

GUIDE TO IMPORTS OF PRODUCTS OF ANIMAL ORIGIN FROM THIRD COUNTRIES

IMPORT CONDITIONS AND CONTROLS



Disclaimer:

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Warning: Products that do not comply with import conditions and controls can be seized either for destruction or return to the country of origin at the importers expense.

Safeguard measures may be introduced at short notice limiting or banning the import of products of animal origin from countries or regions, due to animal disease outbreaks or other public or animal health hazards. Importers are responsible for checking the current status of the requirements.

Keep up to date with legislative requirements by checking the European Commission website: http://ec.europa.eu/food/committees/regulatory/index_en.htm or http://ec.europa.eu/food/committees/regulatory/scfcah/controls_imports/index_en.htm.

Access to any of the EU legislation quoted may be enabled through the following link: <http://eur-lex.europa.eu/homepage.html>. When researching legislation by this means select the "Latest consolidated version" to determine the legislation as it currently applies.

1 Introduction

In accordance with international trade agreements and to protect animal and public health the European Union (EU) has set down the conditions for importation of consignments of products of animal origin from non-EU countries intended for release into free circulation in the EU. These imports requirements are generic and applicable for all countries authorised to export to the Union and are almost fully harmonised. The legislation imposes a series of health and supervisory requirements, designed to ensure that imported products meet standards at least equivalent to those required for production in, and trade between Member States. Products must have originated in an area where there are no restrictions imposed under EU Safeguard measures and come from establishments which are under the supervision and control of the competent authorities. The products must be free from residues and contaminants, correctly labelled and travel with the specific health certificates or other documents conforming to the models laid down in EU legislation.

Ireland operates EU harmonised import controls on products of animal origin arriving from third countries. These controls also called veterinary checks must be performed at an EU Border Inspection Post (BIP) approved for that category of product being presented. Consignments for import into the EU requiring veterinary checks must be notified in advance to the BIP of import by the person responsible for the load and presented for checks with all the appropriate documentation. A fee is levied for these checks.

BIPs in Ireland are operated by the Department of Agriculture Food and the Marine (DAFM) in collaboration with the Customs Services.

1.1 BIPs in Ireland and their approval categories:

Location	Human consumption	Non-human consumption	Live animals
Dublin Port BIP Eirfreeze Bond Rd Dublin Port Dublin 3	Ambient, chilled and frozen packed products	Ambient, chilled and frozen products	No approval
Shannon Airport BIP Co Clare	Ambient, chilled and frozen packed products	Ambient, chilled and frozen packed products	Equines Ungulates
Dublin Airport BIP Collinstown Co Dublin	No approval	No approval	Equines

The full list of EU approved BIPs is in Annex I to [Commission Decision 2009/821/EC](#) as amended.

2 Products requiring veterinary checks

The scope of products requiring veterinary checks is contained in Annex I to [Commission Decision 2007/275/EC](#) (as amended by Commission Implementing Decision 2012/31/EU and Commission Implementing Decision (EU) 2016/1196) using the customs combined nomenclature codes (CN codes). In instances where a product is being imported under a CN code listed in the Decision with “Ex” before the number the product may or may not be exempt from veterinary checks. A product may also be exempt from checks for other reasons and this guidance document is designed to assist importers in establishing if a product being imported requires veterinary checks at a BIP and the conditions and controls applicable. Queries in relation to a specific product should be directed, in the first instance, to the expected point of entry of the consignment. To avoid delay and expedite decisions all relevant information and copies of certificates or documents detailed below must be provided with the query. Note: hay and straw also require veterinary checks.

Customs Service, Nenagh, Co Tipperary (06763400) should be contacted with regard to CN codes queries.

Department of Agriculture Food and the Marine enquiry contact points			
Location	Contact e-mail	Phone	Fax
Dublin Airport	Bips.DubAirport@agriculture.gov.ie	087 4178986	01 8144505
Dublin Seaport	Bips.DubPort@agriculture.gov.ie	01 8556250	01 8363457
Shannon Airport	Bips.ShanAirport@agriculture.gov.ie	061 471546	
Agriculture House	AnimalProductImports@agriculture.gov.ie	01 6072000	01 6072513

3 Derogations and exemptions from veterinary checks

Products of animal origin which fulfil certain conditions and/or criteria outlined below may be imported without veterinary checks. Where necessary the consignment should be accompanied by documentation to confirm that the import conditions are fulfilled.

3.1 Countries and regions

Consignments of products of animal origin from Andorra, Channel Islands, Isle of Man, Faeroe Islands, Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway, San Marino and Switzerland may be imported without checks. Some areas geographically located outside of Europe are also part of Member States, e.g. Martinique. The status of these areas can be checked on the website: http://europa.eu/about-eu/countries/index_en.htm.

3.2 Products

Products listed in the table below should be accompanied by a document which refers to the specific consignment, confirms the treatment details and is signed, dated and stamped on each page.

Feathers	Consignments of treated feathers sent to private individuals for non-industrial purposes.	
Leather	Hides and skins which have undergone a complete tanning process.	
Objects in natural history collections or for the promotion of science and have been preserved in media, embedded on micro-slides or are processed DNA samples		
Game trophies	Game trophies and other preparations <u>not</u> from birds or ungulates	Treated or are in a state which does not pose any health risks, and originate from animals and an area not subject to restrictions as a result of the presence of serious transmissible diseases to which animals of the species concerned are susceptible.
	Fully taxidermied game trophies from birds or ungulates	Full taxidermy treatment ensuring preservation at ambient temperatures.
	Biological class Insecta or Arachnida	Treatment such as drying to prevent any transmission of diseases communicable to humans or animals

3.2.1 Composite food products

In accordance with Article 6 of [Commission Decision 2007/275/EC](#), certain composite products intended for human consumption and products listed in ANNEX II of that Decision (details at [4.3.3](#) below).

3.2.2 Research and diagnostic samples

Samples for Research and Diagnostic purposes, but must be authorised in advance of importation (details at [4.3.5](#) below).

3.2.3 Certain animal by-products which have reached their end point

See details at [4.3.6](#) below.

3.2.4 Shells

Shells from shellfish from which the flesh or soft tissue has been removed.

3.3 Travellers' luggage

Certain personal imports which form part of travellers' luggage or small consignments sent to private persons are allowed provided they are for human consumption and from a country or region from which those imports are not prohibited. Details of exemptions and limits in [Commission Regulation \(EC\) No 206/2009](#) can be found [here](#)¹. Treated decorative feathers carried by travellers for their private use are allowed.

¹ <http://www.agriculture.gov.ie/agri-foodindustry/tradeimportsexports/importofanimalsandanimalproducts/personalimportsofanimalproducts/>

4 Procedure for consignments of products requiring veterinary checks

4.1 Registration

Importers of commercial consignments of products of animal origin into Ireland are required to register for the relevant category of products:

- **Food Business Operators:** The destination establishment for consignments imported for human consumption must be registered as a Food Business Operator as laid down under the EU's Food Legislation ([Regulation \(EC\) No 178/2002](#)). The Food Safety Authority of Ireland (FSAI) has information on starting a food business on their website at: http://www.fsai.ie/food_businesses.html.
- To register as an importer of fish and fishery products application should be made to The Food Safety Unit, Sea-Fisheries Protection Authority, National Seafood Centre, Clogheen, Clonakilty, Co. Cork. Email sfpafoodsafety@sfpa.ie or phone 023 8859300.
- Importers of animal by products (ABPs) including samples for research and diagnostic purposes must be registered and/or approved to use, store, handle and/or process ABPs. Application should be made to Milk and Meat Hygiene/ABP/TSE Division, Grattan House, Grattan Business Centre, Dublin Road, Portlaoise, Co Laois. **Lo call Number:** 0761 064440. **Fax Number:** 057-8694386. **Email Address:** AnimalByProducts@agriculture.gov.ie.

4.2 Notification and submission of documents

An importer or agent who is importing a consignment of products of animal origin requiring veterinary checks into Ireland must give advance notice to the EU approved Border Inspection Post (BIP), either Dublin Port or Shannon Airport, at which it is intended to land the consignment. At least 24 hours' advance notice is required but it is advisable that the person responsible for the load contact the BIP well in advance of the expected time of arrival to arrange submission of pre notification, certificates, documents and fees. Advance notice is by means of Part 1 of the Common Veterinary Entry Document (CVED) as laid down in Annex III of [Commission Regulation \(EC\) No 136/2004](#) and submitted either electronically through the [TRACES](#) system or manually on the official CVED form available from relevant BIP (details in Section 2). All consignments requiring veterinary checks must be presented at the BIP for these checks prior to release by customs.

4.2.1 Fishery products

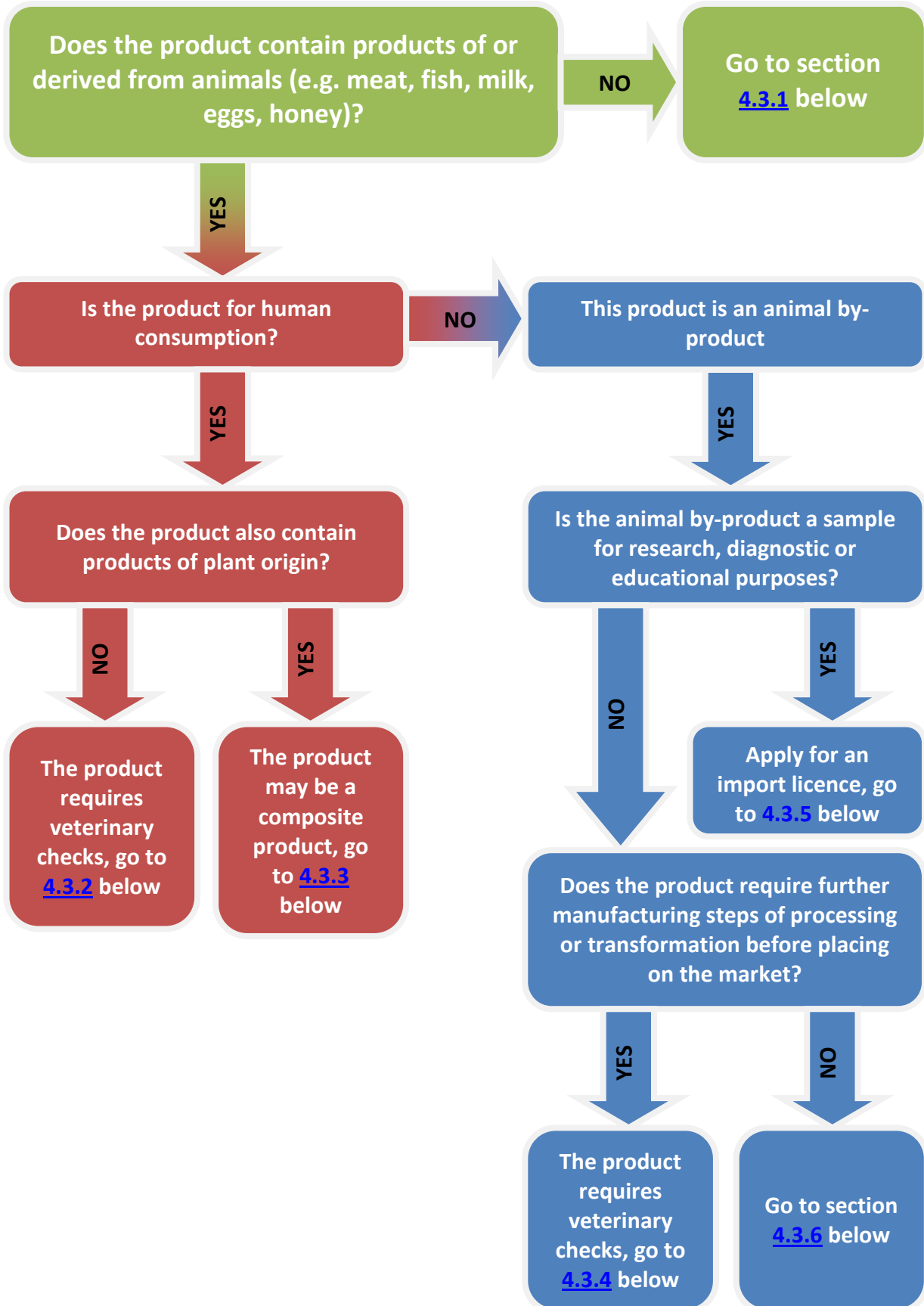
Wild caught fishery products must have a catch certificate in conformity with [Council Regulation \(EC\) No 1005/2008](#) which must be submitted to the Sea-Fisheries Protection Authority (SFPA). Fishery product imports which do not require catch certificates such as aquaculture must also be routed via the SFPA.

Catch certificates and other pertaining import documents should be submitted to the SFPA at least three working days before the expected arrival date of the consignment in Ireland.

For further information, go to www.sfpa.ie, email iuuoffice@sfpa.ie or phone 023 8859300.

4.3 Import conditions and exemption requirements

To check if a product listed in [Commission Decision 2007/275/EC](#) requires veterinary checks and import conditions applicable follow the arrows below and go to the relevant heading. [4.3.6](#)



4.3.1 Products of non-animal origin

Products of non-animal origin with “Ex” symbol in front of a CN code listed in [Commission Decision 2007/275/EC](#) (human or plant origin other than hay and straw) do not require veterinary checks. To avoid delay, the importing company (not the agent) should, before arrival of the consignment, provide a concise statement to DAFM at the entry point giving:

- (a) The generic and proprietary name of the product
- (b) Details of identity marks, labelling etc.
- (c) The name and address of the manufacturer, consignor and place of origin
- (d) Name and address of the consignee and place of destination.
- (e) The CN code (preferably Binding Tariff Information(BTI))
- (f) A list of all raw materials used to manufacture the product i.e. what it is derived from
- (g) A declaration by the manufacturer or importer/consignee (not the agent) that it does not contain any product of animal origin

The statement and declaration must be signed by a responsible person in the importer/consignee company.

4.3.2 Food products of animal origin requiring veterinary checks

Food products (i.e. for human consumption) of animal origin must:

- (a) Come from a country recognised and approved by the EU as having animal health, welfare, hygiene and production controls equivalent to those in the EU - see the listings, detailed in relation to main category products of animal origin, at https://ec.europa.eu/food/safety/international_affairs/trade/non-eu-countries_en
- (b) Have a monitoring system in place to verify compliance with EU requirements on residues of veterinary medicines, pesticides and contaminants for the following species/products; bovine, ovine, caprine, porcine, equine, poultry, aqua-culture, rabbit, wild game, farmed game, milk, eggs, & honey.
- (c) Be sourced from an approved export establishment (as relevant, slaughter / production / storage other than ambient.) in the third country of origin that is on an EU list – the lists may also be accessed through the country lists at the above link.
- (d) Each consignment must be presented at the BIP accompanied by a health certificate, drawn up in conformity with the model under EU law for the particular product completed and signed on behalf of the competent authorities of the approved country of origin.
- (e) Be appropriately packaged, labelled and transported.

Note: To ensure that the importation of a product into the EU is permitted the animal and public health country lists, third country residue list and the establishment(s) lists must be cross checked.

4.3.3 Composite food products

Composite food products (i.e. containing processed products of animal origin and of products plant origin) which comply with certain conditions may not require veterinary checks in accordance with Article 4 and 6 and Annex II of [Commission Decision 2007/275/EC](#).

- **Composite food products containing meat:** always require veterinary checks
- **Composite food product that contains no meat or dairy and less than 50% of the total food product is of animal origin will not require veterinary checks if it complies with the following conditions:**
 - The product is clearly identified as intended for human consumption and securely packaged in sealed containers
 - The product is accompanied by a commercial document and labelled such that both together give information on the true nature, quantity and number of packages of the composite products, the country of origin, the manufacturer and the ingredients
 - The product is shelf-stable at ambient temperatures or has clearly undergone in its manufacture a complete cooking or heat treatment process throughout its substance, so that any raw product is denatured
- **Composite food product containing dairy products:** In addition to the above requirements all milk product ingredients must originate in an approved third country with an approved residue control plan for milk and from an establishment approved to export milk to the EU where they have received the appropriate treatment required for milk products from that country to the EU as outlined in Annex I to [Commission Regulation \(EU\) No 605/2010](#). The dairy component may also originate from an approved establishment in the EU.
- **Composite food products exempted from veterinary checks:** The following composite products as listed in Annex II of [Commission Decision 2007/275/EC](#) are exempted from veterinary checks; Bread, cakes, biscuits, chocolate and confectionery (including sweets) not mixed or filled with meat product, unfilled gelatine capsules, food supplements packaged for the final consumer containing small amounts of animal products, meat extracts and meat concentrates, olives stuffed with fish, pasta and noodles not mixed or filled with meat product, soup stocks and flavourings packaged for the final consumer,

Prior to importation of composite food products, without veterinary check an importer must provide to DAFM documentation containing:

- (a) The name of the product,
- (b) The name of the manufacturer
- (c) The CN code
- (d) A list of all raw materials used to manufacture the product i.e. what it is derived from
- (e) The proportion of each raw material in the final product.
- (f) Country and establishment of origin of any milk product.

- (g) Whether the final product is ambient, chilled or frozen.
- (h) Unless ambient, a detailed description of the production process including a production flow chart
- (i) Labelling details for the product.
- (j) Any other information or data that may facilitate a decision by DAFM such as what is its intended use e.g. food supplements packaged for the final consumer containing small amounts of animal product are exempt.

This information can be provided by completing an application form found [here](#).

4.3.3.1 Composite products requiring veterinary checks

[Regulation \(EU\) No 28/2012](#) lays down rules on the certification of consignments of composite products containing processed meat, milk, products containing half or more of their substance of fishery or egg. Consignments of composite products containing half or more of their substance of products of animal origin other than those above shall be accompanied by the relevant certificate or by a commercial document where there is no certificate is required. The conditions detailed at [4.3.2](#) above also apply.

4.3.4 Animal by-products (ABPs)

Animal by-products are defined in [Regulation \(EU\) No 1069/2009](#) as “*entire bodies or parts of animals, products of animal origin or other products obtained from animals, which are not intended for human consumption*”.

Animal by-product for import into the EU for commercial purposes must:

- (a) Come from a country recognised and approved by the EU as having animal health, welfare, hygiene and production controls equivalent to those in the EU - see the detailed listings in relation to main category products of animal origin at: http://ec.europa.eu/food/safety/international_affairs/trade/non-eu-countries/index_en.htm
- (b) Be sourced from approved export establishments in the third country of origin that is appearing on an EU list for the product category concerned – the lists may also be accessed through the country lists at the above link.
- (c) Each consignment must be presented at the BIP accompanied by an original EU approved model certificate for the particular product as required by the Animal By-product [Commission Regulation \(EU\) 142/2011](#) completed and signed on behalf of the competent authorities of the approved country of origin. In the case of Intermediate products and other products not requiring health certificates the exporting establishment is required to provide a commercial document.
- (d) Be appropriately packaged, labelled and transported. ([Regulation \(EU\) No 142/2011](#) & [Regulation \(EC\) No 767/2009](#))
- (e) Be consigned to a registered or approved establishment as appropriate.

4.3.5 Research and diagnostic samples

'research and diagnostic samples' means animal by-products and derived products intended for the following purposes: examination in the context of diagnostic activities or analysis for the promotion of progress in science and technology, in the context of educational or research activities;

The importation of products of animal origin for research and diagnostic purposes from third countries is prohibited unless authorised in advance by a licence issued by the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine.

For further information on the licence application procedures and conditions for the importation into Ireland of samples of products of animal origin for research and diagnostic purposes from third countries, please see:

<http://www.agriculture.gov.ie/agri-foodindustry/tradeimportsexports/importofanimalsandanimalproducts/researchanddiagnosticsamples/>

4.3.5.1 Pathogens

The import of pathogens and pathogenic agents is only permitted under a licence issued under [The Importation of Pathogenic Agents Order, 1997 \(S.I. No. 373 of 1997\)](#). Further information, including application forms may be obtained from animalproductimports@agriculture.gov.ie.

Warning: Licenses issued by the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine for research and diagnostic purposes or pathogens do not exempt importers from any prohibition, regulation or restriction imposed by any other Agency or Department.

4.3.6 Animal by-product which has reached its end point

Certain products derived from animal by product not requiring any further manufacturing, steps of processing or transformation before placing on the market may be imported without veterinary checks. Prior to importation of products having reached their end point, without veterinary check, an importer must provide to DAFM documentation detailing:

- The CN code
- The name of the product
- The name of the manufacturer
- A list of all raw materials used to manufacture the product i.e. what it is derived from?
- Details of the products intended use:
 - cosmetic products as defined in Article 1(1) of Council Directive 76/768/EEC;
 - active implantable medical devices as defined in Article 1(2)(c) of Council Directive 90/385/EEC;
 - medical devices as defined in Article 1(2)(a) of Council Directive 93/42/EEC;
 - in vitro diagnostic medical devices as defined in Article 1(2)(b) of Directive 98/79/EC;
 - veterinary medicinal products as defined in Article 1(2) of Directive 2001/82/EC;
 - medicinal products as defined in Article 1(2) of Directive 2001/83/EC

If not one of the above products details should be provided of the products intended use.

- Container/packaging details:
 - Detail container and packaging?
 - Weight
 - Size
 - Number
- Labelling details such as:

- the material description
- weight or volume of the content
- batch number
- address of manufacturing plant
- temperature conditions for storage and handling
- the intended use
- CE or other quality mark
- Copy of label
- Consignee details
- Any other information considered useful to assist DAFM in making a decision.

4.4 Useful links

The Food Safety website of DG Health & Consumer Protection:

http://ec.europa.eu/food/index_en.htm

Third country establishment lists

https://webgate.ec.europa.eu/sanco/traces/output/non_eu_listsPerActivity_en.htm

Detailed information on import conditions for animals and animal products:

http://ec.europa.eu/food/animals/animalproducts/index_en.htm

Key questions on the new rules on food hygiene and official food controls.

http://ec.europa.eu/food/safety/docs/ia_ic_guidance_import-requirements.pdf

Expanding Exports – online helpdesk managed by DG Trade:

http://exporthelp.europa.eu/index_en.html

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