

Import Requirements for food products of animal origin

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Introduction

Importation, or 'imports' refers solely to the movement of animal products into the Member States from third Countries **outside** the European Union.

The notion “products of animal origin” covers food that has been derived from animals or coming from animals, whether processed or not. In certain cases this may include live animals (e.g. lobsters or live bivalve molluscs) that are placed on the market for consumption. [..\..\..\EU\ANNEX II list prod animal origin.pdf](#)

Import procedures

In accordance with Directive 97/78/EC (see standards):

- Products of animal origin must be presented at a Community border inspection post for being submitted to an import control,
- Prior notice of the arrival of the products in the border inspection post must be given in accordance with National rules of the Member State in which the border inspection post is situated.
- The consignments must be presented to the border inspection post accompanied by all the relevant certificates required in EU veterinary legislation.
- Consignments will only be accepted if the products are derived from approved countries, regions and establishments as appropriate.
- In certain cases, safeguard measures introducing special import conditions or restrictions may apply.
- The procedures as laid down in Commission Regulation (EC) No 136/2004 are to be followed.

In accordance with Article 14 of Regulation (EC) No 882/2004 (see standards) food of animal origin may also be submitted in border inspection posts to controls for other issues than food hygiene and animal health, such as:

- Food additives,
- Materials in contact with food,
- Food irradiation.

Food hygiene requirements

Obligations of food business operators in third countries

The relevant requirements with regard to the hygiene of food of animal origin are contained in:

- Articles 3 to 6 of Regulation (EC) No 852/2004 (see standards), which means that the following rules need to be respected by food business operators in third countries:
 - o A general obligation on the operator to monitor the food safety of products and processes under his responsibility (Article 3),
 - o General hygiene provisions for primary production (Article 4.1 of, and Part A of Annex I to, Regulation (EC) No 852/2004),
 - o Detailed requirements after primary production (Article 4.2 of and Annex II to Regulation (EC) No 852/2004),
 - o For certain products, microbiological requirements (Article 4.3 of Regulation (EC) No 852/2004) and Commission Regulation (EC) No 2073/2005 (see standard),
 - o Procedures based on the HACCP principles (Article 5 of Regulation (EC) No 852/2004),
 - o Registration of establishments (Article 6 of Regulation (EC) No 852/2004). The approval of establishments is in principle necessary only for foods of animal origin.
- The requirements appropriate for the products that are exported and that are contained in Regulation (EC) No 853/2004.

Obligations of importers (Article 6 of Regulation (EC) No 853/2004) (see standards)

Food business operators importing products of animal origin must ensure that the products:

- Come from a third country or a part of a third country that appears on a Community list,
- Where applicable, come from an establishment that appears on a list,
- Where applicable, carry a health or identification mark,
- Where applicable, are accompanied by a certificate issued by the representative of the competent authority of the third country,
- Are made available for control in a border inspection post,
- Comply with the animal health requirements of Directive 2002/99/EC,
- Operations carried out under their control that take place after importations are carried out in accordance with the appropriate requirements of Regulation (EC) No 853/2004.

Obligations of competent authorities in third countries

For products of animal origin, EU food law requires that the competent authority of the exporting country offers guarantees as to the compliance or equivalence with EU requirements. The competent authorities in the exporting third country shall in particular ensure that:

Their control services comply with the operational criteria laid down in EC law, in particular in Regulation (EC) No 882/2004,

- The establishments that are authorized to export to the EU comply and continue to comply with the EC requirements and that the list of such establishments is kept up-to-date and communicated to the Commission

(Article 12, paragraph 2 of Regulation (EC) No 854/2004)(see standards),

- The certification requirements are satisfied. Detailed rules with regard to certification are laid down in Council Directive 96/93/EC on the certification of animals and animal products (OJ No L 13, 16.1.1997, p. 28). Further details are laid down in Annex VI to Regulation (EC) No 854/2004 (e.g. that the certificate must be issued before the consignment to which it relates leaves the control of the competent authority or the third country of dispatch).

Animal health requirements

Food of animal origin from third countries must comply with requirements that prevent the introduction of animal diseases into the EU. These requirements emanate from 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.

For more information, see:

http://europa.eu.int/comm/food/animal/animalproducts/index_en.htm

Other health requirements

- Under EU food law, a number of requirements may apply in complement or in addition to food hygiene. These include requirements concerning:
 - o Contaminants and residues,
 - o The use of substances having a hormonal effect,
 - o The use of food additives,
 - o Materials and articles in contact with foodstuffs,
 - o Radioactivity.
- Product specific requirements also exist concerning:
 - o Quick frozen foodstuffs,
 - o Foodstuffs for particular nutritional purposes,

o Genetically modified organisms (GMOs)

For more information, see:

http://europa.eu.int/comm/food/index_en.htm

Animal welfare requirements

Council Directive 93/119/EC on the protection of animals at the time of slaughter sets out requirements with regard to humane slaughter of animals (solipeds, ruminants, pigs, rabbits and poultry) in slaughterhouses.

As a general rule, animals must be spared any avoidable excitement, pain or suffering during movement, lairaging, restraint, stunning, slaughter or killing. Article 15 of the Directive lays down that during their visits in slaughterhouses in third countries, the Commission experts shall ensure that the animals have been slaughtered under conditions which offer guarantees of humane treatment at least equivalent to those provided for in Directive 93/119/EC. For more information, see:

http://europa.eu.int/comm/food/animal/welfare/international/index_en.htm

Other regulations pertaining to the import of products from “animal origin”:

- **Control of contaminants in foodstuffs.** \Control of contaminants in food stuff.pdf
- **Control of pesticide residues in plant and animal products intended for human consumption.** \control of pesticide residues in plant and animal ...pdf
- **Control of residues of veterinary medicines in animals and animal products for human consumption.** \control of residues of vet medicine..pdf
- **Health control of products of animal origin for human consumption.** \Health control of products of animal origin for human consumption.docx
- **Health control of products of animal origin not intended for human consumption. .** \control of animal prod not intended for hum cons.pdf
- **Labeling for foodstuffs .(see general labeling)**
- **(Voluntary) Products from organic production**

Additional requirements for Imports of meat, meat preparations, milk and other products of animal origin

For imports meat ,milk and other products of animal origin, additional requirements are set out in specific Commission Decisions In order that all such consignments can be moved safely avoiding the transmission of diseases to either the public or other animals . These lay down health certificates which must accompany all imports and which must be signed by an official veterinarian of the competent authority of the exporting third country guaranteeing that the conditions for import into the EU have been met. On arrival in the EU, the animal products and the accompanying certificates must be verified and checked by EU official veterinarians at a designated Border Inspection Post (BIP). Further checks on the products may also be carried out at the final destination.

Meat Preparations

Meat preparations are defined as meat that has foodstuffs, seasonings or additives added to it or which has undergone a treatment that is insufficient to modify the cellular structure of the meat and thus to cause the characteristics of the fresh meat to disappear.

The following rules must be respected before meat preparations can be traded or imported into the EU:

1. All meat preparations produced in the EU for intra-Community trade or imported from third countries must be produced using **fresh meat** that conforms to the animal and public health conditions laid down for the production of fresh meat from each species. Hence:

For imports, meat preparations from a third country can only be authorized if the fresh meat used in the meat preparation is also authorized for import. Therefore a third country must be listed to import fresh meat from a particular species before it can import meat preparations from the same species: *

For meat preparations from **domestic bovine, porcine, sheep** and **goats**, a third country must be listed in **Council Decision 79/542/EC** [http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?](http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=CELEX:31979D0542:en:NOT)

uri=CELEX:31979D0542:en:NOT demonstrating that it conforms to the import conditions laid down in

Council Directive 72/462/EEC . <http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do>

uri=CELEX:31972L0462:en:NOT

For meat preparations from **domestic poultry**, a third country must be listed in [Commission Decision 94/85/EC](#) <http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=CONSLEG:1994D0085:20040501:EN:PDF> demonstrating that it conforms to the import conditions laid down in [Council Directive 91/495/EEC](#) .

- For meat preparations from **rabbit and farmed game**, a third country must be listed in [Commission Decision 94/278/EC](#) demonstrating that it conforms to the import conditions laid down in [Council Directive 92/118/EEC](#) .
- For meat preparations from **wild game**, a third country must be listed in [Commission Decision 94/86/EC](#) demonstrating that it conforms to the import conditions laid down in [Council Directive 92/45/EEC](#) .

[Council Directive 2002/99/EC](#) now forms the legal basis for all **animal health** rules governing the production processing; distribution and introduction of products of animal origin for human consumption and supersedes Council Directive 72/462/EEC. However Member States do not need to implement this until 1 January 2005 and hence Council Directive 72/462/EEC may continue to apply until that date.

2. Meat preparations can only be traded or imported if they conform to the requirements for the placing on the market of meat preparations as laid down in [Council Directive 94/65/EC](#) . This lays down the conditions under which meat preparations must be produced if it is to be authorized for trade or import into the EU. The scope of these rules includes:

- the source species used to produce the meat preparation - see above
- The cuts of fresh meat that can be used to produce the meat preparation. The Directive states that only certain cuts of meat can be used
- the condition of the fresh meat used to produce the meat preparations
- the manufacturing process
- the packaging, labeling, storage and transportation of the meat preparations


One important stipulation laid down in the Directive is that only meat preparations that are deep frozen (i.e. an internal temperature of below -18 °C) can be imported into the EU.

3. Council Directive 94/65/EC stipulates that meat preparations for either trade or importation must be produced in a **listed authorized establishment**. A list of establishments in third countries from which

Member States authorize imports of meat preparations is maintained in [Commission Decision 1999/710/EC](#)

4. Council Directive 94/65/EC stipulates that all meat preparations for import into the Community must be accompanied by a **veterinary certificate** with a declaration from the official veterinarian in the third country that they conform to the relevant animal and public health conditions. These conditions and the veterinary certificate are laid down in [Commission Decision 2000/572/EC](#).

For intra-Community trade, Council Directive 94/65/EC requires that all meat preparations must carry a health mark and be accompanied by a commercial document containing certain basic information, including the establishment of origin.

5. **Meat preparations entering the Community are inspected at a Border Inspection Post (BIP)** (as listed in [Commission Decision 2001/881/EC](#)  of 7 December 2001) where Member States' official veterinarians ensure that it fulfils all the requirements provided for in the European legislation. ([Council Directive 97/78/EC](#) of 18 December 1997 lays down the principles governing the organization of veterinary checks on products of animals origin entering the Community from third countries).

For intra-community trade, the veterinary checks as laid down in [Council Directive 89/662/EEC](#) apply.

6. As is the case for fresh meat, **third countries must also comply with certain public health requirements** . For example, a country is required to have an approved '[residue](#)' plan, and implement certain conditions in relation to [BSE](#). Details of the public health requirements can be found [[HERE](#)].

A summary providing '*General guidance for third country authorities on procedures to be followed when importing live animals and animal products into the EU*' can be found [[HERE](#)]

Meat products

The definition of a "**meat product**" is laid down in Annex I to Regulation (EC) No 853/2004. This states that meat products means processed products resulting from the processing of meat or from the further processing of such processed products, so that the cut surface shows that the product no longer has the characteristics of fresh meat.

All third countries, territories or zones wishing to export meat products into the EU must be included in the [list of countries authorised for the export of meat products](#). This ensures the country has undergone an inspection by the [Commission's Food and Veterinary Office \(FVO\)](#), and has demonstrated that it fulfils the basic animal and public health requirements for the production of meat products as laid down in the relevant EU legislation. Council Directive 2002/99/EC is the legal basis for all animal health rules governing the production, processing, distribution and introduction of products of animal origin for human consumption. In particular Annex III lists the risk mitigating treatments for various products which are required for the diseases listed in that Annex.

- For meat products derived from [bovines, sheep and goats, equidae, swine, farmed and wild non-domesticated animals](#), a third country usually must be listed in [Commission Regulation \(EC\) No 206/2010](#) indicating that the country has been verified by the FVO as having fulfilled all the basic animal and public health requirements for the import of fresh ungulate meat to be used in the manufacture of meat products from these species.
- For meat products derived from [poultry and wild feathered game](#), a third country usually must be listed in [Commission Regulation \(EC\) No 798/2008](#) indicating that the country has been verified by the FVO as having fulfilled all the basic animal and public health requirements for the importation of fresh poultry meat.
- For meat products derived from [farmed rabbits, wild leporidae \(rabbits and hares\) and wild land mammals](#), a third country usually must be listed in [Commission Regulation \(EC\) No 119/2009](#) indicating that the country has been verified by the FVO as having fulfilled all the basic animal and public health requirements laid down in EU legislation for the importation of fresh wild game meat.

3. When a third country or zone thereof has been listed in the relevant EU legislation, then it is approved for exporting meat products to the EU. This means that also an assessment of the specific disease situation has been carried out, and on the basis of that assessment, the specific treatment requirements during the manufacture of meat products to minimize potential disease risks are laid down for each third country or part thereof. The specific conditions are laid down in the veterinary health certificate.

For example, if a country or zone is authorized for the introduction of fresh meat without any additional guarantee from a certain species, then, in principle, no additional treatment requirements need to be specified during the manufacture of meat products in order to authorize introduction into the EU. This is called a non-specific treatment.

Conversely, if the animal health risks in a third country are considered to be comparatively high, or that country is not listed for the introduction of fresh meat, then meat products will only be authorized for entry into the EU if they have undergone an appropriate treatment regime. This ensures that the products have been through a process that minimizes any potential animal health risk. This is called a specific treatment and will depend on the animal health situation in the third country or zone, the species and disease agent concerned.

4. The list of third countries from which Member States authorise the introduction of meat products, the treatment requirements for their manufacture and the animal health conditions and model veterinary certificates that must accompany all meat products being introduced into the EU are maintained in **Commission Decision 2007/777/EC**.

5. A third country does not necessarily have to be approved for export of fresh meat into the EU (i.e. listed in Regulation (EU) No 206/2010 as it may decide to import meat from the EU or from an approved source in a listed third country for further processing in plants approved for that purpose in its country and then export the meat product to the EU. Additional safeguards may be required in such cases.

Following the result of FVO inspections, it is possible that a third country may only be authorized to introduce fresh meat derived from certain categories of animals due to the animal health situation in that country.

Meat products entering the Community are inspected at a Border Inspection Post (BIP) (as listed in **Commission Decision 2009/821/EC**) where Member States' official veterinarians ensure they fulfil all the requirements provided for in EU legislation (**Council Directive 97/78/EC** of 18 December 1997 lays down the principles governing the organisation of veterinary checks on products of animals origin entering the EU from third countries). There are detailed rules for passengers returning from outside the EU generally prohibiting the introduction of meat products into the EU with a few exceptions. More information can be found **[HERE]**

7. As is the case for fresh meat, **third countries must also comply with certain public health requirements** in order to export meat products. For example, a country is required to have an approved 'residue' monitoring plan and be listed on **Commission Decision 2004/432/EC** of 29 April 2004 on the approval of residue monitoring plans submitted by third countries in accordance with Council Directive 96/23/EC, and implement certain conditions in relation to BSE (for products containing bovine and ovine

meat). Details of the general public health requirements can be found [[HERE](#)] and additional information on residues [[HERE](#)].

8. In addition **animal welfare** requirements at slaughter must be met in accordance with EU legislation. Details of the welfare requirements may be found [[HERE](#)].

9. The importers must follow the procedures laid down in **Commission Regulation (EC) No 136/2004** before, during and after the entry of the goods of animal origin into the Community via a BIP. To ensure better traceability and more uniform control, the Commission introduced a veterinary informatics system called TRACES (Trade Control and Expert System). The system is also accessible for economic operators who want to participate in it for their own benefit, i.e. for the easier completion of consignment introduction details. To use the application please visit <https://sanco.cec.europa.eu/traces>. Online training is provided at <http://www.traces-cbt.net>. To learn more about TRACES or for further information please contact your local competent veterinary authority in the EU.

All third countries, territories or zones wishing to export meat products into the EU must be included in the **list of countries authorized for the export of meat products**. This ensures the country has undergone an inspection by the **Commission's Food and Veterinary Office (FVO)**, and has demonstrated that it fulfills the basic animal and public health requirements for the production of meat products as laid down in the relevant EU legislation. Council Directive 2002/99/EC is the legal basis for all animal health rules governing the production, processing, distribution and introduction of products of animal origin for human consumption. In particular Annex III lists the risk mitigating treatments for various products which are required for the diseases listed in that Annex.

- For meat products derived from **bovines, sheep and goats, equidae, swine, farmed and wild non-domesticated animals**, a third country usually must be listed in **Commission Regulation (EC) No 206/2010** indicating that the country has been verified by the FVO as having fulfilled all the basic animal and public health requirements for the import of fresh ungulate meat to be used in the manufacture of meat products from these species.
- For meat products derived from **poultry and wild feathered game**, a third country usually must be listed in **Commission Regulation (EC) No 798/2008** indicating that the country has been verified by

the FVO as having fulfilled all the basic animal and public health requirements for the importation of fresh poultry meat.

- For meat products derived from **farmed rabbits, wild leporidae (rabbits and hares) and wild land mammals**, a third country usually must be listed in **Commission Regulation (EC) No 119/2009** indicating that the country has been verified by the FVO as having fulfilled all the basic animal and public health requirements laid down in EU legislation for the importation of fresh wild game meat.

3. When a third country or zone thereof has been listed in the relevant EU legislation, then it is approved for exporting meat products to the EU. This means that also an assessment of the specific disease situation has been carried out, and on the basis of that assessment, the specific treatment requirements during the manufacture of meat products to minimize potential disease risks are laid down for each third country or part thereof. The specific conditions are laid down in the veterinary health certificate.

For example, if a country or zone is authorized for the introduction of fresh meat without any additional guarantee from a certain species, then, in principle, no additional treatment requirements need to be specified during the manufacture of meat products in order to authorize introduction into the EU. This is called a non-specific treatment.

Conversely, if the animal health risks in a third country are considered to be comparatively high, or that country is not listed for the introduction of fresh meat, then meat products will only be authorized for entry into the EU if they have undergone an appropriate treatment regime. This ensures that the products have been through a process that minimizes any potential animal health risk. This is called a specific treatment and will depend on the animal health situation in the third country or zone, the species and disease agent concerned.

4. The list of third countries from which Member States authorise the introduction of meat products, the treatment requirements for their manufacture and the animal health conditions and model veterinary certificates that must accompany all meat products being introduced into the EU are maintained in **Commission Decision 2007/777/EC**.

5. A third country does not necessarily have to be approved for export of fresh meat into the EU (i.e. listed in Regulation (EU) No 206/2010 as it may decide to import meat from the EU or from an approved source in a listed third country for further processing in plants approved for that purpose in its country and then export the meat product to the EU. Additional safeguards may be required in such cases.

Following the result of FVO inspections, it is possible that a third country may only be authorised to introduce fresh meat derived from certain categories of animals due to the animal health situation in that country.

Meat products entering the Community are inspected at a Border Inspection Post (BIP) (as listed in [Commission Decision 2009/821/EC](#)) where Member States' official veterinarians ensure they fulfil all the requirements provided for in EU legislation ([Council Directive 97/78/EC](#) of 18 December 1997 lays down the principles governing the organisation of veterinary checks on products of animals origin entering the EU from third countries). There are detailed rules for passengers returning from outside the EU generally prohibiting the introduction of meat products into the EU with a few exceptions. More information can be found [\[HERE\]](#)

7. As is the case for fresh meat, **third countries must also comply with certain public health requirements** in order to export meat products. For example, a country is required to have an approved 'residue' monitoring plan and be listed on [Commission Decision 2004/432/EC](#) of 29 April 2004 on the approval of residue monitoring plans submitted by third countries in accordance with Council Directive 96/23/EC, and implement certain conditions in relation to BSE (for products containing bovine and ovine meat). Details of the general public health requirements can be found [\[HERE\]](#) and additional information on residues [\[HERE\]](#).

8. In addition **animal welfare** requirements at slaughter must be met in accordance with EU legislation. Details of the welfare requirements may be found [\[HERE\]](#).

9. The importers must follow the procedures laid down in [Commission Regulation \(EC\) No 136/2004](#) before, during and after the entry of the goods of animal origin into the Community via a BIP. To ensure better traceability and more uniform control, the Commission introduced a veterinary informatics system called TRACES (TRAde Control and Expert System). The system is also accessible for economic operators who want to participate in it for their own benefit, i.e. for the easier completion of consignment introduction details. To use the application please visit <https://sanco.cec.europa.eu/traces>. Online training is provided at <http://www.traces-cbt.net>. To learn more about TRACES or for further information please contact your local competent veterinary authority in the EU.

Milk and milk products

The importation rules for milk and milk products for human consumption solely govern the introduction of those products into the EU from third countries.

The following rules must be respected before milk and milk products can be imported into the EU:

1. Milk and milk products for import into the EU must fulfill certain basic animal health criteria for import into the EU. This ensures that milk and milk products also conform to the animal health requirements laid down in Community legislation and are intended to safeguard the animal health situation in the EU. Hence

- all third countries wishing to export milk and milk products into the EU must be included in the **list of countries authorized for the export** of milk and milk products as laid down in [Commission Decision 95/340/EC](#). This indicates that the country has undergone an inspection by the **Commission's Food and Veterinary Office (FVO)**, and has demonstrated that they fulfill the basic **animal and public health requirements** as laid down in [Council Directive 92/46/EEC](#) of 16 June 1992

The **animal health requirements** for imports of milk and milk products are laid down in [Council Directive 2002/99/EC](#) of 16 December 2002. This Directive lays down the **animal health rules governing the production, processing, distribution and introduction of products of animal origin for human consumption and establishes the animal health guarantees** needed for the trade in these products of animal origin. However Member States do not need to implement this Directive until 1 January 2005.

2. In addition specific requirements for milk and milk products are provided for import into the EU. These include the treatment requirements used in the manufacture of milk and milk product. The treatments are specified in [Commission Decision 95/340/EC](#) and are related to the animal health situation in the exporting third country. The importation of raw milk and milk based products made from raw milk is allowed only from third countries with a high health status that means as good as in the EU. From countries in which the animal health situation is not so good (i.e. vaccination against FMD) only the importation of heat treated milk and milk based products made from heat treated milk is allowed.

There is also a requirement that all establishments must be authorized to produce milk and milk products. A list of authorized establishments is maintained in [Commission Decision 97/252/EC](#) .

3. When a third country or part thereof has been listed in Council Decision 95/340/EEC, then it is approved in principle for export milk and milk products to the EU. **However, further steps are needed before exports of milk and milk products can take place.** An **assessment** of the specific disease situation is carried out, and on the basis of that assessment, the **specific treatment requirements** during the manufacture of milk and milk products to minimize potential animal health disease risks (e.g. Foot and Mouth Disease) are laid down for each third country or part thereof.

4. All milk and milk products for import into the EU must be accompanied by a health certificate released by the official veterinarian of the exporting country. The health certificates for importation of milk and milk products are laid down in [Commission Decision 95/343/EC](#) .Repealed by Commission Decision 2004/438/EC http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/site/en/oj/2005/l_092/l_09220050412en00470064.pdf

5. Milk and milk products **entering the Community are inspected at a Border Inspection Post (BIP)** (as listed in [Commission Decision 2001/881/EC](#) of 7 December 2001) where Member States' official veterinarians ensure they fulfill all the requirements provided for in the European legislation. ([Council Directive 97/78/EC](#) of 18 December 1997 lays down the principles governing the organisation of veterinary checks on products of animals origin entering the Community from third countries).

6. As is the case for fresh meat, **third countries must also comply with certain public health requirements** in order to export milk and milk products. For example, a country is required to have an approved '[residue](#)' plan. Details of the public health requirements can be found [[HERE](#)

Other Animal products

Other products of animal origin, in this case, are defined as all those products for human consumption where harmonized Community rules for importation and trade that have not been laid down elsewhere. They include eggs, honey and royal jelly, snails, frogs' legs, blood and blood products, bone, animal casing, lard and rendered fat, gelatine.

NOTE: The information here relates only to products imported or traded for **human consumption**. See the rules on [animal by-products](#) for information on import and trade of the aforementioned products not intended for human consumption

The following rules must be respected before other products of animal origin can be traded or imported into the EU:

1. The rules governing both imports and intra-community trade of other products of animal origin for human consumption are laid down in **Council Directive 92/118/EEC**

<http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=CONSLEG:1992L0118:20060101:EN:PDF>

This Directive, which has been amended several times, **harmonizes the rules and establishes the animal and public health rules for the import and trade** in the Community for animal products where specific Community rules have not been laid down elsewhere ¹.

- The **objective** of this harmonization is to make sure that the **same principles** for importation and trade are applied in all the Member States and **prevent** products introducing **infectious diseases** that are dangerous to livestock or humans.
- Council Directive 92/118/EEC describes the **animal and public health principles** on which importation and trade is based, and the requirements to be fulfilled before 'other' products of animal origin can be either imported or traded.


For **imports**, in addition to fulfilling the basic requirements within the Directive, the most important aspects are:

The requirement that all products are only imported from **listed third countries** (see useful links) that are authorized to import the specific product in question. For some products, (**honey and royal jelly, eggs and egg products, gelatine, frogs' legs and snails**) it has been necessary to specifically lay down lists of third countries from which imports are authorized. These are contained in **Commission Decision 2003/812/EC**
<http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=OJ:L:2003:305:0017:0021:EN:PDF>
(Which replaced in **Commission Decision 94/278/EC** as from 1 May 2004).

- In addition, the product must be accompanied by a **health certificate** stipulating that it meets the animal and public health requirements laid down in the Directive for import into the Member States.

Council Directive 2002/99/EC (see R\$STD) forms the legal basis for all **animal health** rules governing the production processing; distribution and introduction of products of animal origin for human consumption and supersedes Council Directive 92/118/EEC However Member States do not need to

implement this until 1 January 2005 and hence Council Directive 92/118/EEC may continue to apply until

that date.  (PDF FILE)



List of Special Import Conditions.url

96/137/EC: Commission Decision of 29 January 1996 amending Decision 94/86/EC

<http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=CELEX:31996D0137:EN:HTML>

Specific food standards

- **Honey**
- **Beef and beef products**
- **Partly or wholly dehydrated preserved milk**
- **Caseins and caseinates**

USEFUL LINKS

Approved food establishment per country and per sector site:

http://ec.europa.eu/food/food/biosafety/establishments/list_en.htm

Special Import Conditions for the importation of products of animal origin into the European Union

http://ec.europa.eu/food/animal/bips/docs/special_import_conditions.pdf