

## 2nd BTOM MILESTONE\_ Newsletter 6

Reenviamos newsletter de la Embajada británica, sobre el Border Target Operating Model (BTOM).

### DEFRA Biosecurity Border and Trade Programme – Border Target Operating Model (BTOM) Newsletter

#### Updates

##### 1. Updated on BTOM SPS Regime Charging

###### CHARGING (standard charges)

There are two standard charges associated with imports of Sanitary and Phytosanitary (SPS) goods and the BTOM: a Border Control Post (BCP) charge by point of entry and a documentary & inspection charge.

1. The BCP charge is the cost levied by commercial ports and airports for use of the BCP at the nominated Point of Entry (PoE). For the planned government-run BCP at Sevington, the associated BCP charge is the Common User Charge (CUC). For more details on the commercial charges set by your nominated point of entry please look on the relevant website or contact them direct. To note, some ports and airports will not charge a BCP charge unless the consignment is called for an inspection.

2. The SPS documentary & inspection charge is the cost associated for any checks that your goods may undergo – these consist of documentary, identity and physical inspections. These charges are levied by the Port Health Authority (PHA) in England & Wales and the Local Authority in Scotland, at your nominated point of entry for animal products. For plants and plant products, these charges are payable to the Animal & Plant Health Agency (APHA) in England and Wales and to the Scottish Government (SASA) in Scotland.

###### DOCUMENTARY & INSPECTION CHARGES

1. For plants and plant products (imported to England & Wales):

- Charges apply, regardless of whether your consignment has been inspected. This charge covers documentary, identity and physical inspection costs. By spreading this charge across all imports, the consignment level cost is drastically reduced, whilst also providing businesses the certainty of charge to support effective trade planning. APHA inspection charges can be found here.

## 2. For plants and plant products (imported to Scotland):

- All goods that qualify for checks will be charged, regardless if inspections take place. As above this supports trade by drastically reducing the consignment level inspection rate. Scottish government (SASA) charges can be found here.

## 3. For animal products (imported into GB):

- PHA/LA inspection charges are set at a local level. Please visit the associated PHA/LA website for your BCP to find out more about inspection charges. Details for each associated PHA/LA can be found here.

### **CHARGING (non-standard charges)**

Non-standard charges are those relating to SPS import controls but are not applied at a set rate or on a regular basis. These include but are not limited to:

- Charges for further testing where there is a suspicion of pests or disease
- Charges for holding goods whilst ongoing testing occurs
- Charges for the destruction of goods
- Charges for the re-export of goods

These charges will be communicated to the person responsible for the load/the importer, as nominated by the submitted IPAFFS CHED details, by the relevant authority.

### **HOW TO PAY CHARGES**

- For BCP charges, these are set by the port/airport and are a commercial charge. Importers are encouraged to contact their point of entry as soon as possible to better understand the costs associated.
- For the planned Sevington BCP, the associated charge will be the Common User Charge. [See here](#) for information on invoicing and how to pay.
- Inspection charges for animal products are paid direct to the Port Health Authority/LA at the relevant BCP. Each PHA/LA will have their own method of payment so please visit the PHA/LA website or contact them to ensure you are ready to make the payment.
- Documentary & inspection charges for plants and plant products will be invoiced weekly by APHA for England and Wales. This process takes roughly three weeks from the date of import to receive the invoice. This itemised invoice will be sent to the importer nominated on the IPAFFS Common Health Entry Document (CHED PP), and is payable over the phone, by BACS or by cheque.

## **2. Update on New Common Errors**

Common Error	Guidance
<p><b>EHC signed and dated after dispatch date</b></p>	<p>Certificate must always be signed and issued on or before the date of dispatch. The only exception to this would be a cancel and replacement (C&amp;R) certificate, if one has been permitted by the Port Health Authority. The C&amp;R would then be cross linked and referenced to the original certificate and date of issuing and the original must be signed in advance of dispatch.</p> <p><b>Note: For animal products the time of dispatch is not required in the EHC</b></p>
<p><b>Consignor details on CHEDP do not match EHC</b></p>	<p>The consignor details set out in the CHED and EHC should be consistent, including spellings and abbreviations.</p> <p><b>Note:</b> For goods imported under the Certification Logistics Pilot (CLP) this may not match from CHED to EHC.</p>
<p><b>Consignee details on CHEDP do not match EHC</b></p>	<p>Consignee details across the CHED and EHC should be consistent.</p> <p>From April, it will be possible to notify the PHA of changes to the consignee information that take place after a certificate has been issued, without the need for a replacement certificate to be provided.</p> <p><b>Note:</b> For goods imported under the Certification Logistics Pilot (CLP) this may not match from CHED to EHC.</p>
<p><b>Description of goods box on CHEDP does not match EHC. E.g. Net weights, gross weights, commodity codes, package numbers and package description (e.g. pallets, boxes, crates).</b></p>	<p>The BCP inspector will need to be satisfied that the health certificate and/or commercial documents relates to the CHED notification, and so would advise notifying in a way which best supports identification and matches the health certificate and/or commercial documentation.</p> <p><b>Note: if a physical check is conducted the inspector will check that the product matches what has been declared and certified.</b></p>

<p><b>Different risk categories (low/medium) on the same CHED</b></p>	<p>A separate pre-notification should be submitted for any low risk products included in a load. These should not be added to a medium risk notification.</p> <p>Different low risk products can be notified on the same CHED only if:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• They are travelling to the same <b>initial</b> destination in GB</li> <li>• They arrive on the same means of transport</li> </ul> <p>Different medium risk products can be combined onto a single CHED so long as the above requirements are met <b>and</b> they are covered by a single EHC. Compound products with multiple EHCs for a single physical product are treated differently, see <a href="#">here</a>.</p>
<p><b>Region of origin not completed correctly</b></p>	<p>Please see link to guidance <a href="#">EU and EFTA countries approved to export animals and animal products to Great Britain - data.gov.uk</a></p>
<p><b>Local authority given as name of city or area rather than an actual local authority</b></p>	<p>This should be the organisation responsible for issuing, and overseeing the certification. It is not always a local authority that does this. In such cases the central and local authority are the same organisation and this should be reflected here.</p>
<p><b>Signed and Verified Electronic PDF certificates in TRACES that have been altered to add electronic versions of physical stamps and electronic versions of wet signatures.</b></p>	<p>Signed and Verified Electronic PDF certificates in TRACES should not be altered in any way.</p>
<p><b>Data missing from the model health certificate-</b></p>	<p>The model health certificates cover all of the import requirements for animals and animal products in Great Britain, the Channel Islands and the Isle of Man.</p> <p>You must not directly copy the model health certificates provided on <a href="#">GOV.UK</a>. Competent authorities should create their own official documents for use by exporters. These should include all the information from the model certificates.</p>
<p><b>Region of origin displayed on CHED but missing on Part one of the EHC -</b></p>	<p>This is required to be completed and correct before the import notification is submitted</p>

### **Attestations incorrectly deleted and information not included**

Attestations need to be deleted correctly with all the relevant information required included in the attestation.

## **3. Compliance and Enforcement approach for TS2**

### **Current requirements for traders**

The threats to public health and from animal and plant disease from imported goods, such as African Swine Fever and *Xylella fastidiosa*, continue to change and it is important that responsive biosecurity controls are in place to combat them. Equally, we must provide assurance that we are meeting our international obligations and controlling biosecurity risks when exporting produce from GB.

From 31 January 2024, controls were implemented which meant that traders must:

- Continue to provide an Export Health Certificate (EHC) for live animal and germinal product imports.
- Obtain an Export Health Certificate (EHC) for medium-risk animal products, and some high-risk food and feed not of animal origin (HRFNAO).
- Obtain a Phytosanitary Certificate (PCs) for medium risk plants and plant products.
- Continue to provide a Phytosanitary Certificate (PCs) for high-risk plants and plant products.
- Continue (begin for movements from Ireland) pre-notifying Great Britain via the Import of Products, Animals, Food and Feed system (IPAFFS) for all live animals, germinal products, animal products, high-risk food and feed not of animal origin (HRFNAO) and medium- and high-risk plant and plant products.

### **Requirements from 30 April 2024**

In addition to complying with the current controls that came into effect on January 31, from 30 April 2024 traders must:

- Ensure goods from EU/EFTA enter GB through an appropriately designated Border Control Post (BCP) or Control Point (CP) for the commodity type and present the consignment for inspection when called, whereupon risk-based documentary, identity and physical checks may take place. Inspections of high-risk plants and plant products from the EU, Switzerland, and Liechtenstein will move from Places of Destination (PoDs) to BCP and CPs.
- Upload IUU documents to the CHED import notification created in IPAFFS for a consignment containing fish or fishery products for human consumption before submitting the import notification.

These requirements will apply to EU and non-qualifying Northern Ireland Goods entering GB from the island of Ireland no earlier than 31 October 2024, with the precise date to be confirmed.

Additionally, a new global risk-based import regime will be implemented for imports from non-EU/EFTA goods. Changes to import controls for non-EU/EFTA risk assessed countries will include:

- The simplification of imports including removal of health certification and routine checks on low-risk animal and plant products (they may be subject to intelligence-led interventions).
- A reduction of physical and identity checks on medium-risk animal products.

Traders must comply with the requirement to pay any inspection fees and other charges and failure to do will result in action being taken.

The UK government will expect the supply chains of goods subject to Sanitary and Phytosanitary (SPS) controls to be ready for these changes on the 30 April.

## **Enforcement from 30th April 2024**

### **Compliance with the new regime is a legal requirement.**

Our approach ensures we are striking the appropriate balance between protecting the UK from biosecurity risks and facilitating trade. Most traders will want to meet their obligations and demonstrate best endeavours to comply with new import controls. When the new controls are introduced, our initial compliance approach for EU and EFTA movements of goods will be focused on helping traders to be fully compliant and ensuring proportionate enforcement of the controls, whilst safeguarding the flow of goods.

Goods will be called into a BCP or CP for the following reasons:

- They have been identified by the risk engine and selected on a random basis
- They have failed a documentary check
- The CHED reference does not match between CDS and IPAFFS
- Other intelligence-led issues

Competent authorities will intervene and take appropriate enforcement action if a threat to public health or biosecurity is detected.

Guidance on legal responsibilities and how to be compliant, can be found here: <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/guidance-on-importing-live-animals-or-animal-products>

○ To initially support the introduction of the new controls and to support traders and certifiers' move to full compliance, where there are minor errors in the documentation provided (for example missing stamps on paper certificates, or issues with page numbers) Defra has requested that competent authorities be pragmatic in the application of enforcement controls at the border. We are working with all competent authorities to support them with managing the flow of goods in their area whilst delivering effective checks.

○ However, there remains the requirement that traders ensure that all required certificates and documentation are present and largely accurate. Significant documentary errors or omissions, for example the failure to present an Export Health Certificate, are likely to result in delays and/or rejection of goods at the border. Traders are strongly encouraged to submit their documents as soon as possible to enable any issues to be resolved prior to their arrival.

○ We will continually review our enforcement approach, tracking compliance levels to protect biosecurity and food safety whilst minimising disruption to trade flows. Our enforcement approach will be graduated to help traders to comply. An example of this is a temporary three-month easement in relation to the use of a scanned copy of an Export Health Certificate.

## **Export Health Certificates**

### **Use of a scanned copy of an Export Health Certificate**

- For a three-month period from 30 April 2024, a temporary easement will be in place to enable the full requirements of a documentary check to be satisfied when a scanned copy of an original Export Health Certificate (EHC) or Phytosanitary certificate (PC) is provided in an importer's prenotification.
- Where a scanned copy is provided, the original EHC or PC should be provided to competent authorities within five (EHC) or three (PC) business days of a consignment's arrival.
- The temporary easement will only apply to EHCs for animal products and by products from the EU and to PCs for plants and plant products from the EU, Liechtenstein and Switzerland.
- Traders should continue to adopt fully digitised certification as soon as possible to reduce the requirement to undergo in person documentary checks at the border once the three-month easement period ends.



---

## **Pragmatic approach to systems implementation from 30 April** **Systems changes from 30 April**

- The pragmatic approach to systems implementation will:
  - prioritise undertaking new checks on EU animal and plant products perceived to present the highest food and feed safety and biosecurity risks, while full check rates for lower risk products are progressively met overtime.
  - maintain current check rates (or reduce to agreed BTOM levels) for goods already subject to existing controls, including animal and plant products from rest of world countries, and live animals and germinal products from the EU.
- Taking a pragmatic approach to the introduction of new systems ensures we are striking the appropriate balance between protecting the UK from biosecurity risks and facilitating trade.
- This approach will also ensure current food and feed safety and biosecurity standards are maintained for products already subject to controls.
- The pragmatic approach has been developed following extensive engagement with businesses and has been welcomed by several trade associations and port authorities.
- We will continue to review the approach to ensure it is fit for purpose and delivers on its objectives, working to introduce full controls as soon as possible.

### **4. Sevington BCP Designation**

- The inland border facility at Sevington in Kent has been designated as a border control post (BCP) for Plant (P), Plant Products (PP), Other Objects (OO), Wood Products (PP(WP)), Products of Animal Origin (POA) and Products Not of Animal Origin (PNAO), entering Great Britain via the Port of Dover and Eurotunnel, from 30 April.
- Gov.UK ([Live animals, animal products and food and feed of non-animal origin border control posts in the UK - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#) and [Live animals, animal products and food and feed of non-animal origin border control posts \(BCP\) in the UK - Google My Maps](#)) have been updated to reflect Sevington's designation as a BCP.

---

### **British Embassy Madrid**

Torre Emperador, Paseo de la Castellana, 259D | Madrid | 28046 |

UK in Spain: [GOV.UK](#) | [Facebook](#) | [Twitter](#) | [Instagram](#) | [Flickr](#) | [YouTube](#)



Secretaría.  
Irun, 26 de abril de 2024