



Borders Bulletin

6 February, 2024



Border Target Operating Model Guidance

Border Target Operating Model (BTOM) Guidance

 From 00:01 on 31 January, the requirement for export health certificates (EHCs) for the export of medium and high-risk food (and feed) of non-animal origin from the EU has been in place. Please find some important guidance for businesses.

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PDF Certificates (from 31st January 2024)

GB authorities encourage the use of a digitally signed and verifiable GB export health certificate (EHC) in place of the paper version of the certificate. We will accept verifiable PDF certificates from TRACES and other EU/EFTA MS systems listed on GOV UK.

Steps to Take

The exporter must create the EHC in the system, ensure it has been digitally signed by the competent authority in the exporting country, and download the EHC as a PDF format document.

The exporter needs to send the PDF to the person submitting the import notification so that it can be attached to the notification.

Where a verifiable PDF certificate cannot be provided by the EU or EFTA country exporting the goods, and a paper copy is used, a scanned copy must be uploaded to IPAFFS and the competent authority must send the original paper certificate to accompany the consignment. The scanned copy of the certificate must include any schedules and accompanying documents that are certified alongside the health certificate.

CHED import notifications from 31 January 2024

From 31 January 2024 when you log into the Import of Products, Animals, Food and Feed System ([IPAFFS](#)) system, you will be prompted to complete the Common Health Entry Document (CHED) Part 1 import notification, in place of the current Importer Notification (IMP) for EU imports of Products of Animal Origin (POAO) animal by-products and germinal products, and High-Risk Food and Feed of Non-Animal Origin (HRFNAO) to/via GB.

This will align with the CHED Part 1 import notification currently made for such products into GB from non-EU countries.

The next time you create and submit an import notification on IPAFFS from 12.01 am on 31 January 2024, you will be prompted to complete the CHED Part 1 import notification, in place of the current IMP.

Be ready to correctly submit your pre-notification in IPAFFS:

- [Click here](#) to watch the webinar recording for Importing HRFNAO via the EU to GB: the new CHED Part 1 notification
- [Click here](#) to watch the webinar recording for Importing animal products from the EU to GB: New CHED Part 1 notification or read our [guidance](#) in Import Notifications

DEFRA BTOM Guidance & Technical Q&A

To provide support for businesses, Defra has published [technical questions and answers about Sanitary and Phytosanitary Controls \(SPS\)](#). We would encourage you to make use of this helpful material.

31st January changes to SPS import controls for EU/EFTA imports to Great Britain. What are the changes?

- The introduction of health certification on imports from the EU/EFTA of medium-risk animal products, plants and plant products.
- The introduction of health certification on imports of high-risk food and feed of non-animal origin via the EU/EFTA.
- The introduction of import notifications for EU/EFTA products (ie not [Qualifying Northern Irish Goods](#)) from the island of Ireland to Great Britain.

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- The introduction of the Common Health Entry Document (CHED) import notification in place of the IMP for import notifications of EU/EFTA imports of Products of Animal Origin (POAO) and High-Risk Food and Feed of Non-Animal Origin (HRFNAO) imported into GB via the EU/EFTA.

Prepare for the changes that are coming:

1. Know your risk category – [use the online guidance to find the risk category of your commodity](#)
2. Ensure that your EU supply chain is preparing to provide you with health certificates and/or [phytosanitary certificates](#).

From 31st January 2024, GB authorities encourage the use of a digitally signed and verifiable GB export health certificate (EHC) in place of the paper version of the certificate for live animals and Products of Animal Origin (POAO) imports from EU and EFTA countries where the PDF health certificate can be electronically verified. We will accept verifiable PDF certificates from TRACES and other EU/EFTA MS systems [listed on GOV UK](#).

- Read introductory information [leaflets](#) for businesses on health certificates and import notifications.
- Please click [here](#) to practice making CHED import notifications in the IPAFFS training environment.

You will need to create a new login for the training environment. You will need to use an email address that you can access, to receive your confirmation code before you can log in.

To see the new import notification (CHED) questions for EU animal imports please select Austria or any EU country for the country of origin question and make sure the same country appears in the country of consignment box.

If you see any error messages when viewing pages in the training environment, these have already been reported and will be fixed in the next release. Please do not contact the service desk.

Update on landbridge transits for EU and European Free Trade Association (EFTA)

EU and EFTA origin, live animals and animal product consignments that transit through the GB using Great Britain (GB) as a land bridge can pose a threat to biosecurity and public health. These consignments will need to meet Sanitary and Phytosanitary (SPS) controls aligned with the [Border Target Operating Model](#).

Guidance on what EU and EFTA traders will need to do when using GB as a landbridge including a step-by-step guide has been published on gov.uk [here](#).

The Border Target Operating Model – Compliance and Enforcement Approach

31 January - 30 April 2024

Requirements for traders

The threats to public health and from animal and plant diseases, such as African Swine Fever and *Xylella fastidiosa*, continue to change and it is important that responsive biosecurity controls are in place to combat them. The UK government will expect the supply chains of goods subject to Sanitary and Phytosanitary (SPS) controls to be ready for the following changes:

From 31 January 2024, traders must:

- Continue to provide an Export Health Certificate (EHC) for live animal and germinal product imports.
- Obtain an Export Health Certificate (EHC) for medium-risk animal products, and some high-risk food and feed not of animal origin High-risk food and feed not of animal origin (HRFNAO).
- Obtain a Phytosanitary Certificate (PC) for medium-risk plants and plant products.
- Continue to provide a Phytosanitary Certificate (PCs) for high-risk plants and plant products.

The person responsible for the load:

Must continue (begin for movements from Ireland) pre-notifying Great Britain via the Import of Products, Animals, Food and Feed system (IPAFFS) for all live animals, germinal products, animal products, high-risk food and feed not of animal origin (HRFNAO) and medium and high-risk plant and plant products.

Our approach to compliance - inform, enable, enforce

Most traders will want to meet their obligations and demonstrate the best endeavours to comply with new import controls. Our compliance approach for EU movements of goods is therefore focused on enabling these traders to meet the requirements of the new regime.

We will initially take a graduated approach to enforcement of the controls to safeguard the flow of goods, helping traders to get it right rather than penalising them if they get it wrong.

We will use insight to provide traders (and their intermediaries) with targeted information and guidance to help them understand what they need to do to comply with their obligations. And we will work with traders to enable them to comply as quickly as possible if errors are identified.

Guidance on legal responsibilities and how to be compliant can be found [here](#).

For those who continue not to meet their obligations, putting the UK's biosecurity and public health at risk, we will take proportionate enforcement action.

Graduated enforcement – 31 January to 30 April 2024

Documentary checks for medium-risk animal products and high-risk food of non-animal origin from EU/EFTA countries will be undertaken on a randomly selected sample of consignments arriving at GB ports to check the correct application/usage. Traders will be provided with specific feedback if their consignment is selected for a documentary check.

Goods subject to these sample documentary checks during this period will not be held for inspection and no charges will be levied. Where an importer can demonstrate that they have done their best to obtain a health certificate but cannot comply with the requirement, they should contact the UK Animal & Plant Health Agency (APHA) as soon as possible. Tel: 03000 200 301 or Email: imports@apha.gov.uk

As of now, we will intervene if a threat to public health or biosecurity is detected. We would expect this to be limited and only in exceptional circumstances.

Pre-notifications

The requirement for IPAFFS pre-notifications to be submitted one working day ahead of a consignment's arrival in GB is an existing requirement for goods from the EU, excluding goods from the island of Ireland.

The requirement continues from 31 January for those EU goods it currently applies to and will be introduced for EU and non-qualifying Northern Ireland goods from the island of Ireland from 31 January 2024.

When a notification has been made late for EHCs selected for checks by Defra, the importer will be notified but goods will not be held or called into BCPs/CPs.

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 \(APHA\)](#) - 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

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- 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

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](#).
