

Information on the import of live fish, molluscs and crustaceans, their eggs or gametes, live fish for immediate consumption, and ornamental fish to Austria

Checks

Live fish, molluscs, crustaceans, their eggs, sperm and gametes are subject to checks by a border veterinarian.

The checks by a border veterinarian will be carried out at the first border inspection post of the EU authorised for checks on this species (e.g. Wien Schwechat, Hamburg, Amsterdam, etc.).

The veterinary certificates have to be issued in the official language of the Member state where the checks by a border veterinarian are carried out, and in the official language of the Member state of destination.

The border veterinarian shall be notified at least one working day prior to the intended crossing of the border of the animals (in Austria at least 18 hours before) by CHED-A (Common Health Entry Document).

The consignee shall inform the competent official veterinarian of the arrival of the animals at the place of destination.

The border veterinarian will also check compliance with the conditions for animal welfare during transport. These conditions have been laid down in Regulation (EC) No. 1/2005 on the protection of animals during transport and related operations. Furthermore, checks will be carried out on whether the consignments have been packed and labelled in accordance with Reg. (EC) No. 853/2004.

Exemptions from the checks by a border veterinarian

Ornamental aquatic animals travelling with private persons (i.e. they are not intended for passing them on to third persons) are not subject to checks by a border veterinarian (Reg. (EU) No 576/2013). The checks are being carried out by customs authorities.

Import conditions

Definitions applicable to Reg. (EC) No. 1251/2008:

aquatic animal:

- fish belonging to the superclass Agnatha and to the classes Chondrichthyes and Osteichthyes; or
- mollusc belonging to the Phylum Mollusca; or
- crustaceans belonging to the Subphylum Crustacea;

aquaculture animal: any aquatic animal at all its life stages, including eggs and sperm/gametes, reared in a farm or mollusc farming area, including any aquatic animal from the wild intended for a farm or mollusc farming area;

The import conditions have been laid down in Reg. (EC) No. 1251/2008.

A separate certificate has to be issued for each type, molluscs (CN-Code 0307), crustaceans (CN-Code 0306) or fish (CN-Code 0301 10).

1. Live aquaculture animals intended for farming, put and take fisheries and open ornamental facilities

Live aquaculture animals intended for farming, put and take fisheries and open ornamental facilities may only be imported into the EU from countries or zones listed in Annex III to Reg. (EC) No. 1251/2008 as amended by Reg. (EC) No. 1012/2012 as last amended by Reg. (EU) No. 25/2014.

The model certificate has been laid down in Annex IV part A of Reg. (EC) No. 1251/2008 as amended by Reg. (EU) No. 1012/2012 and the explanatory notes for the issue of the certificates in Annex V as amended by Reg. (EU) 346/2010.

2. Live ornamental aquatic animals intended for closed ornamental facilities

Live ornamental aquatic animals of susceptible species intended for ornamental facilities may only be imported from countries or zones listed in Annex III to Reg. (EC) No. 1251/2008 as amended by Reg. (EU) No. 1012/2012 as last amended by Reg. (EU) No. 25/2014.

Live ornamental aquatic animals of non-susceptible species must originate from countries that are members of the OIE.

The model certificate has been laid down in Annex IV part B of Reg. (EC) No. 1251/2008 as amended by Reg. (EU) No. 1012/2012 and the explanatory notes for the issue of the certificates in Annex V as amended by Reg. (EU) No. 346/2010.

For eggs and sperm/gametes of live aquatic animals intended for closed facilities no model certificates have been laid down so far; for this reason a written import permit by the Federal Ministry of Social Affairs, Health, Care and Consumer Protection is required for their import into Austria.

3. Live fish intended for immediate human consumption

Live fish for immediate human consumption are deemed fishery products.

For live fish for immediate consumption an animal and public health certificate in accordance with the model in Chapter A of Part II in Annex III of Reg. (EU) 2019/628

(corrected in OJ L 325 of 16.12.2019, p. 184) has to be provided. The third country of dispatch must have been entered into the third country list of fishery products in Annex II of Implementing Regulation (EU) 2019/626). Furthermore, fish from aquaculture may be imported only from such third countries that have an EU-approved residue control plan (Decision 2011/163/EU as amended by Commission Implementing Decision (EU) 2019/525). The establishments from which imports of fishery products are allowed can be taken from the following web site:

http://ec.europa.eu/food/safety/international_affairs/trade/non-eu-countries/index_en.htm

Special conditions may have been laid down for third countries that have signed an agreement with the EU, e.g. New Zealand, Canada, or the USA.

Please bear also in mind that there may be import bans or restrictions applicable due to other EU or national legislation, e.g. financial legislation (e.g. Customs), or legislation pertaining to the protection of endangered species (CITES).

Information on customs legislation is available from the Federal Ministry of Finance on their website at: <https://www.bmf.gv.at/> under the reference "Zoll" (customs).

Information pertaining to the protection of endangered species is available from the website of the Federal Ministry of Agriculture, Regions and Tourism (BMLRT) at:

https://www.bmlrt.gv.at/umwelt/natur-artenschutz/internat_natur_artenschutz0/cites.html

Legal bases (applicable as last amended)

[Council Directive 2006/88/EC](#)

[Reg. \(EC\) No 1251/2008](#)

[Reg. \(EU\) No 576/2013](#)

[Imp. Reg. \(EC\) 2019/628 incl. Corrigendum](#)

[Imp. Reg. 2019/626](#)

[Commission Decision 2011/163/EU](#)

Important web sites:

List of Austrian border inspection posts

CHED (Common Health Entry Document)

<https://www.sozialministerium.at/en/Topics/Health/Border-Control-Service.html>

You may also find information on the homepage of the European Commission at the following web site:

http://ec.europa.eu/food/animal/liveanimals/aquaculture/market_imports_en.htm

Further information:

Federal Ministry of Social Affairs, Health, Care and Consumer Protection,

Telephone (Mo - Fr, 9:00 to 4:00 pm): +43 1 71100 644833 or +43 (0)1 7007 33484

E-Mail: anton.bartl@sozialministerium.at or gta.wien@sozialministerium.at