

Importing sauces containing products of animal origin

Guidance on food hygiene and contaminants when importing sauces containing products of animal origin.

General information

There are strict rules for importing from non-EU countries sauces which contain products of animal origin. and these cover sauces that contain any:

- meat
- poultry
- fish
- eggs and egg products
- honey

These types of sauces must meet the same food hygiene and procedural requirements for European Union (EU) as food produced in the UK or other EU Member States.

They must also be accompanied by a health certificate issued by the competent authority in the country of origin.

Examples of such products include:

- carbonara sauce
- cheese sauce
- mayonnaise
- béchamel sauce
- hollandaise sauce
- parsley sauce
- certain meat gravies or stocks

The rules for importing sauces containing meat or dairy (including milk powder), gelatine, poultry, eggs or ratites (emu, ostrich and rhea) products are dealt with by the Animal and Plant Health Agency (APHA). This also includes sauces that contain wild game, insects, grubs, unusual meat (reptiles, alligators) or honey.

For [further information](#) please visit APHA's website. APHA is an Executive Agency of the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA). Information on importing sauces containing shellfish or fish, or their products see our [webpage](#).

Food hygiene

For general enquiries on food hygiene please contact the [Food Hygiene Policy Team](#).

Contaminants

A guidance note on the Contaminants in Food (England) Regulations 2013, which make

provision for enactment and enforcement of Commission Regulations setting regulatory limits for contaminants in food (nitrate, mycotoxins, metals, 3-MCPD, dioxins and PAHs). Read our business guidance on [chemical safety](#).

Import restrictions

Imports of feed and food from Japan

As of 27 March 2011 imports of all feed and food originating in or consigned from Japan to the EU are subject to special conditions. This is following the accident at the Fukushima Daiichi nuclear power plant in Japan in March 2011. This will mean that consignments of feed and food can only enter the UK through specific ports and airports where official controls will be carried out. More information can be found on our website on [imports and exports](#).

Team Contacts

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