



UPDATED ARRANGEMENTS FOR AUTHORISED TRADERS FROM 1 APRIL 2021

CONTINUATION OF THE SCHEME FOR TEMPORARY AGRI- FOOD MOVEMENTS TO NORTHERN IRELAND (STAMNI) FOR AUTHORISED TRADERS MOVING AGRI-FOOD GOODS FROM GREAT BRITAIN (GB) TO NORTHERN IRELAND (NI)

Following the meeting of the UK-EU Joint Committee on 24 February 2021, which confirmed the UK would set out a new operational plan, we are writing to you to confirm a continuation of the Scheme for Temporary Agri-food Movements to Northern Ireland (STAMNI) arrangements for Authorised Traders beyond 31 March 2021.

This means Authorised Traders can continue to move products of animal origin, composite products, food and feed of non-animal origin and plants and plant products from Great Britain (GB) to Northern Ireland (NI) without the need for official certification (such as export health certificates, phytosanitary certificates or marketing standards certification).

Authorised Traders should continue to use the a STAMNI compliance declaration forms to move these goods from GB to NI and, as a reminder of the process, guidance and forms, businesses should:

- Follow the [How to Move Goods from GB to NI for Authorised Traders process map](#)
- Ensure they follow the [STAMNI scheme guidance](#)
- Ensure a completed [STAMNI Compliance Declaration](#) accompanies each consignment.

How long will these arrangements be in place?

The STAMNI arrangements will continue to be in place until at least 1 October 2021. There will be a review of the arrangements in advance of that point, with further guidance to be published on the phased introduction of certification. We encourage all traders to continue to accelerate their



readiness preparations. We will undertake further engagement with the European Commission on the detailed milestones for the phased introduction of certification and will provide further updates to traders on this.

Supporting business in preparing for these arrangements remains extremely important and we will be in touch with you in the coming weeks to inform you of how you should prepare for the phased introduction of certification.

We will continue to develop and introduce tools and methods that are designed to support businesses moving goods from Great Britain to Northern Ireland, and we will keep you involved and up to date as this work progresses.

As part of this, Defra has established the Digital Assistance Scheme (DAS) that aims to support the continued movement of agri-food goods from Great Britain to Northern Ireland and address the cost and burden of compliance with the Protocol for industry. DAS digitises the certification and verification processes and is backed by a major injection of Government funding.

We are working with industry to shape this service and will be sharing more information about how this service will benefit your business and when these services will come into use.

DAS is one part of the wider package of measures to support industry moving agri-food goods from GB-NI, along with: continued work to meet certification capacity needs; the [Movement Assistance Scheme \(MAS\)](#); work with the Northern Ireland Executive and HM Revenue & Customs on wider customs arrangements; and continued engagement with the European Commission.

Phased certification approach

We propose to introduce certification requirements for authorised traders in the following phases from October 2021. The precise timing of subsequent phases will be outlined in subsequent guidance shortly following the [forthcoming design work on the new Digital Assistance Scheme](#):

- a. **Phase 1: wider fresh meat products** - this phase will see the introduction of Export Health Certificates (EHCs) for fresh meat products (excluding those Prohibited and Restricted chilled meat products for which an EHC has already been required under the terms of the Unilateral Declaration on meat products);
- b. **Phase 2: dairy, plants and seeds for planting and wine** - this phase sees the introduction of EHCs for dairy products, as well as Phytosanitary Certificates (PCs) for plants and seeds for planting, and VI-1 certificates for wine;
- c. **Phase 3: fruit and vegetables marketing standards, fruit and vegetables SPS and pet food** - this phase introduces certification for lower-risk products, and includes PCs and Attestations of Equivalence (AoEs) for fruit and vegetables, as well as EHCs for pet food;



d. Phase 4: Short-shelf life, composite products, ambient, poultry marketing standards, fish, catch certificates, organics and high-risk food not of animal origin - phase 4 comprises all remaining certificates (largely marketing standards related) not already introduced in previous phases, across a range of less commonly traded commodities.

This phased approach has been guided by delivery realities on the ground and on the priority we place on protecting biosecurity.

To support businesses, the Movement Assistance Scheme will support with the cost of certifying of Export Health Certificates, Phytosanitary Certificates and Health Certificates.

Traders moving Prohibited & Restricted (P&R) goods

As a reminder, if you are moving permitted chilled meats from Great Britain to Northern Ireland, P&R Export Health Certificates (EHCs) are required until the end of this grace period. The [guidance published on our GB-NI Trader Showcase](#) sets out the qualifying criteria and the requirements you need to follow for P&R fresh meat, minced meat and meat preparations.

Keeping you informed

We will keep you informed and up to date on developments that affect traders moving goods from Great Britain to Northern Ireland.

The documents linked to in this message are stored on the [GB-NI Trader Showcase](#), which we've created as a one-stop-shop for key information, documents and assets available for you to download and share with your networks and communities. It has been developed using Dropbox Paper, which usually requires users to have an account to access content, so we recommend opening a free account – which involves a basic registration process - if you don't already have one.

The Trader Showcase site works with most modern browsers, but is best viewed using Chrome, Firefox, Safari and the latest two versions of Edge.

If you would like further information on moving agri-food goods from GB to NI, please contact the Movement Assistance Scheme (MAS) helpline on 0330 0416 580. MAS can help you by offering support and advice, and information around GB to NI processes and policy. The helpline is open Monday to Friday, 9am to 5pm (excluding bank holidays).

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