



# Borders Bulletin

December, 2023

3rd Edition



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 **November Bulletin Note:** We received a few messages from stakeholders from people who were unable to access the Bulletin in November. If you have experienced a similar issue, please contact [border.enquiries@cabinetoffice.gov.uk](mailto:border.enquiries@cabinetoffice.gov.uk). We apologise for any inconvenience!

## This months news and updates

- **Get ready for identity checks coming on January 31st!**
- **HMRC Goods Movement Reference (GMR) Important Update**
- **HMRC - Prepare for changes for goods moving from the island of Ireland to Great Britain!**
- **Package of customs improvements announced**
- **Import Of SPS goods via short straits**
- **Apply for funding to build border control posts for live animal imports.**
- **DEFRA Trader Readiness Survey is still live!**
- **Sample Documentary Checks from 31 January until 30 April**
- **STW Update!**

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## Border controls are coming on January 31st!

**The border target operating model will implement controls through three major milestones. Is your business prepared for the first BTOM milestone in January 2024?**

- 31 January 2024: The introduction of health certification on [imports](#) of medium risk animal products, plants, plant products and high risk food (and feed) of non-animal origin from the EU
- 30 April 2024: The introduction of 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
- 31 October 2024: Safety and security declarations for EU imports will come into force from 31 October 2024. Alongside this, government will introduce a reduced dataset for imports and use of the UK single trade window will remove duplication where possible across different pre-arrival datasets.



# THE BORDER TARGET OPERATING MODEL

August 2023

## Goods Movement Reference (GMR) Important Update

**Exporters and hauliers advised to act now to stop Goods Movement Reference errors putting exports through GVMS routes at risk**

HMRC has become aware that some of the export declarations being submitted through CDS for goods exported via GVMS routes aren't being submitted correctly.

Most commonly, these issues are due to a Transit Accompanying Document (TAD) Movement Reference Number (MRN) being incorrectly added to the Good Movement Reference (GMR) rather than the Declaration Unique Consignment Reference/s (DUCR).

HMRC are reminding all declarants and hauliers that complete GMRs that they must follow the ['Create a goods movement reference number'](#) guidance on GOV.UK to make sure they are not making this error and that they are using DUCR/s correctly on GMR's where export declarations involving GVMS locations.

Export declarants and hauliers must act now, otherwise their goods won't be classed as officially leaving the country and declarants may be liable for any duty payments and penalties due. You can find further guidance and resources on the [CDS guidance pages](#) on GOV.UK.

If you have any questions [please contact HMRC using one of these channels](#), or speak to your Account Manager or Customer Compliance Manager if you have one.



**HM Revenue  
& Customs**

## Prepare for changes for goods moving from the island of Ireland to Great Britain!

### Prepare for changes for goods moving from the island of Ireland to Great Britain – 7 weeks to go

From 31 January 2024 some goods will face full customs controls when moved directly from Irish ports to Great Britain. Traders, or anyone who moves goods on their behalf, will need to be familiar with the new process.

Goods will need to complete import processes if they are being imported directly from Ireland into Great Britain (not [moving from or through Northern Ireland](#)).

Goods moving from Northern Ireland to Great Britain through Irish ports will also have to complete import processes if they are:

- non-qualifying Northern Ireland goods
- excise goods (alcohol, tobacco, and energy products) or
- goods which do not move directly to an Irish port once they have left Northern Ireland for example, goods which are held in storage in Ireland.

Traders can find out more about the steps they need to take in the [Border Target Operating Model](#).

If you have any questions, visit [Imports and exports: general enquiries](#) on GOV.UK.



## Package of customs improvements announced

The Government has set out further details on a package of improvements to streamline customs processes and reduce admin burdens for businesses.

The announcement follows extensive consultation with industry on potential improvements to the UK customs system, first announced at Spring Budget 2023.

The measures, set to be delivered across 2024 and 2025, include:

- introducing a voluntary standard for the customs intermediary sector
- simplifying customs declarations by cutting the amount of data traders must provide by up to a quarter
- supporting key sectors, including creative, arts and sports, with potential improvements to the procedure for temporarily importing goods
- simplifying and digitising the customs and excise authorisation systems
- allowing more traders to use customs facilitations that delay duty payment without the cost of a financial guarantee
- improving the Transit procedure, making movements cheaper, easier and more accessible.

Aidan Reilly, **Director of Customs Policy and Strategy, Borders and Trade** said:

“We’ve listened carefully to feedback from businesses and stakeholders across the borders industry on how to improve the customs system. The changes we’re introducing will simplify and streamline customs processes and reduce administrative burdens for importers and exporters.”

“We look forward to continuing to work with the border industry as we implement these changes.”

The changes are shaped by views from traders and the border industry gathered through a programme of engagement over the summer. As part of the announcement, the Government has also published detailed responses from the consultations and calls for evidence.

You can view responses to each consultation and further detail on each measure on [GOV.UK](https://www.gov.uk).

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## Import Of SPS goods via short straits - one government-run border control post

The Border Target Operating Model (BTOM) delivers a risk-based, proportionate, and technologically advanced approach to import health controls. It recognises, as paramount, the imperative to protect the UK's biosecurity from harmful and potentially devastating pests and diseases.

In line with the implementation of the BTOM, the UK Government has carefully reviewed the provision of government-run BCP facilities in Kent to ensure that we protect the nation's biosecurity, reduce import burdens for trade, whilst also managing operating costs. We are now writing to notify you of the UK Government's intention that SPS checks on goods arriving through the short straits should be undertaken at Sevington Inland Border Control Post (BCP).

Sevington will provide, on one modern and purpose-built site, checks on the whole range of goods and live animals that arrive through both the Port of Dover and Eurotunnel. It is also ideally located to support the smooth flow of goods out of both points of entry without disrupting traffic flows out of the Port of Dover.

The UK Government continues to work with the Kent authorities and all relevant stakeholders to ensure everything is in place for the operational requirements of the BTOM for the short straits.

## Apply for funding to build border control posts for live animal imports.

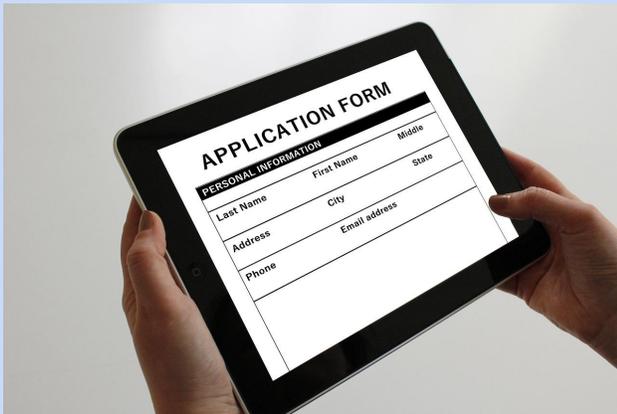
To support the implementation of the Border Target Operating Model (BTOM), Defra has launched a revised Animal Biosecurity Infrastructure Fund (ABIF) for eligible applicants to aid businesses preparing for the new Sanitary and Phytosanitary (SPS) checks on live animal imports from the EU from late 2024 which will be carried at [border control posts](#) (BCPs).

Defra is providing up to £20 million in grants through the Animal Biosecurity Infrastructure Fund (ABIF) to increase capacity for live animal import checks for maritime trade routes in England (excluding Kent).

The aim of the fund is to increase capacity, support trade continuity and promote high standards of animal welfare and biosecurity for live animal imports.

The fund [will cover eligible capital costs of building BCPs](#) for live animal imports from EU countries within Continental Europe.

Find out more information via the ABIF GOV.UK page or by emailing [ABIF.communications@defra.gov.uk](mailto:ABIF.communications@defra.gov.uk).



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## DEFRA Trader Readiness Survey is still live!

Last month, DEFRA published their Trader Readiness Survey to invite stakeholders to take part in a survey to help us understand what action you are taking to get ready for the new SPS import controls under the Border Target Operating Model and how we can support you.

The survey is still open, with the results being monitored and analysed every month. Therefore, we encourage you to complete the survey asap!

The Trader Readiness survey has been developed by the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra) to assess trader awareness of changes to import controls for SPS goods and trader readiness for these implementations of these changes from January 2023 onwards.

Responses will help determine if we need to do more to ensure you are informed and on track to be ready by 31 January 2024. If the results of the survey inform us that traders are not feeling confident in a specific area of change, we will be able to support traders with targeted communication and further guidance.

Upon completion of the survey, you will be directed to the latest guidance on changes to import controls for SPS goods.

The survey should take no longer than 10 minutes to complete. Participation is voluntary and anonymous.

We thank you for supporting us in evaluating trader readiness for the upcoming changes under the BTOM and look forward to hearing from you. If you have any questions about the survey, or have any difficulties completing it, you can contact [spstraders@defra.gov.uk](mailto:spstraders@defra.gov.uk)

[Complete the Survey Now](#) - #BTOM

## Sample Documentary Checks from 31 January until 30 April

Sample documentary checks for medium-risk animal products from EU/EFTA countries will be introduced from 31 January 2024 to 30 April 2024. They will be undertaken on a randomly selected sample of consignments arriving at GB ports. Goods subject to these sample documentary checks on medium-risk animal products from EU/EFTA countries will not be held for inspection and no charges will be levied. However, it is possible that goods identified as non-compliant for other reasons will be subject to enforcement action in line with current requirements. In this case, the goods could be destroyed without compensation if they pose a risk.

If you import medium risk animal products from the EU into GB and your consignment is selected for a check, you will receive feedback. Individual feedback will be shared with the trader concerned. Anonymised feedback summaries will be shared with the wider stakeholder community via a composite summary of common errors and issues raised as part of the checks. The feedback will give indications to traders and other stakeholders of the potential consequences of errors and the action PHA inspectors may undertake should these errors occur after 30 April.

These sample documentary checks will help traders make the transition to the new import requirements. This will be an educational and intelligence gathering period to help increase compliance levels and reduce risk of delays and disruption at the border when SPS checks are introduced from 30 April.

More information on these checks and how to receive regular anonymised feedback summaries will be shared with you soon.

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## Single Trade Window (STW)

The UK Single Trade Window will provide a simplified, secure gateway where traders and intermediaries will be able to meet their border obligations by submitting information to government once and in one place.

A key principle for the Single Trade Window is the streamlining of data submissions to make life simpler for users by collecting data once, redistributing it to where it is required and reusing it where appropriate. The Single Trade Window will remove duplication where possible, so that the government is not asking for the same data for different purposes repeatedly. This unification of border-related data sets will be visible to users from the first release of functionality and will continue to draw in additional datasets as the Single Trade Window delivers over time.

The Single Trade Window will bring together other border services and provide features that benefit users, such as applying for and managing licences to trade. By reducing and simplifying duplicated processes and data requirements, the Single Trade Window will ease administrative burdens and transform user experiences at the border. It will help UK businesses take advantage of new trading relationships and enhance the UK's position as a global trading partner.

If you have any questions or would like to subscribe to the STW Bulletin, please contact the STW Programme by emailing [STWenquiries@hmrc.gov.uk](mailto:STWenquiries@hmrc.gov.uk)

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## Helpline numbers

**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.

- [Export support service](#)
- HMRC Customs & International Trade Helpline - 0300 200 3700
- [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 \(APHA\)](#) - 0300 100 0313
  - IPAFFS general - 0300 100 0313
  - IPAFFS technical - 0330 041 6999
  - PEACH - 0345 607 3224
- [Defra Rural Services](#) - 0300 020 0301
- [Environment Agency England](#) - 03708 506 506
- [Forestry Commission](#) - 0300 067 4000
- [Fish Exports Helpline](#) - 0330 159 1989
- [The Intellectual Property Office](#) - 0300 300 2000
- [BEIS Public Enquiries Helpline](#) - 020 7215 5000
- BEIS Business Support Lines:
  - [England](#) - 0800 998 1098
  - [Scotland](#) - 0300 303 0660
  - [Wales](#) - 0300 060 3000
  - [Northern Ireland](#) - 0800 181 4422
- [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

**HMRC also operates a number of services, including:**

- Import/export general enquiries can be made by calling 0300 200 3700.

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

It is also possible to [send a question about imports, exports and customs reliefs](#).

**DEFRA Helplines:**

DEFRA also has a number of additional [helplines](#) for the commodity you are exporting to the EU.

For questions to the DVSA on vehicle operator licensing you can call 0300 123 9000. For questions to the DVLA you should call 0300 790 6802.

The UK Government also operates an online forum where you can access key information and ask questions directly on [customs and tax](#).

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