

Changes to the list of foodstuffs exempt from veterinary checks

Changes to the law mean that many products previously exempt from veterinary checks will now need to meet new import conditions.

These changes apply to consignments arriving from the 1 January 2017.

Find out what has changed and make sure that your imports are compliant to avoid costly delays and losses.

What has changed?

[Commission Decision 2007/275](#) (the Decision) sets out the products that are subject to veterinary checks at the BIP. The principle is that all products of animal origin are subject to veterinary checks, unless they are specifically exempted because they meet all of the requirements of Article 6 or they are listed in Annex II.

Annex II has recently been replaced by [Commission Implementing Decision 2016/1196](#). These changes apply to consignments arriving from the 1 January 2017.

Which Products are affected?

[To see a full list of the changes read Defra's summary in OVS note 2016/20](#)

The following imports are of particular concern, check to see if your imports will be affected.

Meat extracts, meat concentrates, meat powders and products containing them, such as noodles and stock cubes

- Meat extracts and meat concentrates will now be included alongside meat powders as a meat product.
- This has significant implications for imports of instant noodle type products which frequently include meat extracts, concentrates or powders, either mixed in with the noodles (composite product) or in separate sachets (composite or meat product).
- To be imported, the meat products or [composite products](#) certification and import requirements will apply.
- **Action:-** Check that your products meet these requirements, and make changes before it is too late. There are not currently any noodles or stock cubes, meat powders etc. being imported that meet the requirements for meat products or composite products containing meat product.
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Empty gelatine capsules

Empty gelatine capsules (where the gelatine is sourced from animals) will now be subject to checks.

Products will need to meet the import requirements for gelatine:-

- they will have to come from an approved gelatine establishment in an approved third country
- be marked as required
- be accompanied on import by the health certificate for gelatine
- meet any other import conditions

Warning - There are not currently any approved gelatine establishments in China. Therefore it will not be permitted to import gelatine capsules of animal origin from China for human consumption when the requirements come into force.

Action - [Check the list of approved establishments on the European Commission's website europa.eu](http://europa.eu)

Filled Gelatine Capsules

- Filled gelatine capsules will be assessed as either a processed product of animal origin, (for example. fish oil capsules which are classed as fishery products), or as a composite product depending on the contents.

If you are importing filled gelatine capsules and the **gelatine does not come from an EU-approved establishment** you should contact the Animal and Plant Health Agency for an authorisation to import. You must comply with any conditions laid down in that authorisation.

- **Action** - [Access contact details for APHA Centre for International Trade on GOV.UK](http://gov.uk)

Other food supplements / additives

Organic compounds of animal origin including some amino acids will become subject to veterinary checks for the first time. Creatine, cysteine and cystine are mentioned in particular.

Action -

- Check the [detailed requirements set out in \(the amended\) Chapter 29 of The Decision](#)
- [Contact APHA](#) to find out the import conditions for any regulated products.

Food supplements *packaged for the final consumer*, containing small amounts (**in total less than 20%**) of processed animal products (including glucosamine, chondroitin and/or chitosan), will continue to be exempt from veterinary checks. However any animal product content should be EU compliant.

Food supplements in retail packs containing glucosamine, chondroitin, chitosan & similar products

- These will **no longer be exempt from veterinary checks** unless the total animal product content (including any animal product in the capsule) is less than 20%. These products will need to be accompanied by the [health certificate for highly-refined products](#) laid down in Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2016/759
- Action - [read more about importing highly refined products](#)

Alcoholic beverages

- Alcoholic beverages containing products of animal origin, e.g. egg or cream, are likely to be composite products. Find out more about the import requirements for [composite products](#).
- For those products outside veterinary checks, it is still a requirement for any dairy or egg content to come from a country with an approved residue plan for the egg or dairy content.
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Comparing the changes to Annex II list of products exempted from veterinary checks

The old and new versions of Annex II are shown below. Note how the new version identifies products by CN Code as well as clarifying the extent of the exemption.

** i.e. have undergone a complete cooking or heat treatment process throughout their substance, so that any raw product is denatured see [Article 6\(1\)\(a\)\(i\) of Decision 2007/275/EC](#).

Current Exemptions - Decision 2007/275 - applies until end of 2016	New Exemptions - text as amended by Commission Implementing Decision 2016/1196 - Applies from 1st January 2017	
	CN Codes	Explanation
Biscuits Bread Cakes	1905 10, 1905 20, 1905 31, 1905 32, 1905 40, 1905 40 10, 1905 90 10, 1905 90 20, 1905 90 30, 1905 90 45, 1905 90 55, 1905 90 60, ex 1905 90 90	Bread, cakes, biscuits, waffles and wafers, rusks, toasted bread and similar toasted products; containing less than 20 % of processed dairy and egg products <i>and is shelf stable or fully cooked</i> ** 1905 90 covers only dry and brittle products.
Chocolate Confectionery (including sweets)	1704, 1806 20, 1806 31, 1806 32, 1806 90 11, 1806 90 19, 1806 90 31, 1806 90 39, 1806 90 50	Confectionery (including sweets) and chocolate, containing less than 50 % of processed dairy and egg products <i>and is shelf stable or fully cooked</i> **
Unfilled Gelatine Capsules		
Food supplements packaged for the final consumer, containing small amounts of animal product, and those including glucosamine, chondroitin, or chitosan.	ex 2106 10, ex 2106 90	Food supplements packaged for the final consumer, containing small amounts (in total less than 20 %) of processed animal products (including glucosamine, chondroitin and/or chitosan) other than meat products.'

Meat extracts and meat concentrates		
Olives stuffed with fish	ex 2001 90 65, ex 2005 70 00 ex 1604	Olives stuffed with less than 20 % fish Olives stuffed with more than 20 % fish
Pasta and noodles not mixed or filled with meat product	1902 19, 1902 30, 1902 40	Pasta and noodles not mixed or filled with processed meat product; containing less than 50 % of processed dairy and egg products <i>and is shelf stable or fully cooked **</i>
Soup stocks and flavourings packaged for the final consumer, containing meat extracts, meat concentrates, animal fats, or fish oils, powders or extracts	ex 2104 10 and ex 2104 20	Soup stocks and flavourings packaged for the final consumer, containing less than 50 % of fish oils, fish powders or fish extracts <i>and is a shelf stable or fully cooked **</i>