

# BTOM updates May 2024

This is a summary of information from Defra's Trader Readiness e-newsletters, emailed to stakeholders from 1 to 13 May 2024.

## Border Control Posts (BCP)

### Contact points for consignments held at a BCP

If you receive a notification about a consignment or load that has been called for checks or has been held at the BCP at the port of entry and you have questions about this, contact the Port Health Authority (PHA) at your nominated BCP and provide them with the Common Health Entry Document (CHED) import reference number. Defra is working closely with all PHAs to ensure that they are able to respond to your queries.

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

### Make sure that your goods arrive in GB via an appropriately designated BCP

If you are importing animal products from the EU or Rest of World, the consignments must now enter GB at a point of entry with an appropriately designated BCP. Except for goods moving directly from the Republic of Ireland which must enter England or Scotland through a point of entry with a relevant BCP, or through Heysham, and goods from Ireland can enter Wales through any named point of entry.

The BCP location declared in the CHED must be the location that the consignment first enters GB. You cannot select a BCP location in your CHED notification and have your consignment first enter GB at a different location.

[Find an approved UK border control post \(BCP\) to check the animals, animal products or high-risk food and feed of non-animal origin \(HRFNAO\) in your consignment.](#)

### BCP/PHA opening hours

You are strongly advised to check the BCP opening hours and the Port Health Authority operating hours at the point you are planning an import of consignments containing high and medium risk products.

BCP/PHA contact details are listed on [GOV UK](#). Also contact the BCP/PHA at your chosen port of entry for details on emergency or out of hours arrangements in case of transport delays or changes.

### Remote and code locked containers – we need the code

To ensure that physical and identity checks can be carried out on consignments at a BCP, it is important that the staff at the facility are able to access the contents of the container. Some containers are remotely locked or need a code to access. In these instances, businesses need to be available at the time of arrival to provide the BCP staff with an unlock code to access the contents, this will likely be a phone call from

BCP staff or Driver. These codes can also be supplied via IPAFFS to speed the process up. The codes will be handled sensitively and not shared other than for the purposes of unlocking the container. Seals should remain in place as these will be checked and broken by APHA/PHA staff where necessary.

### **More information about BTOM charges**

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

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 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.

The SPS documentary and 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 and 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 and inspection charges for plants and plant products imported to England and Wales can be [found here](#)
- Documentary and inspection charges for plants and plant products imported to Scotland can be [found here](#)
- Documentary and inspection charges for animal products imported to GB can be found by contacting the PHA/LA at your point of entry. The details can be [found here](#).

### **Double-check your chosen port of entry has a Border Control Point (BCP) designated for the product you are importing**

All SPS goods, excluding live animals, must enter GB via a port of entry with a suitably designated BCP (except for movements from the Island of Ireland). If you have selected Port of Dover or Eurotunnel as the Port of Entry in the Transport section of the import notification, the Border Control Post will be Sevington. Note, if you later decide to go via a different BCP you must update your declarations.

Please ensure that you also complete the new billing section for the common user charge, following the instructions on [Common user charge: rates and eligibility - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#)

Where a consignment is identified as being brought into GB via a point of entry

without a suitably designated BCP, it may be subject to formal enforcement action, including the consignment being detained and refused entry.

## Sevington BCP

### Drivers shouldn't use Sevington to take Tacho breaks

If you arrange your own transport for your goods and they will be arriving via Port of Dover or Eurotunnel Le Shuttle, please make sure that the haulage company and the drivers have the following information.

If a consignment in their load is called for checks at Sevington and drivers have two hours or less left on either their daily driving hours or working time, they should aim to take their mandatory rest break (tacho break) at the nearest rest area/truck stop or suitable and safe place BEFORE taking their load to Sevington for checks.

Sevington Inland Border Facility has basic comfort facilities for drivers but is not designed as an official rest area/truck stop. The site will be actively monitoring any necessary breaks as required and this will be supported by the DVSA.

Department of Transport information for hauliers is available at: [Transporting goods between Great Britain and the EU by RoRo freight: guidance for hauliers - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/guidance/transporting-goods-between-great-britain-and-the-eu-by-ro-ro-freight-guidance-for-hauliers)

## BTOM risk categorisation

### Importing low risk fish, composite products and products of animal origin

In general, low risk products of animal origin (POAO) goods must be produced in an establishment approved to export animal products to Great Britain (GB).

For low risk composite products the POAO components must be processed in an establishment approved to export animal products to GB, however if the processing of the POAO happens prior to the location where the composite product is produced the establishment where the composite product is produced does not necessarily require approval.

Wild caught fish (low risk) caught by UK vessels and landed in EU ports for export to GB must move through an approved establishment. If fish/fishery products are not moving through an approved establishment they would need to be transported using the health certificate [GBHC402](#).

### Clarification of the risk categorisation of shelf-stable fishery products associated with histamine

This information clarifies the risk categorisation of shelf-stable fishery products from species associated with histamine (species of the families Scombridae, Clupeidae, Engraulidae, Coryfenidae, Pomatomidae or Scombresosidae). Please note that this is not a change to any risk categorisations and we will shortly update all relevant gov.uk pages.

All imports of fishery products of the species susceptible to histamine formation are placed in the BTOM medium risk category, irrespective of origin or whether they are shelf-stable, meaning import controls (EHCS and ID/physical checks) apply.

However, we recognise that due to exceptional circumstances some EU traders will need time to adapt following this clarification. We will be ordinarily expecting importers to provide an EHC; however, PHAs will allow a three-month period (until 15 August 2024) of flexibility for importers of EU origin shelf-stable fishery products associated with histamine and permit entry without an EHC if traders are unable to obtain a certificate (usual commercial documents will still be required). This flexibility does not extend to non-EU products and products originating from non-EU countries that have been imported into the EU: these products require an EHC.

## Landbridge transit

### BCP entry and exit requirements for landbridge transit movements

Unless they are arriving in Great Britain (GB) from Ireland, or exiting GB to Ireland, all landbridge transit consignments must enter and exit GB at a point of entry with the [relevant border control post \(BCP\)](#).

All consignments of animal products transiting GB and arriving in England and Scotland from Ireland must enter and exit at a point of entry with the relevant BCP, or Heysham. All animal product consignments arriving in Wales from Ireland can enter at any point of entry but must exit Great Britain at a point of entry with the relevant BCP.

All consignments of animal products transiting Great Britain from the EU for destination in Ireland must enter GB at a point of entry with the relevant BCP, they must leave England or Scotland at a point of exit with a relevant BCP, or Heysham, and can leave Wales through any point of exit.

The process for landbridge transits from non-EU countries has not changed, consignments of animal products must enter and exit Great Britain through a point of entry and exit with the relevant BCP.

### Completing CHEDs for landbridge transits from the EU

If you're moving animal products from the EU to another country and transiting through Great Britain (England, Scotland and Wales), known as 'landbridge' movements, you must ensure that when completing your common health entry document (CHED) you have entered:

- An exit BCP that is different to the BCP you enter from, for example, you cannot enter Killingholme as the entry and exit BCP.
- An exit date and time that is after your entry date and time.

Please make sure your container or trailer number is correct at point of submission, if it changes let both Port Health Authorities (PHAs) know.

It is the responsibility of the operator responsible for the consignment to ensure the details on the CHED are correct at the time of submitting.

## **Tell authorities that transiting goods from the EU have left Great Britain (GB)**

You must tell authorities in Great Britain when consignments transiting GB from the EU have left GB. To do this for transits of germinal products, animal by products (ABP), and POAO, email the port health authority email address for your [exit BCP](#). If your consignment leaves GB via the Port of Dover or Eurotunnel the exit email should be sent to Ashford PHA at the Sevington BCP.

If your consignment's destination is Ireland and it exits at a port without a BCP please send this email to your entry BCP.

For emails confirming a consignment has left GB, use the subject line 'Confirmation that a consignment has left Great Britain territory'. The email needs to include:

- the import of products, animals, food and feed system (IPAFFS) notification reference number
- details of the means of transport
- the date the consignment left GB
- a copy of the commercial documents (bill of lading or airway bill)

## **Export Health Certificate (EHC)**

### **EHCs need an English version**

An English version of the Export Health Certificate should be supplied alongside the original language version. If it has been [created in TRACES](#), your supplier/exporter should check that the certifying officer has completed and digitally signed the certificate and then click on Preview PDF > Advanced Print Options and then tick English from the language options provided. Click the blue Print PDF button to download the PDF.

### **Fixing signature errors on health certificates**

If a paper certificate is used it must bear the signature and stamp of the certifying officer. Verifiable PDF certificates must bear a valid digital signature. You must also check attestations are completed in accordance with the model certificate 'notes for completion' and all non-applicable attestations are correctly deleted or omitted from the certificate.

Deletions carried out by hand must be initialled and stamped. If completed electronically as a verifiable PDF the signature and stamp per page is sufficient.

### **BTOM inspection rates and permitted countries**

BTOM risk categories and inspection rates apply to countries that have undergone a BTOM risk assessment and that have market access for the type of product being imported. These are referred to as permitted countries. Other countries that have market access but have not been subject to a BTOM risk assessment will continue to

be subject to non-BTOM inspection rates i.e., 100% documentary and identity checks and a percentage of physical checks depending on the product type.

For further information on countries which have undergone a BTOM risk assessment please see 'permitted countries' section of [this](#) guidance.

For further information on countries approved to export animals and animal products to Great Britain [here](#).

Permitted countries will vary depending on the product as not all BTOM risk assessed countries will have market access for all products, it is therefore important to check that the country you are exporting from has both undergone a BTOM risk assessment and has market access for the product you are exporting.

The [summary tables](#) provide the details of the BTOM risk category and inspection rates for particular products from permitted countries (those with market access for the product that have also undergone a BTOM risk assessment). This will be described for each product type as e.g. BTOM risk category: Medium M2 for all permitted countries; Inspection rate: 15% (for medium M2 risk) - this means a 15% inspection rate will be applied to this product when it's imported from a BTOM risk assessed country that has market access for the product.

## Defra and HMRC

### Don't be delayed - learn how to avoid a 'no match'

- Watch this [step-by-step video](#) on how to avoid a 'no match' in IPAFFS which could cause delays to your consignment. Defra and HMRC cross-check information provided by importers in their Part I CHED and customs declaration to ensure the CHED reference and commodity code are consistent. Any mismatches between this data will result in consignments being directed to a BCP for further checks. Agents seeing Defra Hold messages persist where consignments have been cleared from SPS checks should follow [HMRC's guidance](#).

## Plant Health Newsletter

Are you signed up for the Plant Health Newsletter? [Sign up](#) to receive all the latest plants and plant products news.

## Contact information

### Contact points for urgent BTOM queries from 30 April 2024

From 30 April any urgent BTOM/import queries for plants and plant products across England and Wales should be directed to the Animal and Plant Health Agency (APHA), by email, in the first instance: [phsi-importers@apha.gov.uk](mailto:phsi-importers@apha.gov.uk)

- Alternatively, you can contact them by telephone: +44 (0) 3000 200 301
- From 30 April 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](mailto: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](#).