

# Manual on the personal importation of live animals and products of animal origin

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Enquiries concerning this manual:

Email: [rcpr@revenue.ie](mailto:rcpr@revenue.ie)



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## 1 Introduction

Due to the risk of introducing animal disease into the EU, strict controls are placed on the importation, either in personal luggage or by post, of products of animal origin for personal consumption and live animals. The relevant legislation is referenced at Section 5 of this manual.

In this manual, the term 'importation' means the movement of goods and live animals into Ireland from countries outside the EU.

## 2 Prohibition/Restriction

### 2.1 Products of animal origin

The importation of products of animal origin which form part of travellers' luggage is prohibited. Similarly, such products that are sent as small consignments to private persons or that are ordered remotely (for example by mail, by telephone or via the Internet) and delivered to the consumer, are also prohibited. However, limited derogations are applicable and details of these are set out at [Annex 1](#).

### 2.2 Live animals

Pets are permitted to accompany their owners, prior approval must be obtained from the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine (DAFM) before entering the State. The importation of live animals within personal luggage or through postal hubs is prohibited.

Live animals may only be imported at Dublin Airport, Dublin Port, Rosslare Europort and Shannon Airport. The categories of live animal which may be imported at each site are available at the list of Irish BCPs which may be found at the following link: [BCP Designation Ireland](#).

### 2.3 Ban on Importation of XL Bully Dogs

The Minister for Rural and Community Development has introduced a new regulation under the Control of Dogs (XL Bully) Regulations 2024 [S.I. No. 491 of 2024](#) in relation to XL Bully dogs, which came into effect on 1 October 2024. This regulation prohibits the ownership, keeping, purchase, disposal (whether by sale or otherwise), abandonment, allowing to stray, breeding or importation of XL Bully dogs. From 1 February 2025, it will be illegal to own an XL Bully dog without a 'Certificate of Exemption' issued by the local authority in which the dog resides.

In the case of owners who transfer back to Ireland from abroad, the regulation provides for applications for Certificates of Exemption after 1 February 2025 on a case-by-case basis. This will specifically facilitate any owner who was once ordinarily resident in the State and who wishes to return to Ireland after a period abroad with the intention of once again becoming ordinarily resident in the State, and is only for such owners who can prove they owned the dog prior to 1 October 2024. Such evidence could include but is not limited to; a dog licence, certificate of exemption or

microchipping details from other jurisdictions, dog veterinary records, or a receipt of purchase.

Enquiries should be emailed to: [DogControl@drcd.gov.ie](mailto:DogControl@drcd.gov.ie)

For further information click on the following link: [Ban on XL Bully Dogs](#)

Information on pet travel rules can be found at this link: [Pet travel](#)

### 3 Action Required

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

[...]

### 4 List of Contacts

#### **DAFM Animal Health & Import Policy Division**

##### **Animal Product Imports Section**

[animalproductimports@agriculture.gov.ie](mailto:animalproductimports@agriculture.gov.ie)

#### **Customs Prohibitions & Restrictions Unit**

[rcpr@revenue.ie](mailto:rcpr@revenue.ie)

### 5 Related Documents

[Customs Act 2015](#)

[Commission Delegated Regulation \(EU\) 2019/2122](#)

[Commission Implementing Regulation \(EU\) 2019/2130](#)

[Regulation \(EU\) 2016/429 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 9 March 2016 on transmissible animal diseases and amending and repealing certain acts in the area of animal health \('Animal Health Law'\)](#)

[Commission Regulation \(EU\) No 142/2011](#)

[Commission Regulation \(EU\) No. 576/2013](#)

[Commission Delegated Regulation \(EU\) 2021/630](#)

[Statutory Instrument No. 289 of 1994](#)

[Statutory Instrument No. 96 of 2007](#)

[Statutory Instrument No. 504 of 2012](#)

[Statutory Instrument No. 436 of 2013](#)

[Statutory Instrument No. 656 of 2020](#)

[Statutory Instrument No. 491 of 2024](#)

## Annex 1

### Derogations from this prohibition

	Faroe Islands & Greenland	Other Countries
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- bread, cakes, biscuits, chocolate, and confectionery (including sweets) not mixed or filled with meat product</li> <li>- food supplements packaged for the final consumer</li> <li>- olives stuffed with fish</li> <li>- pasta and noodles not mixed or filled with meat product</li> <li>- soup stocks and flavourings packaged for the final consumer</li> </ul>	Derogated	Derogated
powdered infant milk, other infant milk and food for special medical purposes*	10kg	2kg in luggage (0kgs for postal consignments)
pet feed required for health-related reasons*	10kg	2kg in luggage (0kgs for postal consignments)
fishery products (including fresh eviscerated fish)	Derogated	20 kg or one fish whichever weight is highest
other animal products such as honey, live oysters, live mussels and snails for example	10kg	2kg

\* The product does not require refrigeration before consumption, it is a packaged proprietary brand product, and the packaging is unbroken unless in current use.

## Annex 2

Location: \_\_\_\_\_ Non-compliant product confiscated on arrival in Ireland

C2

Officer Name	Date	Customs detected Y/N	Country from which product/passenger arrived	MRN	EU country *Y/N	Commercial Freight Y/N	Hub Airport or TSF/postal centre	Product <small>Best approximation of type e.g. Salami = pork meat product</small>	Wt. Kgs.  (to 1 decimal)
	_/_/___							Milk & milk products	
								Eggs & egg products.	
For postal sorting office confiscation name and address of consignee. For * EU seizure state reason.				_____ _____ _____ _____				Fish, honey, snails, frogs legs etc	
								Poultry meat & its products	
								Pork meat & its products	
								Other meat & its products	
Officer Name	Date	Customs detected Y/N	Country from which product/passenger arrived	MRN	EU country *Y/N	Commercial Freight Y/N	Hub Airport or TSF/postal centre	Bush meat	
	_/_/___							Milk & milk products	
								Eggs & egg products.	
For postal sorting office confiscation name and address of consignee. For * EC seizure state reason.				_____ _____ _____				Fish, honey, snails, frogs legs etc	
								Poultry meat & its products	

When completed please email this form to [animalproductimports@agriculture.gov.ie](mailto:animalproductimports@agriculture.gov.ie). Please also use this email address for any queries in relation to this procedure

Entered on database on: \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/20\_\_\_\_ Signed: \_\_\_\_\_

## Annex 2

Location: \_\_\_\_\_ Non-compliant product confiscated on arrival in Ireland

C2

Officer Name	Date	Customs detected Y/N	Country from which product/passenger arrived	MRN	EU country *Y/N	Commercial Freight Y/N	Hub Airport or TSF/postal centre			
								Pork meat & its products		
								Other meat & its products		
	_/_/___							Bush meat		
								Milk & milk products		
								Eggs & egg products.		
For postal sorting office confiscation name and address of consignee. For * EU seizure state reason.			_____ _____ _____ _____						Fish, honey, snails, frogs legs etc	
									Poultry meat & its products	
									Pork meat & its products	
									Other meat & its products	
									Bush meat	

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