

Information on the import into the European Union of live birds not accompanied by travellers

Animals to be imported for approved conservation programmes, intended for zoos, circuses, amusement parks or experiments and racing pigeons which are introduced from a neighbouring third country for immediate release are not subject to EU-harmonised rules. For this kind of imports a veterinary import licence is required, if the animals are destined for Austria.

Birds imported from Andorra, Liechtenstein, Monaco, Norway, San Marino, Switzerland, and the Vatican City State may be introduced into the European Union subject to the conditions of intra-Union trade.

The import of poultry (fowl, turkeys, guinea fowl, ducks, geese, quails, pigeons, pheasants, partridges and ratites) is subject to the rules of Directive 2009/158/EC and Regulation (EC) No. 798/2008, the introduction of pet birds accompanying travellers to those of Reg. (EU) No. 576/2013 and (EU) No. 577/2013.

The import of birds not subject to the legal provisions above is subject to the rules of Directive 92/65/EEC and Regulation (EU) No. 139/2013.

Import conditions

In accordance with Reg. (EU) No. 139/2103 the following provisions have to be complied with when importing birds:

- the birds must originate from EU-approved third countries and must be birds bred in captivity;
- the breeding establishments have been approved by the authorities in the Third country. Information on the list of breeding establishments can be found on the EU website at the following link:
https://ec.europa.eu/food/sites/food/files/safety/docs/ia_trade_poultry_establishment_captive_bred_birds.pdf
- the birds were subjected to a laboratory virus detection test 7 to 14 days prior to shipment with negative results for any avian influenza (AI) and Newcastle disease (NCD) virus;
- the birds have not been vaccinated against avian influenza;
- the birds are identified with an individual identification number by means of a uniquely marked seamlessly closed leg-ring or a microchip and this identification must be registered on the animal health certificate;
- the birds are transported in new containers which are individually identified externally with an identification number that has been indicated on the animal health certificate;

- the importer presents an animal health certificate in accordance with the model set out in Annex III of Reg. (EU) No. 139/2013 at the time of the border veterinary checks;
- the importer or the person responsible for the load has to provide the border veterinarian with an attestation in writing by the person responsible for the quarantine facility certifying that the birds will be accepted for quarantine. This attestation must indicate the approval number as well as name and address of the quarantine facility.

Control

Live birds are subject to checks by a border veterinarian.

The checks by a border veterinarian for import into the EU will be carried out at the first border inspection post of the EU authorised for this type of animals (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) in written form by CHED-A (Common Health Entry Document).

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.

Quarantine

Birds have to be transported directly after completion of the border veterinary checks and within a maximum period of time not exceeding 9 hours to the approved quarantine facility or quarantine centre which they were cleared for.

The consignee shall inform the competent official veterinarian in writing of the arrival of the animals at the place of destination (approved quarantine facility or quarantine centre) within one working day.

The birds must be quarantined for at least 30 days.

At least at the beginning and the end of quarantine, the official veterinarian shall inspect the conditions of quarantine in addition to routine surveillance. During quarantine, the required examinations including sampling and testing shall be carried out.

If the suspicion of an infection with AI or NCD is confirmed, even in a single bird, or if there is an outbreak of the disease, all birds have to be euthanized and destroyed.

Exemptions from the controls

Currently there are no exemptions from the checks by border veterinarians, as the stringent conditions for the introduction of ornamental birds accompanying travellers according to Decision 2007/25/EC will be applicable at least until 31st December 2020.

You will find further information under the heading information for travellers at:

<https://www.sozialministerium.at/en/Topics/Health/Information-for-travellers.html>

Bundesministerium für Soziales, Gesundheit, Pflege und Konsumentenschutz /

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

Radetzkystraße 2, 1031 Wien | <http://www.sozialministerium.at> | DVR: 2109254 | UID: ATU57161788

under point

- ✓ Import and re-import of ornamental birds when accompanying tourists

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 basis (apply as last amended):

[Reg. \(EU\) No. 139/2013](#) (model certificate);

[Reg. \(EC\) No. 1/2005](#) (Provisions on animal welfare during transport)

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>

Information (available only in English) on the import of birds and poultry can also be found on the website of the EU Commission at:

http://ec.europa.eu/food/safety/international_affairs/trade/poultry_en

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