



Joint UK / EU DAG - Questions sent by EU DAG members

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Clear information on the different implementation stages of the BTOM

- **31 January 2024** - The introduction of health certification on imports of medium risk animal products, plants, plant products and high risk food (and feed) of non-animal origin from the EU.
- **30 April 2024** - The introduction of documentary and risk-based identity and physical checks on medium risk animal products, plants, plant products and high risk food (and feed) of non-animal origin from the EU. At this point Imports of Sanitary and Phytosanitary goods from the rest of the world will begin to benefit from the new risk based model.
- **31 October 2024** - Safety and Security declarations for EU imports will come into force from 31 October 2024. Alongside this, we will introduce a reduced dataset for imports and use of the UK Single Trade Window will remove duplication where possible across different pre-arrival datasets.

Infrastructure and physical checks

Will the infrastructure in place cope with the increased amount of checks that need to be done? Will there be any delays at border crossings? What will be the impact on perishable goods?

Government has and will continue to engage with ports in the design and construction of their BCPs, based on the anticipated volume of checks defined by the BTOM.

For the end of the transition period, the Port Infrastructure Fund allocated £200m to support sea ports, airports and rail terminals to develop the necessary infrastructure and facilities to enable both sanitary/phytosanitary checks and customs checks; this infrastructure is now available to support checks introduced under the BTOM. Government has also provided Inland Border Facilities for those ports which lacked space to build the necessary infrastructure on site.

BCP capacity has not been raised as a concern for Ports; we are therefore not anticipating queues but will continue working closely with operators to address any concerns they may have. DEFRA will be working to implement checks carefully with a view to avoiding queues.

How will digital procedures smoothen the impact?

- The UK Single Trade Window online platform will deliver a simplified, digital border experience by making it easier and cheaper for importers and exporters to provide data to government.
- When fully operational it will provide a gateway between businesses and UK border processes and systems, allowing users to meet their border obligations by submitting information once, and in one place.
- The STW will be introduced through a series of releases, each one adding functionality and delivering an improved user experience. The first STW release will be built in 2023, and following private user testing, will be available for public use in 2024. We expect that the functionality delivered in the first release may particularly benefit small, infrequent and new traders.