

Safety Services - Technical Briefing Note

Subject : Importation of material posing an animal and plant health risk

Issued : April 2011

Lead contact : Dr Patrick Seechurn

Legal information:

The technical bulletin provides an overview of the licensing regime controlled by DEFRA with regards to material which poses an environmental risk

What you should know

With respect to animal health, the legislation covering the importation of animal products is known as the Importation of Animal Product and Poultry Order (IAPPO) and requires the person importing the material to have either, an already approved general licence /authorization or a specific licence. The type of licensing regime will depend on the nature of the work, the nature of the material and the country of origin. As the risks can change rapidly the most current information should be sought from the regulator's website. You should inform the University Biosafety Advisor if you are applying for either type of licences.

Where the importation is based on an already approved general licence/authorization issued by the Regulator, then the Regulator must be informed when the licence is being used by emailing APIchelmsford@animalhealth.gsi.gov.uk and informing them of the following:

- 1 General licence number
- 2 Date of importation
- 3 Product to be imported
- 4 Destination
- 5 Contact details.

The flow chart on the link below indicates whether a general licence/authorisation is available or if a specific licence needed:

<http://www.defra.gov.uk/foodfarm/animaltrade/imports/research/licences/flowchart-guidance.pdf>

See also:

<http://www.defra.gov.uk/foodfarm/animaltrade/cins/2010/1038.htm>

If you are importing material which does not fall under the category of general licences/authorization then a licence application form must be submitted. Guidance on when such a licence is required and the on-line application can be found at:

<http://www.defra.gov.uk/corporate/docs/forms/ahealth/iappo1.htm>

When importing which is covered either by a general licence/authorization, then a general import licence should be attached to the package. This can be found at

<http://www.defra.gov.uk/foodfarm/animaltrade/imports/licences/pdf/impgen1015.pdf>

There are also declaration templates for use by the person sending the material (see

<http://www.defra.gov.uk/foodfarm/animaltrade/imports/pdf/template-research-samples.pdf>)

When importing material under a specific licence, the Regulator will provide an authorization note as part of the application process.

There is a useful FAQ link below on the import of animal derived products for research, education diagnostic or museum purposes.

<http://archive.defra.gov.uk/foodfarm/animaltrade/imports/research/faqs.htm>

If you are importing a specific animal pathogen a licence under the Importation of Animal Pathogen Order (IAPO) is required. Additionally a licence for the use of the pathogen is also required under the Specified Animal Pathogen Order (SAPO).

See link below for further information regarding IAPO and SAPO licences.

<http://www.defra.gov.uk/foodfarm/farmanimal/diseases/pathogens/index.htm>

<http://www.defra.gov.uk/foodfarm/farmanimal/diseases/pathogens/index.htm#appliesapo>

There are controls and restrictions on the import, movement and keeping of plants, plant pests and other material e.g. soil and water samples to help prevent the introduction and spread of harmful organisms. If you are importing such material, a plant health licence is required by applying at

<http://www.fera.defra.gov.uk/plants/plantHealth/imports/index.cfm>

You should inform the University Biosafety Advisor if you are applying for a plant health license.