

EU Regulations – Racing Pigeons

Please find attached below some information I've dug up while checking out EU reg's regarding Racing Pigeons after seeing this topic discussed over a number of social media platforms. The main thing to remember is that as of 1/1/2021 the UK will be classed as a third country / territory and the regulation 139/2013 makes for interesting reading regarding racing pigeons. Also remember Norway is not a member state of the EU but has flown from across the EU even after it opted to decline joining following referendums in 1972 and 1994. I admit I am no expert in EU regulations, but the 2020/688 & 2016/429 seems to apply more to member states requirements which next year does not include the UK. Provided our own regulations still require us to vaccinate the birds and maintain their welfare in transport to an equivalent standard of the EU regulations there shouldn't be a problem however I'm always happy to be corrected as it promotes better understanding and learning.

COMMISSION DELEGATED REGULATION (EU) **2020/688** of 17 December 2019 supplementing Regulation (EU) 2016/429 of the European Parliament and of the Council, as regards animal health requirements for movements within the Union of terrestrial animals and hatching eggs

THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION, Having regard to the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union,

Whereas:

(24) To prevent the risk of spread of listed diseases relevant to the movements of captive birds between Member States, it is appropriate in this Regulation to maintain Union rules for movements of captive birds intended for exhibition in another Member State. In addition, this Regulation should also lay down specific provisions for birds of prey attending flight hunting exhibitions in another Member State and for racing pigeons to be moved to sporting events in other Member States.

Article 3

Definitions For the purposes of this Regulation, the following definitions shall apply:

(35) 'racing pigeon' means any pigeon transported or intended for transport from its pigeon house to another Member State in order to be released to fly back to the Member State of origin;

Article 59

Requirements for movements of captive birds

1. Operators shall only move captive birds other than psittacidae to another Member State when the following requirements are fulfilled:

(a) the animals have been continuously resident in a registered or a confined establishment since hatching or for at least 21 days prior to departure;

(b) the animals come from flocks which show no clinical sign or suspicion of listed diseases relevant for the species;

(c) the animals show no clinical signs or suspicion of listed diseases relevant for the species;

(d) in case the animals have entered the Union from a third country or territory or zone thereof, they have been quarantined in accordance with the requirements for entry into the Union in the approved quarantine establishment of destination in the Union;

(e) in the case of pigeons, the animals are vaccinated against infection with Newcastle disease virus and come from an establishment where vaccination against infection with Newcastle disease virus is carried out;

(f) the relevant requirements related to vaccination as provided for in Articles 61 and 62.

Specific requirements for movements of racing pigeons to sporting events in another Member State

Operators shall only move racing pigeons to sporting events in another Member State when those animals fulfil the conditions in **Article 59**.

Article 61

Requirements in relation to vaccination against infection with Newcastle disease virus In the case where captive birds, hatching eggs of captive birds or the flocks of origin of the hatching eggs have been vaccinated against infection with Newcastle disease virus with other than inactivated vaccines, the vaccines administered shall satisfy the criteria of Annex VI.

Article 62

Requirements for movements of captive birds and hatching eggs of captive birds to a Member State or zone thereof with the status free from infection with Newcastle disease virus without vaccination Operators shall only move captive birds of galliformes species and hatching eggs of captive birds of galliformes species from a Member State or zone thereof which does not have the status free from infection with Newcastle disease virus without vaccination to a Member State or zone thereof which has the status free from infection with Newcastle disease virus without vaccination when the requirements of Articles 59 to 61 for the specific commodity are fulfilled and those animals and hatching eggs fulfil the following requirements as regards infection with Newcastle disease virus:

(a) in the case of captive birds:

(i) the animals are not vaccinated against infection with Newcastle disease virus;

(ii) the animals have been isolated for 14 days prior to departure, at either the establishment of origin under the supervision of an official veterinarian or in an approved quarantine establishment, where: — no captive birds have been vaccinated against infection with Newcastle disease virus during the last 21 days prior to departure; — no other birds were introduced during the last 21 days prior to departure; — no vaccination has been carried out in the quarantine establishment;

(iii) the animals have tested negative, during the last 14 days prior to departure, to serological tests to detect antibodies against Newcastle disease virus, performed on blood samples at a level which gives 95 % confidence of detecting infection at 5 % prevalence;

(b) in the case of hatching eggs of captive birds, they:

(i) are not vaccinated against infection with Newcastle disease virus;

(ii) come from flocks which are:

either

— not vaccinated against infection with Newcastle disease virus; or L 174/182 EN Official Journal of the European Union 3.6.2020

- vaccinated against infection with Newcastle disease virus using inactivated vaccines; or
- vaccinated against infection with Newcastle disease virus using live vaccines that satisfy the criteria in Annex VI and vaccination has taken place at least 30 days before the collection of the hatching eggs.

Article 65

Special rules for movement of travelling circuses and animal acts to other Member States 1. Operators of travelling circuses and animal acts shall only move their circuses and animal acts to another Member State when the following requirements are fulfilled:

- (iii) pigeons have been vaccinated against infection with the Newcastle disease virus;

Article 68

Specific requirements for movements of racing pigeons to sporting events in another Member State Operators shall only move racing pigeons to sporting events in another Member State when those animals fulfil the conditions in **Article 59**.

COMMISSION IMPLEMENTING REGULATION (EU) No 139/2013

of 7 January 2013

**laying down animal health conditions for imports of
certain birds into the Union and the quarantine
conditions thereof**

(codification)

(Text with EEA relevance)

THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION,

Having regard to the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union,

Having regard to Council Directive 91/496/EEC of 15 July 1991 laying down the principles governing the organisation of veterinary checks on animals entering the Community from third countries and amending Directives 89/662/EEC, 90/425/EEC and 90/675/EEC⁽¹⁾, and in particular the second subparagraph of Article 10(3) and point (b) of second subparagraph of Article 10(4) thereof,

hereas:

(14) The animal health risk posed by **racing pigeons** that are brought into the Union to be released again so that they may fly back to their origin is such that they should be excluded from the scope of this Regulation.

(15) In addition, certain third countries have animal health conditions that are equivalent to those provided for in Union legislation. Therefore, imports of birds from those countries should be excluded from the scope of this Regulation.

Article 1 Subject matter

This Regulation lays down the animal health conditions for imports of certain birds into the Union, from the third countries and parts thereof referred to in Annex I, and the quarantine conditions for such imports.

Article 2 Scope

This Regulation shall apply to animals of the avian species.

However, it shall not apply to:

- (a) poultry;
- (b) birds imported for conservation programmes approved by the competent authority in the Member State of destination;
- (c) pet animals referred to in the third paragraph of Article 1 of Directive 92/65/EEC, accompanying their owner;
- (d) birds intended for zoos, circuses, amusement parks or experiments;
- (e) birds destined for bodies, institutes or centres approved according to Article 13 of Directive 92/65/EEC;
- (f) racing pigeons which are introduced to the territory of the Union from a neighbouring third country where they are normally resident and then immediately released with the expectation that they will fly back to that third country;**
- (g) birds imported from Andorra, Liechtenstein, Monaco, Norway, San Marino, Switzerland, and the Vatican City State.

Article 3 Definitions

For the purposes of this Regulation, the definitions of Directive 2005/94/EC shall apply except for the definition of poultry in point 4 of Article 2 of that Directive. For the purposes of this Regulation 'poultry' means fowl, turkeys, guinea fowl, ducks, geese, quails, **pigeons**, pheasants, partridges and ratites (*Ratitae*) reared or kept in captivity for breeding, the production of meat or eggs for consumption, or for restocking supplies of game.

For the Commission

The President

José Manuel BARROSO

REGULATION (EU) 2016/429 OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND OF THE COUNCIL of 9 March 2016

on transmissible animal diseases and amending and repealing certain acts in the area of animal health ('Animal Health Law')

Article 246 Maximum number of pet animals

1. The number of pet animals of the species listed in Part A of Annex I which may be moved during a single non-commercial movement shall not exceed five.

2. By way of derogation from paragraph 1, the number of pet animals of the species listed in part A of Annex I may exceed five if the following conditions are fulfilled:

(a) the non-commercial movement in question is for the purpose of participating in a competition, exhibition or sporting event or training for such an event;

(b) the pet owner or the authorised person concerned submits written evidence that the pet animals are registered either to attend an event as referred to in point (a), or with an association organising such events;

(c) the pet animals are more than six months old.

3. In order to prevent commercial movements of pet animals of the species listed in Part B of Annex I from being fraudulently disguised as non-commercial movements, the Commission shall be empowered to adopt delegated acts in accordance with Article 264 concerning rules setting the maximum number of pet animals of those species which may be moved during a single non-commercial movement.

ANNEX I SPECIES OF PET ANIMALS

PART A

Dogs (*Canis lupus familiaris*)

Cats (*Felis silvestris catus*)

Ferrets (*Mustela putorius furo*)

PART B

Invertebrates (except bees, molluscs belonging to the phylum Mollusca and crustaceans belonging to the subphylum Crustacea)

Ornamental aquatic animals

Amphibians

Reptiles

Birds: specimens of avian species other than fowl, turkeys, guinea fowl, ducks, geese, quails, **pigeons**, pheasants, partridges and ratites (Ratitae).

Mammals: rodents and rabbits other than those intended for food production.

Entry into force and application

This Regulation shall enter into force on the twentieth day following that of its publication in the Official Journal of the European Union.

It shall apply from **21 April 2021**, except for Articles 270(1) and 274, which shall apply from the date of its entry into force.

This Regulation shall be binding in its entirety and directly applicable in all Member States.

Done at Strasbourg, 9 March 2016. For the European Parliament

The President M. SCHULZ

For the Council The President J.A. HENNIS-PLASSCHAERT