

Customs – Prohibitions and Restrictions Manual

Safeguard measures due to the risk of avian influenza

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1 Introduction

The European Union introduced a number of safeguard measures in response to the threat of the Avian Influenza (H5N1) virus. While the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine (DAFM) has the primary responsibility for overseeing the implementation of these measures, Revenue's customs service has a crucial role in controlling the spread of the influenza virus. The European Commission has asked customs administrations to be especially vigilant about the movement of birds, poultry and their products, through their control areas. This applies to commercial, passenger traffic and postal importations.

2 Legislation

[Regulation \(EU\) 2016/429 \('Animal Health Law'\)](#)

[Regulation \(EU\) 2017/625 \('Official Controls Regulation'\)](#)

[Commission Implementing Regulation \(EU\) 2021/1938](#)

[Commission Delegated Regulation \(EU\) 2020/687](#)

[Customs Act 2015](#)

[S.I. No. 656/2020 - European Union \(Imports of Animals and Animal Products from Third Countries\) Regulations 2020](#)

[The Animal Health and Welfare Act 2013](#)

3 Prohibition/Restriction

Live animals and their products

Commercial imports of live birds/poultry (other than pet birds) may be imported directly to Ireland from outside of the EU via Dublin Airport, Dublin Port and Rosslare Europort Border Control Posts (BCP) only, where they must have documentary, identity and physical checks conducted by DAFM; however, captive birds (any birds other than poultry that are kept in captivity) need to be placed in an approved quarantine facility on arrival for at least 30 days. Currently there are no such facilities in Ireland, so captive birds may not be imported directly to Ireland from outside the EU, they must be imported through another EU member state which has quarantine facilities.

Pet Birds other than poultry (up to 5) accompanied by their owner may be imported via travellers' point of entry at Dublin Airport, Shannon Airport, Cork Airport, Dublin Port, Rosslare Europort and Ringaskiddy Port. The pet birds must be accompanied by a veterinary health certificate and must have documentary and identity checks conducted by DAFM at the travellers' point of entry on arrival (more information available at Pettravel.gov.ie).

Birds/poultry products may be imported directly to Ireland from outside of the EU via Dublin Airport, Dublin Port, Shannon Airport and Rosslare Europort BCPs where they must have documentary, identity and physical checks conducted by DAFM.

Derogation

Pet birds, accompanied by their owners, from the following areas are regarded as coming from the EU. DAFM must be notified, but no veterinary control is required:

- Andorra
- The Faroe Islands
- Greenland
- Iceland
- Liechtenstein
- Monaco
- Northern Ireland
- Norway
- San Marino
- Switzerland
- Vatican City State.

The following material is either exempt from or not required to be published under the Freedom of Information Act 2014.

[...]

6 Queries on this manual

Any questions on this manual can be directed to:

Customs Prohibitions and Restrictions Unit

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