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**Leaving the EU: UK border control
changes as from 1 January 2021:
Live aquatic animals (non CITES)**

**Ornamental Aquatic Trade Association
December 2020**





Disclaimer

- This guide is intended as a brief summary introduction **only**. For full and detailed information on the UK's Border Operating Model with the EU, the full document is available [here](#)
- Importers and Exporters can also contact the Fish Health Inspectorate to discuss any import/export plans with them. FHI (England and Wales) contact details can be found via the FHI pages on Gov.UK [here](#). FHI (Scotland) information can be found at <https://www.gov.scot/publications/importing-and-exporting-live-aquatic-animals-from-1-january-2021/>
- Updates on advice issued by Gov.UK will be made available on OATA's 'Leaving the EU hub' on our website. Current advice is available [here](#). We strongly recommend you visit our Leaving the EU hub on a regular basis as requirements may be subject to change
- This guide will only cover border control requirements in relation to (non CITES) live aquatic animals and will not cover the core model (see our Introduction guide for information relating to the core model).

Border Control Requirements for live aquatic animals as from 1 January 2021



- On 1 January 2021, the UK's transition period ends, ending the free movement of goods between the UK and EU
- This will result in a full external border between the GB (i.e. England, Scotland and Wales) and the EU*, resulting in border control changes on the movements of goods. It will end the provision whereby non-susceptible live aquatic animals could move between GB and the EU without a health certificate.
- This guide will cover border control changes affecting goods subject to sanitary and phytosanitary controls such as live aquatic animals, which are subject to additional requirements.
- *Arrangements for Northern Ireland will be different due to the Northern Ireland Protocol. This means that Northern Ireland will continue to follow EU regulations due to its linkages with the Republic of Ireland. This will impact on consignments from GB to Northern Ireland and from Northern Ireland to GB. Gov.UK will issue further advice in due course.

How will importing live aquatic animals into GB from the EU change?



- The guidance from Gov.UK principally relates to changes affecting Great Britain i.e. England, Scotland and Wales.
- The main change will be that imports of live aquatic animals from the EU to GB will be subject to new sanitary and phytosanitary import controls as from 1 January 2021. *Further details awaited for Northern Ireland.
- These new import controls will consist of requirements for health certification and import pre-notification.
- From 1 January 2021 until the end of June 2021, live aquatic animals can enter through any GB port or airport (subject to pre-notification) and will be subject to very low levels of checks at GB points of entry.
- From 1 July 2021, all live aquatic animals MUST enter GB via an appropriate Border Control Post which will accept that animal type e.g. ornamental fish.
- Note that for live aquatic animals which are CITES listed, there will be further requirements (please refer to our guide in relation to CITES listed species/goods).

The new EU – GB import requirements as from 1 January 2021: Live aquatic animals



- Consignments arriving from the EU will need to be accompanied by an Export Health Certificate (EHC).
- GB importers will need to submit pre-notifications via IPAFFS (Import of Products, Animals, Food and Feed System) before the expected time of arrival at the point of entry*.
- From 1 January until 1 July, consignments from the EU can enter via any GB port or airport (whilst infrastructure is built in to existing and new Border Control Posts).
- A GB importer will need to register to use IPAFFS (they will not be automatically migrated over from TRACES). For an incoming consignment from an EU supplier, the GB importer will need to pre-notify their intent to import via IPAFFS. IPAFFS will then generate a Unique Notification Number (UNN) on completion of the first part of the notification.
- The GB importer must then send this UNN to the exporter in order that the UNN can be placed on the animal health certificate by an Official Veterinarian of the Management Authority.
- * Note that this initial notification needs to be done early enough so as to allow the GB importer to obtain the UNN from IPAFFS, and to forward this UNN to the Certifying Official in the relevant EU Member State, in order that it can be put on the health certificate. Given that they can certify three days before the animals are consigned, this means that GB importers may need to do this initial notification on IPAFFS five days ahead of the intended import.

The new EU – GB import requirements as from 1 January 2021: Live aquatic animals cont/



- The GB importer should then receive an electronic copy of the animal health certificate and will be able to upload this electronic copy to the notification made on IPAFFS, in order to pre-notify the Fish Health Inspectorate (FHI) so that they can carry out the relevant checks.
- In the event that IPAFFS developments are not completed for fish ahead of 1 January, GB importers will have to notify the FHI directly using their current AAH1 certification form. This will enable the FHI to then make contact with GB importers for copies of their health certificates etc.
- Checks carried out by the FHI will be based on import pre-notifications and will occur at the time that the animals arrive at the destination in order to minimise disruption to trade as much as is possible.
- Such checks of consignments at destination will be based on risk. Non-susceptible ornamental fish, will be deemed very low risk trade and as such will be subject to a very low level of checks.
- It is anticipated that inspections will usually take place as the consignment is unpacked so as to ensure that the check is complete ahead of the animals being rested and being made available for sale.

GB importers of live aquatic animals: England & Wales, Scotland



- For live aquatic animal importers in England and Wales, they **must** be authorised by the Fish Health Inspectorate (Cefas (England and Wales)) before importing.
- For live aquatic animal imports in Scotland, please note that the Fish Health Inspectorate (Scotland) do **not** register or authorise importers of live aquatic animals for ornamental purposes. Further information in relation to importers, of the requirements for Scotland can be found on the FHI (Scotland) website here: <https://www.gov.scot/publications/importing-and-exporting-live-aquatic-animals-from-1-january-2021/>
- For those who import live ornamental aquatic animals into Scotland or export from Scotland to the EU, we ask that you establish contact with FHI (Scotland) via ms.fishhealth@gov.scot or 0131 244 3498 so that you can be provided with the correct advice.
- Gov.UK will advise accordingly in relation to the requirements for Northern Ireland.
- For advice and guidance on all the trade rules in relation to live ornamental aquatic animals, please contact the Fish Health Inspectorate, who are happy to provide such advice.

Rest of the World consignments transiting through the EU



- Between 1 January and 1 July 2021, live animal consignments that are subject to veterinary checks that have originated in a Rest of the World country i.e. third country and which transit the EU before arriving in GB do not need to enter via a GB BCP if:
 - They are accompanied by a Health Certificate
 - Pre-notification is made by a GB importer via IPAFFS
 - They have received a satisfactory health inspection at an EU BCP and the Common Health Entry Document (CHED) is uploaded to either IPAFFS or emailed to CITC
 - Although the UK has agreed to accept stock which has been cleared through an EU BCP, GB importers **MUST** check whether that EU BCP is willing to clear such consignments given the EU rules for the transit of animals between two third countries via the EU. We therefore recommend GB importers to check with the EU BCP and to seek guidance from the Fish Health Inspectorate (Cefas and Scotland).



Exports from GB to EU



Note that this applies to GB i.e. England, Scotland and Wales. With regard to the export procedure to Northern Ireland, this will be the same as it is to the EU i.e. everything will need to be certified on the EU Health Certificate by the relevant Fish Health Inspectorate and entry to Ireland must be via a Border Control Post.

As from 1 January 2021, GB businesses who wish to export live aquatic animals to the EU will need to ensure:

- All consignments of live aquatic animals will be required to be inspected by a Fish Health Inspector and a health certificate issued. The health certificate must accompany the animals.
- Exporters will need to provide **at least** FIVE working days notice of the intent to export and complete an EXP1 form (Fish Health Inspectorate, England & Wales)
- Such consignments from GB will also be required to enter the EU via an EU Border Control Post, which is authorised to inspect live aquatic animals.
- GB exporters need to be aware of the requirements of the EU Member State they are exporting to.
- For GB businesses wishing to export to the EU or Northern Ireland, please contact the relevant Fish Health Inspectorate to discuss the logistics of certification.

What impact will these requirements have on EU suppliers?

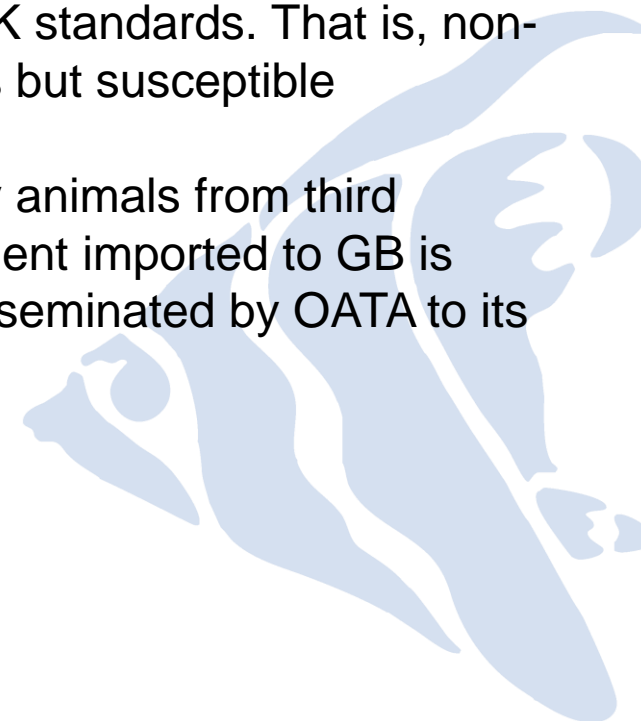


- The new border control requirements will mean that casual buying trips to EU suppliers will cease as EU suppliers will need to issue the required health certificates. GB model health certificates for live fish are available here: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/fish-health-certificates>
- Other GB model health certificates for live animals and products of animal origin are available here: <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/health-certificates-for-animal-and-animal-product-imports-to-great-britain>
- EU suppliers who deliver ornamental fish via the so called 'bus stop' deliveries e.g. parts of a consignment are delivered to different importers will be required to have a health certificate for each consignment to each UK destination. Unless that supplier arranges to have a GB base which will take responsibility for that consignment and will keep the required records e.g. that they have a plan in place to be able to isolate a consignment of animals, if checks by the FHI show the health certification to be made in error etc. They will also need to be available for inspections carried out, if required, at the certified import destination.

What impact will these requirements have on EU suppliers? Cont/



- From 1 January 2021, consignments from GB to Northern Ireland will be subject to EU third country rules i.e. they will need to be accompanied by a health certificate (using an EU model certificate) and enter Northern Ireland through an appropriate Border Control Post e.g. Belfast Port.
- Consignments from NI to GB will be subject to internal UK standards. That is, non-susceptible ornamental fish can move without certificates but susceptible ornamental fish will need to be health certified.
- Further guidance for GB businesses that currently supply animals from third countries direct to Northern Ireland as part of a consignment imported to GB is awaited from the Fish Health Inspectorate and will be disseminated by OATA to its members in the New Year.



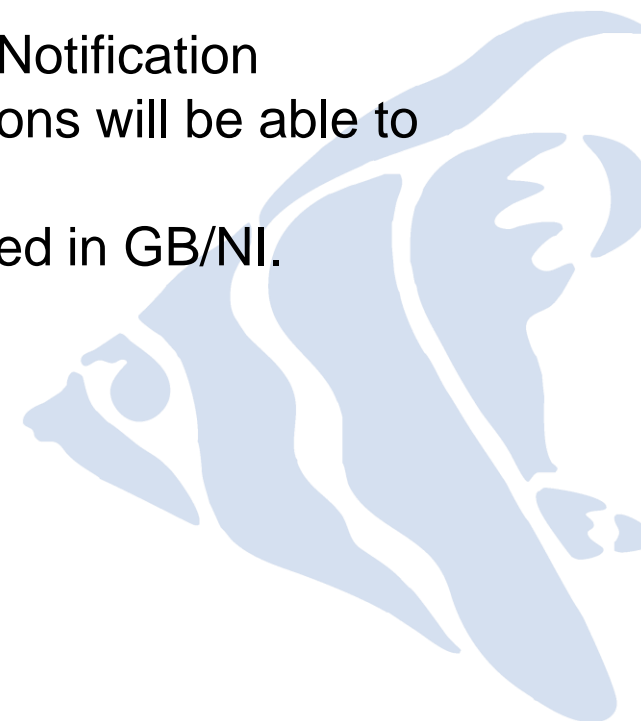
How will requirements change at Stage 2 and Stage 3?



The most notable change will occur at Stage 3 i.e. 1 July 2021



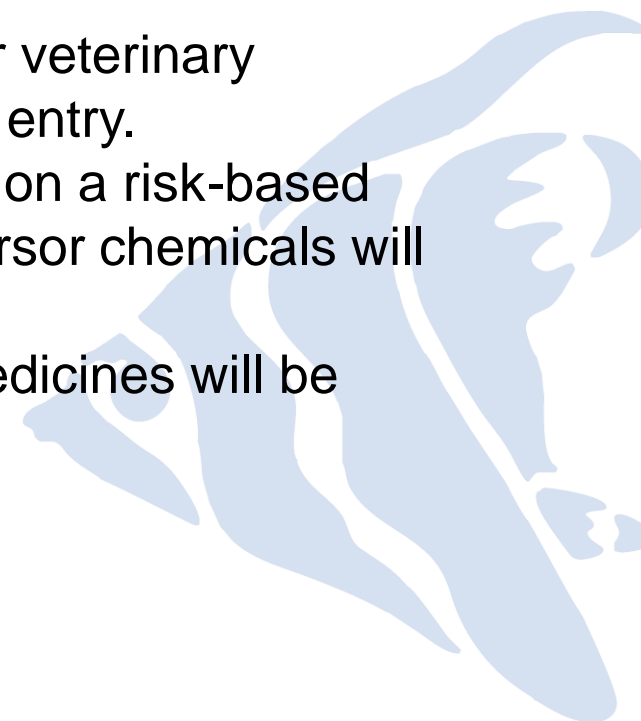
- From 1 July 2021, **all** trade in live aquatic animals will have to take place via an appropriate GB Border Control Post i.e. as per Rest of the World trade.
- This will mean that the requirement to obtain a Unique Notification Number via IPAFFS will end as from 1 July as notifications will be able to be made 24 hours in advance of the import.
- New live animal Border Control Posts may be designated in GB/NI.



Veterinary medicines



- A brief note that as from 1 January 2021, veterinary medicines which contain **controlled drugs** and which are imported from the EU will be subject to new border controls.
- There are no specific import transport requirements for veterinary medicines and therefore can enter GB via any point of entry.
- UK Border Force will conduct checks, as they do now, on a risk-based approach. Veterinary medicines containing drug precursor chemicals will be subject to additional checks.
- On 1 July 2021, border controls on other veterinary medicines will be introduced.



Further Information



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- Further guidance is available from the FHI (England & Wales) website here: <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/aquatic-animal-health-and-movements-guides>
- Further guidance is available from FHI (Scotland) here: <https://www.gov.scot/publications/importing-and-exporting-live-aquatic-animals-from-1-january-2021/>
- See OATA's other guides in this series: Introduction, Aquatic plants and CITES listed species/goods.

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See our other guides in relation to border operating requirements for:

- Introduction
- Plants and plant products (including aquatic plants)
- CITES listed species

