# Animal health rules for non-EU countries: 2026 update

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European Commission proposes updated animal health rules for non-EU countries

Draft Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) 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

Draft Annex

## Update

The European Commission has informed the World Trade Organization Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures (WTO SPS) Committee that it is updating the animal health requirements for non-EU countries exporting to the European Union (EU) (G/SPS/N/EU/920).

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
- update of 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)
- update of the list of 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

## What is changing?

The European Commission proposes the following changes to animal health rules.

**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 in relation to horse diseases**

The specific requirements that apply to exported horses when horse diseases have been identified will be amended. They are to be extended to cases where African horse sickness, Venezuelan equine encephalomyelitis, or infection with glanders (*Burkholderia mallei*), dourine and surra (*Trypanosoma*) have been reported during certain periods (set out in Regulation 2020/692, Annex XI, 2.1). It is also proposed to remove these 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 mitigate the risks of spreading foot and mouth disease, raw meat used for the production of meat products to be exported to the EU should 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 proposal 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).

- 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 proposal clarifies the following (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 certain products from certain non-EU countries or territories.
- The requirements for countries authorised to produce shelf-stable composite products in relation to the risk mitigating treatments for imported dairy ingredients (see Table 1).
- Dairy and egg ingredients that have undergone sterilisation or ultra-high-temperature (UHT) processing (see Regulation 2020/692, Annex XXVII, column B for dairy; Annex XXVIII, points 1 and 2 for eggs) can be used by manufacturers of composite products in countries not specifically listed for those products if those countries are nevertheless listed for meat products, dairy products, or egg products

**Risk mitigating treatments for dairy and egg products**

These 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 proposal clarifies that only animals free from 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**

An update of this list is proposed (see 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).

## 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 date of application is yet to be determined.

## What are the major implications for exporting countries?

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

## Recommended Actions

The World Trade Organization consultation on this proposal closed on 18 April 2026.

## 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

Draft Commission Delegated Regulation 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

Draft Annex

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## Table & Figures

Table 1
Proposal on shelf-stable composite products: listing requirements depend on the risk mitigating treatment applied to the dairy ingredients

| Risk mitigating treatment used on imported dairy product[1] | Requirements | |
|---|---|---|
| | Countries producing **dairy ingredients** used in shelf-stable composite products must be listed to export dairy products that: | Countries manufacturing **shelf-stable composite products** must be listed to export dairy products that: |
| None | Without risk mitigating treatment | With risk mitigating treatment |
| Mitigating treatment **A or B** (relevant to the particular species producing the milk) | With or without risk mitigating treatment | With risk mitigating treatment |
| Mitigating treatment **B** (for all species producing the milk) | With or without risk mitigating treatment | With or without risk mitigating treatment |

[1] Regulation 2020/692, Annex XXVII.

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Source: Regulation 2020/692, Annex XXVII.

| Table 2<br>Proposed changes to risk mitigating treatments for milk and dairy products | |
|---|---|
| Current treatment | Proposed treatment[1] |
| Sterilisation process to achieve $F_0 \geq 3$ | Heat treatment (sterilisation process) to achieve minimum $F_0 = 3$ |
| 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 a alkaline phosphatase test, applied immediately after the heat treatment | HTST pasteurisation treatment at a minimum of 72°C for a minimum of 15 s applied twice to milk with a pH ≥ 7.0 |
| HTST treatment of milk with pH < 7.0 | HTST pasteurisation treatment at a **minimum of 72°C for a minimum of 15 s** of milk with pH < 7.0 |
| HTST treatment combined with another physical treatment, either:<br>(a) lowering the pH below 6 for 1 h; or<br>(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<br>HTST pasteurisation treatment at a minimum of 72°C combined with desiccation |
| [1] In Regulation 2020/692, Annex XXVII.<br>AGRINFO<br>www.agrinfo.eu | |

Source: Regulation 2020/692, Annex XXVII.

| Table 3<br>Proposed changes to risk mitigation treatments for egg products | | |
|---|---|---|
| Product | Current treatment | Proposed treatment[1] |
| **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**<br>60 °C for 6 min 12 s |
| Fortified egg | – | 62.2°C for 3 min 30 s **or**<br>61.1°C for 6 min 12 s |
| Sugared/salted egg | – | 63.3°C for 3 min 30 s **or**<br>62.2°C for 6 min 12 s |
| [1] In Regulation 2020/692, Annex XXVIII.<br>AGRINFO<br>www.agrinfo.eu | | |

Source: Regulation 2020/692, Annex XXVIII.

| Table 4<br>Proposed 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:<br>*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:<br>*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 proposed list no longer contains common names for species.<br>AGRINFO<br>www.agrinfo.eu | | | |

Source: Regulation 2020/692, Annex XXIX.

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