

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN

Date: 18 April 2011

Importation of pure animal DNA/ RNA from all countries

The Importation of Animal Products and Poultry Products Order 1980 (as amended) under which we issue licences for imports of certain animal derived material for research purposes does not cover pure DNA or RNA. The animal health risk associated with importing pure animal DNA/ RNA is negligible provided that appropriate precautions are taken. Therefore, you will not need an animal health import licence from Animal Health, Defra and Devolved Administrations. Importers should be aware however that it is their responsibility to ensure that any import covered by this letter complies with the terms and conditions as set out below.

1. It is suggested that each consignment must be accompanied by:

- a copy of this letter
- commercial/shipping documents providing the name and address of consignor and consignee, type of product and quantities;
- Each consignment must be accompanied by a declaration signed by a veterinarian or director of the consigning laboratory/establishment confirming that:
 - the products are **not** derived from animals known or suspected to be infected with a pathogen which causes a notifiable disease to which the animals are susceptible according to Specified Animal Pathogens Order 2008 or Import Animal Pathogens Order 1980 (SAPO or IAPO) or the animal health legislation of the exporting country;
 - nor do the products originate from animals in a premises or region or zone of a country that is subject to official restrictions due to a notifiable disease to which the animals are susceptible according to European or other national animal health legislation;
 - all precautions have been taken to ensure that the material is not contaminated with an animal pathogen.

3. The exterior packaging must be clearly labelled to indicate that product is not for *in vivo* use

4. The importer is responsible for ensuring that the person(s) sending the material to the England is/are aware of the conditions outlined in this letter

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5. If the material is to be re-exported, you should ensure that the importing country will permit entry and that you have the correct paperwork to accompany the consignment.
6. If at any time you are unable to meet the conditions in the letter contact your local Animal Health Office <http://www.defra.gov.uk/animalhealth/about-us/contact-us/search/>
7. Please refer to the guidance notes for further information. (link to website)
There are restrictions and prohibitions on the carriage of certain products and substances by post, guidance for which is available from the following sites:
<http://www.dft.gov.uk/pgr/freightldgt1/>

http://www.liv.ac.uk/lbiomedsci/safety/infectious_substances.ppt

<http://www.postoffice.co.uk/portallpo/content1?catId=19100182&medid=19100263&print=true>

<http://www.royalmail.com/portal/rm/content1?catId=400138&mediald=36200679>

Please note this letter only covers pure DNA and RNA obtained from animals (including birds). If you wish to import pathogen DNA, live animals or any other animal products e.g. hair, serum etc, you will need to contact the Specialist Service Centre for Imports for further advice.

Tel: 01245 454 860 or by e-mail AHITchelmsford@ahvla.gsi.gov.uk

Yours sincerely,



Specialist Service Centre for Imports