UK Border Target Operating Model (BTOM) – Updated 22nd September 2023

Background:
- The BTOM is the Government plan for introducing full border checks for imports from the EU. The BTOM attempts to simplify imports, particularly of food, to speed up controls and link them to existing and emerging technology. The BTOM also is linked to the wider work on the Single Trade Window, the Government's approach to simplifying imports which will apply globally and expected to be fully in place by 2025.
- A full copy of the TOM is available here.

New Key Dates for Delivery of the BTOM and Risk Categorisations:
- **31 January 2024** – health certification applies for imports of medium risk animal products, plants, plant products and high-risk food and feed of non-animal origin from the EU.
- **30 April 2024 –** documentary and physical checks on medium risk animal products, plants, plant products and high-risk food and feed of non-animal origin from the EU. Note: fruit and vegetables which will require phytosanitary certificates. Simplified imports from Rest of World (RoW) based on risk levels.
- **31 October 2024 –** safety and security declarations for imports from the EU. Also reduced data for those on the Single Trade Window to avoid duplication.
- Risk categorisations (high, medium, low) for EU SPS (Sanitary and Phytosanitary) imports – see here:
  - For Plants and Plant Product TOM Risk Categories: click here.
  - For Animals and Animal Products TOM Risk Categories: click here.
- Simplified EHCs for use for POAO imports from EU – see here.
- Risk categorisation for imports of POAO from RoW – see here:
  - For non-EU animals and animal products, the risk categorisation is available here.
  - For non-EU plants and plant products the risk categorisation is available here.

More on the Risk Categorisation for EU SPS Imports:
- The categories of high, medium, and low risk give the details of how the new SPS regime will be applied. If you import food products, live animals, animal products, plants or plant products from the EU into Great Britain (GB), you need to check the TOM risk-level of your commodity to be ready for upcoming changes to border processes.
- As a reminder, there are 3 components of the SPS regime:
  1. **Pre-notification** - supports action at points of entry and targets activity for shipments posing biggest biosecurity risk. The detail allows traceability and allows authorities to identify and respond to an outbreak or emerging threat.
  2. **Export Health Certification (EHC)** - requires exporting countries to certify that goods have been produced to safe standards and have a process to monitor this via documentary checks.
  3. **Identity and physical checks** – at the Border Control Post (BCP), health officials will check goods match the health certification, identify any trends of concern in non-compliance and to sample goods for pests and disease.
- With regards to the checks of low and medium risk animal products:
  - Low risk animal products – will not require a EHC and not subject to regular border checks.
  - Medium risk animal products - will require an a EHC to enter GB but still have less checks at the border.

- There will be a phased approach, through 3 milestones (see above for new milestone dates)

More on EHCs (Export Health Certificates):
- The health certificates that accompany certain goods on import to GB have been streamlined to make them more straightforward to complete, while maintaining existing food safety standards and ensuring information required for risk management and traceability in an incident continues to be provided.
- The new EHCs for certain products have now been published on gov.uk here.
- These new EHCs will need to be used for affected goods from 31 January 2024.
- Once adopted for EU imports they will be available for RoW imports.
- Digital certificates will be available in the future and accepted from 31 January 2024, but will be dependant on the IT support available in EU countries.

More on E-Phytocertificates for Plants:
- The government will be replacing manual paper-based phytosanitary certificates with digitalised certificates (ePhytos). Digitising the process will reduce the potential for error and fraud and allow data to be used to target risk-based checks. More information can be seen here.
- Guidance for moving plants has now been published – see here.

More on the Accredited Trusted Trader Scheme:
- The Accredited Trusted Trader Scheme applies to UK based businesses with good record of compliance and able to demonstrate excellent end to end controls of their supply chain (for animals and plants).
- The main benefit would be the ability to make physical and certification checks away from the border speeding up transport.
- The Government will be running pilots to understand how these could work, the information required for entry and any risks from its operation. Some businesses are involved in this already, but it is open to any eligible business and expression of interest for the Accredited Trusted Trader Scheme is now live here and open until 6 October 2023.
- What is the UK Single Trade Window in all of this? The UK Single Trade Window will provide a gateway for application and management of Trusted Trader status. Traders applying for authorisations will have a more straightforward customer journey where data will not be requested on multiple occasions.