

Import of foodstuffs

What standards must foodstuffs meet and which procedures must be followed when importing?

REGISTRATION AS AN IMPORTER

If you wish to import foodstuffs intended for sale (import or inter-state trade) you must be registered with The Ministry of Food, Agriculture and Fisheries as an importer. The application for registration as an importer must be sent to the regional veterinary and food control centre.

You can find your regional veterinary and food control centre on the map at the top of the page.

[Application for registration](#)

ANIMAL OR NON-ANIMAL FOODSTUFFS

In foodstuff regulation a distinction is made between animal and non-animal foodstuffs.

Animal foodstuffs consist of or are made of ingredients from animals: Meat, milk, eggs, fish, honey, etc.

Non-animal foodstuffs are vegetable foodstuffs.

The provisions for import and the procedures that are to be followed when importing are not the same for animal and for non-animal foodstuffs. The rules are described in the sections 'Import of animal foodstuffs' and 'Import of non-animal foodstuffs'.

Foodstuffs can, of course, also be made up of both animal and non-animal foodstuffs. The rules for these foodstuffs are described in the section on 'Import of composite foodstuffs'.

INTER-STATE TRADE OR IMPORT FROM A THIRD COUNTRY

A distinction is also made regarding import of foodstuffs from, and inter-state trade with, a third country. These two concepts will be employed in the description of the provisions for import of foodstuffs.

Inter-state trade is import from other EU countries, Norway and Andorra. In the case of fish, trade with the Faroe Islands and Iceland is also regarded as inter-state trade. Collectively, these countries are designated as 'the inter-state trade area' (samhandelsområdet).

Import from third countries is import from countries outside of the inter-state trade area.

IMPORT OF NON-ANIMAL FOODSTUFFS

Non-animal foodstuffs that are imported from third countries or imported via inter-state trade must, as a rule, meet the same requirements for production and safety that apply to comparable products produced in Denmark for free circulation.

Self-regulation

As an importer, you must ensure via self-regulation that the foodstuffs comply with legislation. It is the importer who is responsible for imported foodstuffs when they are turned over in Denmark.

Read more about self-regulation at [Vejledning om virksomheders egenkontrol for aktiviteten import af fødevarer](#).

Where may non-animal foodstuffs be imported?

In contrast with animal foodstuffs, there are generally no stipulations that non-animal foodstuffs be imported via special channels or control locations. Such requirements may be made in connection with specific restrictions.

Non-animal foodstuffs can thus normally be imported directly to the receiving business, from which they can be turned over.

How are they controlled?

Control by the regional veterinary and food control centre is primarily control of the importer's self-regulation, supplemented perhaps by spot checks.

The principles for foodstuff control are described under the heading "Control".

Where are the rules stated?

The general rules can be found in **The** General Food Law Regulation (Fødevareforordningen), Regulation on Food Hygiene (Hygiejneforordningen) and The (the) Control Regulation (Kontrolforordningen). These regulations are described in detail at [Fødevareresikkerhed](#)

Possible special restriction regarding import of non-animal foodstuffs can be found in The Ministerial Order on Restrictions (Restriktionsbekendtgørelsen).

Other legislation

Note that other authorities may have legislation in this area. Read more regarding e.g. import of non-animal foodstuffs on the Plantedirektoratet (The Danish Plant Directorate) website.

IMPORT ANIMAL FOODSTUFFS

There are great differences between the rules for import of animal foodstuffs from third countries and import from the inter-state trade area.

Import from third countries

Animal foodstuffs that are imported from third countries must meet a series of requirements regarding animal health, population health and production hygiene. These are checked by the veterinary border control at the border control post at which the items enter the inter-state trade area.

You can find more detailed descriptions of the import regulations, the veterinary border control and a list of the border control posts under "Grænsekontrol".

There may additionally be a series of standards for quality, composition or labeling that the foodstuffs must meet in order to be turned over freely, but that are not included in the veterinary border control.

Self-regulation at import from third countries

Notwithstanding the veterinary border control of animal foodstuffs from third countries, you as an importer must ensure via your own self-regulation that the foodstuffs comply with the legislation. It is the importer who is responsible for imported foodstuffs when they are turned over in Denmark. Read more about self-regulation at [Vejledning om virksomheders egenkontrol for aktiviteten import af fødevarer](#).

Where can foodstuffs be imported?

Animal foodstuffs from third countries must enter the EU via an authorized border control post at the EU's outer borders. The border control post must always be notified in advance of the import.

You can find a list of border control locations under "Grænsekontrol".

Where are the rules stated?

The rules regarding control of animal foodstuffs imported from third countries are found in The Ministerial Order on Veterinary Control (Veterinærkontrolbekendtgørelsen) and The Veterinary Control Regulation (Veterinærkontrollforordningen).

Special restrictions may be found in The Ministerial Order on Restrictions (Restriktionsbekendtgørelsen).

INTER-STATE TRADE

Animal foodstuffs that are received from another inter-state trade area country, and which meet the common standards can, as a rule, be delivered directly to the receiving business from which they may be turned over.

Self-regulation in inter-state trade

As an importer, you must ensure via self-regulation that the foodstuffs comply with legislation. It is the importer who is responsible for imported foodstuffs when they are turned over in Denmark.

In addition to the general demands for self-regulation there are some more specific demands concerning control and registration of received goods that you must be aware of when receiving animal foodstuffs from inter-state trade area countries. The demands may be found in The Ministerial Order on Restrictions.

Where can foodstuffs be imported?

Animal foodstuffs can normally be imported directly from an inter-state trade area country to a receiving business from which they may be turned over.

You must, however be aware that advance notification may be required for the import of particular products, in accordance with The Ministerial Order on Restrictions.

Where are the rules stated?

The rules regarding control of animal foodstuffs imported from inter-state trade area countries are found in The Ministerial Order on Restrictions .

Special restrictions may be found in The Ministerial Order on Restrictions .

SPECIAL RESTRICTIONS FOR IMPORT OF FOODSTUFFS

For certain foodstuffs, where special risks or problems in connection with import have been noted, the EU, through decisions by the Commission, sets restrictions on import.

All restrictions concerning the import of foodstuffs may be found in The Ministerial Order on Restrictions .

IMPORT OF COMPOSITE FOODSTUFFS

Some foodstuffs consist of both animal and vegetable ingredients. The composition determines whether the foodstuffs are to be imported in accordance with the rules for animal foodstuffs – i.e. whether they are to undergo veterinary border control – or in accordance with the rules for non-animal foodstuffs.

The rules may be found in the Commission's ruling 2007/275/EF and is implemented in the The Ministerial Order on Veterinary Control.

As a general rule, a composite foodstuff must undergo veterinary border control if

- it contains a meat product
- if it contains at least 50% of another animal product (e.g. dairy products, egg products or fish products).

Composite foodstuffs containing less than 50% dairy products may, in some instances, also be required to undergo veterinary border control. See The Ministerial Order on Veterinary Control, appendix I, sec.II.

QUESTIONS

Questions regarding import of foodstuffs should be addressed to the regional veterinary and food control centre.

You can find your regional veterinary and food control centre via the link to Fødevareregion at the top of the page.