Animal health rules for non-EU countries: 2026 update

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EU updates animal health rules for non-EU countries

Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) 2026/1052 of 12 May 2026 amending and correcting Delegated Regulation (EU) 2020/692 supplementing Regulation (EU) 2016/429 of the European Parliament and of the Council as regards rules for entry into the Union, and the movement and handling after entry of consignments of certain animals, germinal products and products of animal origin

Update

The European Union (EU) has updated the animal health requirements for non-EU countries exporting animals and animal products to the EU. The changes include:

- removal of gelatine, collagen, and highly refined products from the scope of animal health requirements – animal health rules will no longer apply to these products
- updated identification methods for certain animals
- extended application of specific requirements in relation to horse diseases
- stricter rules on raw meat from countries with foot and mouth disease
- update of risk-mitigating treatments for dairy and eggs
- clarification of risk-mitigating treatments for dairy and egg ingredients in composite products
- review of information in vaccination programmes against highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI)
- updated list of individual EU Member State measures on aquatic species susceptible to diseases
- identification of vector species for the protozoan parasite Mikrocytos mackini.

Impacted products

Dairy, shelf-stable products, milk, eggs and egg products, aquatic species

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What is changing?

Regulation 2020/692 sets out the specific health conditions that apply to animals and animal products exported from non-EU countries to the EU. The new Regulation 2026/1052 amends the following Articles in Regulation 2020/692.

Gelatine, collagen, and highly refined products

As production of these products eliminates any risk to animal or public health, they will **no longer** have to comply with the European Union's animal health rules (they are removed from the scope of Regulation 2020/692).

Identification of certain animals

The identification of certain animals must conform with ISO standards. As the ISO standards have been updated, references to the standards must also be updated in Regulation 2020/692 in relation to:

- ungulates – conventional or electronic ear tag (Art. 21)
- ratites – neck-tag or injectable transponder (Art. 43)
- captive birds – closed-ring or injectable transponder (Art. 53).

Extended application of requirements relating to horse diseases

The new Regulation amends the specific requirements that apply to exported horses when horse diseases have been identified. The requirements in Regulation 2020/692 (Annex XI, 2.1) are extended to include cases where African horse sickness, Venezuelan equine encephalomyelitis, infection with glanders (*Burkholderia mallei*), or infection with dourine or surra (*Trypanosoma* spp.) have been reported during certain periods. The new Regulation also removes the specific conditions for non-EU countries where these diseases have never been reported or have been absent for 24 months (36 months in the case of glanders).

Stricter rules on raw meat from countries with foot and mouth disease

To reduce the risks of spreading foot and mouth disease, raw meat to be exported to the EU for use in meat products must not come from any country or territory in which cattle are vaccinated against this disease (Arts. 148 and 149).

Raw material to produce dairy or egg products

The new Regulation clarifies that:

- dairy products subject to a risk-mitigating treatment can be produced from raw milk and dairy products (there is currently only a reference to "milk", Art. 157).

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- egg products can enter the EU from authorised and listed non-EU countries not only if they have disease surveillance programmes in place for HPAI, but also if the egg products have been submitted to risk mitigation treatments that inactivate HPAI virus and Newcastle disease virus (Art. 160)

Composite products

The new Regulation clarifies the following in relation to composite products (revised Art. 163).

- The general animal health requirements that apply to animal products (Regulation 2020/692, Part IV, Title 1) also apply to composite products. This includes the application of rules on risk-mitigating treatments for some products from certain non-EU countries or territories.
- For countries authorised to produce shelf-stable composite products, the requirements relating to risk-mitigating treatments for imported dairy ingredients are clarified (see Table 1). In particular, the risk-mitigating treatment must be applied in the country where the dairy ingredient is produced.

Risk-mitigating treatments for dairy and egg products

These risk-mitigating treatments have been updated (see Tables 2 and 3).

Information in vaccination programme against HPAI

The minimum information to be included in vaccination programmes against HPAI is reviewed, revising Regulation 2020/692, Annex XIII to align with Regulation 2023/361, Annex III.

Export of horses to the EU

The new Regulation clarifies that only animals free from African horse sickness and that have not been vaccinated against this disease can be exported to the EU (revision of Regulation 2020/692, Annex IV).

EU Member State measures on aquatic species susceptible to diseases

The list of aquatic species susceptible to diseases for which EU Member States have national measures is updated (Table 4) (revision of Regulation 2020/692, Annex XXIX).

Vector species identified for *Mikrocytos mackini*

The eastern oyster (*Crassostrea virginica*) is listed as a vector for the protozoan parasite *Mikrocytos mackini* (added to Regulation 2020/692, Annex XXX; no vectors were previously identified).

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Why?

New scientific knowledge and the experience gained in applying Regulation 2022/692 have shown the need to refine several provisions related to the scope, application of specific conditions, animal identification, meat, dairy and egg products, composite products, vaccination programmes against highly pathogenic avian influenza, and aquatic animals.

Timeline

The Regulation applies from **12 August 2026**.

Recommended Actions

Producers of dairy and egg products should pay particular attention to the changes in risk-mitigating treatments.

Background

Exports of animals and animal products to the EU are subject to animal health requirements to prevent the spread of diseases.

For non-EU countries, the key requirements are in Delegated Regulation 2020/692 (see Animal health requirements for non-EU countries exporting to the EU – explained).

Resources

Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) 2020/692 as regards rules for entry into the Union, and the movement and handling after entry of consignments of certain animals, germinal products and products of animal origin

Sources

Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) 2026/1052 as regards rules for entry into the Union, and the movement and handling after entry of consignments of certain animals, germinal products and products of animal origin

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Tables & Figures

Table 1
Shelf-stable composite products containing dairy ingredients: requirements for risk-mitigating treatments[1]

Note: The need to apply risk-mitigating treatments to dairy ingredients in shelf-stable composite products depends on the status of the country where the composite product is manufactured, *and* the origin of the ingredient.		Status – composite product is manufactured in country listed to export:		
		Dairy products **without** risk-mitigating treatments[2]	Dairy products **with** risk-mitigating treatments[3]	Other animal products[4]
Origin of dairy ingredient:	EU or a country listed to export dairy products **without** risk-mitigating treatments[2]	No risk-mitigating treatment required	Risk-mitigating treatment A (relevant to the particular species producing the milk) or B (regardless of species) **required at origin**	Risk-mitigating treatment B (regardless of species) **required at origin**
	EU or a country listed to export dairy products **with** risk-mitigating treatments[3]	Risk-mitigating treatment A (relevant to the particular species producing the milk) or B (regardless of species) **required at origin**		

[1] Risk-mitigating treatments A and B are set out in Regulation 2020/692, Annex XXVII.
[2] Listed in Regulation 2021/404, Annex XVII.
[3] Listed in Regulation 2021/404, Annex XVIII.
[4] Listed under Regulation 2021/404 to export meat products (Annex XV), *or* egg products (Annex XIX); *or* under Regulation 2021/405, Annex IX to export fishery products.

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Source: Regulation 2020/692 Annex XXVII, as amended by Regulation 2026/1052

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Table 2
Changes to risk-mitigating treatments for milk and dairy products

Current treatment[1]	New treatment[2]
Sterilisation process[3] to achieve $F_0 \geq 3$	Heat treatment (sterilisation process) to achieve minimum $\boldsymbol{F_0 = 3}$
Ultra-high temperature (UHT) treatment at not less than 135°C in combination with suitable holding time	UHT treatment at minimum **132°C** for a minimum of **1 s**
High temperature short time (HTST) pasteurisation treatment at 72°C for 15 s applied twice to milk with a pH ≥ 7.0 achieving, where applicable, a negative reaction to an alkaline phosphatase test applied immediately after the heat treatment	HTST pasteurisation treatment of milk with pH ≥ 7.0 at a minimum of **72°C** for a minimum of **15 s** applied twice
HTST treatment of milk with pH < 7.0	HTST pasteurisation treatment of milk with pH < 7.0 at a minimum of **72°C** for a minimum of **15 s**
HTST treatment combined with another physical treatment, either: (a) lowering the pH below 6 for 1 h *or* (b) additional heating to ≥ 72°C combined with desiccation	HTST pasteurisation treatment at a minimum of **72°C** combined with a physical treatment to achieve pH < 6 for a minimum of **1 h** HTST pasteurisation treatment at a minimum of **72°C** combined with desiccation

[1] In Regulation 2020/692, Annex XXVII.
[2] As amended by Regulation 2026/1052.
[3] F_0 is a measure of the total lethal energy delivered during a moist-heat (steam) sterilisation process.

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Table 3 Changes to risk-mitigating treatments for egg products		
Product	Current treatment[1]	New treatment[2]
Inactivation of highly pathogenic avian influenza		
Plain or pure egg yolk	–	60°C for 288 s
Dried egg white	54.4°C for 50.4 h	54.4°C for **513 h**
Inactivation of infection with Newcastle Disease Virus		
Plain or pure egg yolk	–	61.1°C for 3 min 30 s *or* 60 °C for 6 min 12 s
Fortified egg	–	62.2°C for 3 min 30 s *or* 61.1°C for 6 min 12 s
Sugared/salted egg	–	63.3°C for 3 min 30 s *or* 62.2°C for 6 min 12 s

[1] In Regulation 2020/692, Annex XXVII.
[2] As amended by Regulation 2026/1052.

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Table 4
Changes to list of species[1] susceptible to diseases for which EU Member States have national measures

Disease	Deletions	Additions	Other changes (e.g. reclassification)
Spring viraemia of carp (SVC)	Crucian carp (*Carassius carassius*), silver carp (*Hypophthalmichthys molitrix*), tench (*Tinca tinca*), orfe (*Leuciscus idus*)	*Abramis brama*, *Cyprinus rubrofuscus*, *Danio rerio*, *Notemingonus crysoleucas*, *Percocypris pingi*, *Pimephales promelas*, *Rutilus kutum*, *Rutilus rutilus*	
Bacterial kidney disease (BKD)			From "Family: Salmonidae" to: *Anoplopoma fimbria*, *Lota lota*, *Notropis cornutus*, *Onchorhynchus clarkii*, *Oncorhynchus gorbuscha*, *Oncorhynchus keta*, *Oncorhynchus kisutch*, *Oncorhynchus mykiss*, *Oncorhynchus nerka*, *Oncorhynchus tshawytscha*, *Pimephales promelas*, *Plecoglossus altivelis*, *Salvelinus alpinus*, *Salvelinus fontinalis*, *Salvelinus namaycush*, *Salmo salar*, *Salmo trutta*, *Thymallus thymallus*
Infectious pancreatic necrosis (IPN)		*Anarhichas minor*, *Anguilla anguilla*, *Anguilla japonica*, *Brevoortia tyrannus*, *Channa striata*, *Ctenolabrus rupestris*, *Danio rerio*, *Dicentrarchus labrax*, *Esox lucius*, *Gadus morhua*, *Hippoglossus hippoglossus*, *Limanda limanda*, *Morone saxatilis*, *Merluccius merluccius*, *Microstomus kitt*, *Pleuronectes platessa*, *Scophthalmus maximus*, *Salvelinus alpinus*, *Salvelinus namaycush*	From "*Oncorhynchus* spp." to: *Oncorhynchus clarkii*, *Oncorhynchus gorbuscha*, *Oncorhynchus keta*, *Oncorhynchus kisutch*, *Oncorhynchus mykiss*, *Oncorhynchus rhodurus*, *Oncorhynchus tshawytscha*
Infection with salmonid alphavirus (SAV)	Brown trout (*Salmo trutta*)	*Limanda limanda*, *Salvelinus alpinus*	
Infection with *Gyrodactylus salaris* (GS)			Any species that have been in contact with a susceptible species are also regarded as susceptible
Microvariant µvar of Ostreid herpes virus 1 (OsHV-1 µVar)	Pacific oyster (*Crassostrea gigas*)		

[1] The new list no longer contains common names for species.

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Source: Regulation 2020/692 Annex XXIX, as amended by Regulation 2026/1052

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