

BCC Brexit Readiness Programme

Monitoring the UK-EU negotiations and Government's post-transition plans

Post-Transition Border Plan

The transition period with the European Union (EU) will end, and the United Kingdom (UK) will operate a full, external border as a sovereign nation. This means that controls will be placed on the movement of goods between Great Britain (GB) and the EU. The UK Government has taken the decision to introduce the new border controls in three stages up until 1 July 2021.

- 1. From January 2021:** Traders importing standard goods, covering everything from clothes to electronics, will need to prepare for basic customs requirements, such as keeping sufficient records of imported goods. Traders will also need to consider how they account for and pay VAT on imported goods. Traders will then have up to six months to complete customs declarations. While tariffs will be payable where due on relevant goods, payments can be deferred until the customs declaration has been made. UK Safety and Security declarations will not be required on imports for the first six months.
- 2. From April 2021:** All products of animal origin (POAO) – for example meat, honey, milk or egg products – and all regulated plants and plant products will also require pre-notification and the relevant health documentation. Any physical checks will continue to be conducted at the point of destination until July 2021.
- 3. From July 2021:** Traders moving any goods will have to make full customs declarations at the point of importation and pay relevant tariffs. Full Safety and Security declarations will be required, while for commodities subject to sanitary and phytosanitary (SPS) controls, these will have to be presented to be BCPs and there will be an increase in physical checks and the taking of samples. SPS checks for animals, plants and their products will take place at GB Border Control Posts and not at destination. The GVMS will be in place for all imports, exports and transit movements at border locations which have chosen to introduce it.

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Government's Border Plan and Impact on Local Authorities

Market Surveillance & Checks

A decision about a safety intervention at the border is based on risk assessments to determine whether a product poses a potential serious risk. The UK takes a risk based, intelligence-led approach to the checking of products. In line with current arrangements, checks may take place at the border or inland.

Market surveillance authorities such as (and *principally Local Authority Trading Standards Officers*) work with border authorities (i.e. Border Force) at ports and other entry points and deal with consumer products that potentially pose a serious risk or may be non-compliant.

In addition to border checks for products covered by safety legislation, risk-based interventions by *the market surveillance authorities* may occur throughout the distribution chain and as a result of a specific issue.

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Role	Policy Bodies	Operational Bodies
Imports and exports of live animals and animal products	Department for the Environment, Food & Rural Affairs or Devolved Administration Equivalent Animal and Plant Health Agency, Food Standards Agency, Food Standards Scotland, Fish Health Inspectorate, CEFAS Fish Health Inspectorate and Marine Scotland Fish Health Inspectorate	Animal and Plant Health Agency, Port Health Authorities, Rural Payments Agency, Scottish Government
Imports and exports of fruit and vegetables, plants and wood	Defra, Devolved Administration Equivalent , Animal and Plant Health Agency, Food Standards Agency, Food Standards Scotland	Animal and Plant Health Agency, Forestry Commission (and Scottish and Welsh equivalents), Port Health Authorities, Local Authorities , Rural Payments Agency, Scottish Government

Full report can be found [here](#).

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Animal products (Products of Animal Origin and Animal By-Products)

From January 2021, Products of Animal Origin (POAO) and Animal By-Products (ABP) being exported from GB to the EU will be subject to EU import controls in line with goods exported from the Rest of the World.

This will include the requirement for:

- goods to be accompanied by an Export Health Certificate in order to undergo documentary checks
- import pre-notifications submitted by the importer at least one working day in advance of arrival
- Entry via a suitable Border Control Post (BCP) in order to undergo documentary, identity and physical checks at the border

All goods will need to be accompanied by an Export Health Certificate (EHC) or other official documentation. The exporter will need to contact APHA to obtain the appropriate EHC which must be filled out by an Official Veterinarian or Official Inspector on inspection of the consignment. **Local authority Environmental Health Officers** can sign for seafood. The original EHC must be physically presented at the BCP on arrival in the EU.

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Fish and fishery products

Exports of most marine-caught fish and some shellfish will need to be accompanied by a Catch Certificate. Fish within the scope of animal products and live animals will also be subject to EU import controls applying to animal products. These include the requirement for an export health certificate, import prenotifications and entry via a Border Control Post.

Fish exporters must ensure that fishing vessels in their supply chain have been **registered and inspected by Local Authorities** for hygiene compliance.

Direct landings from **local authority approved freezer**, factory or reefer vessels of fishery product that has undergone secondary processing, such as freezing or wrapping, will need to be accompanied by a Captain's Certificate, signed by an APHA authorised captain, rather than a fishery products or LBM EHC and presented to a BCP for checks.

They will also need to send the completed Catch Certificate and logbook data via the Electronic Reporting System. Other than direct landings referenced above, exports of fish and shellfish as animal products and live aquatic animals will need to enter the EU via a suitable BCP. Exports of containerised fish or live animals that qualify as POAO, or direct landings of frozen or secondary processed fish from **local authority approved vessels**, will also need to enter the EU at a suitable BCP for goods to be checked. Following arrival at the BCP, goods will be subject to documentary, identity and physical checks. Goods may also be sampled for laboratory testing.