Information about importing family pet birds into Great Britain

1. What is a family pet bird?
   A family pet bird is a bird which has been owned and
cared for by the importer and family in captivity in the
country of export for a minimum period of 2 months, or
since hatching (if under 2 months old).

2. Can all birds be imported as pets?
   No. In general family pet birds will be budgerigars,
canaries or cockatiels. Pigeons, birds of prey, poultry and
game may not be imported as family pets. The birds
should not be intended for resale or trade.

3. How many birds can I import as pets?
   Two per person, up to a maximum of six per family.

4. I cannot comply with these Regulations. What should I do?
   If, for example, you have not owned your pet birds for 2
   months, or you own prohibited species, or own more
   than the maximum allowed, or you wish to sell the birds
   after import, different arrangements apply and details
   of these are obtainable from the addresses on page 4.

5. What documents do I need?
   An import licence from the Department. No family pet
   bird may be imported into Great Britain without a licence
   granted in advance of the date of import.

6. Who issues the licence?
   The licence is issued by the appropriate local office for
   the quarantine premises. Please refer to the addresses
   on page 4.

7. Where do I send my application?
   Import licences are issued by the local animal health office
   responsible for the quarantine premises. Your completed
   application form should therefore be sent to the
   appropriate local office as listed on page 4.
   If the quarantine premises is in Northern Ireland the
   Department of Agriculture and Rural Development has
   its own import requirements and should be contacted at:
   ● Dundonald House
     Upper Newtownards Road Belfast BT6 3SB
     Telephone number: 01232 650111
   Please note that we require at least ONE MONTH’s notice
   (but not more than two months please) and that proof
   of posting is not proof of receipt.

8. When will my licence be sent to me?
   Your licence will be sent about 2-3 weeks before your
date of import. Please do not make enquiries before this
period.

9. What if my licence does not arrive in time?
   Telephone the Department immediately and we will
advise you what to do.

10. How long is the licence valid?
    The licence is valid for 3 months. You can import your
    bird(s) any time within this period.

11. What happens to the licence?
    The blue licence and the completed health certificate (see
    paragraph 12) must travel with the bird(s), but may be
    kept by Customs at the port/airport of landing.

12. Do I need any health documents before I import my birds?
    Yes. Your import licence will include a health section.
    Your bird(s) must be inspected and the health section
    completed by a veterinary surgeon in the country from
    which the birds are being brought to Great Britain, within
    7 days before their departure.

13. Does my bird have to go into quarantine?
    Yes, but the quarantine may be at your own home. If
    this is suitable (see paragraph 15), or at other suitable
    premises.

14. How long is the quarantine period?
    35 days, but this may be extended if your bird becomes
    ill.

15. What makes my home suitable for quarantine?
    There must be no other captive birds or poultry on the
    premises (in the house or garden) and no-one in the family
    must have contact with any other birds or poultry during
    the quarantine period. The regulation about contact also
    applies to any visitors to your home. You will be required
to sign a declaration to this effect at part 2 of IM 98.
Hotels etc. are not acceptable.
16. I am in the Services and do not know my quarter address. What should I do?

It is important that your application is sent to the Department well in advance of the import date, even if you do not know your quarter address. You should complete the application form to the best of your knowledge, but a licence cannot be issued until your full quarter address is known (for unmarried personnel the name of an individual barrack block would be sufficient). This means that you should let the Department know (by letter or telephone) as soon as you know your quarter address so that your licence can be issued. The address must be in sufficient detail to be located by the inspecting veterinary surgeon. It may help to contact the Families Office at your new station and advise that you need your new address in order to obtain your licence.

17. I find that I am not now going to the address on my licence. What should I do?

Telephone or write to the Department and explain. We will issue an amendment to your licence. If you attempt to take imported birds to an address which is not on the import licence, this will be an illegal landing (see paragraph 34).

18. Can I move my bird(s) during quarantine?

Not without prior permission in writing from the Department. Before the birds are moved you will be required to send a letter giving the full address of the new premises. An amendment to your movement licence will then be issued.

19. Can the birds travel by sea or by air?

Yes. If the birds are travelling by air the container, crate or cage must satisfy the conditions laid down by the International Air Transport Association (IATA) and must travel as manifested freight in the freight compartment of the aircraft. They must not travel in the cabin compartment or as excess passenger baggage. If your birds are travelling by air, IATA regulations require that the container must carry labels to indicate “live animals” and this way up”. If the birds are travelling by sea the Regulations of the ferry company must be observed. The birds should not come into contact with the crew or other passengers.

20. Which port or airport can I use?

Family pet birds may be imported through any port or airport in Great Britain which has Customs facilities. You should use the Red Channel (Goods to Declare) at the Customs point. They may not be imported through the Channel Tunnel.

21. I am not travelling with my bird(s). Does this matter?

In order to qualify for the term vigorous import conditions that are allowed for pet birds, it is a requirement that you must travel with your bird.

22. How do I get my bird(s) to the quarantine?

You may use a private car, taxi or guard’s van of a passenger train. Other forms of public transport may not be used because of the possible danger to other people should your bird(s) be ill. The bird(s) must be kept away from other birds or poultry en route to the quarantine premises.

23. Can I take my birds somewhere else for a couple of days on the way to the quarantine?

No. Your birds must be taken direct to the quarantine address on your licence.

24. I wish to tranship my birds through Great Britain. What should I do?

Contact the appropriate address on page 4. If you are going to Northern Ireland via Great Britain you should contact the Department in GB AND the Department of Agriculture and Rural Development in N. Ireland (see paragraph 7).

25. Who supervises the quarantine?

When you complete your application form you will be asked to nominate a Local Veterinary Inspector (a Defra approved veterinary surgeon) to supervise the quarantine. If you do not know of one in your area you should contact the Animal Health Divisional Office in the relevant county to obtain a name - a list of offices is on page 4.

26. What should I do once my birds reach the quarantine?

Notify the Local Veterinary Inspector immediately, as he must visit your birds within 48 hours of their arrival. He has a form to complete to confirm that the birds have arrived and are healthy. You should also notify your local Animal Health Divisional Office that the birds have arrived. The telephone number will be sent with your import licence.

27. How many visits must my veterinary surgeon make?

At least two. One within 48 hours of the arrival of the birds and one at the end of the quarantine period. These visits are to inspect the health of the birds. Your veterinary surgeon may feel that other visits are necessary should your bird become ill.

28. Can I take my bird(s) to the vet’s surgery during the quarantine period?

No. Your bird(s) must not be taken to the surgery. Your veterinary surgeon will visit you on request.

29. What should I do if my bird escapes, becomes ill or dies during the quarantine?

Notify your Local Veterinary Inspector at once and he will tell the Department. It is up to you the Importer, to ensure that the bird cannot escape. If your bird dies you must keep the carcase until you receive instructions from the Department. The Department will advise you as to how the carcase should be kept.
30. What should I do with the birds' droppings or litter?
All droppings, litter, cage linings or other debris must be burnt at the quarantine address, or disposed of in a manner satisfactory to the Inspecting Veterinary Inspector / Officer of the Department.

31. What happens at the end of the quarantine?
Your veterinary inspector will return the quarantine record form to the Ministry's Divisional Veterinary Manager (DVM). If everything is in order the DVM will write to you and confirm that the quarantine has finished. Your birds are still subject to quarantine restrictions until this letter has been received.

32. What charges must I pay?
There is no charge for the Department import licence. However, you will be required to pay the Local Veterinary Inspector's fees for the visits, and it is your responsibility to pay these fees directly to your veterinary surgeon.

33. Can I re-export my birds during the quarantine period?
Yes, provided the Department is notified and the importing country will accept them. If you need an export health certificate you should contact your local Animal Health Divisional Office.

34. What happens if I attempt to import my birds without a licence, or I break the licence conditions?
Importing any bird without a licence from the Department or failure to comply with the licence conditions is an offence and means that proceedings could be brought against you under the Animal Health Act 1981 and the bird(s) may be re-exported or destroyed.

35. Are there any other Regulations to follow?
Yes. Many birds, particularly those of the parrot family also need licences from the Defra Wildlife Licensing and Registration Service. You should write to:
- **CITES Defra**
  Wildlife Licensing and Registration Service
  Temple Quay House
  2, The Square
  Bristol BS1 6EB
  Telephone number: 0117 372 8168

If you need a licence from the Wildlife Licensing and Registration Service, this will be in addition to your Defra animal health office licence. Budgerigars, canaries and cockatiels do not need Defra Wildlife Licensing and Registration Service licences but they do need Defra animal health office licences.

36. I have other animals or plants to import. What should I do?
You should contact the following:
- **Dogs, cats, hamsters, guinea pigs, gerbils, mice, rats and rabbits:**
  Import Section (Rabies Control)
  Defra
  1A Page Street, London SW1P 4PQ
  Telephone number: 0207 904 6356

- **Tropical and ornamental coldwater fish:**
  Defra
  Fisheries Division 1, Nobel House
  17 Smith Square, London SW1P 3HX
  Telephone number: (020) 7238 5943/4.

- **House Plants:**
  As above, but please address correspondence to ‘Plant Health Division’
  Telephone number: (020) 7238 6483.

- **Tortoises, Reptiles etc:**
  Defra Wildlife Licensing and Registration Service
  (address as given in paragraph 35 above).

Data Protection Act.
Personal data may be held by and transmitted to the following, or their appointed agents; the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra), the Scottish Executive Environment and Rural Affairs Department (SEERAD), the National Assembly for Wales Agriculture Department (NAWAD), and enforcement authorities, for purposes in connection with:
1. this application; or
2. animal health and welfare, including disease control and the tracing of animal movements.

Defra, or its appointed agents, may contact you in connection with occasional customer research aimed at improving the services that Defra provides to you and to give you any information relevant to your application.

Information (including personal data) may also be released on request, to third parties including under the Environmental Information Regulations, the Code of Practice on Access to Government Information and the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

At least ONE MONTH's notice is required for the issue of a licence. Please make sure that your application reaches us in good time.

Please read these notes carefully and keep them for reference.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>County</th>
<th>Animal Health Divisional Office</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>BERKSHIRE</strong></td>
<td>Animal Health Divisional Office, Government Buildings, Coley Park, Reading RG1 6DT</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Telephone No. 0118 959 6695 Fax: 01189 392 500</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>CORNWALL</strong></td>
<td>Animal Health Divisional Office, Pydar House, Pydar St, Truro TR1 2XD</td>
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<td>Telephone No. 01872 265 500 Fax: 01872 265 555</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>CUMBRIA</strong></td>
<td>Animal Health Divisional Office, Hadrain House, Wavell Drive, Carlisle CA1 2TB</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Telephone No. 01228 591 999 Fax: 01228 266 373</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>DEVON</strong></td>
<td>Animal Health Divisional Office, Clyst House, Winsdale Park, Clyst St Mary, Exeter, Devon, EX5 1DY</td>
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<td>Telephone No. 01392 266 373 Fax: 01392 266 375</td>
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<td><strong>ESSEX</strong></td>
<td>Animal Health Divisional Office, Beeches Rd, Chelmsford CM1 2RU</td>
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<td>Telephone No. 01245 358 383 Fax: 01245 351 162</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>GLOUCESTERSHIRE</strong></td>
<td>Defra Unit 1, Saw Mills End, Corinium Avenue, Gloucester, GL4 3DE</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Telephone No. 01452 627 400 Fax: 01452 627 483</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>LANCASHIRE</strong></td>
<td>(Manchester Airport) Animal Health Divisional Office, Barton Hall Animal Health Centre, Garstang Rd, Preston PR3 5HE, Telephone No. 01772 861 144 Fax: 01772 861 798</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>LEICESTERSHIRE</strong></td>
<td>Animal Health Divisional Office, Government Buildings, Tigers Rd, South Wigston, Leicester, LE18 4UY, Telephone No. 01162 787 451 Fax: 01162 770 153</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>LINCOLNSHIRE</strong></td>
<td>Animal Health Divisional Office, Ceres House, 2 Sarby Rd, Lincoln LN2 4DW, Telephone No. 01522 529 951 Fax: 01522 560 668</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>SCOTLAND</strong></td>
<td>Animal Health Divisional Office, Government Buildings, 28 Longman Rd, Inverness IV11SF, Telephone No. 01463 234 141 Fax: 01463 711 495 [ Counties: Highland Unitary Authority &amp; the Western Isles]</td>
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<td>Animal Health Divisional Office, Thainstone Court, Inverurie AB51 5YA, Telephone No. 01467 626 300 Fax: 01467 626 321 [ Counties: Moray, Aberdeenshire, City of Aberdeen, Orkney &amp; Shetland]</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>NEWCASTLE</strong></td>
<td>Animal Health Divisional Office, Spur K, Government Buildings, Kenton Bar, Newcastle-upon-Tyne NE1 2YA, Telephone No. 0191 214 0681 Fax: 0191 286 4452</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>SOMERSET</strong></td>
<td>Animal Health Divisional Office, Quantock House, Paul St, Taunton TA1 3NX, Telephone No. 01823 337 922 Fax: 01823 338 170</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>STAFFORDSHIRE</strong></td>
<td>Animal Health Divisional Office, Beacon House, Staffordshire Technology Park, Dyson Way, Stafford ST18 0GU, Telephone No. 01785 231 901</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>SUFFOLK</strong></td>
<td>Animal Health Divisional Office, Southgate St, Bury St Edmunds IP33 2BD, Telephone No. 01284 754 323 Fax: 01284 705 684</td>
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<td><strong>SURREY</strong></td>
<td>(Dover/Gatwick/Heathrow) Animal Health Divisional Office, Liberty House 105 Bell St Reigate RH2 7JB, Telephone No. 01737 242 242 Fax: 01737 241 189</td>
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<td><strong>WORCESTERSHIRE</strong></td>
<td>Animal Health Divisional Office, Block ‘C’, Government Buildings, Whittington Rd, Worcester WR5 2LQ, Telephone No. 01905 767 111 Fax: 01905 764 352</td>
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<td><strong>YORKSHIRE</strong></td>
<td>Veterinary Service, Government Buildings, Otley Rd, Leeds, LS16 5PZ, Telephone No. 01132 300 100 Fax: 01132 610 212</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>WALES</strong></td>
<td>Gwynedd Animal Health Divisional Office, Crown Buildings, Penralt, Caernarfon LL55 1EP, Telephone No. 01286 674 144 Fax: 01286 674 626</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Gwent- Glamorgan Animal Health Divisional Office, Government Buildings, 66 Ty Glas Rd, Llanishen, Cardiff CF4 5ZB, Telephone No.02920 325 200 Fax: 029 2032 6526</td>
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<td>Dyfed Animal Health Divisional Office Government Buildings, Picton Terrace, Carmarthen SA13 3BT, Telephone No. 01267 225 300 Fax: 01267 223 019</td>
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Animal Health Office List (Rev. 9/03)