



FACT SHEET: APPLYING GROUPAGE MODELS TO EU-GB IMPORTS – FROM 1 JULY 2022

Groupage

‘Groupage’ is not a legally recognised term but rather a word industry uses to define many different things. In this context, we refer to it as “**commercial grouping of multiple consignments within the same means of transport**”.

Pre-notification for all relevant commodities using the Import of Products, Animals, Food and Feed System (IPAFFS) became a legal requirement from 1 January 2022.

Groupage Models:

Consolidation Hub

- Individual consignments are brought together at a single premise.
- The certifying officer completes certifications for all individual consignments.
- The individual consignments are loaded together and sealed before leaving for onward destination.

Linear / Multiple Pallet

- Designed to facilitate pick-ups from multiple sites, with certification at each pick-up point.
- Pallet-level sealing.
- Sealed pallets are added to the means of transport and the unique pallet seal number recorded on the export health certificate (EHC).

Hybrid Approach

All models may be used in conjunction with each other if the general principles around, certification and full traceability remain for each product entering Great Britain.



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For example, traders may blend the linear model with the consolidation hub. Some goods could arrive sealed and certified from previous pick-up points at pallet level via the linear model to a consolidation hub. Consignments processed under the consolidation hub model can be added to this load, and the overall load dispatched.

Sequential

There is also a fourth approach known as the Sequential model; however, this model will only apply once the import control phasing period is complete.

- Facilitates pick-ups from multiple sites.
- Certification takes place at each site, a seal applied to the overall load at each pick-up point, removed and replaced at the next pick-up.
- Reliant upon Certificate of Non-Manipulation (CoNM).

Seals:

- Applying a seal to a consignment or multiple consignments of animal products is not mandatory.
- Traders should check the relevant [export health certificate](#) (EHC) and associated [guidance notes](#) for information on sealing requirements for specific product types.
- Sealing should be discussed with Certifying Officers (COs). Only COs can record official seals on an EHC, and the seal must be applied under their supervision.
- Seal numbers cannot be added, or amended, on an EHC after it has been certified by the CO.

Types of seals

Official

An official seal is affixed to the container, truck, or rail wagon under the supervision of the certifying officer issuing the export health certificate.

Commercial

For groupage models, a commercial seal is essentially a non-official seal. This means it was not affixed under the supervision of the certifying officer and therefore is not recorded on the export health certificate.





What are the changes from 1 July 2022?

From July 2022, new import requirements will apply to groupage loads, requiring:

- **All consignments must enter via an established Point of Entry (POE) with an appropriate Border Control Post (BCP) that has been designated to receive those goods.** This applies even if your goods are not subject to certification or physical checks until a later date in the timetable below.

Not all BCPs are equipped to approve the importation of all commodities, so it is the responsibility of the importing / exporting parties to ensure that their goods are routed via an appropriate BCP. Importers are required to notify the relevant BCP of the goods' arrival as part of the import pre-notification process.

Please view the planned Border Control Points in development for 1 July 2022 by clicking [here](#).

The information includes the following:

For England, Scotland and Wales: Facility name, website, commodities already designated (existing BCP), commodities requested awaiting designation and additional specifications regarding the scope of the designation.

If you have any enquires regarding the commodities listed please contact the ports directly. Defra is unable to provide any further information on the timeline for completion of designation.

- **All consignments will be subject to remote documentary checks** and informed if you are subject to further inspection at the BCP.
- **Certification, documentary, ID, and physical checks** will be introduced by commodity groups in three phases. The timetable is as follows:
 - **1 July 2022:** All meat and meat products, including poultry
 - **1 September 2022:** All dairy products.
 - **1 November 2022:** All remaining regulated products of animal origin, including honey, eggs, composite, and fish products.

This phased approach does not replace any existing import controls already in place, and you should continue to follow these for importing your consignments.





The changes explained

Export Health Certificate (EHC)

An Export Health Certificate (EHC) is an official document that confirms the animal product meets the health requirements of the destination country. This is issued by the competent authority in the exporting country to the EU exporter.

Entry via an established Point of Entry (POE) with an appropriate Border Control Post (BCP)

Documentary, identity, and physical checks at BCP

If selected for inspection, on arrival at the BCP the consignment must be ready for documentary, identity, and physical checks.

A documentary check at the BCP is an examination of any official certifications, attestations and other commercial documents that are required to accompany a consignment.

An identity check entails the visual inspection of a consignment to verify its content and labelling corresponds to the information provided in the accompanying documentation.

A physical check involves an inspection of the goods to verify that they are compliant with the Sanitary and Phytosanitary (SPS) import requirements for GB. This includes, as appropriate, checks on the consignment's packaging, means of transport and labelling. Temperature sampling, laboratory testing, or diagnosis may be required.

Where to find out more

More information on the groupage models can be found on our [EU-GB Imports Microsite](#), more specifically the [Groupage](#) section, which includes groupage model process maps, a pre-recorded presentation, and FAQs.

Useful links

[Current list of BCPs and commodities accepted](#)

[Imports/Exports GOV.UK guidance](#)

[Importing food and drink page](#)

[GB model EHCs](#)

[Guidance on completing GB model EHCs](#)

[Import Information Notes \(IINs\) - used by vets at BCPs](#)

[EU and non-EU countries and establishments approved to export animals and animal products to the UK](#)



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