



HM Government

UK TRANSITION

Trader Readiness

Frequently Asked Questions

**Exporters of Live Animals and Products of
Animal Origin—GB to EU**

6 November 2020

V4.0

**UK'S
NEW START
LET'S GET
GOING** 

The following FAQs will attempt to clarify some of the key changes surrounding the changes to the exporting process for live animals and products of animal origin.

This document is intended to be continually edited and updated as and when new questions are received. The date on which the document was last updated, and version number is included for ease of reference. Any new chapters or questions that have been added since the last version are identified by ****New****.

Contents

General	4
Prohibitions and Restrictions (P&R)	10
General	10
Live animals and Products of Animal Origin (POAO)	12
General	12
Composite Goods	12
Leather Goods	13
Ear Tags	13
Research and Diagnostic Samples	13
Lab Products	14
Rejected Goods	15
General	15
Economic Operator Registration and Identification (EORI)	17
General	17
Establishment and Premises Listing.....	19
General	19
Traders.....	20
Fish	20
Health and Identification Marks	21
General	21
Labelling and Packaging	22
General	22
Border Control Posts (BCPs)	23
General	23
Meat.....	25
EU Based Import Agent.....	26
General	26
Transport.....	27

General	27
Customs Declarations	28
General	28
Groupage	29
General	29
New Groupage Export Facilitation Scheme (GEFS)	30
General	30
New Pallets.....	33
General	33
Imports	34
General	34

General

Why is the exports process changing?

The United Kingdom (UK) left the European Union (EU) on 31 January 2020. As a result, the UK left the EU single market, customs union and is currently in the transition period.

On 31 December 2020 the transition period with the EU will end and will not be extended. There will be changes at the border for moving goods between Great Britain (GB) and the EU, which businesses need to prepare for, regardless of the agreement we reach with the EU on the shape of our future relationship.

What does this mean for exporters of live animals and products of animal origin?

From the 1 January 2021 the process for exporting live animals and products of animal origin (POAO) from GB to the EU is changing.

Exporters of live animals and POAO will be required to follow a new process.

What is the Government doing to help exporters prepare for these changes?

The Government launched its national information campaign in July to supplement its intensive programme of business engagement in the coming months, all aimed at ensuring that businesses have all the information they need to make the changes and get going. The campaign clearly sets out the actions for businesses on a sector-by-sector basis.

In addition, Defra has been working with exporters, local authorities and the veterinary sector to ensure the export of animals and animal products can continue at the end of the Transition Period.

We are working to understand the requirements for continued trade from GB to EU from January 2021 ensuring that industry is engaged, and businesses are properly prepared.

What are live animals and products of animal origin?

Live animals—includes living animals that exported for the purposes of farming, keep as pets and equines, research and for the purposes of human food consumption and livestock.

Products of animal origin—includes any product part of an animal or that have been produced containing extract, partial or whole animals. This will include for example, beef steaks, sausages, ready-made meat lasagnes, milk,

chicken kiev, composite products containing meat (e.g. sandwich ham), honey, eggs, lard and rendered fats etc. It can also contain products that are not for human consumption i.e. pet food, or fertilizers for farming lands etc...

What are foods not of animal origin (FNAO)?

Feed and food products of non-animal origin are any products that do not contain any ingredients derived from animals or animal products e.g. fruits, vegetables, nuts, confectionary, cereals, herbs, spices, etc...

What are high risk foods and feed not of animal origin (HRFNAO)?

Under EU rules, certain food and feed not of animal origin are deemed as high risk. They are subject to documentary and, in some cases, physical checks when entering the EU and can only enter the EU using a Border Control Post.

High risk products may be considered high risk if they contain:

- Contaminants—mycotoxins and aflatoxins
- pesticides
- salmonella

HRFNAO exported to the EU will require to be exported to a Border Control Post that is approved to accept that commodity. A list of BCPs and Control Points can be found at:

https://ec.europa.eu/food/safety/official_controls/legislation/imports/non-animal_en

There are no HRFNAO originating from within the EU, therefore the HRFNAO will have originated from outside the EU and would have been checked at a GB Border Control Post.

If the product is processed in GB, a new official certificate / lab analysis will be required. Please see the guidance listed on Europa Website at:

https://ec.europa.eu/food/safety/chemical_safety/contaminants/catalogue/aflatoxins_en

What are the main steps I must take to continue to export live animals and products of animal origin after the Transition Period?

The process exporters will need to follow to export live animals and POAO at the end of the Transition Period will depend on the trade agreements made with the EU.

The following non-exhaustive list provides a guide to the steps that you are required to take with useful links:

- Apply for EORI at: <https://www.gov.uk/eori>
- Ensure establishment/premises listed. Contact the FSA at: eulistings@food.gov.uk

- Ensure you have the correct labelling and health identification marks—check guidance at:
<https://www.food.gov.uk/business-guidance/guidance-on-health-and-identification-marks-that-applies-from-1-january-2021>
- Check which Border Control Post (BCP) can process your goods and how much notice is required. For a list of EU BCPs click on the following link:
https://ec.europa.eu/food/animals/vet-border-control/bip-contacts_en
- Find the required Export Health Certificate via the GOV.UK form finder and read and check the Notes for Guidance at:
<https://www.gov.uk/export-health-certificates>
- Find a Certifying Officer to inspect and certify your goods. A list of organisations in England, Scotland and Wales can be found at:
<https://www.gov.uk/export-health-certificates>
- Register for EHC Online Exporters at: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/apply-for-an-export-health-certificate>
- Register for EHC Online Certifiers at: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/certify-an-export-health-certificate>
- Contact your local EU import agent make sure they notify the BCP through the Trade Control and Expert System (TRACES) of the arrival of the consignment
- Ensure you have the correct transportation declarations and licences at:
www.gov.uk/being-a-goods-vehicle-operator/types-of-licence#standard-international
- Apply for a customs declaration at:
www.gov.uk/guidance/customs-declarations-for-goods-taken-out-of-the-eu

Please refer to the individual sections within this document for further information on each of the steps listed above.

Further information is also available at:

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/exporting-animals-and-animal-products-to-the-eu-from-1-january-2021>

Are there any additional steps for exporters that export animals that are on the Species list?

Yes. Anyone who is importing, exporting or re-exporting any animal or plant species, and their parts or derivatives, that are on the Species+ at www.speciesplus.net list must apply for a Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES) permit.

What action is the Government taking to secure the approval of the UK as a country listed for the export of animals and products of animal origin to the EU?

For the exports of live animals and POAO to continue, the European Commission (EC) will need to vote whether to list the UK as a third country. This will allow the exports of live animals and products of animal origin to continue from the UK.

For further information, please follow the link below:

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/exporting-animals-animal-products-fish-and-fishery-products-if-the-uk-leaves-the-eu-with-no-deal>

We will provide further information on the UK's status when available.

Is it expected that the UK will receive listed status for exporting?

As other countries, such as Australia and New Zealand have achieved this status, the UK Government is confident that the UK meets the animal health and biosecurity requirements to secure listed status.

The UK has provided the necessary assurances requested by the European Commission and continues to undertake constructive engagement with the Commission.

Does the new process differ for exports to Scotland, Wales, and Gibraltar?

Yes. Goods travelling from England, Scotland and Wales to Gibraltar, and from Gibraltar to England, Scotland and Wales, which transit the EU will require new certificates and follow new requirements. Goods that do not transit to the EU but arrive directly, will require no new certificates or follow any new requirements.

What actions is the Government taking to ensure that delays at ports do not create animal welfare concerns beyond the control of the haulier / animal owner?

Transporters of live animals have a duty to consider the welfare of the animals they are transporting and should consider their own contingency plans, if there is a risk of a longer journey.

We will be issuing advice to transporters in advance of the end of the Transition Period on planning journeys, the potential risk of long delays on certain routes, and the need to carry additional water, feed and bedding material in case of delays. The Animal and Plant Health Agency (APHA) is also reviewing its own contingency plans should transporters need additional support.

Will the process be different if negotiations with the EU do not result in a deal?

Market access for live animals and products of animal origin has not changed during the Transition Period. For exports of live animals and some very specific animal products (such as germplasm) exporters would continue to provide an Intra Trade Animal Health Certificate (ITAHC).

For all other animal products, no certification is required, and no specific processes would need to be followed throughout the Transition Period.

Future arrangements will be dependent on the trade agreements with the EU. Further information will be provided once confirmed.

What support will the Government provide to cover export facilitation costs?

Several grants have been made available and further information is available at: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/grants-for-businesses-that-complete-customs-declarations>

Will the Government guarantee that live animals and perishable fresh produce will have priority for swift passage at the borders?

The Government is committed to protecting animal welfare and supporting the industry to continue to trade once the Transition Period comes to an end on 31 December 2020. This includes working with industries that export perishable products to understand how they can be supported.

Could the UK expect to see SANTE F inspections?

Yes. The UK will be subject to Santé F Inspections from 1 January 2021 as the EU routinely inspects both Member States and non-Member States.

Can a product imported from a third country to GB then be exported to the EU?

Products that have been imported from a third country into GB can be re-exported to the EU so long as they meet the requirements of the EU Export Health Certificate (e.g. originate from an appropriately listed third country and from a suitable establishment) and the certifying officer has the relevant traceability information they need to certify the product. If a product had entered free circulation in GB from a third country this would be the relevant import documentation.

Currently, our exports are done through TRACES, but as of 1 January we will not have access to this. Do you know if there is a new procedure in place?

From July 2021 all POAO will require pre-notification using IPAFFS and must be accompanied by an EHC. All animals and animal products must arrive at an established point of entry with an appropriate Border Control Post (BCP). POAO will be subject to a minimum level of 1% checks. Some commodities, such as shellfish, will be subject to higher minimum check levels.

****New** Is there any clarity on what will happen with shipments that leave the UK before the end of the year but arrive in their final EU destination in January?**

Placing on the market is defined very carefully and when goods are sold or supplied, even if they are supplying free of charge, as long as they are already in the EU at the time of ending the Transition Period (31st December 2020), they can carry on being placed on the EU market without any further restrictions. Anything that is introduced into the EU from the 1 January would have to comply with the EU rules.

Where can I find more information on the changes to the exports process for animals and products of animal origin?

Further information on how to prepare to export goods from GB (England, Wales and Scotland) to the EU from 1 January 2021 can be found at:

www.gov.uk/prepare-to-export-from-great-britain-from-january-2021.

Guidance for exporting live animals and products of animal origin from GB to NI will be added to GOV.UK as soon as confirmed information is made available.

Prohibitions and Restrictions (P&R)

General

What are Prohibitions and restrictions (P&R)?

Prohibitions and restrictions (P&R) are new trade requirements that will apply to certain commodities from 1 January 2021. These trade requirements are based in EU law and prevent or restrict the export and import of certain goods from third countries which present an unacceptable level of animal, plant or public health risk.

When will Defra publish the list of prohibited and restricted commodities?

P&R is a complex and wide spanning issue. Defra is ensuring the final list reflects the commodities which will either be prevented or restricted from being imported or exported as of 1 January 2021. We recognise the urgent need to clarify the situation and will do as soon as we are able.

Does Defra have a list of priorities for resolution?

Defra has prioritised the resolution of P&R affecting minced meat and meat preparations to the EU.

Defra has a further list of 13 prioritised Sanitary and Phytosanitary (SPS) P&R issues. The feedback Defra continues to receive from stakeholders will be checked against that list and a re-prioritisation exercise will be undertaken if necessary.

How has Defra prioritised issues?

Prioritisation was done by examining trade flows of commodities which present a minimal biosecurity and public health risk to the EU and the UK.

How likely does Defra think it is to resolve these issues?

We believe there is a mutual benefit to the UK and the EU to resolve these issues but cannot guarantee resolution prior to the end of the transition period. Businesses should prepare for full third country import controls.

Resolution on P&Rs will be an ambitious and difficult ask. It is unprecedented for the EU to agree an exemption to a third country on P&Rs, and any such action would likely require a change in EU law.

How is Defra resolving trade issues between GB to NI?

Northern Ireland will be subject to the regulations set out in Annex 2 of the Northern Ireland Protocol. This includes provisions on prohibitions and restrictions (P&Rs). Export health certificates (EHCs) will also reflect these provisions. This means that after the end of the transition period, exports to Northern Ireland will need to comply with the European Union's third country imports regime.

Resolving P&R issues between GB to NI to allow the continued trade is a priority and we continue to explore options that produce a satisfactory solution. Please be aware that resolutions between GB to NI trade may not resolve issues between GB and EU trade.

What is the legislative route that would be used to not reciprocate on the listed commodities from 1 January 2021?

If the UK did not want to reciprocate with the EU or other countries it would require a ministerial decision and be implemented through a statutory instrument (SI). This would need to be done after the TP.

The ambition is that we will reach an agreement with the EU on certain commodities and they will make changes to their legislation and health certificates.

Live animals and Products of Animal Origin (POAO)

General

How can we identify the origin of the POAO when it is only imported using 'EU' rather than the name of a specific country?

Please refer to the Notes for Guidance and discuss with your Certifying Officer (CO) on the evidence you need to collect.

Composite Goods

What about products that use POAO as an ingredient? Is there a cut off level below which the inclusion of POAO becomes non-notifiable?

If the product falls under the definition of a composite product, then there is a specific Exports Health Certificate (EHC) for this. If the product does not fall under the definition, then an EHC for each POAO may be required.

Please read the guidance included in the link below and consult with your certifying officer.

<https://www.gov.uk/export-health-certificates/export-composite-food-products-intended-for-human-consumption-to-the-european-union-certificate-8281>

What are the requirements to export products that contain 50% or more of an animal product to the EU?

If a product contains 50% or more of an animal product, it may be a composite product.

Please find further information on exporting composite products to the EU at:

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/export-composite-food-products-to-the-eu-in-a-no-deal-brexite>.

****New** How are a mix powders of cow's milk with a small amount of egg's white powders perceived? Is it dairy or composite product?**

Composite food products are for human consumption only. They contain a mix of processed products of animal origin (POAO) and plant products used as a main ingredient—not just added for flavouring or processing. Further guidance on composites products is available [here](#).

If a product does not meet the composite product definition but has several types of POAO in its contents, you'll need an EHC for each individual POAO component in the product. Commission guidance on this indicates that products other than composite products that contain more than one type of POAO need to be accompanied by all the relevant certificates. Exporters should contact the importing BCP in advance to confirm requirements for their goods.

Composite product with processed meat or more than 50% milk, dairy, egg or fishery products should come from an EU-approved establishment or can be assembled at a registered establishment. For goods assembled at a registered establishment the approval numbers of the establishments that produced the POAO in the first place will be needed for the EHC and these establishments will need to be listed. Products made with processed POAO, such as honey, gelatine or snails do not need to be processed in an approved establishment.

Leather Goods

What do I need to be aware of when exporting leather to the EU?

The leather you export may originate from the species that is protected under The Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES).

There are over 35,000 species of plants and animals that are protected under CITES. You can search for the species on the species database to find out if it is CITES-listed. If it is, you will need permits to move the products between the UK and the EU at the end of the transition period.

More information on CITES can be found at:

www.gov.uk/guidance/trading-and-moving-endangered-species-protected-by-cites-if-theres-no-withdrawal-deal

Ear Tags

What changes will there be to ear tags for livestock animals?

GB will be required to export animals to the EU in accordance with the EU's third country imports rules, which follow international standards for animal identification.

Livestock animals exported from GB to the EU will need to be identified with ear tags that contain the visual national code: 'GB'.

Research and Diagnostic Samples

How do the changes to the exporting process impact the export of cell lines of animal origin?

If cell lines are to be exported as research for diagnosis samples, they are not harmonised in the EU so the exporter should contact the competent authority of the country of destination to ask for the requirements that they need to meet.

What if we export scientific research and diagnostic intermediates produced from animal by-products?

Research and diagnosis samples are not harmonised in the EU so the exporter should contact the competent authority of the country of destination to ask for the requirements that they need to meet.

Lab Products

We export diagnostic enzymes that contain small amounts of bovine serum albumin for lab use/intermediate/medical device. Currently they move via a chapter 20. Will we now require an EHC and will our non-EU suppliers also be required to obtain an EHC in their location before shipping to the UK?

Yes. A Chapter 20 declaration will be required to move intermediate products to the EU.

The Chapter 20 declaration can be found at:

<https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX%3A02011R0142-20200630&qid=1603897374455>

Rejected Goods

General

What do I need to do if I need to return any goods that I have exported?

If your exported goods need to be returned, they will need to reacquire UK free circulation status.

You must follow the HMRC returned goods relief requirements. Information on the requirements can be found in the Border Operating Model at:

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/925140/BordersOpModel.pdf

If you don't follow the HMRC requirements, your goods may fail to pass UK customs, or you may be charged import duty and import VAT on your own goods.

Moreover, to reacquire UK free circulation status, your goods may need to meet specific food, animal or environmental requirements depending on the type of good that needs to return and the reason why it is returning. You can check whether the goods you are returning have a specific requirement, and if so what you need to do to return your goods, at:

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/return-your-rejected-exports-from-the-eu-from-1-january-2021>

****New** If goods fail inspection, will they be destroyed regardless of what the reason for the failure was? I.e. if a document is missing or there was an issue with some of the info submitted on the EHC?**

If your consignment does not have the correct documentation or fails an inspection at a BCP in the EU, it could be required to be destroyed, although in some cases it may be returned. Please check with the EU BCP what the process would be for your consignment.

****New** Currently if any container arrives at a site with missing seals, it would have to be rejected. If circa 1% goods will be opened / sampled, what measures are in place to assure companies that the product is not contaminated or at risk of spoilage due to the mishandling?**

The BCPs have an obligation to ensure consignments are not cross contaminated with other goods at the BCP. Authorities would follow established rules laid down in EU law to avoid any risk of cross-contamination. Goods would be handled in designated inspection facilities for only official control purposes to ensure the consignment complies with relevant SPS import conditions.

If the consignment is selected for physical checks then any packaging or containers would be resealed with an official authority tape/seal. Relevant temperature and storage conditions would be complied with throughout the handling of the consignment.

Each BCP would have procedures and risk assessments in place to avoid cross contamination. If you are concerned about possible commercial rejections, then you can liaise with the BCP to provide additional assurances or consult with your EU Member state central competent authority for advice.

Economic Operator Registration and Identification (EORI)

General

What is an EORI number?

An EORI number is a unique ID code for businesses issued by the HMRC. Businesses and people wishing to trade must use the EORI number as an identification number in all customs procedures when exchanging information with customs administrations.

Do I need an EU EORI number?

You will need an EU EORI number if your business will be making customs declarations or have a customs decision in the EU. They are required for sea, land or air freight.

You will need to obtain the EORI from the customs authority in the EU country where you are established or submit your first declaration or request your first decision.

After 31 December 2020 you will need an EORI number to move goods between the UK and the EU.

During the Transition Period there will be no change in respect of EORIs. EU-27 countries will continue to accept UK EORIs and the UK will continue to accept EU-27 EORIs.

How do I apply for an EORI number?

To apply for an EORI number click on 'Start Now' which can be found at:

<https://www.gov.uk/eori>

How long does it take for an EORI number to come through once I've applied?

Applying for [an EORI number](#) is an easy process that takes 5-10 minutes. You'll get it either straight away or within five working days (if HMRC needs to make more checks).

Therefore, we recommend exporters apply for their EORI number in advance in case extra checks are required.

What if I already have an EORI number?

After 31 December 2020 you will need an EORI number that starts with 'GB' to move goods to or from the UK.

UK businesses who currently trade with non-EU countries will already have an EORI number. If this starts with GB, then it was issued by the UK and will continue to be valid for the purposes of submitting customs declarations in the UK from January 2021.

We recommend that you check your EORI number and apply for a new one if it does not start with GB.

What do I need to do before I apply for an EORI number?

To apply you may need:

- VAT number and effective date of registration—this is located on your VAT registration certificate
- National Insurance number—if you are an individual or a sole trader
- Unique Taxpayer Reference (UTR)—Find your UTR at:
www.gov.uk/find-lost-utr-number
- Business start date and Standard Industrial Classification (SIC) code—They can be located at:
<https://www.gov.uk/get-information-about-a-company>
- Government Gateway user ID and password. To obtain a Government Gateway user ID, use either:
 - The one for your business or organisation
 - If you do not already have a user ID, you'll be able to create one when you apply

What will happen to my goods if I do not have an EORI number?

If you do not have an EORI number your goods may be held by customs.

Who do I contact if I need help?

If you have forgotten or lost your EORI number, contact the EORI online team at:
www.tax.service.gov.uk/shortforms/form/EORIContact

Establishment and Premises Listing

General

Does my business need to be listed as approved to export to the EU from 1 January 2021?

If your business operates from a UK approved food establishment e.g. those establishments involved in slaughtering animals or birds, cutting red or white meat, preparing fish and fish products, or preparing dairy and egg products, and you export these products to the EU—you need to be listed.

Regulation (EC) 853/2004 Annex III lays down requirements for those activities that need to be approved.

Do UK approved establishments need to be listed even if they don't export POAO to the EU?

If you are a UK approved establishment that does not export POAO to the EU, you don't have to be listed. However, if you produce fresh meat, minced meat, meat preparations, meat products or mechanically separated meat at a slaughterhouse or cutting plant, or processed fishery products, you will need to be listed if you supply others that export your product to the EU.

What if my business produces composite products?

If your business manufactures composite products that have a POAO as an ingredient such as pizzas or sandwiches, you do not need to be listed to export such products to the EU, if you operate from registered premises. However, you will need an Export Health Certificate (EHC) to demonstrate that the POAO you used in your product originated from an approved establishment listed with the EU.

How do I get my establishment / premises listed with the EU?

All UK approved food establishments will be listed unless they choose to opt out. The list will be put forward by Defra for approval by the EC on the EU Approved Establishment List.

Scottish food businesses should contact Food Standards Scotland for further information at:

enquiries@fss.scot

You must contact the FSA at eulistings@food.gov.uk by 1 December 2020 if you do not want your establishment to go forward for EU listing.

What happens if my business no longer wants to be on the EU list?

You must notify the FSA at eulistings@food.gov.uk by 31 December 2020.

What happens if I've changed my mind and now, I want my business added to the EU list?

You must notify the FSA at eulistings@food.gov.uk by 1 December 2020 if you want to be able to export from 1 January 2021.

If you notify the FSA after this date, you will have to make an application to the European Commission for your establishment to be listed under the Official Controls Regulation (EU).

You will not be able to export POAO to the EU until the EU has accepted your application.

Who do I contact if I need help?

Until 31 December 2020, please email the following address if you require further information on establishment and premises listing:

eulistings@food.gov.uk.

Further guidance can be found on food.gov.uk.

Traders

For non-EU imports, currently cold stores and production sites need to be registered but not traders. Would a trader need to be registered with EU as an establishment or premises?

The trader doesn't need to be listed or approved unless they are carrying out activities laid down in Annex 853. The trader might be approved if they are producing and then selling the product from an approved establishment/premises. If however they are purely just the trader of the product, and they haven't been involved in production/repackaging etc... then they would only need to be Local Authority registered and the producer would be the one who would be approved.

Fish

Will GB fishing vessels, with fresh catch, be considered as approved establishments?

Export of Fish (for human consumption) can only be made from approved food premises. The fishing vessel need to register with their local authority for health inspection and the catch will need to be exported from an approved establishment.

Health and Identification Marks

General

What is health and identification marks?

Health and identification marks must be applied to food products of animal origin to confirm they have been inspected and are fit for human consumption.

What are the changes to health and identification marks?

From 1 January 2021 to export goods to the EU from GB you will need a two-letter ISO code 'GB' or full country name 'UNITED KINGDOM'.

'GB' can be placed on goods for the UK, EU and non-EU markets.

The exemption for labelling/health marks changes—is it by the time the consignment leaves the plant or enters the EU?

A certificate would be required before the consignment leaves the plant. At that point the products would have to be labelled and marked in accordance to EU law otherwise the certificate couldn't be signed.

If you have outstanding packaging with EU mark can you still export after 31st December to use up all existing packaging?

Legislation in England, Wales and Scotland is being proposed to allow a 21-month adjustment period for goods placed on the market in Great Britain to reduce the impact of the change in requirements for identification marks.

This will allow UK businesses to deplete existing stocks of labels, wrapping and packaging carrying the 'UK/EC' identification mark owned by the food business operator at the end of the Transition Period.

The period of adjustment will be available to UK food businesses for POAO placed on the market in Great Britain. It is not applicable to POAO produced in Great Britain and Northern Ireland for placing on the EU or non-EU markets. Further guidance on placing POAO on the Northern Ireland market will be published shortly.

The period of adjustment is not intended to enable businesses to replenish stocks of labels, wrapping and packaging carrying the 'UK/EC' identification mark after the end of the Transition Period. Businesses are encouraged to adopt the new markings as soon as possible once the Transition Period ends.

The adjustment period will start from 1 January 2021 and be available for food businesses up to 30 September 2022. After this date, the use of old labels, wrapping and packaging will be unlawful.

Where can I find further information on health and identification marks?

Further information can be found at:

<https://www.food.gov.uk/business-guidance/guidance-on-health-and-identification-marks-that-applies-from-1-january-2021>

****New** Products currently produced do not have the GB or UNITED KINGDOM on the label, will these products need to be re-labelled?**

Yes, if the goods are being placed onto the EU market after 2300 hrs on the 31 December 2020.

Labelling and Packaging

General

What are the changes to the process for labelling?

From 1 January 2021, foods being exported to the EU will need to meet EU food labelling rules.

What will need to be included on labels?

Labels will need to include:

- Origin of the food product
- The name or business name and address of who is responsible for the product in the EU (Importer or if the business has premises within the EU)
- Health and/or identification marks—either the name of the country in full or with the ISO two-letter code where the establishment is located as well as the approval number of the establishment
- Any other mandatory information such as relating to farming methods and marketing standards

Where can I obtain further information on labelling?

The EU has issued guidance on labelling changes required from 1 January 2021 which can be found on GOV.UK at:

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/food-labelling-changes-after-brexit>

Border Control Posts (BCPs)

General

What are designated BCPs?

BCPs are designated and approved inspection posts at an EU border that carry out checks on animals and products of animal origin arriving from third countries.

To export live animals and products from animal origin from GB to EU you need to enter through a border control post that can check and process your types of goods.

How do I know which BCP to enter through?

Exporters of live animals and POAO will need to enter the EU via an appropriately approved BCP. There are more than 400 approved BCPs in the EU, which are usually located at EU ports and airports.

You must find a BCP that can accept your type of goods, as not all BCPs accept the goods mentioned above and consider how to redirect your trade route if needed.

To check a BCP use the following list of BCPs on the EU site at:

<https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?qid=1563184991622&uri=CELEX:02009D0821-20190107>

Is there a timeline of submission to the BCP that I need to be aware of?

All EU BCPs require notice of goods arriving. Please check with the BCP you are planning to use for how much notice is needed.

You must also contact your import agent in the EU to make sure they notify the BCP through the Trade Control and Expert System (TRACES)* of the arrival of the consignment. They must do this within the time limits set out by the BCP.

* TRACES is an online system for health certification and tracking consignments of animals or animal products coming into or out of the UK.

What if I get to the border and my paperwork is not correct?

If your goods fail inspection because of risks to animal or public health, they may be destroyed immediately.

If the goods fail for other reasons, the BCP may notify your importer or agent and ask them to decide whether your goods should be destroyed or returned to the UK.

The BCP will not usually contact the exporter directly.

If you gain permission to bring your goods back to the UK, you can do this using the same documents you used to export.

You do not need to enter via a UK BCP and will not need to go through checks at the UK point of entry.

When exporting animal products through France, do I need to go via a Border Control Post (BCP) in France with health certificates and ingredients lists?

When transporting animals, POAO or germplasm from the UK to the EU, goods must be checked at a Border Inspection Post that can accept your type of goods, in the first EU country you enter.

Is there enough capacity at ports with BCPs on the other side of the English Channel to receive all our exports that previously went to Calais?

We are aware that French authorities are constructing inspection facilities to serve Calais and Coquelle. We have no official confirmation that it will be ready for the 1 January 2020.

The UK Government is focused on doing everything they can to ensure continuity on the UK side of the border.

Will there be queues at Border Control Posts?

We are working to ensure that any friction at the border is minimised by understanding volumes and working with industry bodies.

****New** If goods have arrived at the first drop off, are they classed as being passed the entry point and are in free circulation?**

Once the checks, both documentary and physical, have been fully completed at the BCP and given the all clear then the consignment can move freely within the single market.

The goods could still be subject to further checks inland as part of general market surveillance. The destination member state may have a policy of randomly testing imported food on the shelves so there could still be checks but that would be after clearance at the BCP.

In some scenarios the goods may have to be kept at the premises of destination until the import notification had been made before they could be moved on. The premises of destination declared in the EHC and the CHED will be responsible for the onward distribution of the goods in the EU and they must keep the relevant Food Chain Tracing information and be responsible for them.

****New** Do we need to work with our hauliers to find their routes to ascertain the BCP?**

Please check with the EU BCPs to see which BCP will accept your product type/commodity. A list of BCPs can be found at:

https://ec.europa.eu/food/animals/vet-border-control/bjp_en

Meat

Once a product, for example a carcass has cleared the BCP and are at the first drop-off (e.g. a wholesale market) can the rest of the carcasses be transported to other drop-offs?

Once cleared by BCP for entry into the single market, the destination could be anywhere in the EU. The CHED can be issued showing the first drop off as the destination but that destination will then need to keep records of movements off (one step back—one step forward traceability).

EU Based Import Agent

General

What is an EU import agent?

An EU-based Importer is the person who is legally receiving your goods in the EU (although they may not be the place of destination).

What is the role of an EU Import Agent?

Goods need to be checked at a Border Control Post (BCP). All EU BCPs require notice of goods arriving (please check with the BCP you are planning to use for how much notice is needed.). The exporter will send a copy of the certified Exports Health Certificate to the Import Agent.

Your local EU import agent must submit to the BCP pre-notification of the goods arriving through the Trade Control and Export System (TRACES)* by making an importers declaration (CHED). A customs declaration must then be completed.

Please note: If goods fail inspection due to a risk to animal or public health, they will be destroyed immediately, or the importer will be required to destroy them and carry the costs.

* TRACES is an online system for health certification and tracking consignments of animals or animal products coming into or out of the UK.

Transport

General

What are the changes to the transportation process?

From January 2021:

- The responsibility for customs border formalities rests with traders
- An arrived declaration must be submitted to customs before goods have left the trader's premises
- The declarant will receive 'Permission to Progress' (P2P)

Hauliers:

- Hauliers will need to carry evidence that a declaration has been made
- If a physical check is required, the haulier or declarant will be instructed to move to a specified location for a check
- Haulier must ensure the driver has all necessary customs documentation and other paperwork which must be carried in the vehicle for the duration of the journey

Transporters:

- Will need to get the right operator license—[standard international operator license](#) but there may be other licenses
- may need an ECMT or other additional permits
- All exports will require a Safety and Security (S&S) declaration

Are there any different requirements depending on the route?

Yes. The requirement differs for the Dover to Calais route.

For more information, please refer to the guidance found at:

<https://www.brexit.gouv.fr/files/live/sites/brexit/files/contributed/Documents/SPS%20Controls%20for%20goods%20imported%20from%20the%20UK%20to%20the%20UE%20via%20France.pdf>

What will happen if I do not have the correct declaration and documents?

Goods will not be able to move across EU borders without the correct documentation.

Where do I find further guidance on the changes to transportation?

Further guidance can be found at:

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/how-to-move-goods-between-or-through-common-transit-countries-including-the-eu#further-information>

Customs Declarations

General

What are the changes to customs declarations?

From 1 January 2021 exporters must:

- submit export customs declarations for all goods
- submit safety and security information either via a combined export declaration or a standalone Exit Summary Declaration

How do I make a customs declaration?

You can make the custom declarations yourself or hire someone else to do this for you.

Customs processes can be complicated and require specific training and software. Most businesses use customs intermediaries to complete customs processes for them.

Where do I find further information on customs declarations?

Further information can be found at:

www.gov.uk/guidance/customs-declarations-for-goods-taken-out-of-the-eu

Information on the customs clearance process can be found at:

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/help-and-support-if-your-business-trades-with-the-eu>

Groupage

General

How will the Groupage Export Facilitation Scheme (GEFS) daily?

For details on the GEFS scheme, please follow the guidance at:

<http://apha.defra.gov.uk/external-operations-admin/library/documents/exports/ET193.pdf>

Under groupage, what do you define as the final consumer?

Please refer to the Gov.UK groupage page at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/groupage-export-facilitation-scheme-privacy-notice>

Within the groupage scheme, does the local authority in the area where the all the consignments are collated provide the EHC?

From January 2021, for products of animal origin (POAO), subject to safeguard measures, there will be new requirements for pre-notification on IPAFFS, and all goods must be accompanied by an Export Health Certificate (EHC).

For POAO subject to safeguard measures, the UK importer should supply the EU exporter / Official Veterinarian (OV) with the unique notification number (UNN) that is produced on IPAFFS when the importer notifies the UK's Animal Plant Health Agency (APHA) about the import. The exporter must add the UNN to the health certificate.

****New** Groupage Export Facilitation Scheme (GEFS)**

General

What is the Groupage Export Facilitation Scheme (GEFS)?

GEFS is a membership scheme for exporters of certain products of animal origin from stable supply chains, packaged for sale to the final consumer.

From the end of the Transition Period, Export Health Certificates will be needed for the movement of products of animal origin to the EU. GEFS do not fundamentally alter the process of Export Health Certification but enables scheme members to make use of time-limited support attestations to facilitate certification of their groupage exports to or for transit through, the EU, or movement into Northern Ireland.

Where is there guidance for the scheme?

There is guidance on GEFS on [GOV.UK](https://www.gov.uk) and on the APHA website [here](#).

How do I apply for the scheme?

To become a member of the GEFS you need to complete this [application form](#) and email it with a copy of your current supplier list to GEFS@defra.gov.uk.

When can I start using the scheme?

Application for membership of the scheme is now open. The scheme is for use to support exports from the end of the transition period, 1 January 2021.

What goods can I use GEFS to support certification for export?

Exporters can use GEFS to help export certain products of animal origin for human consumption including composite products, processed meat products, including gelatine, meat preparations, processed milk and matured or processed dairy products, fish or fisheries products, eggs or egg products, honey, frogs' legs, snails and bivalve molluscs. You can also use it for processed pet food.

These products must be fully packaged for the final consumer (or to be re-packaged directly at the point of sale for the final consumer) and produced using animal content from known suppliers.

What goods can I not use GEFS to support certification for export?

You cannot use the scheme to help export fresh meat, raw milk, products of animal origin not for human consumption (except processed pet food), live animals and germinal products.

Can I use the scheme to export to bigger traders and processors in the EU?

The support attestations that the scheme allows you to use can only be used to support exports of products, which are fully packaged for the final consumer or to be re-packaged directly at the point of sale. An example of a re-packaged good would be a composite (e.g. pork pie) exported whole that is re-packaged at a deli counter

for sale to the final customer. Bulk products exported for further processing or not for direct sale to the final consumer are not in scope.

When will GEFS guidance be published and is there an agreed a grace period with the EU?

There is guidance on Groupage Export Facilitation Scheme (GEFS) on [GOV.UK](https://www.gov.uk) and on the APHA website [here](#). Application for membership of the scheme is now open. The scheme is for use to support exports from the end of the transition period, 1 January 2021.

There is no grace period agreement with the EU required for use this scheme. GEFS does not change EU export certification requirements and support attestations used in the scheme are for eligible products moving within the UK only.

Can I export groupage export without GEFS?

Yes, groupage exports can be undertaken without the support of GEFS.

I supply goods to retailers who export goods, do I need to apply?

No. This scheme is for exporters to apply for only. Suppliers should not apply for the scheme. Exporters should work with their suppliers, their Certifying Officer(s) and other vets to understand how to best operate under the scheme.

Does this mean I will need fewer EHCs when exporting my goods?

No. GEFS enables scheme members exporting qualifying products to make use of time limited support attestations to facilitate certification. Products exported using GEFS must meet the same animal health standards and provide traceability information for the product to be certified.

What does the support attestation consist of?

The 30-day support attestations (SA) consist of both a supplier/manufacturers declaration and a veterinary declaration (following an inspection of the supplying premises and records, to confirm stability of the supply chain and that the declaration is currently correct). This support attestation can then be used (for a 30-day period) to provide information to the certifying officer completing the final EU export health certificate.

Exporters wishing to use the SA should discussing the content of the support attestation with their Certifying Officers. The information to be collected and displayed on the Support Attestation is determined by the Certifying Officer signing the EHC.

GEFS scheme does not change EU export certification requirements and support attestations used in the scheme are for eligible products moving within the UK only.

What paperwork is required in addition to the support attestation under the scheme?

The scheme also requires a commercial document/manifest to accompany (or be electronically linked to) each consignment moved to the depot during the validity of the Support Attestation. The supplier must ensure this commercial document/manifest is signed/endorsed on behalf of the supplying company with words to the following effect: "The evidence required to facilitate export of the products in this consignment has been provided in Support Attestation [insert unique reference number of relevant Support Attestation]. No changes have been made that affect the validity of the information provided in this Support Attestation". Beyond the above, for loads moving within the UK we envisage that no additional routine documentation will be required although certifying officers may request additional information for specific loads or as part of routine audits/traceability checks.

GEFS does not change EU export certification requirements and support attestations used in the scheme are for eligible products moving within the UK only.

When can I get a Support Attestation to be ready to export on 1 January 2021?

Once GEFS membership is granted, exporters can obtain SAs prior to 1 January 2021. Each SA will still only last 30 days from when signed by Certifying Officer. Exporters may wish to obtain SAs in December in preparation for export to the EU after the transition period has ended. Securing SAs for different commodities throughout December also allows for staggered vet certification which may benefit exporters.

We would advise exporters wishing to use the scheme to consider discussing the content of the support attestation with their suppliers and certifiers before December to make sure there is agreement on the detail they will need to contain.

What is considered a stable supply chain?

At the initial supplier inspection, a stable supply chain is defined as no changes in product health and traceability details relevant to the information provided in the supplier declaration section of the SA for the preceding thirty calendar days and for at least four of the preceding six months. Suppliers may have experienced instability in their supply chains in the months prior to the launch of GEFS due to both changes made specifically to meet new EU Exit dependent requirements and the exceptional circumstances relating to COVID19. In the short term this should not prevent the agreement of support attestations. Suppliers will need to ensure they can provide evidence to the vet that changes have been made in response to these specific circumstances. The Competent Authority will keep this under review.

****New** Pallets**

General

Is there clarity as to whether heat-treated pallets are required for exports to the EU?

After the end of the Transition Period, all wood packaging material (WPM) moving between GB and the EU must be treated and appropriately marked in compliance with international standards (ISPM 15). This is in line with international requirements for trade and is in place to protect both the EU and GB from harmful plant pests and diseases.

The WPM industry have been working tirelessly to increase the stock of compliant WPM. The UK Timber Pallet and Packaging Confederation (TIMCON) report that WPM treatment capacity has increased, with a greater number of heat treatment facilities (kilns), operating over longer hours. In a recent survey of the wood packaging material industry, TIMCON reported that 76% of respondents indicated they were confident that they would be ready by the end of the Transition Period to meet customers' ISPM15 requirements.

Defra, the Forestry Commission and other relevant UK plant health authorities are continuing to work closely with the wood packaging material sector to understand what further actions they need to take to manage this new requirement by the end of the Transition Period.

From the 1 January, are exporters required to ship goods from GB to the EU on heat treated pallets?

Yes. After the end of the Transition Period, all wood packaging material (WPM), including wooden pallets, moving between GB and the EU must be treated and appropriately marked in compliance with international standards (ISPM 15). This is in line with international requirements for trade and is in place to protect both the EU and GB from harmful plant pests and diseases.

Will HT pallets be required for goods into the EU even in the event of a 'deal' being struck, or only in a no-deal scenario?

The UK is leaving the EU's customs union and single market. This means businesses will have to prepare for life outside of these, which will inevitably mean extra processes will be required on UK-EU trade. After the end of the Transition Period, all wood packaging material (WPM), including wooden pallets, moving between GB and the EU must be treated and appropriately marked in compliance with international standards (ISPM 15). This is in line with international requirements for trade and is in place to protect both the EU and GB from harmful plant pests and diseases.

Imports

General

Will EU exports to the UK have reciprocal EHC requirements?

The certificates will be substantially the same as the existing EU certificates for Rest of World (ROW) imports but rebranded to show they relate to imports into GB.

Traders intending to export to GB should use the existing certification as guidance on what will be required.

Which products of animal origin (POAO) containing products will be subject to safeguard measures for import into GB? E.g. will composite products require IPAFFS notification from January, April or July?

Emergency safeguard action can be taken at very short notice to prohibit or restrict the importation of certain products from certain countries following an outbreak of disease or a public health issue.

Information on the latest updates concerning disease outbreaks which may affect imports into the UK can be found at:

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/imports-and-exports-of-animals-and-animal-products-topical-issues>

Where can I find more information on importing products containing POAO such as milk powder from the EU from Jan 2021. Do we need a health certificate or is this only required from April 2021?

More information on importing products of animal origin can be found in the border operating model at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/the-border-operating-model>

From January 2021, for POAO products that are subject to safeguard measures, there will be new requirements for pre-notification on IPAFFS, and all goods must be accompanied by an Export Health Certificate (EHC).

For POAO products subject to safeguard measures, the UK importer should supply the EU exporter / Official Veterinarian (OV) with the unique notification number (UNN) that is produced on IPAFFS when the importer notifies the UK's Animal Plant Health Agency (APHA) about the import. The exporter must add the UNN to the health certificate.

From April 2021, for POAO that are not subject to additional safeguard measures, there will be new requirements for pre-notification on IPAFFS, and all goods must be accompanied by an EHC and will undergo remote documentary checks.

From July 2021 all POAO will require pre-notification using IPAFFS and must be accompanied by an EHC. All animals and animal products must arrive at an established point of entry with an appropriate Border Control Post (BCP). POAO will

be subject to a minimum level of 1% checks. Some commodities, such as shellfish, will be subject to higher minimum check levels.

If we use a logistics carrier to export our goods, even though we will obtain the EHC to certify the shipment, do we have to register for IPAFFS or is it enough for our carrier partners to register on IPAFFS?

The answer will depend on what the scenario is.

Exporters do not need to register for IPAFFS unless they also importing into GB. The 'person responsible for the load' needs to be registered for IPAFFS.

- If you import **from the EU**, you will only need to notify from April 21 for products of animal origin.
- If you import **from outside the EU**, you will need to notify for POAO from 7 December 2020.



© Crown copyright 2020

This information is licensed under the Open Government Licence v3.0.

To view this licence, visit www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/doc/open-government-licence/

Any enquiries regarding this publication should be sent to us at traders@defra.gov.uk