



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

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Rules of Origin (RoO) Guidance for goods moving between the UK & the EU

We know many businesses exporting from the UK have said they find the Rules of Origin (RoO) requirements complex and the guidance on it on gov.uk difficult to navigate. As a result, action was taken last year by the Department for International Trade - now the Department for Business & Trade (DBT), through the Export Support Service (ESS). Together with HMRC, DBT have updated some of the pages on gov.uk which relate to trade between the UK and EU. The new guidance was published in December 2022 and can be found [here](#) and [here](#). It includes an example of what to include for different data elements if you are using customs declaration service (CDS) software and information on claiming preferential tariff treatment, including how to obtain a commodity code. In addition, [the UK Integrated Online Tariff](#) tool has been updated to include a richer interface to help traders determine the originating status of their products for import or export and includes a new trade tariff chat function which can be found [here](#). If you wish to leave feedback on the online tariff tool and new chat function, you can do so [here](#).

Electronic Travel Authorisation (ETA) Scheme for visa-free nationals travelling to the UK

An Electronic Travel Authorisation (ETA) will be the new digital requirement for visa-free nationals who do not need a visa to come to the UK. It will give visa-free nationals permission to travel to the UK, and it will be electronically linked to their passport.

From October 2023, visitors from Qatar will be the first to be able to apply for the UK's new ETA scheme. Visitors from the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) states and Jordan will be the next group from February 2024, ahead of a worldwide expansion of the scheme throughout 2024.

The scheme will strengthen security at the border and improve travel for visitors to the UK. By applying for an ETA in advance, visitors will benefit from smooth and efficient travel. The application process will be quick, light touch and entirely digital with most visitors applying via a mobile app and receiving a swift decision on their application. The cost of an ETA will be competitive with similar international schemes, and individuals can make multiple visits to the UK over a two-year validity period. The scheme is also set to enhance the border, by ensuring robust security checks are conducted on every visitor pre-travel.

As part of the application for an ETA, individuals will need to provide biometric details and answer a set of suitability questions. This will ensure we have intelligence on those seeking to come to the UK helping to prevent dangerous individuals, such as criminals, entering the UK.

After the initial launch for Qatar, visitors from the rest of the GCC states and Jordan can apply for an ETA from February 2024. The new scheme will entirely replace the current Electronic Visa Waiver (EVW) Scheme which requires visitors to the UK from GCC states to pay a higher cost for a single-use visit.

By the end of 2024, ETAs will be a requirement worldwide for visitors who do not need a visa for short stays, including those visiting from Europe.

Visitors from Europe, and other nations such as America and Australia do not currently need to make any form of application to visit to the UK, however this will be changing with the introduction of ETAs.

British and Irish citizens will not need an ETA to travel to the UK. As is currently the case however, individuals arriving in the UK via Ireland, will still be subject to UK immigration requirements, including the need for visitors to have an ETA. Those legally resident in Ireland will not need an ETA when travelling to the UK from within the Common Travel Area.

Further information on ETAs can be found [here](#)

Place of Destination scheme: plants and plant products

The Place of Destination (PoD) scheme was put in place to allow for the inspections of high-priority plants and plant products to be undertaken at registered premises when being imported from the European Union (EU) to Great Britain (GB).

If you are a registered PoD, it is essential that your facilities meet the requirements set out on [GOV.UK](https://www.gov.uk) and as agreed to in the PoD registration form. PoDs must have systems in place for safe working and protecting GB biosecurity.

Here is a reminder of what inspectors need to perform checks at PoDs:

- Handling equipment so that regulated material can be unloaded or loaded
- An inspection table
- Adequate light source
- Equipment to enable fumigant gas testing for forestry sector consignments
- Access to toilets and handwashing facilities for inspectors

Regarding transport and storage requirements:

- The consignment must be closed and sealed to reduce the risk of pest contamination.
- No one should alter or amend consignments during transport or while they are stored at a place of destination
- The consignment must not leave the place of destination before it passes its physical inspection and checks.

You can find out more about the PoD scheme on the [Plant Health Portal](https://www.planthealthportal.gov.uk) and [GOV.UK](https://www.gov.uk) and www.sasa.gov.uk.

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](#).
