

Voluntary Report – Voluntary - Public Distribution

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Report Name: UK Import Controls Update

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Report Category: FAIRS Export Certificate Report, FAIRS Country Report, FAIRS Subject Report, Food and Agricultural Import Regulations and Standards - Certification, Food and Agricultural Import Regulations and Standards - Narrative

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Report Highlights:

The United Kingdom's Border Target Operating Model, its post-Brexit system of import controls on animals, animal products, plants, and plant products, is set to come into effect on exports from the EU on January 31, 2024, and from the rest of the world (including the United States) starting April 30, 2024. Exporters and regulators are encouraged to review the new certificates for changes to the current requirements and review the risk categorizations.

The United Kingdom's (UK) [Border Target Operating Model](#) (BTOM), His Majesties Government's (HMG) post-Brexit import control system for animals, animal products, plants, and plant products will be implemented in two phases. The first phase of implementation, effective only for the European Union (EU), will introduce a requirement for [export health certificates](#) (EHC) from January 31, 2024. No certification was required by the UK from the EU when it was a member of the community. These same new EHCs will be required from the rest of the world from April 30, 2024 - replacing the current EHCs. The implementation of the new regime will also reduce routine checks for some products, subject to their risk categorization. Details of the risk categorizations for animal and animal products from non-EU countries can be found [here](#), and for plants and plant products from non-EU countries [here](#).

The BTOM is a product of HMG's commitment to review import controls following the UK's departure from the EU and will ultimately align import controls for the EU and the rest of the world. HMG has repeatedly delayed imposing import controls on the EU. In contrast, the EU imposed import controls from January 1, 2021, the day the UK completed its withdrawal and became an independent trading country.

BTOM will correct the existing imbalance in import controls by making import controls equally applicable to goods from the EU and goods from the rest of the world. Currently, imports from non-EU countries, such as the United States, are subject to certain requirements (e.g., safety and security declarations and EHCs) and prohibitions or restrictions (e.g., the export of chilled meats) that are not applicable to imports from the EU.

In addition to revised EHCs, under the BTOM, some import checks may be undertaken remotely via new trusted trader schemes; and an element of high, medium, and low risk categorizations, both by commodity and country of origin, will be introduced which may reduce some import checks on the rest of world.

Exporters and regulators are encouraged to review the new EHCs for changes to the current requirements and review the risk categorizations.

Attachments:

No Attachments.