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Re: Export of *Drosophila melanogaster* for biomedical research

To whom it may concern,

This shipment contains the insect *Drosophila melanogaster* for the use in academic biomedical research only.

Mailing and export: *Drosophila melanogaster* cultures are permitted in international letter post under Universal Postal Convention article 15, paragraph 4.2.3, which explicitly allows the mailing of flies of the *Drosophila* family (Drosophilidae, which includes *Drosophila melanogaster*). This international agreement is reflected in the postal regulations of all United Nations member countries.

In addition Article 48(b) of REGULATION (EU) 2017/625 OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND OF THE COUNCIL - exempts: "animals and goods intended for scientific purposes" from control at border posts .

Value for customs purposes: The value for customs purposes is £10 (GBP). These samples have no commercial value. The Francis Crick Institute is a registered charity formed from a partnership between the following organisations: between the Medical Research Council (MRC), Cancer Research UK, the Wellcome Trust, UCL (University College London), Imperial College London and King's College London.

Health certification: We certify that these cultures are free of microorganisms causing human, vertebrate or plant disease. *Drosophila melanogaster* poses no risk to human health. The flies do not bite or sting. They are not disease vectors. *Drosophila melanogaster* is not officially classified as an agricultural pest by the U.S. Department of Agriculture. Because *Drosophila melanogaster* has a worldwide distribution, it cannot be considered an invasive species.

Most countries do not require health certificates for importing invertebrates. For example, see http://www.defra.gov.uk/animal-trade/imports-non-eu/iins/live-animals/iins-other-animals-balai/iin-bllv9/

Intended use: These strains are intended for research in a closed facility with containment practices designed to prevent accidental release. The strains originated in a closed research facility with biosafety containment level 1 as defined by World Health Organisation (WHO) guidelines. No flies in these samples have a recent wild origin.

Biosafety: To comply with EU legislation on trans-boundary movements of genetically modified organisms, Regulation (EC) No 1946/2003, and the Cartagena Protocol (http://bch.cbd.int/protocol), we hereby declare that these strains may

contain transgenic elements. Because the strains originate in a contained research facility and are destined for contained use, they are not subject to advanced informed agreement or registration with the Biosafety Clearinghouse.

Transgenic strains typically contain genetic elements from *Drosophila melanogaster* or other eukaryotic species in addition to routine transformation sequences. No strains contain elements from plant pests, elements from human, animal or plant pathogens. No transgenic elements confer novel traits resulting in health or agricultural risk.

Life cycle stages, culture medium and handling: Adults, eggs, larvae and pupae may be present. The artificial culture medium consists of corn meal, soy flour, corn syrup, yeast extract, agar and propionic acid (a mould inhibitor). The medium is sterilized during preparation. Cultures will survive roughly two weeks if they encounter no extreme temperatures or lack of air. They prefer temperatures of 18°C to 25°C. The cultures may be discarded after freezing, briefly autoclaving, or heating to 45°C for two hours.