



HOW TO IMPORT FRESH PRODUCE





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First of all, you need to clear the goods into the UK and pay any outstanding duty and VAT, so your goods can enter free circulation in the UK. In order for us to complete a customs clearance, you will need an EORI number. [You can sign up for an EORI number here.](#)

There are a couple of different ways to pay any duty and VAT on your import:

- Payment upfront.
- Post vat accounting (PVA), allows for you to account for the VAT on your VAT return. Saving you from paying it upon import.
- Deferment account (DAN), lets you make a one off payment per month through Direct Debit, on all you imports instead of paying for each import.

We can calculate the Duty and VAT before your import arrives, so you don't get any nasty shocks!

EU GOODS OR NON-EU GOODS?

We need to clarify if your goods are classed as EU goods or non-EU goods. EU goods, are goods that originate from the EU, or they have been cleared into the EU first, before being imported into the UK.

While this affects the requirement for import certification, it doesn't remove the requirement to pay duty, even if the goods were cleared into the EU.





EU Goods Import Process

Documentation Required

- Commercial invoice
- Packing list

Transportation Process



At the packing warehouse, the commercial invoice and packing list gets created. You then inform your haulier your goods are ready to be shipped.



While the goods are being collected, the export agent completes the export clearance. The import agent completes the safety and security declaration and preps the import clearance.



During transit the duty and VAT gets paid, and the import clearance gets approved.



Once the goods have arrived in the UK and has passed all the checks, your goods are in free circulation and your goods can be delivered.

Inspection Frequency

Officially there is a 0% check rate on fresh produce from the EU. But the animal plant health agency (APHA) do have the power to divert your goods to a border control post (BCP).





Non-EU Goods paperwork requirements

Medium Risk A Produce

If your produce is classed as medium risk A, you will require a Phytosanitary certification. This proves your produce has been inspected, and are free from any pests and diseases.

Medium risk A produce also requires a pre-notification completed in IPAFFS.

IPAFFS is the UK GOV's, Import of Products, Animals, Food and Feed System. You will need an IPAFFS account in order to import your plants and cut flowers. [Click here to register your company on IPAFFS.](#)

Medium Risk A Produce

| | | | |
|---------------|--------------|--------------|-------------------|
| Apples | Arrowroot | Aubergine | Avocado |
| Basil | Bilberry | Bitter Melon | Blackberries |
| Blueberries | Carrot | Cassava | Celery |
| Chicory Roots | Corn | Cranberry | Dewberries |
| Ginger | Grapes | Horseradish | Huckleberry |
| Lingonberry | Manioc | Marioc | Mexican Coriander |
| Pears | Potato | Raspberry | Rice Paddy Herb |
| Salisfy veg | Spinch | Strawberries | Sugar Beet |
| Swede | Sweet potato | Taro | Tomato |
| Tumeric | Yams | Yautia | Yuca |





Non-EU goods paperwork requirements

Medium Risk B Produce

If your produce is classed as medium risk B, you will require a Phytosanitary certification, but you won't need to complete an IPAFFS pre-notification.

Medium Risk B Produce

| | |
|----------|------------|
| Almonds | Apricots |
| Cherries | Nectarines |
| Peaches | Plums |
| Quince | |

Low Risk Produce

All other produce is classed as low risk, and doesn't require a phytosanitary certificate or IPAFFS pre-notification. All you will need is a commercial invoice and packing list to be able to import.





Certificate of conformity (COC)

A certificate of conformity is to prove, that you meet the specific marketing standards (SMS), for the fruit and vegetable you are importing.

There are 10 fruit and vegetables that require a certificate of conformity, they are:

| | |
|---------------------------------|--------------------|
| Apples | Peaches/Nectarines |
| Grapes | Pears |
| Kiwi | Strawberries |
| Citrus fruits (excluding limes) | Lettuce |
| Sweet peppers | Tomatoes |

The COC has to be issued by the UK. Unless you are importing from a UKAIS country, and is accompanied with a COC issued from the country of origin.

[You can find the full list of UKAIS countries here.](#)

Green Bananas

Green bananas classed as non EU goods require a pre-notification in IPAFFS. They also require a inspection certificate, which is also created in IPAFFS upon import.





Non-EU Goods Import Process

Documentation Required

- Phytosanitary Certificate
- Certificate of Conformity
- Commercial Invoice
- Packing List

Transportation Process



At the packing warehouse, the phytosanitary, commercial invoice and packing list gets created. You then inform your haulier your goods are ready to be shipped.



While the goods are being collected, the export agent completes the export clearance. The import agent completes the safety and security declaration, IPAFFS pre-notification, certificate of conformity and preps the import clearance.



During transit the duty and VAT gets paid, and the import clearance gets approved. APHA checks the pre-notification and makes decision on whether to inspect the goods or not.



Once the goods have arrived in the UK and has passed all the checks, your goods are in free circulation and your goods can be delivered.

Inspection Frequency

5% of non-EU produce will be inspected.





Safety and Security Declarations

Safety and Security declaration (S&S) is also known as an Entry Summary declaration (ENS). Its purpose is to inform border authorities, so they can analyse the potential risk caused to the UK territory by goods crossing the border. [Check out our S&S FAQ here.](#)

Trusted Trader Schemes

Control Points (CP) allows for your goods to be inspected by the animal and plant health agency (APHA) at your premises instead of a border control post (BCP)

Authorised Operator Status (AOS), allows for your goods to be inspected at your premises and your own staff to inspect the goods.

If you want to turn your premises into a control point (CP), or you want to be authorised operator status (AOS), you need to email Defra on: defra-ocr@defra.gov.uk

Northern Ireland

Northern Ireland qualifying goods have no SPS checks. So, there is no requirement for a phytosanitary certificate. But a pre-notification in IPAFFS will be required.

T1 Cargo

If your goods have not been cleared into the EU, and have travelled through the EU on a T1, you have a different set of regulations to follow. Please contact us directly to discuss arrangements.





ABOUT US

As a family run company, we have core principles at the heart of everything we do. Our reputation has been built on exceptional Customer Service which is underlined by our Customer in Focus attitude. We are committed to offering our customers the products, solutions and services they need at the best possible price. We are passionate about what we do, innovative and forward thinking in the design of the products and services we offer. We respect commitments and comply with our social responsibilities which are reflected in our company Culture, Values and CSR statements.

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