



# ***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://gov.uk/transition)

## **Contents:**

|                                                                                                              |          |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------|
| <b>Imports in GB: Clarification of legislation for Additional Declarations on Phytosanitary Certificates</b> | <b>1</b> |
| <b>Alcohol Duty Reform</b>                                                                                   | <b>2</b> |
| <b>Jobs and investment boost for East Midlands as Freeport gets green light</b>                              | <b>2</b> |
| <b>Plastic Packaging Tax Updates</b>                                                                         | <b>2</b> |
| <b>Helpline numbers</b>                                                                                      | <b>3</b> |

---

## **Imports into GB: Clarification of legislation for Additional Declarations on Phytosanitary Certificates**

GB requires that Phytosanitary Certificates (PCs) be issued for imported regulated plants and plant products, indicating they are free from pests and disease. Special requirements in the GB Plant Health Regulations dictate whether Additional Declarations (ADs) need to be included on the PC.

ADs are statements which are added to the PC in the relevant section to provide specific additional information. The AD should include the full wording of the requirement including references to the full title of the legislation, the applicable Annex and point.

The legislation that traders should be referencing is '*Annex 7 to the retained Phytosanitary Conditions Regulation (2019/2072)*'

To familiarise yourself with the format of ADs, please refer to the up-to-date guidance on the [Plant Health Portal](#).

---

## Alcohol Duty Reform

The Alcohol Duty Review aims to improve the current alcohol duty system by making it simpler, more economically rational and less administratively burdensome on businesses and HMRC.

[Draft primary legislation](#) was published back in September 2022 with a further consultation on technical aspects of the policy. HMRC are now publishing the associated secondary legislation and would welcome views from those with an interest in the changes.

There are two weeks to go for you to share your views with HMRC on the Alcohol Duty draft secondary legislation.

Stakeholders, including producers, importers, and resellers of alcoholic products have until **9 April 2023** to submit their views. You can have your say by emailing HMRC at the address published on the [consultation page](#) which is on gov.uk.

---

## Jobs and investment boost for East Midlands as Freeport gets green light

New high-quality jobs and much-needed investment for the East Midlands region will be unlocked, as the [East Midlands Freeport](#) received final government sign off this week. Freeports are central to unleashing economic growth across the entire UK, contributing to the levelling up mission. They will drive the UK's shift to a dynamic, low-carbon economy, helping businesses to collaborate, innovate, and develop the technologies and supply chains that will underpin our journey to Net Zero.

---

## Plastic Packaging Tax updates

As announced in the Spring Budget, from 1 April 2023 the Plastic Packaging Tax (PPT) rate will be [increased from £200 per tonne to £210.82](#) per tonne in line with the Consumer

Price Index (CPI). This change will maintain the real term value of the price incentive to use recycled plastic and supports the government's environmental goals. The new rate will apply to all plastic packaging manufactured or imported into the UK on or after 1 April 2023. Any packaging that has been manufactured or imported prior to 1 April 2023 will be charged at the existing rate of £200 per tonne. Further guidance for PPT is available at this [collection page](#). The PPT guidance pages are continually enhanced to help address your frequently asked questions.

---

## 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](#).

---

