

To: Departmental Safety Coordinators, Campus Safety Advisors, Faculty Safety Managers

FOR INFORMATION & ACTION

Re: **Import of Animal-by-Products for Research and Diagnostics**

Action: Distribution to all safety reps, including non-research departments.

Procedure for import of Animal-by-Products for Research and Diagnostics

Definition of Animal-by-Products: An animal product or animal by-product means anything originating or made (whether in whole or in part) from a living or dead animal that is not intended for human consumption. This includes: tissue or cell cultures; antibodies or cell cultures in medium containing BSA, FCS; bodily fluids (including blood) or fractions thereof; feathers/hides/manure.

Recently we had an incident where a courier company phoned a person in Purchasing and asked for verification that the College had an animal-by-product (ABP) import licence in place. The person in Purchasing tried to be helpful, did some Google searches, and provided the courier with a General Licence (available on the DEFRA website under the Research Licensing Regime) and reassured the courier that Imperial would comply with all the conditions of the licence. In this case the laboratory receiving the product did comply with all conditions; however it could have resulted in a breach of Animal Health laws.

To prevent reoccurrence we have updated our website and below is a summary of the procedure to follow if you wish to import animal-by-products.

- A) For animal-by-products from a reputable company with a UK distribution centre, it is unlikely you will need a licence but you should double check with the company.
- B) For certain animal-by-products, known not to be infected, from within the EU (and some Third countries). Use the Research Licensing Regime general licences from the [DEFRA website](#). Notify the [Safety Department](#) that you intent to use such a licence and the details of this licence.
- C) For all other animal-by-products you will have to apply for a specific Animal Health Import Licence. All applications for specific licences must be submitted to the [Safety Department](#) and not to DEFRA directly.

All enquiries from companies and couriers should be directed to the Safety Department (ext. 49426).

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