

# Customs – Prohibitions and Restrictions Manual

## Safeguard measures due to the risk of avian influenza

This document was last reviewed October 2020

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Enquiries concerning this manual:

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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

[Commission Decision 2007/25/EC](#)

[Commission Implementing Decision 2013/635](#)

[Customs Act 2015](#)

European Communities (Avian Influenza) (Control on movement of pet Birds) Regulations 2007  
S.I. 96 of 2007

## 3 Prohibition/Restriction

### **Live animals**

Live birds/poultry (other than pet birds) may not be imported directly to Ireland from outside of the EU as there is no Border Control Post (BCP) in Ireland for that category of animals.

Pet Birds (up to 5) accompanied by their owner may be imported via Dublin Airport or Shannon Airports only. The pet birds must be licensed for import by DAFM, be accompanied by a veterinary health certificate and must have documentary and identity checks conducted by DAFM on arrival.

### **Derogation**

Pet birds, accompanied by their owners, from the following areas are regarded as coming from the EU and no veterinary control is required:

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

## 4 Action to be taken

To facilitate controls DAFM must be notified when all pet birds arrive from third countries.

The following procedures will apply:

- Contact the local DAFM office and refer the case so that a control can be carried out.
- DAFM will notify Customs by means of a CVED when all controls have been completed. This notification will be produced to Customs by the importer, along with a letter from DAFM authorising the import.
- The consignment should be released by Customs for entry into free circulation where the documentary checks confirm compliance and Customs have completed their own checks.
- In the event that a consignment is non-compliant, an email will be sent by DAFM to Customs indicating this. Furthermore, DAFM will inform Customs that the consignment cannot be released for free circulation and explain what will happen to the consignment.
- In other circumstances, or where it is suspected that there is an attempt to import poultry/poultry products without a DAFM control check, the consignment should be detained and staff should contact DAFM.

### **Mail Centres, Airports & Ports**

It should be noted that the enforcement of rules preventing imports of meat and meat products (including poultry and game meat) and milk and milk products for personal consumption is particularly important in relation to the avian influenza threat. Existing controls regarding the detection and confiscation of illegal consignments of animal products in personal baggage should be maintained.

Where there is an attempt to import poultry products through the post, the package should be seized and handed over to the local DAFM Inspector.

To facilitate controls, DAFM must be notified when pet birds arrive from third countries.

See existing Instruction Manual:

[personal importations of live animals and animal products](#)

Any suspicions/concerns reported by the public should be reported to the DAFM immediately.

## 5 Risk Information Form

The Risk Information Form (RIF) which is part of the Customs Risk Management System (CRMS) should be used by staff to inform Customs authorities of other Member States of any significant irregularities that have come to light in respect of the importation of poultry and poultry products. For further information on CRMS/RIF staff should contact:

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

## 6 Queries on this manual

Any questions on this manual can be directed to:

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