Importation of cats – category 2 countries

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IMPORTATION OF CATS FROM A CATEGORY 2 COUNTRY

The following instructions apply to the importation of cats to Iceland from approved category 2 countries: Bosnia-Herzegovina, Canada, Greenland, Hungary, Mexico, Poland, Romania, Serbia, Slovakia, Taiwan, Turkey, USA. It is necessary to familiarize yourself well with the import conditions before preparing for importation. It is recommended to print and read carefully the C2 certificate and refer to these guidelines for details.

The importer must have obtained an import permit issued by the Icelandic Food and Veterinary Authority (MAST) before the cat is imported. The importer is responsible for fulfilling **all** import conditions. Failure to comply with the import conditions may result in the cat being exported.

- The cat must have remained in an approved country since birth or at least for 6 months prior to import. Cats can meet the import requirements at the earliest, around 7 months of age.
- An authorized veterinarian in the country of export must perform all veterinary procedures.
- Only certificate form **C2** issued by MAST is valid for this purpose.
- The signed certificate must be sent to MAST 5-10 days prior to import for approval.
- If the required documentation is received by MAST later than 5 days prior to the scheduled date of arrival, the importation of the animal may be rejected.
- These guidelines are based on Regulation no. 200/2020 on the import of dogs and cats

1. Import permit application – permit fee

- The first step in the import process is to apply for an import permit. Applicants with an Icelandic ID no, (kennitala) shall apply for an import permit on the MAST online portal. You can log on to the portal with an electronic ID or ICE key and complete all the requested information on application no. 2.14. Other applicants shall use the application form on the English MAST website. A scanned copy of the signed application shall be sent to petimport@mast.is.
- It is preferable that the application be submitted to MAST at least 30 days prior to import.
- Necessary information for an import permit application: cat breed, country of export, microchip number, importers name, address.
- A payment request is sent to the applicant upon receipt of application by MAST. This fee covers administration as well as the import control on arrival and upon discharge of the cat from the quarantine station, in total 3 working hours. Please note that this is the minimum fee applicable only if satisfactory documents are submitted within the specified time frame. If these conditions are not met, additional costs may be incurred, billed at the hourly rate according to MAST's tariff.
- Once payment has been received by the MAST, an import permit is issued. The import permit is subject to the conditions that the cat fulfills all the import requirements according to Regulation no. 200/2020
- The import permit is valid for one year after the date of issue

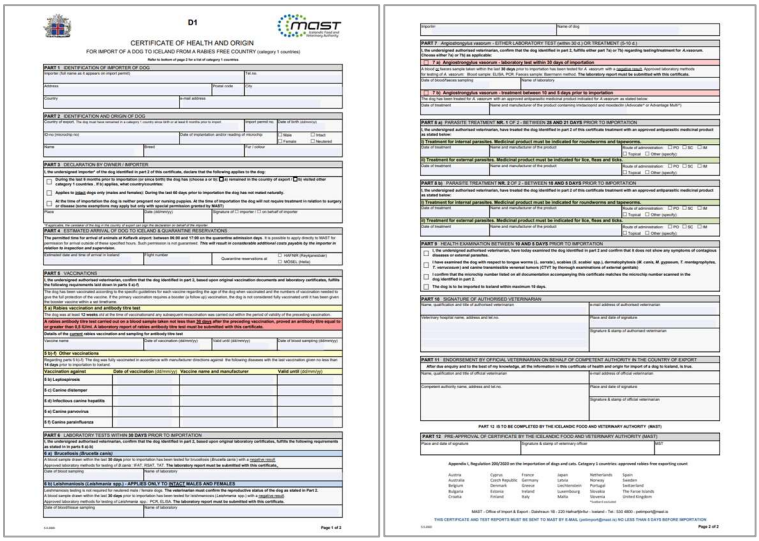
2. Quarantine

- Imported cats are required to stay in quarantine for a minimum of 14 days.
- The importer must make reservations in advance at a quarantine station.
- Deadlines for the completion and submission of the Certificate of Health and Origin (C2) must be taken into account when determining the import date.
- There are two approved quarantine stations for cats and cats in Iceland:
  - The quarantine station in Reykjanesbær (Hafnir)
  - Mósel quarantine station (Hella)
- Pets are admitted by each quarantine station within a set three-day period approximately three weeks apart.
- Quarantine admission (check-in) dates can be found on the quarantine stations´ websites.
- In the case of a suspected infectious disease in a quarantined animal, MAST may extend the period of quarantine for the animal concerned, or all animals at the station, depending on the nature of the infectious agent.

3. Health requirements – Certificate of Health and Origin (C2)

It is important to consider early the requirements for vaccinations, sampling, etc. as this must be done within a certain timeframe before importation. See page 5 for an overview of health requirements.

Certificate form **C2** - *Certificate of health and origin for import of a cat to Iceland from a category 2 country* – must be used. The certificate must be issued by an authorised veterinarian in the country of export. All parts (except part 10) of the certificate must be filled in, dated and signed where appropriate.



Following are explanations for each part of the certificate. Refer to page 6 for an overview of health requirements

- **Part 1: Identification of importer.** The information must match the details on the import permit.

- **Part 2: Identification of the cat, microchip and country of export.** The veterinarian must verify the microchip number of the cat and register the date of implantation or reading. The microchip number shall be verified each time the cat is examined, tested or treated for import purposes. The microchip must be ISO compliant. Import permit no. is the number of the import permit issued by MAST. The country of export is the approved country that the cat has stayed in during the last 6 months.

- **Part 3: Declaration by importer**. By his/her signature the importer/owner of the cat confirms the following: that the cat has stayed in an approved country since birth or for at least 6 months prior to importation and that, at the time of importation, the cat does not need special medical treatment and is neither pregnant nor lactating.

- **Part 4: Information on estimated date/time of arrival, flight number and quarantine station.**

- **Part 5**: **Vaccinations**

  - **(a) Rabies: vaccination and antibody test.** The cat must have a valid rabies vaccination, i.e. have received the appropriate basic immunization and it must have been maintained according to the instructions from the manufacturer. The vaccination must be valid when the antibody titer test is performed i.e.: antibody titer test cannot be performed if the vaccination is out of date.

    Blood samples for antibody testing shall be taken at the earliest 30 days after vaccination. The day of the vaccination is regarded as day 0 (zero). Antibody testing shall be carried out by a laboratory approved by the European Union for this purpose. Rabies antibody titre should measure at least **0,5 IU/ml**.

    The cat may be imported to Iceland when at least 90 days (3 months) have passed after the date of the blood sampling for an antibody test with a satisfactory result.

    The antibody test is valid, as long as the rabies vaccination is kept up to date, according to the manufacturer´s instructions.

- **(b) Feline panleukopenia**, **(c) Feline rhinotracheitis, (d) Calicivirus.** The cat must have a valid vaccination against the above mentioned diseases, i.e. have received the appropriate basic vaccination which has been maintained in accordance with the manufacturer´s instructions. The last vaccination must be carried out at least 14 days before importation.

- **Part 6**: **Laboratory tests**

  - ***Feline leukemia virus*** **(FeLV) – blood test.** Within the last 30 days prior to importation, a blood sample shall be drawn from the cat for testing for FeLV. Approved laboratory tests for: PCR, ELISA, IFA. Test kits (in house) for FIV/FeLV based on accredited methods are approved. Confirmation of a negative result shall be recorded in the Certificate of Health and Origin (C2) and the laboratory report in English containing the laboratory name, microchip number, blood sample date and test result must accompany the certificate. In case of in-house testing, a laboratory report is not required but details of the test kit used, and date of testing must be included in the C2 certificate accompanied with a signed, stamped and dated statement from the veterinarian containing details of the test kit used, microchip number, blood sample date, test result.

  - ***Feline immunodeficiency virus*** **(FIV) – blood test.** Within the last 30 days prior to importation, a blood sample shall be drawn from the cat for testing for FIV. Approved laboratory tests for: ELISA, Western blot. Test kits (in house) for FIV/FeLV based on accredited methods are approved. Confirmation of a negative result shall be recorded in the Certificate of Health and Origin (C2) and the laboratory report in English containing the laboratory name, microchip number, blood sample date and test result must accompany the certificate. In case of in-house testing, a laboratory report is not required but details of the test kit used, and date of testing must be included in the C2 certificate accompanied with a signed, stamped and dated statement from the veterinarian containing details of the test kit used, microchip number, blood sample date, test result.

  - It is recommended that sampling be done in a timely manner as a waiting period for results is expected (1-3 weeks). It is convenient to have this sampling carried out during the same veterinary visit as for the first parasite treatment

- **Part 7 a): First treatment against internal and external parasites:** 21-28 days prior to importation the cat must be treated internal and external parasites. The veterinary medicinal product(s) used for external parasites must be registered for lice, fleas and ticks. The veterinary medicinal product(s) used for internal parasites must be registered for roundworm and tapeworm. For details see guidance notes for parasite treatment.

- **Part 7 b): Second (last) treatment against internal and external parasites:** 5-10 days prior to importation the cat must be treated internal and external parasites. The veterinary medicinal product(s) used for external parasites must be registered for lice, fleas and ticks. The veterinary medicinal product(s) used for internal parasites must be registered for roundworm and tapeworm. For details see guidance notes for parasite treatment.

- **Part 8 og 9: Health examination and completion of certificate (C2).** 5-10 days prior to importation the cat must undergo a health examination. The veterinarian must confirm that the cat does not show any symptoms of contagious diseases or external parasites. Special attention must be paid to tongue worm (*Linguata serrata*), scabies (*Sarcoptes scabiei spp*.) and dermatophytosis (*M. Canis, M. Gypseum, T. Mentagrophytes, T. Verrucosum*).

  At the same time the veterinarian must issue the Certificate of Health and Origin for a cat from a category 2 country (**C2**). All fields of part 1-9 must be filled in, dated and signed where appropriate. All required test results must accompany the certificate.

- **Part 10 is completed by MAST when the cat has been pre-approved for importation.**

4. Submission of C2 certificate to MAST no later than 5 days prior to the date of importation

- A signed copy of the signed Certificate of Health and Origin (C2) together with the relevant laboratory results, must be sent to MAST for review and approval no later than 5 days prior to date of arrival of the cat.
- All documents must be sent as an attachment via email to petimport@mast.is
- If the documents are received later than 5 days prior to the scheduled date of arrival, MAST may reject the importation.
- All import correspondence is dealt with during MAST business hours (weekdays only).
- If all paperwork is satisfactory, the Certificate of Health and Origin is signed by MAST and a notification of approval sent to the importer.

5. Transportation of cat to Iceland / Transport cage / Accompanying documents

- Transport arrangements to Iceland must be made in a timely manner.
- When determining the import date, take into account the deadlines in relations to the vaccinations, testing, treatment etc.
- Cats may only be transported to Iceland by air travel. Keflavik airport is the only approved entry port for pets.
- If the cat requires to transit through another country prior to arriving in Iceland, the importer must ensure that import conditions applicable to the country in question are complied with.
- The flight number, day of arrival and estimated time of arrival, shall be recorded in the Certificate of Health and Origin.
- The transport cage must fulfill IATA requirements and be large enough for the cat to be able to stand, lie down and turn around. The cage should be made of hard, non-collapsible material which is easy to clean and disinfect. If the cage cannot be cleaned and disinfected, it will be disposed of after importation. Soft cages or cat bags are only permitted for transportation in the cabin of the airplane depending on airline approval. Further requirements for pet carriers are provided in Regulation no. 80/2016 on the welfare of pets.
- Permitted time for arrival of animals at Keflavik airport is between 06:00 and 17:00 on the quarantine admission dates. If arriving outside of these specified hours is necessary, the importer must contact the quarantine station directly. Pets will not be allowed to stay overnight at the airport.
- The following documentation must accompany the cat to Iceland (in an envelope attached to the cage)
  - Import permit (can be a copy)
  - Original Certificate of Health and Origin (**C2**).
  - Original (or certified copy) laboratory report for rabies antibody titre test.
  - Original (or certified copy) laboratory report for FIV/FeLV.
  - Customs declaration. If the owner has owned the animal for less than 12 months, he/she must pay VAT on the purchase price of the animal upon importation. Immigrants are required to submit a customs report to the Director of customs, including a receipt containing the names and address of the seller and the buyer, the issue date of the receipt and when the sale took place. Payment must be made before the pet is released from quarantine. For information, please contact Icelandair Cargo ehf. at tollskyrsla@icelandaircargo.is. If the owner has owned the animal for more than 12 months, he may need to provide supporting documentation.

6. Import inspection and transportation to quarantine station

Upon arrival at Keflavik Airport, cats are transported directly to the pet reception center where the import inspection takes place. This inspection includes verifying the cat's microchip number, that all required documentation is attached to the transport cage and that the cat does not show any obvious sign of infectious disease. If any issues arise during the inspection, the importer will be contacted. After the inspection is completed, the cats are collected by the relevant quarantine station.

7. Non-permitted importation

Importation of the following is not permitted:

- Pregnant and lactating queens.
- Cats that have been injured or undergone surgery just prior to importation and require special supervision or treatment of any kind, except with a special permission by MAST.

8. Further information on the importation of cats

- All necessary information on the importation of cats can be found on the MAST website.
- For details on veterinary preparations for the cat, consult with the preparing veterinarian and refer to the C2 certificate and these instructions.
- Contact the quarantine stations for reservations and information on cost of quarantine.
- Documents for importation shall be sent to petimport@mast.is

The Icelandic Food and Veterinary Authority (MAST), the Office of Import & Export at Laugavegur 166, 105 Reykjavík (tel. +354 530 4800) handles the importation of cats into Iceland.

AN OVERVIEW OF VACCINATIONS, TESTS AND TREATMENTS FOR IMPORT OF A CAT FROM A CATEGORY 2 COUNTRY

Vaccination/test/treatment (certificate reference)	Timeframe in relation to importation	Comments
Rabies vaccination (5a)	Vaccination at least **120 days** prior to importation.	The vaccination must be valid.
Rabies antibody test (5a)	Blood test at the earliest **30 days** after the date of the current valid vaccination. **The cat may be imported to Iceland when at least 90 days have passed since blood sampling for an antibody test with a satisfactory result.**	Result must be ≥ 0,5 ae/ml Laboratory must be approved by the EU.
Feline panleukopenia (5b)	The last vaccination prior to importation must be given no less than **14 days** before date of importation.	The cat must be fully vaccinated, i.e. have received the appropriate basic vaccination which has been maintained in accordance with the manufacturer´s instructions.
Feline rhinotracheitis (5c)		
Calicivirus (5d)		
FeLV (6a)	Blood sampling/testing within **30 days** prior to importation.	The result must be negative. Test in a timely manner (1-3 week waiting period expected)
FIV (6b)	Blood sampling/testing within **30 days** prior to importation.	The result must be negative. Test in a timely manner (1-3 week waiting period expected)
First parasite treatment (7a)	Treatment **21-28 days** prior to importation.	Treatment against external and internal parasites.
Second (last) parasite treatment (7b)	Treatment **5-10 days** prior to importation.	Treatment against external and internal parasites.
Health exam and completion of certificate (8-9)	**5-10 days** prior to importation.	Make sure that the certificate is fully completed, and test results accompany the certificate.
Send the C2 certificate to MAST: petimport@mast.is	**No later than 5 days before importation.**	Send a scanned copy of the fully completed and signed certificate + test results.