



Borders Bulletin

29 April, 2024



Message from Cabinet Office

✉ Dear Stakeholders,

From tomorrow at 00:01 we will Go Live with the next phase of the Border Target Operating Model (BTOM), which will introduce documentary and risk-based identity and physical checks on medium-risk animal products, plants, plant products and high-risk food (and feed) of non-animal origin from the EU.

Inside this edition of the Borders Bulletin, we have key information to help you and we will continue to engage and provide support for businesses as we move forward.

Updates inside

In this edition of the Bulletin, you will find key updates and guidance on a range of topics concerning 30th April.

- **Defra - New import controls are coming on 30 April: Information and Guidance**
- **Defra - Getting ready for plant inspections**
- **Defra - Checks and inspections rates**
- **Defra - Intermediate and Derived Products Update**
- **HMRC - Apply to the UK Internal Market Scheme (UKIMS)**
- **Helplines**

New import controls are coming on 30 April: Information and Guidance

Check what you need to do to be compliant and avoid disruption to your business and supply chain.

From 00:01 30 April 2024, traders must:

- Ensure goods arrive through an appropriately designated Border Control Post (BCP) or Control Point (CP) for your commodity type;
- If called, present the consignment for documentary, physical and identification inspections at the BCP or CP.

Contact points for urgent BTOM queries

From 30 April any urgent BTOM/import queries for plants and plant products across England & Wales should be directed to the Animal & Plant Health Agency (APHA), by email, in the first instance: phsi-importers@apha.gov.uk

Alternatively, you may contact them by telephone: +44 (0) 3000 200 301

From 30th April any urgent BTOM/import queries for animal products should be directed to the Port Health Authority (PHA) at your nominated Border Control Post (BCP).

Find your PHA contact details at your nominated BCP on this [map](#).

Getting ready for the new controls

Follow these steps and use the resources to help you comply with the new controls and prepare for the changes that are coming.

Read our guidance on how to comply with your legal responsibilities for:

- [importing live animals and animal products to Great Britain](#)
- [importing plants and plant products from the EU to Great Britain](#)
- [importing plants and plant products from non-EU countries to Great Britain](#)

Visit our YouTube channel and [watch recordings of our previous webinars for traders](#).

- Make sure you are following the correct process for the type of product you are importing – watch a recording of our latest information sessions on [Import controls for animal products](#) as well as our information session on [plants and plant products](#).
- [Find out the commodity code of your product Trade Tariff: Look up commodity codes, duty and VAT rates.](#)
- [Check the risk category of your product on gov.uk: Import risk categories for animals, animal products, plants and plant products](#)
- Check that your chosen port of entry has a Border Control Point (BCP) designated for the product you are importing. From 30 April, all SPS goods, excluding live animals, must enter GB via a port of entry with a suitably designated BCP (except for movements from the Island of Ireland). Where a consignment is identified being brought into GB via point of entry without a suitably designated BCP it may be subject to formal enforcement action, including the consignment being detained and refused entry.
- Read our [information on Border Control Posts \(BCP's\)](#) and charges for importing live animals, animal products, plants and plant products
- Make sure all required documentation is provided, including uploading health certificates and IUU documents to the import notification created and submitted in IPAFFS (and PHILIS where used by PHA/port). Read our information about [health certificates](#) and [import notifications](#).
- Ensure all relevant contact details (for the person responsible for the load and the transporter in particular) are included in the import notification in case the consignment is called in for checks at the border control posts. [Find out more by watching our video](#).

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- Ask your customs agent or freight forwarder/haulier if the routing uses the Goods Vehicle Messaging Service. From 30th April, operators and drivers of loads travelling via GVMS-enabled carriers will be able to use GVMS to check if the load needs to go for SPS inspection at a BCP/CP at the same time as checking for customs inspections. You must tick yes to this question in the CHED import notification on IPAFFS to activate this service. [Find out more by watching our video](#).
 - If your transporter is not travelling via a route using GVMS, or your consignment is transiting GB, IPAFFS will provide an initial risk assessment telling you if your consignment needs an inspection when you submit your import notification. If your consignment does need an inspection, you'll also receive a text and email message 2 hours before your transporter's estimated time of arrival in Great Britain. The message will confirm what you need to do. If IPAFFS tells you your consignment has not been selected for an inspection, you should still check for messages until your consignment has cleared the port, because the authorities may still call you for an inspection based on their final risk assessment. [Find out more by watching our video](#).
 - Avoid your consignment being directed to a BCP when it may not need to attend. From 30 April, HMRC/Defra systems will cross-check the CHED import notification and customs declaration for each consignment of goods subject to SPS controls imported from EU countries. This is already in place for non-EU countries. The CHED import notification reference and commodity codes must be consistent between the notification and the customs declaration. Find out more by [watching our video](#) and [reading the HMRC guidance](#).
 - Read our [summary of common errors](#) that have been identified through the documentary checks undertaken since the import controls were implemented on 31 January.
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Getting ready for plant inspections

Places of Destination (PoD) - an update

The PoD scheme will come to an end on 30 April. On this date, inspections of high-risk plants and plant products will move to designated Border Control Posts (BCPs) or Control Points (CPs). Alongside this medium-risk plants and plant products imported from the EU, Switzerland & Liechtenstein to GB will be subject to documentary and risk-based identity and physical checks at BCPs and CPs from 30 April.

It is important that you look to plan your journeys to BCPs or CPs as early as possible. This will help to reduce any potential delays to your onward journey and ensure compliance with the new UK

phytosanitary regime. We have created a [map](#) on our Plant Health Portal containing a list of BCPs and CPs.

Follow these steps and use the resources to help you comply with the new controls and prepare for the changes that are coming for plants and plant products.

Read our guidance on how to comply with your legal responsibilities for:

- [importing plants and plant products from the EU to Northern Ireland](#)
- [importing plants and plant products from non-EU countries to Great Britain](#)
- [bringing plants and plant products to Great Britain for personal use](#)

If you're importing fruit and vegetables from the EU to Great Britain, you also need to follow [quality and labelling rules](#).

Importers must be registered with a UK address within IPAFFS to ensure you can submit import pre-notifications. Please visit this [link](#) if you need to register for IPAFFS.

To support your transition from PEACH to IPAFFS we continue to hold weekly 1-hour training sessions that provide a live walkthrough of the new process. Please register for a time that suits you via the links below. Invitation to register and submit notifications via IPAFFS – [Training Links](#)

You can also watch our pre-recorded training session [here](#).

Physical and identity checks on all regulated plants and plant products will be carried out at Border Control Posts and Control Points (CP).

Border Control Posts are a border inspection facility where goods first arrive. Control Posts are inland inspection facilities where Sanitary and Phytosanitary (SPS) checks can take place under customs supervision. More information can be found [here](#).

To find out the latest updates on plants and plant health [subscribe to our weekly Plant Health newsletter](#).

You can also visit our [Plant Health Portal](#) for more information.



Checks and inspection rates

Types of checks and an example inspection

You can find out more about checks and inspections by watching our recent trader webinar which provided information about [different types of checks](#) that can be carried out on consignments at a BCP, talked through an [example inspection process](#) and covered [what happens after checks have been carried out](#).

Risk categorisation and inspection rates

From 30th April 2024, imports are subject to identity and physical checks. The percentage of times identity and physical checks will happen (the inspection rate) depends on the risk category of the commodity being imported:

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- high risk commodities are inspected every time the commodity is imported (inspection rate 100%)
 - medium risk commodities are inspected 1-30% of the time the commodity is imported. The specific inspection rate (M1, M2 or M3) depends on the commodity and country
 - low risk commodities are not subject to routine inspection, but may be subject to non-routine or intelligence-led checks

You can now find the inspection rate information for animals and animal products imported from [EU](#) and [non-EU](#) countries under the BTOM. The risk category summary tables have been updated and now include a column showing the inspection rate that will be applied to that commodity. To find the specific inspection rate for the commodity you are importing please see the 'inspection rate' column in the summary tables.

We have also now published the risk categorisation [spreadsheet](#) for non-EU countries. This spreadsheet can be used to find the risk category for a specific commodity that is being imported from a non-EU country. Search the spreadsheet using a known commodity code, or by browsing the list of commodities.

More information about the frequency of plant health import inspections across GB can be found on the [plant health portal](#).

From 30 April, changes to border checks will come into force for high-risk and medium-risk plants and plant products. You can read our [guidance](#) to learn more. You can also [view our indicative fees for plant inspections](#).



Defra - Intermediate and Derived Products Update

Implementation of BTOM rules for intermediate products and derived products for pharmaceutical or laboratory reagent use from the EU

Defra has agreed that intermediate products (scope outlined in Import Information Note (IIN) [ABP/20](#)), and laboratory reagents and derived products for pharmaceutical use (scope outlined in IIN [ABP/46](#)), including the manufacture of pharmaceuticals and laboratory reagents, from the EU will be treated as low-risk until 31st July 2024.

This gives the animal by-products industry six months, from 31st January 2024, to determine which products meet the definition of “highly processed” - laid out in IINs [ABP/20](#) and [ABP/46](#) - to categorise the products accordingly.

From 31st July 2024, the rules for medium-risk products will be applied to those products which are not “highly processed”.

Defra recognises the complexities that industry are currently facing and appreciates that business and industry need time to adapt. We hope this period of easement better supports you all with preparing for the new controls from 31st July 2024.

HMRC - You could benefit from joining the UK Internal Market Scheme

If you move goods into Northern Ireland, you could benefit from joining the UK Internal Market Scheme (UKIMS). You can [apply](#) to join UKIMS on GOV.UK.

Benefits of UKIMS

UKIMS allows trusted traders to declare eligible goods ‘not at risk’. That means you won’t pay EU duty for eligible goods moving from Great Britain to Northern Ireland. You’ll only pay UK duty when moving eligible goods into Northern Ireland from a country outside both the UK and the EU.

From 30 September 2024, you’ll be able to move goods staying in the UK using a much shorter, simpler declaration containing standard commercial information. You’ll also have a unique ‘Trader Goods Profile’ populated with goods you move – this means you won’t need to provide a commodity code for each movement of goods.

Businesses sending parcels to another business (B2B movements) between Great Britain and Northern Ireland will follow the same processes as freight from 30 September 2024. To use these processes, either the business sending or receiving the parcel will need to have a UKIMS authorisation.

More information

There’s a [UKIMS factsheet](#) on the Northern Ireland Customs and Trade Academy website. This includes frequently asked questions and a step-by-step video guide on how to complete the form.

For more information, please contact the [Trader Support Service](#) or [HMRC imports and exports general enquiries](#).

Animal & Plant Health Agency (APHA) Contact info

When?	Who?	How?
For urgent BTOM/import queries for plants and plant products	Animal & Plant Health Agency (APHA)	Email (priority route): phsi-importers@apha.gov.uk Tel (secondary route): 03000 200 301
For urgent BTOM/import queries for animals and animal products	Animal & Plant Health Agency (APHA)	Email (priority route): imports@apha.gov.uk Tel (secondary route): 03000 200 301

Helplines

Here is the list of helplines you may find useful. We have added hyperlinks that will take you to pages that provide extra information such as the opening hours for the helpline all of which have sufficient capacity to support businesses.

- HMRC Customs & International Trade Helpline - 0300 322 9434
- [HMRC Imports and Exports General Enquiries](#) (including GVMS) - 0300 322 9434 • **New**
- [Computerised Transit System](#) - 0300 322 7095
- [DVLA Contact Centre](#) - 0300 790 6802
- [DVSA](#):
 - Vehicle Operator Licensing Enquiries - 0300 123 9000
 - International Road Haulage Permits - 0330 678 1117
- [The Office for Product Safety and Standards](#) - 0121 345 1201
- [MHRA Customer Service Centre](#) - 020 3080 6000
- [National Supply Disruption Centre](#) - 0800 915 9964
- [Rural Payments Agency \(RPA\) Trader team](#) - 0330 041 6500
- [Animal, Plant and Health Agency \(APHA\) & IPAFFS General Enquiries](#) - 0300 100 0313
 - IPAFFS technical - 0330 041 6999
 - PEACH - 0345 607 3224
- [Defra Rural Services](#) - 0300 020 0301

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- Environment Agency England - 03708 506 506
 - Forestry Commission - 0300 067 4000
 - Fish Exports Helpline - 0330 159 1989
 - The Intellectual Property Office - 0300 300 2000
 - Citizen Advice Consumer Helpline - 0808 223 1133
 - Department for Education Helpline - 0370 000 2288
 - Home Office - UK Visas & Immigration Helpline - 0300 790 6268
 - Home Office - EU Settlement Scheme Application Resolution Centre - 0300 123 7379

Import and Export Guidance

- Import/export general enquiries can be made directly to HMRC via:

Telephone - 0300 322 9434

Textphone - 0300 200 3719

You can also [speak to an adviser online](#) about general import and export queries.

DEFRA also provides guidance regarding commodity codes [here](#). If you would like to contact DEFRA, they have a number of helplines which can be found [here](#).

This Bulletin is provided by Cabinet Office Borders Group.