

Post Transition Period Movement of Goods from GB to NI

The key points are: The UK Government's Authorised Trader Scheme includes within scope businesses shipping wine from GB to NI (under strict conditions) and will provide a 3 month easement for the requirement for wine shipments to be accompanied by an EU-VI 1 form. However, the conditions attached to the Scheme, including labelling provisions, may well make the Scheme unattractive or simply not viable. **Businesses wishing to register for the Scheme have a limited window to do so and must register by 17:00 on 28 December.**

Defra has confirmed that the Authorised Trader Scheme announced earlier this week, designed primarily to allow businesses moving products of animal origin from GB to NI to avoid, temporarily, requirements for official certification (e.g., export health certificates) also provides temporary easement for certain marketing standards including EU wine import certificates – the now infamous EU VI-1. Businesses that register under the Scheme will also be able to send shipments of wine from GB to NI without the need for a VI-1 form for a 3 month grace period starting from 1 January. There are however strict conditions which will have to be met, set out below, and these may be more onerous than having to complete the EU VI-1 form. A trusted supplier is described as any business independently moving its goods from GB to NI, for sale there, subject to the following conditions:

- The goods are packaged for end consumers and they bear a label reading "These products from the United Kingdom may not be marketed outside Northern Ireland"
- They are destined solely for sale to end consumers in supermarkets located in Northern Ireland, and they cannot be sold to other operators of the food chain
- They are accompanied by a simplified official certificate globally stating the products meet all the import requirements of EU legislation
- They enter Northern Ireland through a designated point of entry, where they are submitted to a systematic documentary check and to a risk-based identity check on a selection of items in the means of transport
- They are monitored through a channelling procedure applicable from the designated point of entry to the destination supermarket in NI.

Defra and DAERA are compiling a list of authorised traders who can benefit from the 3-month grace period. Once identified, the traders will be added onto Defra's authorised traders list that will be sent to the European Commission.

Businesses wishing to register for the Scheme will need to complete an Authorised Trader Form which can be found at the following: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/exporting-animals-and-animal-products-to-the-eu-from-1-january-2021#authorised-traders>. Don't be put off that the Scheme appears to be solely aimed at businesses moving livestock and animal products! Businesses must submit completed authorised traders form to Defra by 17.00 pm (GMT) on 28 December 2020.