



# Import of Honey, Royal Jelly and other Apiculture Products for Human Consumption from Third Countries

## Import Information Note (IIN) BAL/2B

December 2020

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# 1. Important Information

Import Information Notes are technical documents containing import requirements and are for use by veterinary staff.

Please be aware that import conditions may be updated due to changes in policy or legislation. Please ensure that you check the current version of the Import Information Note online.

Please note that any links to legislation provided in this document are for information purposes only and may not be the most recent version. Please see the EU legislation paragraph below for further information regarding how to find consolidated versions of the legislation.

Importers should note that the information given relates only to animal health and public health conditions of import. It does not give guidance on other conditions that may need to be met.

The existing EU legislation that the UK already complies with has been incorporated into our domestic law as “retained EU law” under the European Union (Withdrawal) Act 2018. References in our guidance and certification to such EU instruments should be taken to be references to this “retained EU law”. Our current standards will remain in force, without amendment, in the immediate months after our EU exit as part of UK domestic law (apart from corrections to make the EU legislation fully operable).

- [The Import of, and Trade in, Animals and Animal Products \(Miscellaneous Amendments\) \(EU Exit\) Regulations 2020](#)
- [The Official Controls \(Animals, Feed and Food, Plant Health etc.\) \(Amendment\) \(EU Exit\) Regulations 2020](#)

## 2. Scope

Import conditions for honey, royal jelly and other apiculture products produced by *Apis mellifera* bees for human consumption from Third Countries.

Imports from the EU prior to 1<sup>st</sup> January 2021 must comply with the requirements set out in the Import Information Note for imports from the EU.

<http://apha.defra.gov.uk/official-vets/Guidance/bip/iin/index.htm>

Further information regarding changes to the import requirements from 1<sup>st</sup> January 2021 can be found on GOV.UK at the below link:

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/importing-animals-animal-products-and-high-risk-food-and-feed-not-of-animal-origin-from-1-january-2021#import-from-an-eu-country-from-1-january-2021>

### 3. Production standards

In order to be able to meet these requirements, the products must have been produced in accordance with the conditions laid down in:

- [Council Directive 2002/99/EC](#) laying down the animal health rules governing the production, processing, distribution and introduction of products of animal origin for human consumption;
- [Regulation \(EC\) No 178/2002](#) laying down the general principles and requirements of food law, establishing the European Food Safety Authority and laying down procedures in matters of food safety;
- [Regulation \(EC\) No 852/2004](#) on the hygiene of foodstuffs;
- [Regulation \(EC\) No 853/2004](#) laying down specific rules for food of animal origin;
- [Regulation \(EU\) 2017/625](#) laying down specific rules for the organisation of official controls on products of animal origin intended for human consumption; and on official controls performed to ensure the verification of compliance with feed and food law, animal health and animal welfare rules

More detailed information on the food hygiene legislation can be found on the [Food Standards Agency website](#).

### 4. Country of origin

Consignments of honey and other apiculture products intended for human consumption may only be imported if they come from the third countries listed in the 'Country' column in the Annex to [Commission Decision 2011/163/EU](#) and marked with an 'X' in the 'Honey' column in that Annex.

### 5. Approved establishments

There is no list of approved establishments from which EU Member States should import honey, royal jelly and other apiculture products. The UK therefore permits imports of these products from establishments registered by third country competent authorities.

### 6. Health certification/documentation

Consignments imported from third countries must be accompanied by a health certificate which conforms to the model laid down in Part X of Annex III of [Commission Implementing Regulation \(EU\) 2019/628](#) and which is signed by an official inspector in the country of origin.

Guidance on how to complete a health certificate can be found in [Commission Decision 2007/240/EC](#).

Imports to Great Britain from 1<sup>st</sup> January 2021 must be accompanied by the appropriate health certificate, which can be found on GOV.UK.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/health-certificates-for-animal-and-animal-product-imports-to-great-britain>

## 7. Special arrangements for New Zealand

[Commission Decision 2015/1084 \(EU\)](#) amended The New Zealand Equivalence Agreement. Annex V of the Decision provides the certification requirements. Products for which full equivalence have been agreed, must be accompanied by the model health certificate provided for in Annex 1 of [Decision 2015/1901](#).

## 8. Health and identification marks

The products referred to above must bear an identification mark in accordance with the requirements of Regulations (EC) No [853/2004](#). The mark must be applied before the product leaves the establishment.

## 9. Veterinary checks

Consignments may only be imported through an approved Border Control Post (BCP). The person responsible for the consignment must give notice of the proposed entry of the consignment at least one working day before arrival (with a derogation to 4 hours before arrival if there are logistical constraints). The notification shall be made to the inspection staff at the BCP using the Import of products, animals, food and feed system (IPAFFS). Further information regarding IPAFFS can be found on [GOV.UK](#).

Any other electronic means agreed with the BCP to inform about the intended arrival of a consignment in advance are not to be considered as an official pre-notification.

Following satisfactory checks at the BCP (for which a charge is levied), consignments may then circulate freely within the EU unless there is a requirement for products to be monitored in accordance with [Commission Delegated Regulation \(EU\) 2019/1666](#). If the consignment does not meet the import requirements, the consignment may be rejected and either re-exported or destroyed.

- [Further guidance on veterinary checks on animal products](#)
- [Border Control Posts](#)

- [Trade in Animals and Related Products Regulations 2011](#)

Until July 2021, imports from the EU do not need to enter Great Britain via a BCP and are not subject to veterinary checks. APHA will continue to carry out identity and physical checks on EU imports of live animals at their destination based on assessments of biosecurity and public health risks until July 2021.

## 10. Iceland, Norway, Liechtenstein and Switzerland

The EU has International Agreements with Iceland, Norway, Switzerland and Liechtenstein, which means that they implement EU veterinary legislation in relation to the movement of animal products. Therefore, animal products from Iceland, Norway, Switzerland and Liechtenstein must comply with the same requirements applying to animal products from Member States.

## 11. Safeguard measures

Emergency safeguard action can be taken at very short notice to prohibit or restrict the importation of certain products from certain countries following an outbreak of disease or a public health issue. Information on the latest updates concerning disease outbreaks which may affect imports into the UK can be found on our Topical Issues page on the website.

Further information on the International and UK monitoring of animal diseases may be found on the animal disease monitoring website.

Importers can get the latest news about exotic notifiable disease outbreaks from the APHA subscription service.

- [Topical issues](#)
- [Animal diseases: international and UK monitoring](#)
- [Exotic notifiable disease outbreak subscription service](#)

## 12. European Union legislation

Consolidated texts, which integrate the basic instruments of Union legislation with their amendments and corrections in a single, non-official document, are available. Each consolidated text contains a list of all legal documents taken into account for its construction.

You can search for consolidated texts by using the 'find results by document number' option on the [European Commission website](#). Once you have selected the relevant

legislation, click 'document information', and then scroll down to 'all consolidated versions' and select the most recent version.

Please note that the consolidated text may not contain the latest amendment to the legislation, as it takes several weeks for this to be updated.

Texts provided in this section are intended for information only. Please note that these texts have no legal value. For legal purposes please refer to the texts published in the ['Official Journal of the European Union'](#).

## 13. 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)

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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.