



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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Essential maintenance for the Automatic Licence Verification Service (ALVS) on CDS/CHIEF

On Sunday 11 December between 8am and 9pm, process declarations lodged on either Customs Declaration Service (CDS) or Customs Handling of Import Export Freight (CHIEF) requiring approval through the ALVS will not be automatically processed.

This will affect those who move live animals and fresh produce. During this downtime HMRC will use manual processes to clear movements at the borders, which may take slightly longer than usual. They are therefore asking traders to try and avoid moving goods during this timeframe and consider moving goods on other days.

Trader steps to take:

If traders cannot arrange movements outside of this timeframe, then they will be asked to start the journey as normal, or send requests for clearance direct to the National Clearance Hub (NCH) in line with the guidelines below:

- NCH is authorised to manually clear all live animals requiring Common Health Entry Document (CHED).
- Procedure for Electronic Application for Certificates from the Horticultural Marketing Inspectorate (PEACH) / eDomero remain unaffected, therefore NCH is authorised to clear all Plant Health and Seed Inspectorate (PHSI) / Horticulture Market Inspectorate (HMI) regulated goods on presentation of Conformity Certificates, Phytosanitary Certificates and QRC's.
- NCH is authorised to clear all consignments of products requiring CHED.
- ALVS users should use the [request for manual release form](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/import-and-export-alvs-manual-release-form) found on [GOV.UK](https://www.gov.uk) and submit a fully completed CHED with the request to NCH.
<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/import-and-export-alvs-manual-release-form>

Sheep pox and goat pox in Spain: lifting of restrictions on raw milk and milk products

The import of raw milk and milk products is no longer restricted from Spain. This follows a risk assessment by Defra finding that these commodities do not pose an unacceptable level of risk to Great Britain.

Please see updated [import information on the affected products](#).

UK reaches deal with Norway to secure opportunities for UK fishing industry

The UK has reached an [agreement with Norway](#) to secure increased opportunities for the UK fishing industry in 2023. The deal secures quota of valuable North Sea whitefish stocks worth nearly £3 million and in arctic stocks worth nearly £2 million for 2023, and also ensures UK vessels have access to Norwegian waters to fish their own demersal and pelagic quota.

The UK Conformity Assessed (UKCA) deadline now extended to 31 December 2024

The Department for Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy (BEIS) announced on 14/11/22 the intention to introduce legislation to continue recognition of the CE marking and reversed epsilon marking until **31 December 2024** for most goods being placed on the market or put into service in Great Britain.

This is part of BEIS new Ministers' commitment to reduce burdens for industry including cutting costs for businesses and removing potential disruption.

Further details can be found [here](#) and [here](#) and a copy of the press notice can be found [here](#).

How to trade CITES controlled species

If you move or trade endangered species of plants and plant products listed on the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) list, then you must apply for CITES permits and certificates.

This includes not only live plants but also their parts and derivatives from seeds, flowers or logs to oils, powders, cosmetics or medicinal products, furniture, carvings, musical instruments, among others.

It is the responsibility of the UK trader to ensure that they know and follow the correct procedure. CITES listed species moved without valid permits must not be traded commercially.

Importing and (re-)exporting CITES-listed species without the relevant permits will deem the movement of those goods illegal.

[Find out more on the Plant Health Portal](#)

Upcoming Defra legislative changes

Defra has introduced legislation updating Plant Health import requirements across GB. Some legislative changes came into force on **25 November 2022**. This included changes to the list of GB quarantine pests. Blueberry rust (*Thekopsora minima*) no longer meets the criteria.

The remaining legislative changes will come into force on **3 May 2023**.

The changes comply with international obligations and are important protective measures against pests of plants in the UK.

Read more about what these changes include on the [Plant Health Portal](#).

Apprenticeship webinars for SMEs

The Employer Engagement & Performance Division of the Apprenticeships Directorate (Department for Education) are delighted to introduce a free brand-new SME webinar programme for 2022/2023. These webinars will support SMEs in their end-to-end apprenticeship journeys with a focus on recruiting and supporting young people.

[Recruitment & Promoting apprenticeship vacancies](#) (7 December, 11:00 - 11:40)

Hear how other SMEs have successfully advertised and promoted their apprenticeships and connected with schools and colleges to attract young talent to their organisation.

[Onboarding & Induction](#) (11 January, 11:00 - 11:40)

Hear how other SMEs have committed to giving their apprentices the best start on their programme, ensuring their business is set up to effectively support apprenticeships.

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](#).
