



Borders Bulletin

17 May, 2024



Message from Cabinet Office

✉ Dear Stakeholders,

As you will be aware, new import controls were implemented on 30 April 2024. We would like to thank you for all your hard work on making the transition to implement the new requirements.

In this edition of the Borders Bulletin, you will find important guidance and updates from the border post 30 April as well as some key updates from HMRC. **Please also read this [summary](#) of BTOM operational learnings and commonly asked queries since April 30**, to help you get it right at the border and reduce unnecessary delays.

Updates inside

- **Defra - Import controls are live: Resources to help you comply**
- **Defra - Getting your CHED notification right**
- **Defra - Digital services restored**
- **Defra - Plant and plant products update**
- **HMRC - Consultation on the introduction of a UK carbon border adjustment mechanism**
- **HMRC - Time is running out to move all exports to the Customs Declaration Service**
- **Helplines**

Import controls are live: Resources to help you comply

Contact points for urgent BTOM queries

Any urgent BTOM/import queries for plants and plant products across England & Wales should be directed to the Animal & Plant Health Agency (APHA), by email, in the first instance: pshi-importers@apha.gov.uk

Alternatively, you can contact them by telephone: +44 (0) 3000 200 301

Any urgent BTOM/import queries for animal products should be directed to the Port Health Authority (PHA) at your nominated Border Control Post (BCP).

Find your PHA contact details at your nominated BCP on this [map](#).

If you need technical help with IPAFFS you should call the Animal and Plant Health Agency (APHA) helpline on 0330 041 6999 or email APHAServiceDesk@apha.gov.uk

Resources to help you comply

Read our extra [summary of common errors](#) and follow these top tips to get it right at the border.

Our detailed guidance has been updated with information on how to comply with your new legal responsibilities for:

-
- [importing live animals and animal products to Great Britain](#)
 - [importing plants and plant products from the EU to Great Britain](#)
 - [importing plants and plant products from non-EU countries to Great Britain](#)

Read our [Leaflets](#) to help businesses prepare for a new approach to importing goods to GB under the BTOM.

[Visit our YouTube channel and watch recordings of our previous webinars for traders.](#)

Getting your CHED notification right

Completing your Common Health Entry Document (CHED) incorrectly or completing the wrong CHED can result in unnecessary delays to your goods and may mean that your consignment is called in for an inspection at a Border Control Post (BCP) when you don't need one. Here are some tips to getting your CHED right:

Use the right CHED

We have seen examples of traders using the wrong CHED for their commodity type, this could be because they are selecting the incorrect commodity category when submitting their import notification in IPAFFS. Follow the below guidance to get it right.

About the consignment

What are you importing?

- Live animals
- Products of animal origin
- High risk food and feed of non-animal origin
- Plants, plant products and other objects

Save and continue

Use Products of Animal Origin for the following commodity types:

- Germinal products
- Products of animal origin for human consumption, including live seafood for human consumption.
- Animal by-products not for human consumption
- Composite products

Use High risk food and feed of non-animal origin for commodities that have temporary increase in official controls or are under emergency measures. There is a list of these commodities on the [Food Standards Agency website](#).

Use live animals – to find out more about live animal imports see [here](#).

Use plants and plant products when importing, plants for planting, cut flowers, seeds, ornamental horticulture, used agricultural machinery and plant products e.g. fruit and vegetables.

The right commodity code/the right length of commodity code in IPAFFS

Manually typing an incorrectly formatted commodity code (also called an HS code) into the CHED import notification on Import of products, animals, food and feed system (IPAFFS) may cause an error message to appear in the customs declaration for the consignment. If the error is not corrected it could cause a customs hold on the consignment.

For example, only typing in the first two or four digits of a 6 to 10 digit commodity code:

Wrong: 02 or 0201

You should always use the full commodity code with between 6 and 10 digits in IPAFFS.

Correct: 02020130

Some commodities naturally have 4-digit commodity codes in IPAFFS – this is fine and should not cause an error.

Getting it right - Adding the commodity code into the CHED in IPAFFS

There are two ways to add the commodity (HS) code to your CHED import notification in IPAFFS:

1. The most reliable way is to use the commodity tree the first time you import a particular commodity – make sure you work all the way through to the end to create an 8-digit code. This is because some errors may occur if you manually enter the code.

If you regularly import the same commodity, you can then copy and paste it into another document for the next CHED.

You can also use the Copy as New feature to duplicate an existing CHED.

Description of the goods

Commodity

Commodity code search [Species search](#)

Search commodities

Enter commodity code

[Search](#)

Find the commodity in the commodity tree

[All commodities](#)

- 02 MEAT AND EDIBLE MEAT OFFAL
 - 02 01 Meat of bovine animals, fresh or chilled
 - 02 01 10 Carcasses and half-carcases
 - 02 01 20 Other cuts with bone in
 - 02 01 30 Boneless

2. You can also manually enter the code by typing in the Enter Commodity Code box. For imports from the EU, you will find the HMRC trade tariff commodity code and the IPAFFS commodity code in the searchable list of commodities. Please note that a small number of commodities have differently formatted trade tariff and IPAFFS commodity codes.



Digital services restored

Message from Defra:

Dear traders,

We would like to thank you for your continued cooperation whilst some of Defra digital services have experienced technical issues over the last few days. As you may be aware, over last weekend, a technical issue impacted Defra digital services.

One of the systems that was affected was ALVS (Automatic Licence Verification System), the system required to process the imports of Sanitary and Phytosanitary (SPS) controlled goods.

Situation Update:

The power outage has now been fully resolved and Defra digital services are once again fully operational. This includes the Automatic Licence Verification System (ALVS). All Imports that arrived after 21:00 14 May 2024 will now clear as normal.

Exceptionally, SPS cleared goods affected by the outage which started from 07:45 11/05/24, have been instructed to move away from the border location under customs control. This is a temporary contingency measure. If any goods affected by the outage remain at a border location (eg. uncollected containerised loads) you should immediately contact the port and arrange for collection of those consignments.

Goods moved away from the border location under customs control will still show as held on the Customs Declaration System (CDS). At this time, please do not contact the National Clearance Hub to request for your goods to be released. Declarations will be updated as soon as possible but this does not affect the ability for goods to be directed away from the border. If you use an agent, please stay in contact with them for further updates.

There are no restrictions on the use or processing of the goods directed away from the border under customs control as part of the outage of Defra systems. Businesses are reminded that they have a legal responsibility to pay any outstanding duties for these imports once the declaration is finalised.

In urgent scenarios where your goods continue to be held at a port please email: servicetransformation.support@defra.gov.uk

The email subject must be:

'SPS Customs Hold'

You must include the:

Common Health Entry Document (CHED) Reference Number

Movement Reference Number (MRN)

Traders will need to continue to comply with any instruction to attend a BCP or CP for further Sanitary and Phytosanitary (SPS) inspection. Continue to monitor IPAFFS for updates.

Kind regards,

Defra Trader Engagement & Readiness Team



Plants and Plant Products Update

Medium-risk plants and plant products: new sub-categories

Initially, plants and plant products were categorised into 'high, medium and low' risk and controls have been appropriately weighted against the risk. After further review, there will be a change to how the medium-risk category will look for plants and plant products.

The medium-risk category will be split into two parts, A and B. Therefore, the new risk-categories will be: High, Medium A, Medium B and low-risk.

- High risk goods will require a Phytosanitary Certificate (PC) and pre-notification before entering GB. Since 30 April 2024, in line with the phased import regime, these goods are subject to

risk-based, physical and identity checks at a Border Control Post (BCP) or designated Control Point (CP).

- Medium-risk A goods require a PC and pre-notification before entering GB. From 30 April 2024, in line with the phased import regime, these goods are subject to risk-based, physical and identity checks at a BCP or designated CP.
- Medium-risk B goods only require a PC when entering GB.
- Low risk goods do not require a PC or pre-notification.

End date on easement for EU, Switzerland and Liechtenstein medium risk fruit and vegetables

There is currently an easement implemented for EU, Switzerland and Liechtenstein medium-risk fruit and vegetables meaning that they are not required to pre-notify or have a PC. We can now confirm the end date for the easement is planned to be 31 January 2025. From this date, EU medium-risk fruit and vegetables will be subject to either medium-risk A or medium-risk B controls, dependent on their categorisation.

Updates to risk categorisation for certain commodities

Three commodities, parts of plants (other than fruits and seeds) of Ipomoea and Solanaceae and leaves of Spinacia oleracea have moved from the low-risk category to medium-risk for imports from EU.

All low-risk plants & plant products from EU, Switzerland and Liechtenstein are now considered deregulated, meaning there will no longer be plant health import controls for these products.

[Link to Plant Health Portal](#)

Consultation on the introduction of a UK carbon border adjustment mechanism

HMRC and HM Treasury have published a consultation entitled the '[Introduction of a UK carbon border adjustment mechanism \(CBAM\) from January 2027](#)' which sets out the government's detailed proposals for the policy's design.

CBAM will apply to embodied emissions in specified goods imported to the UK from the following sectors:

- Aluminium
- Cement
- Ceramics
- Fertilisers

- Glass
- Hydrogen
- Iron
- Steel

It will ensure highly traded, carbon intensive products from overseas face a comparable carbon price to that paid if the goods were produced in the UK.

The consultation closes on 13 June 2024.

If you would like to be included in a consultative meeting or be added to HMRC’s CBAM distribution list to be kept informed about policy developments, please contact cbampolicyteam@hmrc.gov.uk

Time is running out to move all exports to the Customs Declaration Service

There is now less than a month to move all export declarations from HMRC’s Customs Handling of Import and Export Freight (CHIEF) system to the Customs Declaration Service (CDS).

Businesses that make their own declarations have until Tuesday 4 June 2024 to move to the CDS and we recommend that they move as soon as possible.

After this date, businesses will no longer be able to submit new customs declarations through CHIEF, unless given permission by HMRC.

For businesses who use a third party to make declarations on their behalf, HMRC are advising that they check that the third party has everything they need to meet the 4 June deadline.

If not already done so, businesses can follow the steps within the [declarant checklist for CDS exports](#) to make sure they are prepared to move. This includes [subscribing to the CDS](#) and accessing the free [Trader Dress Rehearsal](#) to practice submitting declarations.

Animal & Plant Health Agency (APHA) Contact info

When?	Who?	How?
For urgent BTOM/import queries for plants	Animal & Plant Health Agency (APHA)	Email (priority route): phsi-importers@apha.gov.uk

and plant products		Tel (secondary route): 03000 200 301
For urgent BTOM/import queries for animals and animal products	Animal & Plant Health Agency (APHA)	Email (priority route): imports@apha.gov.uk Tel (secondary route): 03000 200 301

Helplines

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.

- HMRC Customs & International Trade Helpline - 0300 322 9434
- [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 \(APHA\) & IPAFFS General Enquiries](#)- 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
- [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

Import and Export Guidance

-
- Import/export general enquiries can be made directly to HMRC via:

Telephone - 0300 322 9434

Textphone - 0300 200 3719

You can also [speak to an adviser online](#) about general import and export queries.

DEFRA also provides guidance regarding commodity codes [here](#). If you would like to contact DEFRA, they have a number of helplines which can be found [here](#).

This Bulletin is provided by Cabinet Office Borders Group.