

TSS User Guides

Live Animal Movements to Northern Ireland



Published: December 2024



HM Revenue
& Customs



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If there are any words or acronyms in this document that are unfamiliar, please visit the [Jargon Buster](#) or use the search tool on the [Northern Ireland Customs & Trade Academy \(NICTA\) website](#) to find a definition.

1 Introduction

Goods are controlled if they are subject to special health, licensing or environmental controls and as such must be placed under customs control when crossing external EU border into NI.

Controlled goods must be presented at the external EU border for a specific pre-clearance or control at Point of Entry (POE).

Goods shown as restricted in the Northern Ireland (NI) Online Tariff (see [GOV.UK](#)) must be entered as controlled goods and be accompanied by full supporting documentation such as Home Office licenses, veterinary certificates and phytosanitary certificates.

If you are moving controlled goods, you are required to provide information at consignment (header) and item level when completing an Entry Summary Declaration (ENS).

This guide focuses specifically on the movement of live animals as controlled goods using Trader Support Service (TSS) supported declarations.

Imports of live animals and products of animal origin are controlled to prevent the import of disease into Northern Ireland.

Under the Northern Ireland Protocol (NIP), Northern Ireland will remain in the same Sanitary and Phytosanitary (SPS) zone as the European Union (EU), therefore any consignments of live animals entering NI are treated as entering the EU SPS zone from a Third Country.

2 Requirements for moving live animals

2.1. Export Health Certificates (EHCs)

Export Health Certificates (EHCs) and import licences are required when moving live animals.



The EHCs and licences state what health and import conditions must be met so that animals or animal products can be imported.

You will need an EHC for each animal product you're moving to NI and/or each product type. To apply for EHC depending on type of journey, please visit the link related in sections 3, 4 and 5 of this guide.

2.2. Pre-notification on TRACES NT and Import of Products, Animal, Food and Feed (IPAFFS)

As well as requirement for EHCs and licences there is a requirement that importers must pre-notify movements of live animals into Northern Ireland using the EU's TRACES NT system. To register please visit [TRACES NT](#).

Movements of live animals from EU via Great Britain (GB) landbridge require pre-notification on IPAFFS (Import of products, animals, food and feed system). Detailed requirements for EU-GB-NI journey are outlined in section 4 of this guide. To register please visit IPAFFS on [GOV.UK](#).

If you have not pre-notified Health authorities Department for Environment Food & Rural Affairs/Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs (DEFRA/DAERA) before live animal movement commences, your goods may be held at port until an inspection can take place. This applies for all movements to NI including movements from EU via the GB landbridge and Rest of the World (RoW).

2.3 Documentary and physical inspections

Get your goods checked at a NI point of entry.

You must route via a Point of Entry (POE) in NI if you are moving live animals. This is a legal requirement.

POE for moving live animals in NI include:

- Belfast Port – Designated for Equine (E) animals, Ungulates (U) animals (excluding bovine, ovine, caprine or porcine species) and Other (O) live animals
- Larne Port – Designated for Equine (E) animals, Ungulates (U) and Other (O) live animals



As part of your TRACES NT/IPAFFS entry you need to specify at which port your goods will enter NI. Please ensure you route to the POE specified on your pre-notification.

Document and physical inspections of live animals are conducted by enforcement authorities at POE. These checks are made to protect animal health and welfare as well protecting public health.

If your animal fails inspection because of risks to animal or public health, action will be taken at the port resulting in the death of the animal.

If your consignment is rejected at a point of entry in NI, you should email Animal and Plant Health Agency's (APHA) Centre for International Trade (CIT) (see [GOV.UK](https://www.gov.uk) and [Centre for International Trade \(CIT\)](#)). You must state in your email that you wish to return your animal.

If your animal is rejected at a point of entry in NI and includes cattle from NI, you must submit a notification on the Import of Products, Animal, Food and Feed system (IPAFFS). You must make sure you meet animal welfare standards when transporting animals.

2.4 Endangered animals

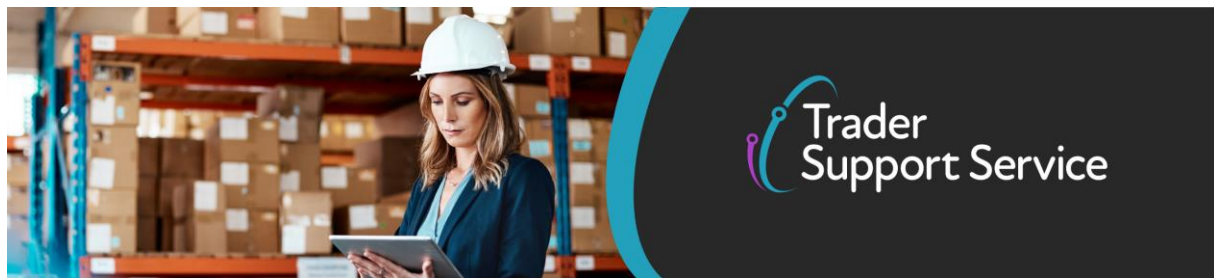
You must follow additional rules when moving endangered species.

You must apply for a permit or certificate to move any living or dead animal (or any of its parts) that is listed by the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES).

- Use [Species+](#) to find out if your specimen comes from a species on the CITES list
- If Species+ states the animal is banned, you cannot export it
- If the species is listed, you may need a CITES permit to export the animal from the UK
- If you regularly take endangered animals abroad, you could use a travelling exhibition certificate instead of a permit

Contact the Animal and Plant Health Agency (APHA) for further information (see [GOV.UK](https://www.gov.uk) for contact details).

3 End-to-end journey for live animal movements from GB to NI



3.1 Pre arrival

Ensure you are registered on TRACES NT before your live animal movement commences. To register please visit [TRACES NT](#).

Notify TRACES NT of your movement at least 24 hours in advance of arrival. This notification includes raising the relevant Common Health Entry Document (CHED-A) form on TRACES NT and uploading Export Health Certificate (EHC). To obtain EHC for movements from GB to NI please see guidance how to apply on [GOV.UK](#).

In order for TSS to generate your Simplified Frontier Declaration (SFD) when using TSS simplified journey route (Ro-Ro movement GB to NI), you will be required to submit and upload the CHED-A and any other licences (e.g. CITES) on your ENS declaration at Consignment (header) level. For more information, please see the [Data guide: TSS declaration data requirements](#) and [ENS User Guide](#).

TSS will then generate a SFD and provide you with Movement Reference Number (MRN) number for your ENS and SFD. These are required by haulier for when the journey commences in order to register the consignment movement onto Goods vehicle movement service (GVMS) and obtaining Goods Movement Reference (GMR). Please see guidance on [Creating a Goods Movement Reference Number on GVMS](#).

If moving live animals or animal products from GB to NI, you do not need to pay for some inspections and certificates. The certifier can invoice the government for these costs as part of the Movement Assistance Scheme as outlined on [GOV.UK](#).

3.2 Arrival in NI

On arrival in at NI port of Entry, haulier must route to POE for inspection - Belfast or Larne port as specified on your pre-notification CHED-A document raised in TRACES NT.

- Belfast Port – Designated for Equine (E) animals, Ungulates (U) animals (excluding bovine, ovine, caprine or porcine species) and Other (O) live animals
- Larne Port – Designated for Equine (E) animals, Ungulates (U) and Other (O) live animals

At the appointed POE, a document and physical inspection of live animal movement is being completed by health authorities (Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs (DAERA) officers).



If all the checks have been successful, the consignment is cleared and decision is entered in Part 2 of the CHED-A, which will be provided to the trader in electronic form. Your consignment is then free to move to destination.

At the same time TSS will contact importer and request to complete a Supplementary declaration (SDI) on the TSS portal by the fourth working day for the following month. Find out more about how to complete your SDI in [Supplementary declarations Step-by-step guide](#).

Ensure TRACES NT pre-notification document CHED-A is completed in the document identifier segment of DE (2/3) on CDS following the country code and licence type CHD.

If the consignment does not meet the requirements, it will be rejected entry and returned. When a consignment is rejected at a point of entry in NI, you should email APHA's Centre for International Trade (CIT) (see [GOV.UK](#) and [Centre for International Trade \(CIT\)](#)). You must state in your email that you wish to return your animal to GB.

If your animal is rejected at a point of entry in NI and includes cattle from NI, you must submit notification on the Import of Products, Animal, Food and Feed system (IPAFFS).

4 End-to-end journey for live animal movement into Northern Ireland from EU via the GB landbridge

From 1 January 2022, live animals transiting through GB will need to be pre-notified on IPAFFS at least 24 hours before they enter GB.

You do not need a GB transit Export Health Certificate (EHC) however, you must attach a copy of the Intra Trade Animal Health Certificate (ITAHC) created in TRACES NT to your IPAFFS pre-notification.

IPAFFS pre-notification will not replace your intra EU movement on TRACES NT.

The pre-notification step is essential, so health authorities are aware your consignment of live animals originate from the EU and full SPS Third Country requirements do not apply as regards to certification.

Note: The live animal consignment can enter and exit GB through any point of entry until 30 June 2022. This policy will apply until further notice. You must follow animal welfare



requirements for animals transiting GB on [GOV.UK](https://www.gov.uk).

Live animals transiting through Great Britain must:

- Be pre-notified on Import of products, animals, food and feed system (IPAFFS)
- Have an Intra Trade Animal Health Certificate (ITAHC) created in TRACES NT

You do not need a Great Britain transit health certificate.

4.1 Pre arrival

Ensure you are registered on TRACES NT. To register please visit [TRACES NT](https://traces-nt.europa.eu/)

Obtain an EU Intra Trade Animal Health Certificate (ITAHC) which is issued via TRACES NT. This will serve as advance notification to GB authorities that these animals are entering GB from EU. Ensure the ITAHC is stamped “only for transit...” at the EU point of exit.

Register for IPAFFS on [GOV.UK](https://www.gov.uk) to notify enforcement authorities about your movement.

Notify IPAFFS of your movement at least 24 hours in advance of arrival and attach copy of the ITAHC to the IPAFFS notification. A step-by-step for IPAFFS pre-notification [video guidance](#) is also available.

Ensure the consignment of Live Animals is accompanied throughout the journey by a hardcopy of the ITAHC issued by the exporting EU Member State.

All live animals will need:

- Transporter authorisation IS issued by Animal and Plant Health Agency (APHA). For more information contact APHA in GB: CITCarlisle@apha.gov.uk and [DAERA](https://www.daera.gov.uk/) in Northern Ireland
- Certificates of competence
- Vehicle approval certificates from the relevant bodies in GB and NI

You need an EU and UK journey log if you’re moving cattle, sheep, pigs, goats or unregistered horses for trade if your journey is more than 8 hours.

The maximum permitted journey time varies by species and life stage. A consignment of animals may need to be rested for 24 hours. There are approved control posts where



animals can be unloaded.

You must follow animal welfare requirements for animals transiting GB on [GOV.UK](https://www.gov.uk).

4.2 Arrival in NI

The person responsible for load in NI receiving the goods must email APHA at ImportsRiskManagement@apha.gov.uk to confirm that the consignment has left GB territory. Use the subject line 'Confirmation that a consignment has left GB territory'

The email needs to include the following information:

- IPAFFS notification reference number
- Details of means of transport
- Date the consignment has left Great Britain territory
- Copy of commercial documents (bill of lading or airway bill)

Ensure the consignment arrives at the correct approved POE in NI and is presented for inspection together with hard copies of all relevant documentation. On arrival DAERA officers will conduct veterinary checks on all live animals at the POE in NI- Belfast and Larne port.

If all the checks are successful, the consignment is cleared and decision is entered in Part 2 of the CHED-A, which is provided to the trader in electronic form and consignment is free to move to destination.

You or your customs agent also need to complete a Full Frontier Declaration (FFD) or a Supplementary declaration (SDI) if using TSS simplified journey route (Ro-Ro movement GB to NI) using the TSS portal.

Please see data requirements on [TSS Full Frontier Declarations](#) and also ensure IPAFFS pre-notification document CHED-A is completed in the document identifier segment of DE (2/3) on CDS following the country code and licence type CHD.

In line with the official controls regulations, any consignment that fails any part of the inspection is rejected. This will result in either destruction, or re-export, where all actions are at the expenses of the person responsible for it.



5 End-to-end journey for live animal movement into NI from Rest of the World (RoW) countries

Third Country import requirements apply to all live animal consignments originating from RoW – excluding the EU entering NI.

Live animals from RoW must be imported via an approved Point of Entry (POE), where they undergo veterinary checks before they are allowed to enter NI.

The following locations must be used for live animal consignments:

- Belfast Port – Designated for Equine (E) animals, Ungulates (U) animals (excluding bovine, ovine, caprine or porcine species) and Other (O) live animals
- Larne Port – Designated for Equine (E) animals, Ungulates (U) and Other (O) live animals

Live animals generally can only be imported from countries which are on the approved third country [import list for that animal species](#).

5.1 Pre arrival

Ensure you are registered on TRACES NT. To register please visit [TRACES NT](#)

Notify TRACES NT of your movement at least 24 hours in advance of arrival. This notification includes raising the relevant Common Health Entry Document (CHED-A) form on TRACES NT and uploading Export Health Certificate (EHC) issued at the country of dispatch.

The pre-notification step is essential, so DAERA knows that consignment of live animals originate from the RoW and full SPS Third Country requirements do apply as regards to certification.

5.2 Arrival in NI

Ensure your live animal consignment arrives at the correct approved POE in NI, which is also declared in your TRACES NT pre-notification. On arrival enforcement authorities will conduct full documentary and veterinary checks of your consignment.



If all the checks are successful, the consignment is cleared and decision is entered in Part 2 of the CHED, which is provided to the trader in electronic form and consignment is free to move to destination.

You or your customs agent also need to complete a Full Frontier Declaration (FFD) using the TSS portal.

Please see data requirements on [TSS Full Frontier Declarations](#) and also ensure TRACES NT pre-notification document CHED-A is completed in the document identifier segment of DE (2/3) on CDS following the country code and licence type CHD.

In line with the official controls regulations, any consignment that fails any part of the inspection is rejected. This will result in either destruction, or re-export, where all actions are at the expenses of the person responsible for it.

6 I need to know more

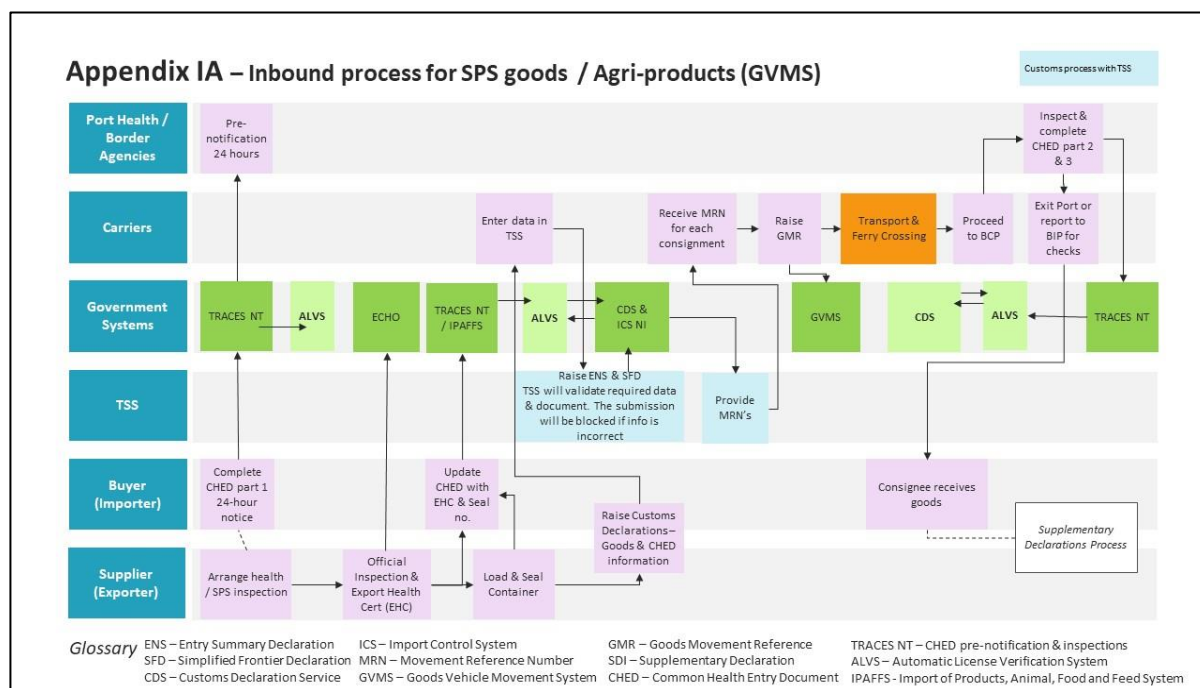
For queries on live animal movements, you can consult the [TSS Contact Centre](#) for support on 0800 060 8888.

There is a comprehensive set of guides available on NICTA for you to download and read:

- [Guidance on controlled goods and the Online Tariff Tool](#)
- [ENS User Guide](#)
- [Data guide: TSS declaration data requirements](#)
- [How to create and submit a consignment with controlled goods](#) (video)
- [Moving livestock | Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs \(daera-ni.gov.uk\)](#)
- [How to use the TSS Portal](#)



7 Appendix



Please note: This is for RoRo movements from GB to NI Only

8 Changes to guidance and policy

Last updated December 2024.

December 2024: Update to hyperlinks.

July 2022: Addition of section on changes to guidance and policy.

January 2022: Updates to section on live animal movements from Rest of World excluding the EU.

Published 2021.