

Borders Bulletin

Dear Stakeholder,

This bulletin provides the latest news from the Government relating to UK borders.

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)

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Border Target Operating Model

Thank you to all of you who participated during our [draft Target Operating Model](#) (TOM) engagement period which concluded on Friday 19th May.

We are analysing all feedback and developing further detail for inclusion in the final Border Target Operating Model.

We will be publishing the final version of the Border Target Operating Model shortly taking into account the feedback we have received to date.

We would like to stress that this is not the end of engagement on the TOM and we will be working closely with stakeholders to prepare for each of the major milestones across 2023 and 2024.

Common User Charge (CUC) Consultation

On Monday 12th June, the Government began a four-week period of consultation on the proposed methodology and rates of the Common User Charge (CUC) for Government-run Border Control Posts (BCPs). In the [draft Border Target Operating Model](#), the UK Government outlined its plan to charge for eligible sanitary and phytosanitary (SPS) consignments. The charge would recover the operating costs for Government-run Border Control Posts (BCPs).

The charging model has been designed to minimise the impact across all businesses. Defra's intention is to avoid disproportionate impacts on small business.

The consultation seeks feedback on the impacts of the proposal on businesses of all sizes and operating different business models; and on how stakeholders consider that the charging model will impact their business.

This consultation will run from **12/06/2023** to **09/07/2023**. Responses should be received by no later than **23:59** on **09/07/2023**. Defra ask for stakeholders' responses to be provided via the [Citizen Space consultation site](#) or via the [GOV.UK page](#). If traders are unable to use Citizen Space, they can download the consultation documents and return responses via email to BCPcharging@defra.gov.uk

Invitation to register and submit notifications via IPAFFS

Last year, Defra paused the transition from the imports system PEACH to the new imports system, Import of Plants, Animals, Food and Feed System (IPAFFS) to develop further functionality to improve their service. DEFRA have now added CSV File Upload and a search functionality for Genus and Species to support the creation of a pre-notification for submitting notifications, with further functionality to follow in the coming months.

You can now register and begin to submit notifications [via IPAFFS](#).

Please note, if you are submitting a notification for the first time and do not currently have a PEACH account, you must register with IPAFFS **now**, as from 28 July you will not have the option to register a new account with PEACH.

You must register to IPAFFS with a UK address as traders must legally be a UK entity to import into the UK. If you do not have a UK address, you can register using a UK proxy address. Guidance on how to do this can be found on the [Plant Health Portal](#).

To support the transition from PEACH to IPAFFSx, Defra will be holding weekly 1-hour training sessions. Register for a time that suits you via the links below.

Wednesday 28th June	Register Here
Wednesday 5th July	Register Here
Wednesday 12th July	Register Here
Wednesday 19th July	Register Here
Wednesday 26th July	Register Here

If you have questions or require support, please contact APHA (Animal and Plant Health Agency) via your Local Plant Health Inspector or on 0300 100 0313.

Share your feedback on the Advance Valuation Ruling Service (AVRS)

The HMRC Digital Team is looking for users of the [Advance Valuation Ruling Service \(AVRS\)](#) to provide feedback so they can make further improvements and enhancements.

AVRS gives traders legal certainty on their chosen valuation method for imported goods, for a period of three years.

HMRC are looking for participants who may have already used the service or may wish to apply for valuation rulings in future.

What will the User research involve?

This will involve an interview with a digital researcher and will take approximately 1 hour.

As an incentive to participate, any suitable users taking part in the interview will be rewarded with an £80 [Love2shop](#) voucher.

How to sign up?

By completing this survey [here](#)

Uploading supporting documents to the Customs Declaration Service (CDS)

When submitting import declarations on CDS, you may be asked to upload supporting documents. HMRC have been made aware that some declarants are not doing this which is causing goods to be delayed. Please upload documents at the first prompt.

To do this, use the Secure File Upload Service.

When using the Goods Vehicle Movement Service (GVMS)

You or the business moving your goods, may be asked to attend an inland border facility for a check. You can use your goods movement reference (GMR) number to check if they need to report for an inspection.

Remember your goods cannot be delivered until customs clearance has been provided.

Further help and support on uploading documents

If you need help with uploading documents on CDS:

Read [Upload documents and get messages for the Customs Declaration Service](#)

Watch HMRC's [YouTube tutorial on, How to use the secure file upload service on CDS](#)

Technical Delivery Partner appointed for the UK Single Trade Window Programme

Deloitte, working with IBM, has been appointed as the Technical Delivery Partner (TDP) for the UK Single Trade Window Programme.

The UK Single Trade Window (STW) is at the heart of the [draft Border Target Operating Model](#) which sets out a plan to realise the ambition of the [2025 Border Strategy](#) to create the

most effective border in the world. When fully operational it will provide a gateway between businesses and UK border processes and systems, allowing users to meet their import, export and transit obligations by submitting information to Government only once and in only one place.

Deloitte and IBM will work flexibly with the Single Trade Window Programme and its delivery partners across government, ensuring the service design and delivery is fit for now and the future.

HMRC launches customs intermediaries consultation

HMRC is inviting businesses and organisations across border industry to share their views on introducing a voluntary standard for the customs intermediary sector.

The consultation, in response to feedback from the 2022 Call for Evidence (CfE) and part of a package of measures announced at the Spring Budget, aims to improve the quality of the service across the customs intermediary sector.

It launched on **5 June, running for 12 weeks until 30 August 2023**, and can be viewed in full [here](#).

Participants can give feedback by emailing customsintermediariesconsultation@hmrc.gov.uk

The consultation will seek views on:

- the objectives of a voluntary standard, and what format it could take
- how a voluntary standard could be designed and implemented
- the potential content of a voluntary standard
- training and educational offerings for the intermediary sector, which would support the introduction of a voluntary standard.

As part of the consultation, HMRC will be holding a number of broadcast events in July for businesses, trade association representatives, customs intermediaries and SMEs, to provide an overview of the consultation and answer questions. If you would like to attend one of these events, please email HMRC at customsintermediariesconsultation@hmrc.gov.uk

Border Target Operating Model risk categorisation for SPS goods & streamlined EHCs

On 28th April, Defra published the initial Border Target Operating Model (TOM) [risk categorisation](#) for the imports of animals; animal products; plants and plant products of EU & EFTA origin (excluding Norway and Iceland for plants and plant products); which sets out the controls that will apply to these goods when they are imported into Great Britain from 31 October 2023, as set out in the draft TOM published earlier this month. The TOM describes broad categories of high, medium and low risk, and this categorisation gives the details of how the new Sanitary and Phytosanitary (SPS) regime – as set out in the draft TOM - will be applied.

Last week, Defra updated the [risk categorisation](#) webpage and published a new commodity-code search, allowing traders of animals and most products of animal origin to more easily identify the TOM risk categorisation of their EU & EFTA origin goods. Traders can now identify the TOM risk category for their specific commodities by searching the list using a 10 digit commodity code.

For animals and animal products, the categorisation is derived from a scientific assessment of the biosecurity and food safety risk that each commodity poses, weighted against the disease and pest risk of the country of origin. For plants and plant products, an equivalent process is in place to categorise commodities according to biosecurity risk. The categorisation is designed to be dynamic to respond to changing risks. There are some specific commodity groups (some dairy, composites and fruit and veg) where further risk assessment is ongoing. These have been placed in the 'low' TOM risk category from October 2023, pending further risk assessments.

Please note, further risk assessment is ongoing and any changes to these TOM risk categories will not take place before April 2024, and Defra will communicate with traders well in advance of any changes to commodity categorisation.

The EU will be treated as a single epidemiological entity, therefore all imports from the EU countries will have SPS controls applied consistently.

If you import food products, live animals, animal products, [plants or plant products](#) from the EU into GB, you need to check the TOM risk-level of your commodity now to be ready for upcoming changes to border processes.

To view the Plants and Plant Product TOM Risk Categories click [here](#).

To view the Animals and Animal Products TOM Risk Categories click [here](#).

You can familiarise yourself with the [upcoming plant certification requirements](#) for medium-risk goods that are coming into force in October 2023.

The TOM includes a commitment to streamline the format and content of the Export Health Certificates (EHCs) for Animals and Animal Products imported to GB.

The new GB model certificates do not change the requirements for importing animal and animal products into GB. The GB EHCs will be shorter and more logical in their format from the existing GB EHCs. The new GB EHCs for Products of Animal Origin (POAO) and a number of Animal By-Products (ABP) has been published on gov.uk [here](#)

All high and medium-risk POAO and ABP imported into GB from EU/EEA countries will need to use the new GB EHCs from 31 October 2023. New model EHCs for live animals and germinal products will be published in the summer.

Last month, Defra hosted three TOM sessions: one focused on the Authorised Operator Status model, and two focused on what the TOM means for the Fresh Produce and Horticulture sector.

For those of you who were unable to attend the events, a recording of them is now available on the [Plant Health Portal](#), alongside a readout of the questions and answers Defra received during the sessions.

The recordings of Defra's recent webinars are available for viewing via the Border TOM [YouTube](#) page. Defra will continue to upload all webinar recordings on this page as we go through the TOM implementation period.

To access the recordings, simply click on the link below. The link will direct you to the Border TOM Youtube playlist where you will be able to view all webinar sessions that have been run by Defra during the TOM engagement period.

https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLouExecY1Kne5ac9VeNAE_TZVdcy8P0ga

Developing Countries Trading Scheme

On Monday the new post-Brexit Developing Countries Trading Scheme (DCTS) came into force. It covers 65 countries that are home to over 3.3 billion people. It removes or reduces tariffs and simplifies trading rules so that more products qualify for the scheme, making it more generous than the EU scheme the UK was previously a member of.

It will benefit developing countries looking to diversify and increase exports, driving their prosperity and reducing their need for aid.

The scheme saves UK businesses over £770 million per year by removing or cutting tariffs on over £9 billion of imports. You can find out more about the scheme [here](#)

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.

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](#).
