



BORDER CONTROLS STATEMENT

12 March 2021

A new timetable for introducing import border control processes was set out by the government on Thursday 11 March to enable UK businesses to focus on their recovery from the COVID pandemic.

The government has listened to businesses who have faced an unprecedented challenge during the pandemic and will now introduce full border control processes six months later than originally planned.

The revised timetable for the introduction of controls, as follows:

From 1 October 2021:

- Pre-notification requirements will be required for products of animal origin, high risk food not of animal origin (HRFNAO) and certain animal by products.
- Export health certificates will be required for products of animal origin and certain animal by-products.

From 1 January 2022:

- Safety and Security declarations for imported goods will be required.
- Physical SPS checks for products of animal origin, certain animal by-products, HRFNAO and high risk plants will take place at Border Control Posts.
- Prenotification requirements and documentary checks, including phytosanitary certificates will be introduced for low risk plants and plant products.
- Customs declarations on all goods will be required at the point of import and businesses will no longer be able to use the deferred declaration scheme.

From 1 March 2022:

- Checks at Border Control Posts will take place on live animals, low risk plants and plant products.

This will provide businesses with further time to prepare for changes at the border and minimise disruption as the economy gradually reopens, as the government recognises the scale and significance of the challenges businesses have been facing in adjusting to the new requirements.

Although we recognise that many in the border industry and many businesses have been investing time and energy to be ready on time, we have listened to businesses who have made a strong case that they need more time to prepare. In reviewing the timeframes, we have given strong weight to the disruption which has been caused, and is still being caused, by COVID, and the need to ensure that the economy can recover fully.



Traders moving controlled goods into Great Britain will continue to be ineligible for the deferred customs declaration approach. They will therefore be required to complete a full customs declaration when the goods enter Great Britain.

Controls and checks on Sanitary and Phytosanitary goods are of course a devolved matter and we continue to work closely with the Devolved Administrations on their implementation, in particular with the Welsh Government on their timetable for completing supporting Border Control Post infrastructure in Wales.

We will continue to engage extensively with businesses like yourself to support you in adjusting to the new requirements already in place and to prepare for the new requirements set out above so that you can continue to trade successfully under the new arrangements. An updated Border Operating Model will be published in due course.

In the meantime, we will do our best to answer any questions you may have via the Field Force Support Mailbox (fieldforcesupport@cabinetoffice.gov.uk).