA countries to Great Britain from 1 February 2025
2. To inform you about changes to the published guidance on the introduction of the requirement for importers to apply to the APHA for a specific import authorisation for their goods, from 1 February 2025

Background

3. Currently there is no requirement for consignments of research and diagnostic samples from EU and EFTA member states to be accompanied by an import authorisation or facilitation letter.
4. However, from 1 February 2025, consignments of research and diagnostic samples from EU and EFTA member states must be accompanied by a general import authorisation, this form will shortly be available on gov.uk [here](#).
5. In a change to published guidance, traders will no longer need to apply to APHA for a specific import authorisation to import research and diagnostic samples from the EU and EFTA member states. They will be required to obtain the authorisation from [gov.uk](#).
6. This general authorisation can be used for any product that meets the definition of 'research and diagnostic sample' in Section 2 of this [Import Information Note](#) and can comply with the conditions for import also set out in this import information note.
7. Since April 2024, all imports of animal by-products from the EU to England, which require an import authorisation (other than research and diagnostic samples), have been covered by one of four authorisations published [here](#). This means importers do not currently need to apply to the APHA for a specific import authorisation for their goods if covered by one of these general authorisations.
8. In a change to published guidance, the introduction of the requirement for importers to apply to the APHA for a specific import authorisation for their goods, from 1 February 2025, will not go ahead.

9. Where no health certificate is required, importers can continue to import their goods with only a commercial document travelling with the consignment, using one of the appropriate general import authorisations published on [gov.uk](https://www.gov.uk). The authorisation does not have to travel with the consignment unless the authorisation states otherwise.
10. New general import authorisations are currently under development for certain types of products from the EU and EFTA member states, which may introduce new import conditions for these products, to ensure animal and public health is protected. These will be published [here](#) and sufficient time will be given to traders and Port Health Authorities before their use is required.
11. Relevant Import Information Notes will also be updated to indicate when new general import authorisations have been published for different types of ABP and further OVS notes will be published.
12. There are no changes to import authorisations for ABPs from non-EU countries.

Actions for OVSs

13. To note the content of this OVS note and if needed, advise traders accordingly.

Contact point for enquiries

Email: imports@apha.gov.uk

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