



Border and Protocol Delivery Group Update

Dear Stakeholder,

This bulletin provides the latest news from the Government relating to UK borders following the end of the transition period.

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

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Revised timetable for the introduction of controls

A new timetable for introducing import border control processes was set out by the government on Thursday 11 March to enable UK businesses to focus on their recovery from the COVID pandemic.

The government has listened to businesses who have faced an unprecedented challenge during the pandemic and will now introduce full border control processes six months later than originally planned.

The revised timetable for the introduction of controls, as follows:

From 1 October 2021:

- Pre-notification requirements will be required for products of animal origin, high risk food not of animal origin (HRFNAO) and certain animal by products.
- Export health certificates will be required for products of animal origin and certain animal by-products.

From 1 January 2022:

- Safety and Security declarations for imported goods will be required.
- Physical SPS checks for products of animal origin, certain animal by-products, HRFNAO and high risk plants will take place at Border Control Posts.
- Prenotification requirements and documentary checks, including phytosanitary certificates will be introduced for low risk plants and plant products.
- Customs declarations on all goods will be required at the point of import and businesses will no longer be able to use the deferred declaration scheme.

From 1 March 2022:

- Checks at Border Control Posts will take place on live animals, low risk plants and plant products.

This will provide businesses with further time to prepare for changes at the border and minimise disruption as the economy gradually reopens, as the government recognises the scale and significance of the challenges businesses have been facing in adjusting to the new requirements.

Although we recognise that many in the border industry and many businesses have been investing time and energy to be ready on time, we have listened to businesses who have made a strong case that they need more time to prepare. In reviewing the timeframes, we have given strong weight to the disruption which has been caused, and is still being caused, by COVID, and the need to ensure that the economy can recover fully.

Traders moving controlled goods into Great Britain will continue to be ineligible for the deferred customs declaration approach. They will therefore be required to complete a full customs declaration when the goods enter Great Britain.

Controls and checks on Sanitary and Phytosanitary goods are of course a devolved matter and we continue to work closely with the Devolved Administrations on their implementation, in particular with the Welsh Government on their timetable for completing supporting Border Control Post infrastructure in Wales.

We will continue to engage extensively with businesses like yourself to support you in adjusting to the new requirements already in place and to prepare for the new requirements set out above so that you can continue to trade successfully under the new arrangements. An updated Border Operating Model will be published in due course.

Suspension of Operations at Manston

From the 21 March, all haulier processing operations, including COVID testing for hauliers, will be suspended at Manston Airport. If heading to the Port of Dover or Eurotunnel, you will be directed straight onto to the M20. Free COVID testing for hauliers is still available at one of the many [Information and Advice sites](#), and Inland Border Facility checks will continue to be processed by Ashford Sevington, or one of the other sites [across the country](#). Hauliers are strongly encouraged to get a negative COVID-19 test, to use the Check an HGV is Ready to Cross the Border service and get a valid Kent Access Permit before arriving in Kent to minimise delays. Please also follow any traffic management signs.

Planned GVMS downtime on Sunday 21 March 2021 between 00:00 – 02:00 GMT

As part of our ongoing IT improvement there will be a short period of Goods Vehicle Movement Service (GVMS) downtime on Sunday 21 March 2021 between 00:00 – 02:00 GMT.

Carriers

We spoke to all Carriers on the 8 March 2021 and provided actions they may need to take. If you have any questions relating to this message, please contact: gvmsscheduleddowntime@hmrc.gov.uk.

Hauliers

Hauliers should ensure they complete all GVMS related actions prior to arriving at the port for their journey before 00:00 GMT on 21 March 2021. It will not be possible to make amendments or updates to Goods Movement References (GMR) during this downtime. We have contacted Carriers who may be impacted to inform them of the period of downtime.

Restrictions on entering the Netherlands

From Tuesday 16 March, hauliers returning to the Netherlands from the UK having spent less than 48hrs in the UK no longer require a Covid-19 test. This measure mirrors the one we agreed with France on 21 Feb. The modification has been agreed by the Dutch Parliament.

BPDG Stakeholder Calls

On Thursday 11 March BPDG held an all stakeholder call to update stakeholders on the government revised timetable for the introduction of controls. The next all stakeholder call will take place on Wednesday 17 March at 3pm. Answers to questions which you have previously raised using the Microsoft Teams chat function are posted here: :

<https://transition-forum.service.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/forums/dailystakeholdercallquestions>

We will endeavour to provide responses to any outstanding questions as soon as possible. If you have other issues that you wish to highlight to us, please write to the BPDG Enquiries

Mailbox: bpdg.enquiries@cabinetoffice.gov.uk

However, if you have a live issue that needs resolving at pace, please use the appropriate helplines listed at the end of this bulletin in the first instance.

Helpline Numbers & Online Forums

Here are 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 200 3700
- [HMRC Imports and Exports General Enquiries](#) - 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 1000 313
- [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 two online forums where you can access key information and ask questions directly:

- [For customs and tax-related queries](#)
- [For all other border-related queries](#)
