



Borders Bulletin

Dear Stakeholder,

This bulletin provides the latest news from the Government relating to UK borders following the introduction of full import controls on 1 January 2022 and ahead of the SPS controls being introduced from 1 July 2022.

Please share these updates with your clients, customers and members and feel free to highlight content on your communications channels.

For more information, go to [gov.uk/transition](https://www.gov.uk/transition)

Contents of this update:

P&O Ferries: staff redundancies and suspension of services	1
Use of Export Health Certificates (EHCs)	2
Taking humanitarian aid out of Great Britain to support Ukraine	2
UK announces new economic sanctions against Russia	2
New animations - simple guides to help you import and export	3
HMRC and HMT Call for Evidence: An Independent Customs Regime	4
Webinars and on demand videos	4
Helpline numbers	5

P&O Ferries: staff redundancies and suspension of services

Yesterday (Thursday 17 March 2022), P&O announced their decision to make around 800 seafarers redundant on several routes across the UK. In taking this decision to make seafarers redundant, P&O have also informed stakeholders that they will be suspending services for approximately a week to 10 days while they locate new crew.

While this is fundamentally a commercial decision for the company, the Government has spoken to the management at P&O to gain a further understanding of the situation and the operational impacts, and our statement on the issue can be found here:

Taking humanitarian aid out of Great Britain to support Ukraine

If you are taking goods out of Great Britain (England, Scotland and Wales) destined for the victims of the humanitarian crisis in Ukraine, you may be able to use a temporary process to get goods through customs without delay. You can check if you can use a simplified customs process here:

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/taking-humanitarian-aid-out-of-great-britain-to-support-ukraine>

If you have question about sending aid to Ukraine you can visit

<https://www.gov.uk/ask-export-support-team>, or call the helpline. The ESS helpline number is **0300 303 8955** and is currently operational Monday to Friday 0800-1800.

UK announces new economic sanctions against Russia

The UK Government announced on 15 March a ban on exports to Russia of high-end luxury goods, while also hitting [hundreds of key products with new import tariffs](#) that represent a 35 percentage point hike on current rates.

Russian vodka is one of the iconic products affected by the tariff increases, while the export ban will likely affect luxury vehicles, high-end fashion and works of art.

The measures will cause maximum harm to Putin's war machine while minimising the impact on UK businesses as G7 leaders unite to unleash a fresh wave of economic sanctions on Moscow.

The export ban will come into force shortly and will make sure oligarchs and other members of the elite, who have grown rich under President Putin's reign and support his illegal invasion, are deprived of access to luxury goods.

Denying Russia access to Most Favoured Nation tariff treatment for key imports and applying additional tariffs will restrict Russian exports to the UK. The UK is working with our international partners and is supporting the World Trade Organisation to prevent those who fail to respect the rules-based international order from reaping its benefits.

Further information:

- Any business that has questions about trading with Ukraine or Russia can call our helpline using the number 0300 303 8955 for support or visit [our support page](#).
- Further details on the export ban will follow in due course; previous export bans have included items such as high-end fashion, works of art and luxury vehicles.

- Russian imports of the following products will face an additional tariff increase of 35 percentage points, over and above any existing tariff rate under the terms of the move.
 - These products have been selected to inflict maximum damage on the Russian economy while minimising the impact on the UK: Iron, steel, fertilisers, wood, tyres, railway containers, cement, copper, aluminium, silver, lead, iron ore, residue/food waste products, beverages, spirits and vinegar (this includes vodka), glass and glassware, cereals, oil seeds, paper and paperboard, machinery, works of art, antiques, fur skins and artificial fur, ships and white fish.
 - These tariff increases will be legislated for by using our powers under the Taxation (Cross-border Trade) Act (2018), and operationalised in the UK's customs systems CHIEF and CDS, next week.
-

Use of Export Health Certificates (EHCs)

Old EHCs were withdrawn from EHC Online on 14 January 2022, apart from the old EHCs for raw milk, dairy products, hatching eggs of poultry, certain germinal products, meat products, poultry meat and meat preparations.

The EU Commission has requested flexibility from Member States in accepting old EHCs until the end of April 2022. It is important to note that the new EHCs should be used wherever possible and it will be for individual Member States to decide whether they will continue to accept old certificates.

You should therefore check with your BCP point of entry if you intend using an old EHC between now and the end of April 2022. Further information can be found here: <http://apha.defra.gov.uk/documents/ov/Briefing-Note-0222.pdf>

New animations - simple guides to help you import and export

The Cabinet Office's Border, Trade & Brexit Opportunities team have produced animations which focus on how to import and export goods between the EU and GB. The animations highlight the steps that traders need to take to ensure that their goods keep moving between the EU and GB.

A simple animated guide on how to import can be found [here](#) and a simple guide on how to export can be found [here](#).

HMRC and HMT Call for Evidence: An Independent Customs Regime

HMRC and HM Treasury would like to highlight the open consultation initiative [Call for evidence: An Independent Customs Regime](#). As part of this, we welcome views on how we can improve the UK's customs system by simplifying processes for traders and embracing innovation. This call for evidence invites respondents' views on:

- the customs intermediary sector
- the Simplified Customs Declaration Process (SCDP)
- the Transit facilitation

HMRC and HM Treasury hosted a webinar on 2 March at 3:30pm to introduce the Call for Evidence giving guidance about how to reply and answer participant questions.

Please note that this consultation **closes at 11:45pm on 2 May 2022**.

Webinars and on demand videos

The UK Government continues to run a series of webinars and on demand videos across a range of topics relating to the new rules and procedures.

The Cabinet Office is running a series of webinars which outline all the steps required to move goods from the EU to GB. These webinars explain how to import specific commodities from particular EU Member States into GB (for example, textiles from Belgium, or cosmetics from Spain). The webinars are commodity specific and will act as a step by step guide and have been translated into three key languages including English and will focus on exporting goods from France, Portugal, Spain, Italy, Netherlands and Belgium to Great Britain.

Sign up for the upcoming events [here](#).

We are aware that there remains lots of interest in simple explanations for businesses as to how **Rules of Origin** operate under the TCA. Two c. 15-minute long webinars are available that provide an introduction to Rules of Origin. These will help you understand the process and what you need to do if you buy from, send or sell goods to the EU.

- [HMRC webinar](#)
- [DEFRA webinar](#)

BEIS is running webinars for using the new UK conformity assessment marking (UKCA) and how to comply with the new rules in Great Britain and Northern Ireland. Sign up to the webinars which start on 17 March 2022 [here](#).

We also ran a programme of online Industry Days. These events provided practical details about moving goods between the EU and GB. They cover procedures and systems at the border and details about the new import requirements for GB.

On Monday 15 November 2021 we launched a series of webinars which outline all the steps required to move goods from the EU to GB. These webinars explain how to import specific commodities from particular EU Member States into GB (for example, meat from Poland, or fish from Spain). The webinars are commodity specific and will act as a step by step guide and have been translated into five key languages including English and will focus on exporting goods from France, Portugal, Spain, Germany, Poland, Italy, Netherlands and Belgium to Great Britain.

We recommend you take the time to visit [this page](#), which has links to recordings of previous webinars and Industry Days and details of how to sign up to upcoming events.

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](#)
 - Telephone: 0300 303 8955
 - Textphone: 18001 0300 303 8955
 - Monday to Friday, 8am to 6pm (excluding public holidays)
- 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.
- 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](#).
