



Ein cyf/Our ref MA/VG/3639/22

Elin Jones MS  
Llywydd  
Senedd Cymru  
Cardiff Bay  
Cardiff  
CF99 1SN

15 December 2022

Dear Elin,

**The Official Controls (Extension of Transitional Periods) (Amendment) (Wales) Regulations 2022**

In accordance with section 11A(4) of the Statutory Instruments Act 1946 I am notifying you that this statutory instrument will come into force on 30 December 2022, less than 21 days after it has been laid. A copy of the instrument and the Explanatory Memorandum that accompanies it are attached for your information.

The legislation must come into force by 30 December to ensure the transitional staging period does not expire and so there is no gap in the transitional provisions. Without this legislation, and in the absence of border control posts, we would effectively be closing off trade routes into Wales for certain goods. Previously Regulations relating to the Transitional Staging Period (TSP) for goods entering Great Britain from the EU and certain other countries, have been introduced by the UK Government on behalf of Wales with the consent of Welsh Ministers. However, we took the decision that it would be preferable to legislate in Wales on this matter with coordination as far as possible on GB basis. However, upheaval in Westminster has delayed ministerial meetings at which border policy, including the TSP extension, would be discussed. With uncertainty still present elsewhere it was not possible to wait any longer and we had to decide to press ahead with the introduction of Welsh Regulations at a much later date and stage than would normally be the case.

The UK Government announced in April 2022 that the further introduction of border controls would be suspended until the end of 2023, and that the UK Government would be reviewing arrangements for Britain's borders, including sanitary and phytosanitary (SPS) controls. However, at the time, Defra with Welsh Ministers consent only extended the transitional staging period until 31 December 2022. It is, therefore, necessary to bring forward a further extension to the TSP.

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Rydym yn croesawu derbyn gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg. Byddwn yn ateb gohebiaeth a dderbynnir yn Gymraeg yn Gymraeg ac ni fydd gohebu yn Gymraeg yn arwain at oedi.

We welcome receiving correspondence in Welsh. Any correspondence received in Welsh will be answered in Welsh and corresponding in Welsh will not lead to a delay in responding.

On 30 December 2022, these Regulations replace the date for the ending of the transitional staging period, as set out in the Official Controls (Extension of Transitional Periods) Regulations 2021, so that no further import checks will come into force on SPS goods from the EU in 2023. As a result of these Regulations, the transitional staging period is extended to 31 January 2024.

The decision to not introduce further checks on SPS goods during 2023 means that the following temporary policies are extended to 31 January 2024 through these Regulations (with permanent policies to follow in due course):

- The suspension of the requirement for meat preparations imported into Wales from EEA member States, the Faroe Islands, Greenland, or Switzerland, to be deep frozen, keeping this temporary easement in line with the revised transitional staging period controls. This will allow meat preparations from these countries to continue to be imported in a chilled condition.
- Personal goods which form part of passengers' luggage (excluding plants for planting) and which are intended for personal consumption or use, and small consignments of products sent to natural persons which are not intended to be placed on the market are exempt from official controls.
- The exemption from prior notification ("pre-notification") for certain goods which are produced in Northern Ireland or the Republic of Ireland and imported from the Republic of Ireland.

I am copying this letter to the Minister for Rural Affairs, North Wales and Trefnydd, Huw Irranca-Davies MS, Chair of the Legislation, Justice and Constitution Committee, Siwan Davies, Director of Senedd Business, Sian Wilkins, Head of Chamber and Committee Services and Julian Luke, Head of Policy and Legislation Committee Service.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Vaughan Gething". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

**Vaughan Gething AS/MS**  
Gweinidog yr Economi  
Minister for Economy