

RM01A Notes for guidance for the application for a licence to import rabies susceptible live animals other than pet dogs, cats and ferrets (form RM01)

February 2025

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Animal Health Act 1981

The Rabies Importation (Dogs, Cats and Other Mammals) Order 1974 (as amended)

Please read carefully before completing the application Form RM01

1. Background

The amendment to the above Order (RIO) has meant that it is possible to allow the import of some species covered by the order without the need for quarantine, if they represent negligible risk of the introduction of rabies. In order for Animal and Plant Health Agency (APHA) to decide if quarantine is necessary the application form (RM01) should be fully completed.

Please Note:

- An exemption from quarantine does not exempt from any other legislation. These animals will still be covered by other legislation including the EU Directive 92/65/EEC (Balai).
- It is important to follow the instruction in this document and on the application form RM01 carefully to ensure APHA have all the information needed. Failure to do so could lead to unnecessary delays.
- APHA will not be able to chase for missing information (from third countries) which could lead to animals having to undergo quarantine when they might be eligible for exemption.
- If additional information is received after the animals enter quarantine it may be possible to apply for early release.
- An Annex IV must be completed for each application when a quarantine waiver is requested. An example of it can be found further down in this document.
- No arrangements for transport must be made until confirmation has been received that the licence will be issued.

2. Species to be imported (RM01 Section 2)

A list of the species covered by the Order is provided at Annex I to this document. This categorises the species by risk and some species (Pinnepedia) no longer require quarantine although they will still need a landing licence. All carnivora, primates and bats require licensing. If Balai conditions are met, the other listed animals in schedule 1 part II of the RIO do not require licensing. It is important to carefully check the category of the species you wish to import.

Any animal(s) for which quarantine has been waived, will be issued a Landing licence and must be transported in a separate air space from animal(s) not covered by a waiver from quarantine.

There are two decision trees for consideration, one for third country Imports, the other for animals from the EU. Once the category is determined go to the relevant Decision Tree at Annex II. Start at the top left of the tree and go down to the appropriate category. Then follow the decisions to the right to determine what is needed for an exemption to be considered.

Please note that this is only a guide and circumstances can change (e.g. new rabies outbreak in country of origin) so the final decision will be taken by APHA or be referred to the appropriate policy contact where necessary.

3. Port of landing (RM01 Section 3)

Although APHA can exempt an animal from quarantine it is not possible to exempt from the rules regarding landing at a Port/Airport approved under the RIO if licensing is required. Nor can we issue an exemption from landing at a Border Control Post (BCP) when coming from a third country.

The licence for quarantine will be issued for a period that expires four months after the date of issue

4. Premises of origin (RM01 Section 4)

Please complete all the sub sections completely as this information is needed to assess the disease risk at the premises of origin. Compliance with EU Directive 92/65/EEC (Balai) will generally provide all the information we need to assess the risk. Unfortunately, this Directive has not been uniformly implemented throughout Europe nor can premises in third countries be approved. We may need additional information to confirm the premises of origin are of an equivalent status.

A completed Annex IV will supply the necessary additional information for a risk assessment. This should be attached to the RM01 when you send the application to the Centre for International Trade - Carlisle so that it can be considered as part of the risk assessment.

5. Premises of destination (RM01 Section 5)

It is important for us to know the status of the premises of destination under Directive 92/65/EEC (Balai) as the disease precautions required by Balai approval will have an effect on our risk assessment. Approved premises in Great Britain will be listed at <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/balai-directive-approved-premises>

In addition Directive 92/65/EEC (Balai) requires that primates can only be imported into Approved premises. Requests to import primates to non-Balai Approved premises, with or without Quarantine, will be refused.

6. Additional information for animals requiring quarantine (RM01 Section 6)

Once you have followed the decision tree and if there is any possibility that the animal cannot be exempted from quarantine then Section 6 needs to be completed. Failure to complete this section may lead to delays in issuing a quarantine licence if APHA considers this is necessary.

Annex I: Categories of exotic species covered by the Rabies (Importation of Dogs, Cats and Other Mammals) Order 1974 (as amended)

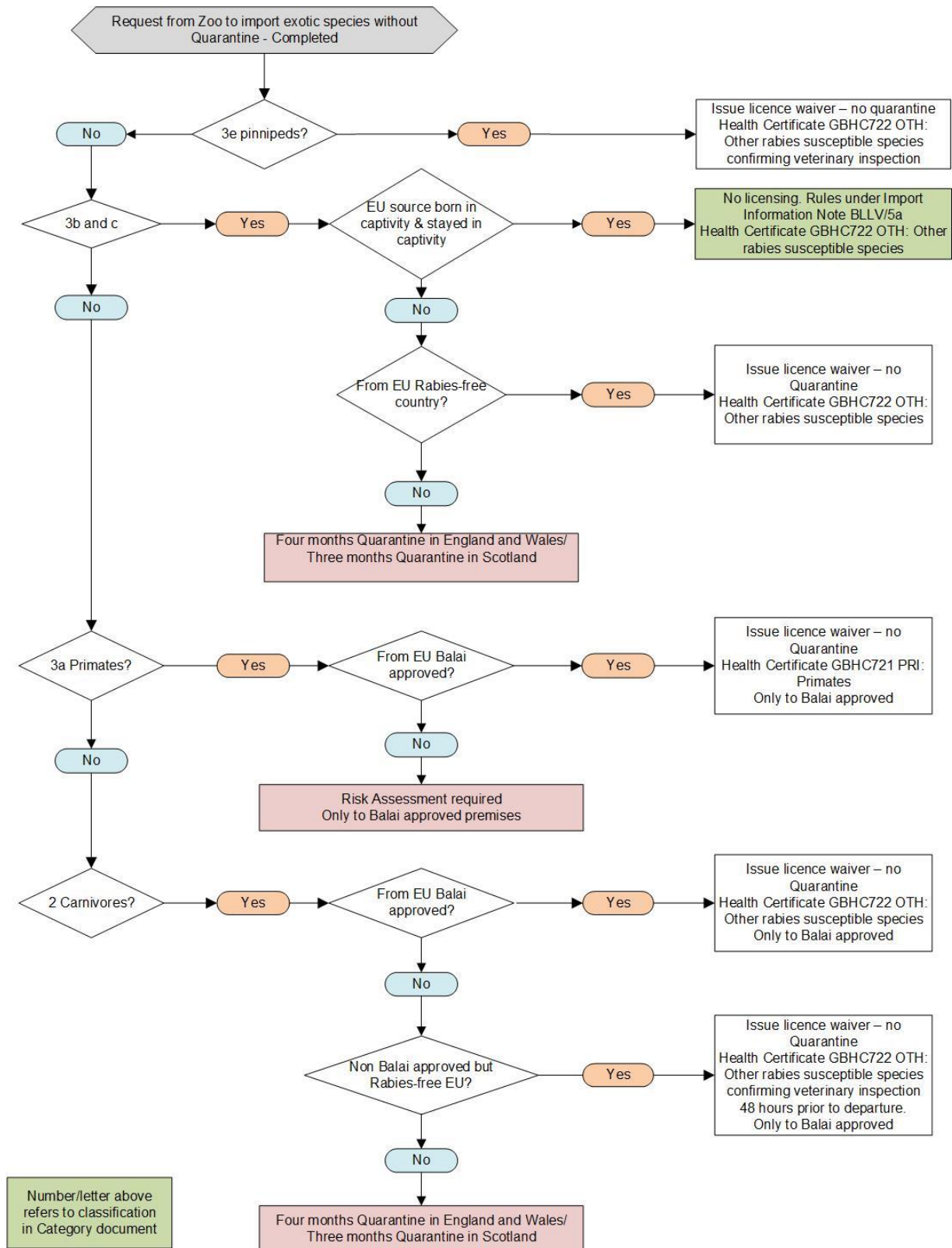
Category	Animals	Quarantine
1	Vampire Bats (Desmodontidae)	Permanent
2	Other bats: Chiroptera (not Desomodontidae); Carnivores: Canids, Felids, Mustelids, Procyonids, Viverridae, Ursids, Hyanids (Dogs, cats, jackals, foxes, wolves, bears, racoons, coatis, pandas, otters, weasels, martens, polecats, badgers, skunks, mink, ratels, genets, civets, linsangs, mongooses, hyaenas, oceleets, pumas, cheetahs, lions, tigers, leopards)	Quarantine – Waived/reduced following risk assessment
3(a)	Primates (Tree-shrews, lemurs, indrises, sifakas, aye-ayes, lorises, bushbabies, tarsiers, titis, uakaris, sakis, howlers, capuchins, squirrel monkeys, marmosets, tamarins, macaques, mangabeys, baboons, langurs, gibbons, great apes);	Quarantine – Waived/reduced following risk assessment Third Country See certificate in BLLV 6 which is required for all primate imports
3(b)	Rodentia (Gophers, squirrels, chipmunks, marmots, scaly-tailed squirrels, pocket mice, kangaroo-rats, beavers, mountain beavers, springhaas, mice, rats, hamsters, lemmings, voles, gerbils, water rats, dormice, jumping mice, jerboas, porcupines, cavies (including guinea-pigs), capybaras, chinchillas, spiny rats, gundis); Dermoptera (Flying lemurs); Xenarthra (Anteaters, sloths and armadillos); Hyracoidea (Hyaxes);	Third Country Quarantine - Waived/reduced following risk assessment EU No licensing if Balai compliant. Otherwise quarantine (exception from rabies free country)

	<p>Eulipotyphyla (Solenodons, tenrecs, otter shrews, golden moles, hedgehogs, elephant shrews, shrews, moles, desmans,</p> <p>Marsupalia (Opossums, marsupial mice, dasyures, marsupial moles, marsupial anteaters, bandicoots, rat opossums, cuscuses, phalangers, koalas, wombats, wallabies, kangaroos);</p>	
3(c)	Lagomorpha (Pikas, rabbits, hare);	<p>EU Traded - Veterinary HC - no Quarantine licensing required.</p> <p>Third Country - quarantine Waived/reduced following risk assessment</p>
3(d)	Pinnipeds (Seals, sea lions).	No quarantine required but need landing licence

Note: The period of quarantine in England and Wales will be four months and for Scotland three months.

Annex II part A: Decision tree for reduction in quarantine for exotics in zoos from EU countries

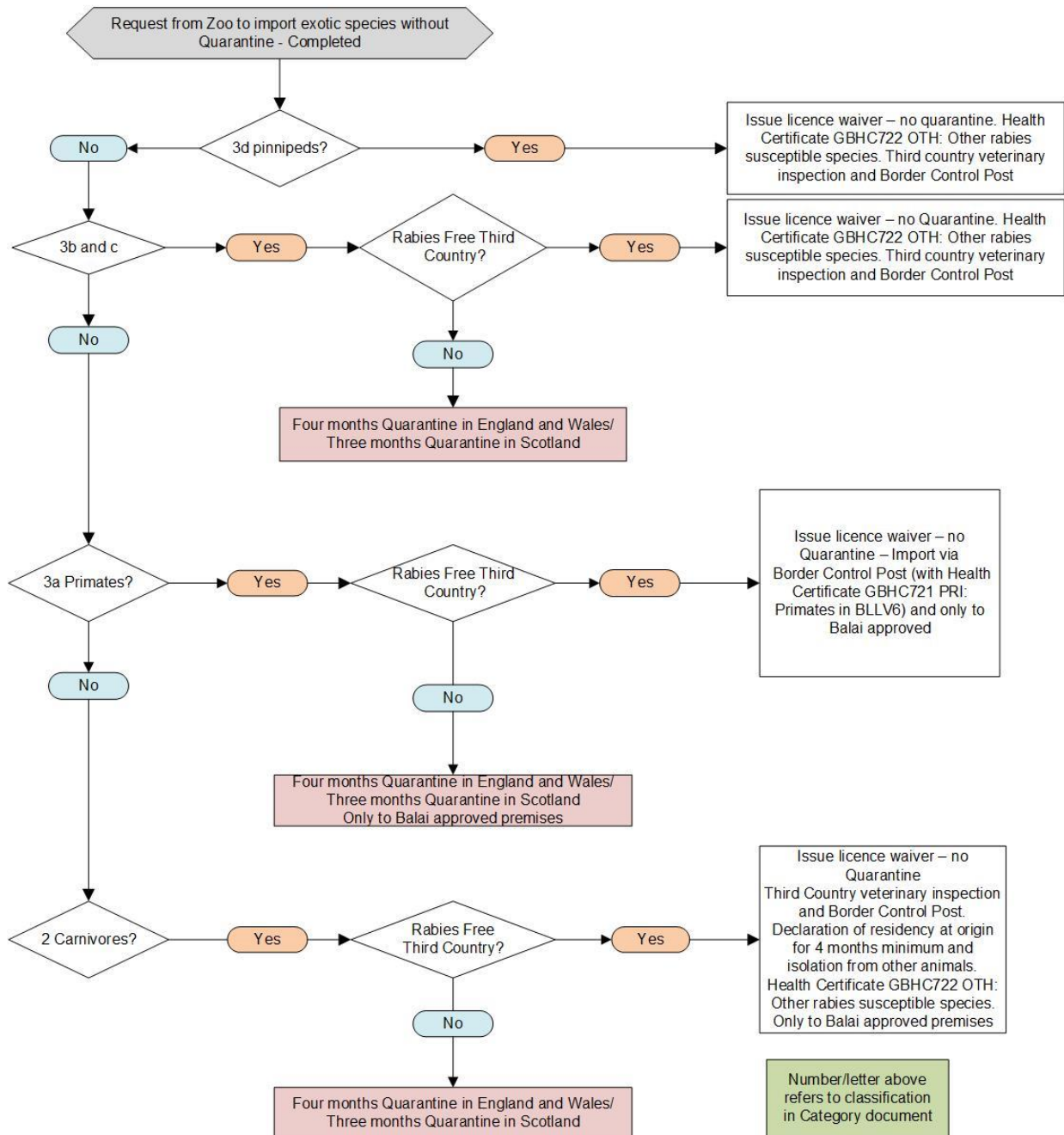
1. Waivers will be issued subject to a risk assessment



Annex II part B: Decision tree for reduction in quarantine for exotics in zoos from third countries

1. Waivers will be issued subject to a risk assessment

Annex II part b Decision Tree for Reduction in Quarantine for Exotics in Zoos from Third Countries



Annex III: List of rabies free countries

Andorra	Malta
Australia	Martinique (France)
Barbados	Mauritius
Brunei Darussalam	Micronesia (Federated States)
Cape Verde	New Caledonia
Cayman Islands	New Zealand
Comoros	Norway
Cyprus	Papua New Guinea
Dominica	Reunion (France)
Fiji	Samoa
Finland	San Marino
French Polynesia	Seychelles
Guadeloupe (France)	Singapore
Iceland	St. Kitts and Nevis
Ireland	St. Vincent and the Grenadines
Jamaica	Sweden
Japan	Vanuatu
Maldives	Wallis and Futuna Islands

Annex IV: Declaration from premises of origin

Declaration from the Veterinary Surgeon responsible for animal health and welfare at the premises of Origin should include:

1. Premises of Origin:

- Name and Address
- Details of approval under EC Directive 92/65/EEC or other recognised National Status
- Does the institute/body have a disease surveillance programme in place?
If yes, please include a copy.

2. Health status at the premises of origin:

- Have there been any cases of rabies in the last four months at the premises of origin and/or in the surrounding area?

3. Details of Animals to be imported:

- Species
- Identity (Microchip No.)
- Date that the animal(s) moved on to premises and origin of the animal(s)
- Have the animal(s) been resident on the premises for at least four months
- If no, state date moved onto the premises and address of previous holding
- Have the animal(s) had any contact with other animals in last four months (unless also been on premises for four months)
- Are the animal(s) from a location within the boundaries of the approved confined establishment?
- Vaccination history
- The animal(s) shows no clinical signs of disease and is fit for the length of the journey

4. Veterinary Surgeon details:

- Name, qualifications and address of Veterinary Surgeon.
- Period responsible for the animals at the premises
- Email address
- Signature, stamp and date.

Annex V: Conditions applicable to animals entering quarantine

Condition 1: the animal(s) shall be landed on or within four calendar months (unless otherwise indicated on the licence) from the date of issue of the licence. If consigned by air the container or crate must be escape proof, nose and paw proof and meet the appropriate International Air Transport Association (IATA) standards; and the animal must travel as manifested freight in the freight compartment of the aircraft. In no circumstance will it be allowed to travel in the cabin compartment or as excess passenger baggage.

Condition 2: whether consigned by sea or air, it may be embarked or emplaned for a destination in GB only if a boarding document issued by Defra/Scottish Government/Welsh Government has been produced to the shipper or airline prior to shipment, additionally a label (Form RM03B) supplied by Defra/Scottish Government/Welsh Government must be fixed to the container or crate.

Condition 3: after landing the animal(s) shall not be moved other than in a suitable container or crate and by an authorised carrying agent or his representative.

Condition 4: while in transit the animal(s) shall be confined in a suitable container or crate approved by the carrying agent specified in the licence. An approved label (Form ID44/RM05) shall be affixed to the container or crate. A copy of the licence should accompany the animal(s) while in transit.

Condition 5: the vehicles and containers used shall, as soon as practicable after movement of the animal(s), and before being re-used, be cleansed and disinfected, containers that cannot be adequately cleansed and disinfected shall be destroyed.

Condition 6: should the animal(s) escape or be lost while in transit, or in any port or airport, or whilst at approved quarantine premises, the person in charge of the animal(s) must immediately report the escape or loss by telephone or fax to the local Trading Standards office, the local APHA office and to the Centre for International Trade - Carlisle.

Condition 7: on arrival at the approved quarantine premises the animal(s) shall be detained and isolated in accordance with the Conditions of the Rabies (Importation of Dogs, Cats and Other Mammals) Order 1974 (as amended) for four calendar months, in England and Wales or three months in Scotland from the date of landing of the animal(s). If the animal(s) should come into contact with later imports of animals, then the earlier import(s) must serve a quarantine period co-terminus with that of the later import, or in the event of:

- (a) an outbreak of rabies occurring at the place of detention, or
- (b) the animal(s) sharing accommodation with another animal or other animals and any of these animals dying, the animal(s) may be detained for such further period as the Secretary of State may direct.

Condition 8: the animal(s) shall not be moved during this period otherwise than subject to the terms of a licence granted for movement to other authorised premises or for exportation.

Condition 9: the import licence must be available for Customs purposes at the time of entry in respect of the consignment.

Condition 10: a copy of the licence must be produced by the person in charge of the animal(s) at any time on demand for inspection by an officer of Defra/Scottish Government/Welsh Government or of the Police Authorities.

Condition 11: if for any reason the licence is not used, the Centre for International Trade Carlisle must be informed and/or the licence returned.



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Using and sharing your information

How we use your personal data is set out in our personal information charter and privacy notices:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/department-for-environment-food-rural-affairs/about/personal-information-charter>

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/animal-and-plant-health-agency-privacy-notices>

APHA is an Executive Agency of the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs and also works on behalf of the Scottish Government, Welsh Government and Food Standards Agency to safeguard animal and plant health for the benefit of people, the environment and the economy.