



European
Commission

PROTOCOL ON IRELAND/NORTHERN IRELAND

MOVEMENT OF ANIMALS AND ANIMAL PRODUCTS INTO NORTHERN IRELAND

21 February 2022

What flexibilities has the European Commission already found?

The European Commission has already implemented a number of flexibilities through targeted amendments of EU law which greatly facilitate the movement of live animals and animal products from Great Britain to Northern Ireland.

	Tagging of live animals	<p>No need for re-tagging when animals move multiple times between Great Britain and Northern Ireland during their lifetime¹.</p> <p><i>Example:</i> if a cow, which is already identified according to EU rules, is transported from Northern Ireland to Great Britain, it does not need to be re-tagged after returning to Northern Ireland.</p>
	Re-export of EU products of animal origin <i>for human consumption from Great Britain to the EU and Northern Ireland</i>	<p>EU-origin animal products that are moved to Great Britain for storage can be re-exported to the EU and Northern Ireland².</p> <p><i>Example:</i> according to standard EU rules, cheese or smoked ham produced in the EU and imported into Great Britain for storage only, cannot be re-exported to the EU or to Northern Ireland. Thanks to this specific amendment of EU law, this re-export to the EU or to Northern Ireland is now allowed.</p>
	Facilitating movement of livestock <i>(bovine, ovine and caprine) for trade/exhibition fairs</i>	<p>Relevant animals will not have to wait for a 6-month minimum residency period in Great Britain before returning to Northern Ireland³.</p> <p><i>Example:</i> according to standard EU rules, a sheep transported from Northern Ireland to a fair in Great Britain, but which remained unsold at the end of the event, had to wait 6 months in Great Britain before returning to its Northern Irish holding of origin. Thanks to this amendment of EU law, the sheep can now return to Northern Ireland without any waiting period.</p>

1 Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2021/1064 of 28 June 2021: <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX:32021R1064>

2 Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2021/1469 of 10 September 2021: <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX%3A32021R1469>

3 Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) 2022/54 of 21 October 2021: <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX%3A32022R0054> and Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2022/55 of 9 November 2021: <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX:32022R0055>



Risk control of scrapie – facilitating movement of sheep and goats

Temporary derogation until end-2024 to allow movements of sheep and goats between Great Britain and Northern Ireland provided the breeders concerned in Great Britain have enrolled in the prescribed 3-year scrapie risk-free programme⁴.

Example: according to standard EU rules, a sheep coming from a holding in Scotland that has not completed a three-year scrapie monitoring programme could not be transported to Northern Ireland for breeding purposes. Thanks to this new flexibility, the sheep from such holdings can be transported to Northern Ireland for breeding purposes before completing the scrapie monitoring programme (i.e. without waiting for the prescribed 3 years).



Simplification of certification requirements for animal by-products regarding slaughter of animals

Animal by-products obtained from animals slaughtered in Great Britain can be exported to the EU and Northern Ireland under simplified certification requirements.

Reduced residency period for animals brought into Great Britain from Northern Ireland, the EU or any other third country before they can be slaughtered⁵.

Example: according to previous provisions, animal by-products (e.g. frozen offal for pharmaceutical use) could be exported from Great Britain to the EU or Northern Ireland only if they had been obtained from animals having remained in their last holding for 40 days before slaughter. Thanks to this amendment, the waiting period is no longer necessary for animal by-products exported from Great Britain to the EU or Northern Ireland.



Allowing animal by-products to be exported to Great Britain for combustion

Animal by-products from Ireland and Northern Ireland belonging to export category 1 meat-and-bone meal can be exported to Great Britain for combustion⁶.

Example: according to previous provisions, meat and bone meal produced from animal bodies outside the food chain could not be exported from Ireland or Northern Ireland to Great Britain as a fuel for combustion. Given the particular geographical situation of the island of Ireland, this specific export has now been authorised.



Racing pigeons

Racing pigeons brought into the EU or Northern Ireland from Great Britain will not need to observe a 30-day quarantine⁷.

Example: previous provisions limited the possibility of racing pigeons from Great Britain from participating in sports events in the EU or Northern Ireland (i.e. entering the EU or Northern Ireland in order to be released to fly back to Great Britain), as the establishment of origin had to be approved, the pigeons had to be tested before export and they were submitted to a 30-day quarantine after arriving in the EU. Thanks to this amendment of EU law, those requirements have now been lifted.

4 Commission Regulation (EU) 2022/175 of 9 February 2022: <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX%3A32022R0175>.

Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2022/250 of 21 February 2022: https://eur-lex.europa.eu/eli/reg_impl/2022/250/oj.

5 Commission Regulation (EU) 2021/1891 of 26 October 2021: <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX:32021R1891>

6 Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) 2021/899 of 3 June 2021: <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/eli/reg/2021/899/oj>.

7 Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) 2021/1705 of 14 July 2021: <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX:32021R1705>. In addition, Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2022/35 of 6 January 2022 excludes racing pigeons from the list of captive birds from third countries (including the UK (Great Britain)): <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX%3A32022R0035>. Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2022/37 of 12 January 2022 provides for a specific model certificate for movements of racing pigeons: <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX%3A32022R0037>

