



HM Government

The Border Target Operating Model

Borders Group, Cabinet Office

March 2024



1. Background

Background: how we got here

- In December 2020, the Government published the [2025 UK Border Strategy](#) which set out our ambition to create the most effective border in the world for both imports and exports.
- In April 2022 the Government took the decision **not to introduce the remaining import controls on EU goods**.
- Not bringing in these controls was always a temporary measure. It allowed businesses to focus on changes at the border already underway, and avoided new requirements being introduced during the unparalleled level of supply-chain disruption that occurred during the pandemic. It also gave us the time to work with stakeholders to design and build the border controls that would best for the UK.
- The Border Target Operating Model (BTOM) builds on the draft published in April 2023. It was developed following significant engagement with border stakeholders, collaboration across the UK, Scottish and Welsh Governments, and engagement with officials from the devolved administration in Northern Ireland.
- On **29 August 2023**, the government published the [Border Target Operating Model \(BTOM\)](#), which outlines new policies and processes that importers, the border industry and wider stakeholders will need to go through in order to import goods. This is an innovative, risk-based approach to controls. It makes use of technology and data to make it simple for businesses to trade, limiting administrative burdens and keeping down costs.

2. Timeline for Implementation

Implementation timeline for the Border Target Operating Model

A PHASED APPROACH

31 JANUARY 2024

- 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.
- All reports suggest this was a successful launch, with some minor issues being resolved quickly.
- We continue to monitor the implementation of these requirements and seek to resolve any issues prior to checks coming in on 30 April 2024.

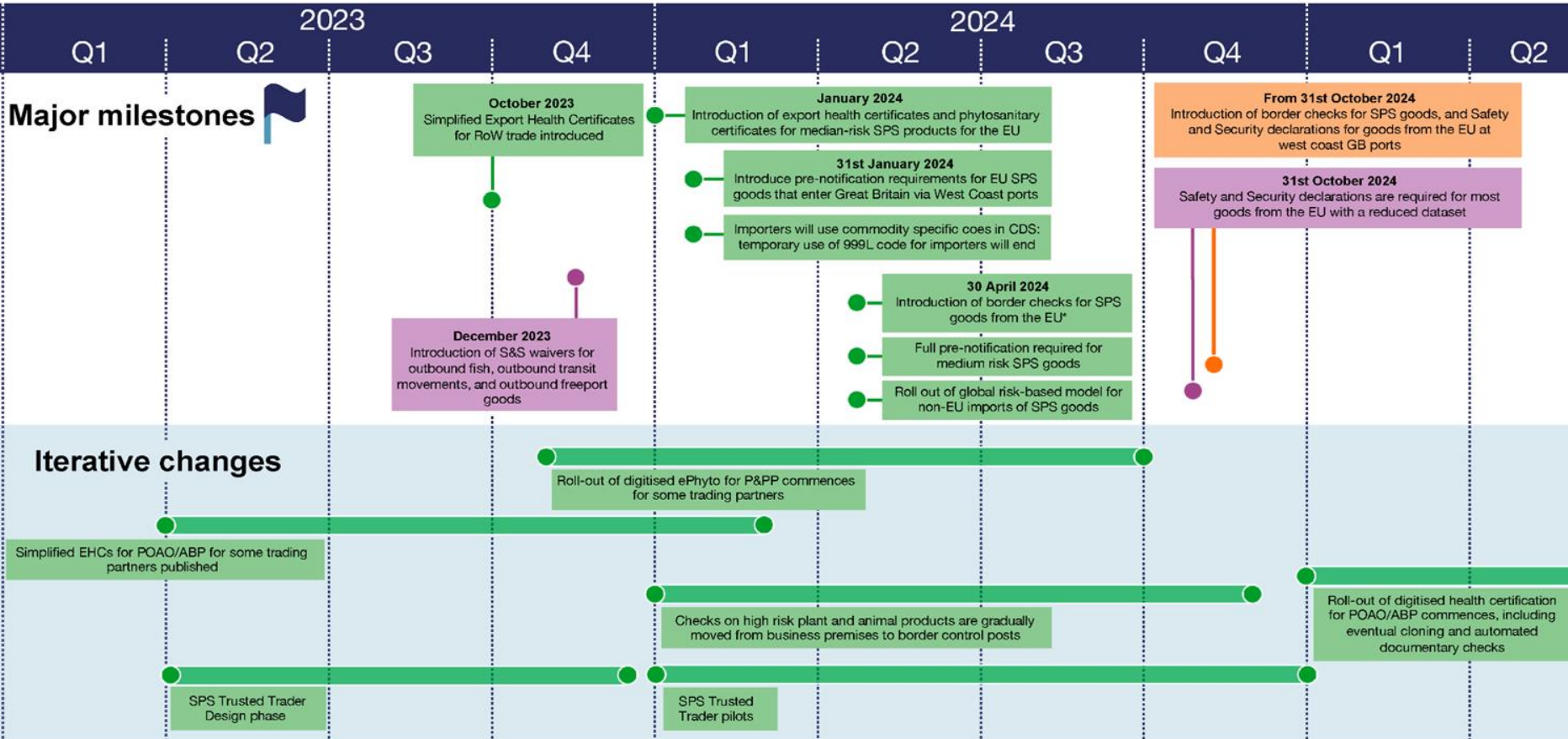
30 APRIL 2024

- 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 (SPS) goods from the rest of the world will begin to benefit from the new risk based model. Existing inspections of high-risk plants/plant products from the EU will move from destination to BCPs.

31 OCTOBER 2024

- The requirement for Safety and Security (S&S) declarations for EU imports comes into effect. As part of this, we will introduce a reduced dataset for all imports and use of the UK Single Trade Window will remove duplication where possible across the different sets of data that must be submitted before the goods arrive in the UK.

Summary timeline for implementation of the Border Target Operating Model



Key

S&S changes
SPS changes
Cross Cutting changes
 * Except at west coast GB ports

3. Safety and Security Model

Our approach to Safety and Security has been enhanced

We have developed a new model focused on gathering, analysing and utilising data deemed as most critical to security. The model will deliver these benefits through the following changes:

1

Reduction of the Safety and Security data set

- We are reducing the requirement to 20 mandatory fields. There will be up to 8 conditional fields, which may need to be completed in certain circumstances. The remaining 9 fields will be optional.

2

Improvements to the way Safety and Security data is provided

- The UK Single Trade Window will give traders and intermediaries the option to self-serve the processes for licences, authorisations and customs import and Safety and Security declarations required to trade internationally.

3

Improving the use of data by the UK government to remove duplication

- When the New Computerised Transit System (NCTS) Phase 6 is implemented, traders using transit who are moving goods through other countries will only need to submit one Transit Security Accompanying Document (TSAD) for a transit movement.

4

Changes already introduced: Removing Safety and Security requirements for low-risk export movements

- Outbound fish: Removed the requirement for Export Summary Declarations (EXS), otherwise known as Safety and Security exit declarations for fish caught in UK territorial seas and landed outside of the UK. We have removed this requirement to reduce trader burden.
- Outbound transit movements: In cases where goods are moved through GB under transit, and a Safety and Security entry declaration (ENS) declaration has been made within 14 days, there is no requirement for an Export Summary Declaration (EXS) to be submitted.
- Outbound freeport goods: In cases where the advance Safety and Security information remains available and valid, and the goods have been at the freeport for less than a specified time, there is no requirement for an Export Summary Declaration (EXS) to be submitted.

4. Sanitary and Phytosanitary controls

Details of the changes within the SPS model

For SPS controls, our approach under the new model will have the following three key elements:

1 **A new global risk-based approach**

- Live animals, germinal products, products of animal origin, animal by-products, plants and plant products will be categorised as high, medium or low risk, with controls appropriately weighted against the risks posed both by the commodity and the country of origin.

2 **Simplified and digitised health certificates**

- Phytosanitary certificates are now digitised. We published simplified export health certificates in spring 2023 for animal products, and will deliver digitised export health certificates from 2024.

3 **Trusted Trader Schemes**

- Schemes will be piloted with industry where authorised importers of plants, plant products and certain animal products may be eligible for facilitations to make importing easier. To qualify they will need to provide enhanced assurances and evidence that they are meeting the regulatory requirements and standards. The Certification Logistics Pilot was launched on 31st January 2024.

5. Engagement

Why are we here today?

BTOM - We want your views

We recognise that these changes will have a direct impact on your stakeholders and we value your feedback. We have some questions for you to think about:

1. What are your reflections on the implementation of the January 31st changes?
2. Have you made any preparations for future changes?
3. What impact will the changes have for your business/stakeholders?

Beyond the BTOM

While our current priority is the delivery of the BTOM, we recognise there are wider border policy issues which are important. After the BTOM is operationalised, questions will remain about the future direction of travel for the UK border, including the trusted trader schemes, single trade window, changing of risk categories of goods over time, and future policy. We will continue to engage with Spanish stakeholders to gather your valuable feedback in this space.

Contact us

Cabinet Office: eu-ms-engagement@cabinetoffice.gov.uk

Please include “ES - UK visit” in your subject line so we know where the question has come from

Thank you!

Gracias!