



Department for Environment Food & Rural Affairs

Smarter Rules for Safer Food **Official Controls Regulation**

The new Official Controls Regulation (OCR) will apply directly to the UK from 14th December 2019. This factsheet outlines what will be changing for importers of third country animals, animal products, food and feed of non-animal origin, plants and plant products.

What is the Official Controls Regulation?

- The Official Controls Regulation (OCR) is part of a wider set of changes which are being introduced across the European Union (EU) under the Smarter Rules for Safer Food (SRSF) package on 14th December.
- OCR provides the legal framework for enforcement authorities to perform official controls across the agri-food chain and to verify that businesses comply with the legal requirements.
- Whilst the majority of the OCR rules are for enforcement authorities, the OCR will also affect importing businesses involved in the agri-food chain including products of animal origin, animals and animal by-products, plants, plant products, food and feed of non-animal origin.
- The new regulation will apply to the UK whilst we are a member of the EU and during any transition period. If the UK were to leave the EU without a deal, the regulations will be retained by the Withdrawal Act and will continue to apply subject to any amendments Parliament may agree.

Changes will happen in the following areas:

- Border Control Posts
- Pre-Notification period
- Common Health Entry Document
- New pre-notification IT system

What will be changing?

Border Control Posts (BCP)

- From 14 December, all Border Inspection Posts (BIPs) and Designated Points of Entry (DPE) will automatically be re-designated as Border Control Posts (BCPs). Standard procedure will remain the same.

Pre-Notification period

- From 14 December, importers of live animals and animal products will need to give the relevant BCP at least one working day notice. A minimum of four hours prior notice of importation applies if there are transport related logistical constraints.

New pre-notification IT system for imports of animals, animal products and high-risk food and feed

- You should continue to pre-notify on the current TRACES classic for now. When you need to start using TRACES NT and the new documentation will depend on what you are importing.

- **Importers of live animals and high-risk food and feed:** You need to ensure you register for TRACES NT as soon as possible as the system will become live across all EU Member States from Saturday 14 December. However, once registered for TRACES NT, users should continue to pre-notify using the current TRACES Classic system for a short period of time.
- We will let you know when you should start to pre-notify using TRACES NT ahead of switchover to give you a chance to get ready. This will be as soon as we are confident it is robustly integrated into the UK process.
- **Importers of products of animal origin including meat and dairy:** The introduction of TRACES NT for these products is being delayed. You should continue to use the current TRACES Classic system and documentation. We will provide further information shortly, again ahead of the switchover time, to give you the chance to get ready.

New Common Health Entry Document (CHED)

- If you are using TRACES Classic, the Common Veterinary Entry Document (CVED) should still be used.
- When using TRACES-NT, importers of live animals and animal products will need to complete a new Common Health Entry Document (CHED), replacing the Common Veterinary Entry Document (CVED) and the Common Entry Document (CED).
- Some additional commodities, such as reptile meats, rendered animal fats and insects, will now require a model certificate. There is a transitional measure for these products that allows current import practices for these commodities to continue until 13th March 2020. This can be found at: <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?qid=1574157318360&uri=CELEX:32019R0628>

IT systems for plants and plant products

- There will be no change to current IT systems and processes to import plants and plant products from non-EU countries. The UK will continue to use the domestic system, PEACH, for the pre-notification and control of regulated plants and plant products. Operators will not be required to use TRACES-NT for plant health control purposes from 14 December 2019 for the foreseeable future. For transshipments, different procedures will apply, please contact the APHA Imports Helpdesk on 0300 100 0313 or email: Apha_srsfmailbox@apha.gov.uk.

What do businesses need to do now?

1. Familiarise yourself with the new regulations. Further information can be found on gov.uk [here](#).
2. Importers of animals and animal products from outside the European Union should register for TRACES NT following the instructions below:
3.
 - a. Create a [new EU Login account](#).
 - b. Once you have your new EU Login Account you can [Request a new user access profile in TRACES.NT](#).
 - c. The profile you use must reflect your role, for example as an economic operator or Border Control Post (BCP) official.
 - d. Economic operators must choose the BCP to which they wish to be associated for registration purposes, once registered you will be able to import through any BCP.
 - e. BCP users should associate themselves to the appropriate Competent Authority. Requests will be validated by the Competent Authority or BCP depending on your role.

Please be aware the first user who registers for a new TRACES NT account will become the admin for that organisation and will then be responsible for authorising all further users within their organisation.

We have been running a series of training and support sessions for importers on TRACES NT and these will continue to help you prepare for these changes.

4. Once registered and trained on TRACES NT, familiarise yourself with the requirements of CHEDs and use them for imports that will arrive on or after 14th December 2019. Further information on CHEDs can be found at: <https://webgate.ec.europa.eu/cfcas3/tracesnt-webhelp/Content/Home.htm>
5. Once registered and trained, importers of animals and animal products should ensure they use TRACES NT to pre-notify BCPs when required to do so.

Further information

For any technical help regarding TRACES NT registration, you can email your questions to sante-traces@ec.europa.eu.

For more information on Official Controls Regulation, visit the [SRSF GOV.UK page](#).

You can find further information about the regulations by clicking on the embedded link:

- [EU Official Controls Regulation](#), published on 15 March 2017.