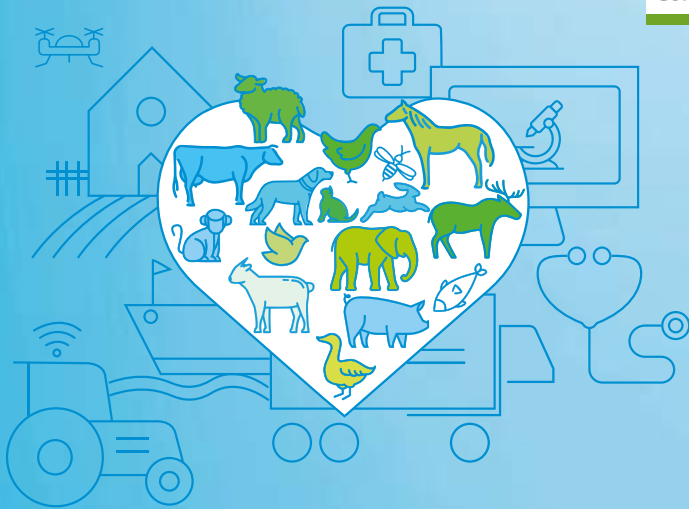




European
Commission



ANIMAL HEALTH REQUIREMENTS

Entry into EU of animals, germinal products and products of animal origin

Why are animal health requirements necessary for entry into the EU?

EU animal health legislation provides the necessary guarantees that consignments entering the EU do not risk introducing transmissible animal diseases, which could affect the health of kept and wild animals, jeopardise the EU's health status, and pose a threat to internal and international trade and local economies.

What are the animal health rules for entry into the EU?

Part V of Regulation (EU) 2016/429 on transmissible animal diseases (Animal Health Law) provides the basic animal health rules for entry into the EU.

Delegated Regulation (EU) 2020/692 supplements these basic rules with more detailed animal health requirements for specific commodities, including:

- ♥ Animals¹;
- ♥ Germinal products from ungulates, poultry and captive birds;
- ♥ Products of animal origin:
 - fresh meat, meat products and casings;
 - milk, colostrum and dairy products;
 - egg and egg products;
 - contained in composite products;
 - from aquatic animals.

¹ Specifically, ungulates, birds (poultry and captive birds), bees, dogs, cats, ferrets and aquatic animals.



Requirements for entry into the EU of animal by-products and derived products are regulated separately under Regulation (EU) 2009/1069.

What are the basic animal health rules for entry into the Union?

Animal species listed in Implementing Regulation (EU) 2018/1882, germinal products and products of animal origin can only enter into the EU if:

- ♥ they come from a country that is authorised for the relevant commodity and are included on the **list of eligible third countries** laid down in Implementing Regulation (EU) 2021/404;
- ♥ they comply with all relevant **animal health requirements**;

♥ the third country's competent authority certifies compliance with an **animal health certificate**, which must accompany the consignments from their dispatch to their arrival in the EU.

All **model animal health certificates** for entry into the Union are laid down in Implementing Regulations (EU) 2020/2235 (for products of animal origin); 2020/2236 (for aquatic animals and certain products thereof), and 2021/403 (for terrestrial animals and germinal products).

Operators are responsible for ensuring that their consignments comply with these rules and relevant animal health requirements.



What general animal health requirements apply for entry into the EU?

There are certain animal health requirements that apply to all categories of animals, germinal products and products of animal origin intended for entry into the EU. These include provisions concerning:

- ♥ the animal health legislation applicable in the third originating country, particularly regarding notification and reporting of diseases;
- ♥ the health status of the animals, germinal products and products of animal origin;

♥ the establishment where the consignments originated, which must comply with rules mirroring those applicable in the EU.

In addition to these general requirements, specific requirements apply to the different categories of animals, germinal products and products of animal origin.

What specific animal health requirements apply to terrestrial animals?

Terrestrial animals intended for entry into the EU must come from a third country or zone free from certain transmissible animal diseases.

Before their dispatch to the EU, the animals must reside in the third country/establishment of origin for a specific period, be free from the relevant diseases, and undergo a clinical inspection by an official veterinarian.

The terrestrial animals should be dispatched directly to the EU without unloading in non-authorized third countries using transport that meets regulatory requirements. Terrestrial animals intended for entry into the EU must comply with identification and sometimes vaccination requirements specific to the species and category of animals.





Special rules apply for the entry of animals originating in confined establishments and intended for confined establishments in the EU. After their entry into the EU, terrestrial animals must comply with certain requirements, such as a minimum period of residence in the establishment of destination, before they can be moved within the EU.

What specific animal health requirements apply to germinal products?

Entry into the EU of semen, oocytes and embryos² is permitted if they are dispatched from approved establishments registered by the competent authorities of listed third countries. The hatcheries and establishments of origin of the flocks from which hatching eggs are obtained should likewise be approved and listed.



What specific animal health requirements apply to products of animal origin?

Animal health requirements for products of animal origin depend on the animal health risk posed by the third country of origin, which determines the risk-mitigating measures that apply.

Unprocessed products of animal origin can only enter into the Union from third countries free from animal diseases transmissible through these products. Entries into the EU of products of animal origin from third countries that are not free from these diseases are subject to treatments to mitigate the risk of transmission.

² Bovine, ovine, caprine, porcine and equine.

In addition, products of animal origin intended for entry into the EU must be processed from unprocessed products obtained in the third country of dispatch or in countries that are also authorised for entry into the Union.

What specific animal health requirements apply to aquatic animals and products?

Listed aquatic animals species must comply with the same basic rules and requirements as terrestrial animals. Nevertheless, there are specific requirements regarding inspection prior to dispatch, labelling, transport by vessel, and vector species. There are derogations from the requirements for certain categories of aquatic animals and products that pose a lower risk.

Rules concerning entry into the EU of non-listed species are determined by the destination Member State.

What specific animal health requirements apply to transit through the EU?

As a general rule, transit consignments entering the EU must comply with the same requirements as consignments destined for the EU, with some derogations subject to additional risk-mitigating measures.





For more information on Animal Health Law

If you are interested in other factsheets, please visit:

https://ec.europa.eu/food/animals/animal-health/animal-health-law_en

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