

PLANTS OR PLANT PRODUCTS



There are restrictions on bringing plants and plant products into the UK from outside the EU. Many items are controlled, including plants and bulbs, soil, potatoes and some fruit and vegetables. Please check the rules in the plant 'If in doubt, leave it out!' leaflet. For further information, please contact: The Plant Health Service Delivery Unit of Defra on +44 (0) 1904 455174 (between 08:00 hrs and 17:00 hrs, Monday to Friday)

ENDANGERED SPECIES

Specimens or parts of animals and plants, and products obtained from them (e.g. ivory, skins/hides and shells), protected under the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES) are controlled. For further information, please contact: The Global Wildlife Division of Defra on +44 (0) 117 372 8749 (between 09:00 hrs and 17:00 hrs, Monday to Friday)

HOW CAN I CHECK THE RULES?

You can check the rules for the country you are travelling from on the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra) website:

www.defra.gov.uk

Or telephone the following helplines:

DEFRA

From the UK: 08459 335577 (local rate)

From outside the UK: +44 (0) 20 7238 6951

(between 09:00 hrs and 17:00 hrs, Monday to Friday)

There is also a minicom/textphone number for the deaf and hard of hearing: 0845 300 1998

THE FOOD STANDARDS AGENCY

(For specific information on fish, shellfish and their products)

+44 (0) 20 7276 8018

(between 09:00 hrs and 17:00 hrs, Monday to Friday)

For all other allowances information please refer to 'Notice 1 – A Customs Guide for Travellers Entering the UK'.

GOODS TO DECLARE

If you do bring meat or food into the UK, or are simply unsure of the rules, you must go to the Customs Red Channel/Point or the phone provided at the red point to speak to a Customs Officer. All prohibited and restricted meat and food items will be taken away and destroyed. No further action will be taken.

THERE ARE STRICT PENALTIES FOR SMUGGLING PROHIBITED AND RESTRICTED ITEMS. IF YOU FAIL TO DECLARE ANY ITEMS THAT ARE NOT PERMITTED THEN YOU ARE BREAKING THE LAW AND CAN FACE SEVERE DELAYS, PROSECUTION AND FINES.

IF IN DOUBT, LEAVE IT OUT!



DON'T BRING PROHIBITED MEAT AND FOOD INTO THE UK. MANY ITEMS ARE ILLEGAL AS THEY MAY CARRY DISEASES. CHECK THE RULES OR YOU COULD FACE SEVERE DELAYS, PROSECUTION AND FINES.

WHY ARE THERE STRICT CONTROLS?

Meat, food and plants can carry animal/plant pests and diseases, which can devastate our environment and our agricultural and horticultural industries. The 2001 Foot and Mouth (FMD) outbreak demonstrated the costly impact of animal and plant disease on rural communities, businesses and the economy.

This leaflet gives you a summary of the rules. It is not fully comprehensive. Pest and disease outbreaks can occur at any time and these rules are subject to amendment without notice.

WHERE YOU SEE THIS SYMBOL YOU MUST CHECK IF YOU ARE PERMITTED TO BRING IN THE FOOD ITEM FROM THE COUNTRY YOU ARE TRAVELLING FROM.



If you are in doubt, please check the rules at www.defra.gov.uk or call the helplines on page 6. Remember, what you can bring into the UK depends on where you are travelling from, not where the item has been produced or packaged.

FOOD MUST BE FOR PERSONAL CONSUMPTION AND FREE FROM DISEASES. THE STATED LIMITS ARE PER PERSON. IF YOU EXCEED THESE, THE WHOLE AMOUNT WILL BE SEIZED.

All travellers may bring in a limited quantity of powdered infant milk, infant food and special foods required for medical reasons in personal baggage. Items must not require refrigeration before opening and must be in commercially branded packaging, unopened unless in current use.

TRAVELLING FROM THE EUROPEAN UNION (EU)

From another European Union country, as listed below, you may bring in or send by post any food item as long as it is free from diseases and is for your personal consumption.

Austria, Belgium, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, The Irish Republic, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, The Netherlands, Poland, Portugal (including Madeira), Republic of Cyprus (though the whole of Cyprus is part of the EU, goods from any area of Cyprus not under effective control of the Republic of Cyprus are treated as non-EU imports) Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, United Kingdom.

For these purposes European Union countries also include: Andorra, the Canary Islands, the Channel Islands, the Isle of Man, Norway and San Marino. Although Gibraltar is part of the EU, it is outside the Community for these purposes.

TRAVELLING FROM THE FAROE ISLANDS, GREENLAND, ICELAND, LIECHTENSTEIN OR SWITZERLAND

You may bring in or send by post to the UK the following items:



A COMBINED WEIGHT OF NOT MORE THAN 5KG PER PERSON OF THE FOLLOWING: Meat, meat products, milk and dairy products obtained from those countries.



1KG EACH OF OTHER ANIMAL PRODUCTS PER PERSON (eg Fish, shellfish, honey, eggs) IS PERMITTED FROM CERTAIN COUNTRIES*.



*The rules vary by product and by country. Please check using the contacts on page 6.

TRAVELLING FROM ALL OTHER NON-EU COUNTRIES

You are not permitted to bring in or send by post to the UK the following items:

	MEAT AND MEAT PRODUCTS such as fresh, cooked or dried meat, for example pies, curries, ham, biltong, pot noodles which contain pieces of meat, meatballs, meat pickles, cured or cooked sausage, pâté and meat paste.	
	MILK AND DAIRY PRODUCTS such as dried milk, concentrated milk, cream, butter, ghee, mithai, cheese and products made from or containing fresh cream.	

For other products the rules vary by country. From some countries you may bring in or send by post to the UK up to 1KG of certain products. From other countries you may not be able to bring or send any of these products in. Please check using the contacts on page 6.

	FISH AND FISH PRODUCTS such as fresh, dried, cooked, cured or smoked fish and fish products, for example oyster sauce, canned tuna and fish sauces.	
	SHELLFISH such as prawns, shrimp, oysters and scallops.	
	EGGS AND EGG PRODUCTS such as omelette, egg noodles and dried egg.	
	HONEY	