



Global Trade Advisory Alert

Sanitary and phytosanitary controls: important changes affecting imports of certain products from the European Union into Great Britain

To facilitate the transition to full border controls on certain imports originating from the European Union (EU) following the United Kingdom's (UK's) departure from the EU, the UK introduced phased import controls combined with access for traders to simplified import declaration schemes. It was announced on 14 September 2021 that the UK government has decided to delay further the phase out of certain post-Brexit transitional measures related to goods subject to sanitary and phytosanitary controls that are imported from the EU into Great Britain (GB, i.e., the UK excluding Northern Ireland, for which special arrangements exist). Exports from European Economic Area (EEA)/European Free Trade Association (EFTA) countries may also benefit from the transitional measures if their standards are fully harmonised with those of the EU.

This alert provides a brief overview of the transitional measures, together with the new timetable for introducing additional documentary requirements and border controls on imports originating from the EU.

POAO and ABP

The next stage in the phase out of some of the transitional measures has been further postponed and imports of products of animal origin (POAO), including composite products, and low-risk animal by-products (ABP) will not become subject to additional documentary requirements until 2022. The date of introduction of physical checks at Border Control Posts has also been further postponed.

Once implemented, the new requirements will affect a wide range of products falling within the categories of POAO and ABP. POAO include, without limitation, meat and meat products, eggs and egg products, and milk and milk

products. Certain composite products containing both processed POAO and plant products as main ingredients also will be affected by the changes, e.g., stuffed pasta or food supplements. Depending on the product's composition, specific documentary requirements may apply upon import into GB. ABP are the whole or the parts of the animal body that are not intended for human consumption. Import requirements for high-risk ABP from the EU were introduced in January 2021 and will continue to apply.

New timetable

The UK government has announced a new timetable for the introduction of documentary requirements and border controls. Traders who wish to import POAO or ABP from the EU into GB will need to comply with the following two additional requirements:

- As from 1 January 2022, GB importers must register with IPAFFS (the online import of products, animals, food, and feed system used to notify the relevant enforcement authorities of imports of live animals, animal products, high risk food, and feed not of animal origin into GB) and submit import pre-notifications in advance of the arrival of the goods on GB territory. Certain commodities must only be imported from an EU Approved Establishment; and
- As from 1 July 2022, EU exporters will need to request a health certificate or other official documentation from the competent authority in the exporting country.

The additional requirement for entry via an established GB point of entry with an appropriate Border Control Post will enter into force only as from 1 July 2022.

Recommended actions

Regardless of the further postponement, EU exporters and GB importers should start assessing whether the changes will affect the products they intend to export to or import into GB from the EU and where appropriate, ensure that they are prepared to implement the new requirements. To minimise delays, origin addresses and approval numbers should be entered into IPAFFS prior to 1 January 2022.

Our Deloitte team can assist you in understanding the impact of the changes.

Deloitte's Global Trade Advisory specialists are part of a global network of professionals who can provide specialised assistance to companies in global trade matters.

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