



Department  
for Environment  
Food & Rural Affairs

# Important Announcement: The Windsor Framework – Notification of New Guidance for Movement of Goods, Great Britain to Northern Ireland & Scheduled Webinars

On 28th July 2023 the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs published guidance on further elements of the Windsor Framework. The guidance provides further information on the Northern Ireland Retail Movement Scheme, including registration, certification, sealing, channelling, compliance, and product eligibility. The published guidance also provides information on the movement of groupage and mixed load consignments under the Scheme.

The key elements within the guidance are summarised below:

## The Northern Ireland Retail Movement Scheme:

From 1 September 2023, all [businesses](#) responsible for selling or facilitating the movement of food for final consumption in Northern Ireland will be able to register for the Northern Ireland Retail Movement Scheme (NIRMS).

### I am eligible, how do I register for the Scheme?

As part of the registration there are important steps you will need to follow, along with necessary systems to be put in place which is covered within the guidance. This includes:

- **Pre-registration:** To enable registration for the Northern Ireland Retail Movement Scheme you will need to ensure you are already registered on some key accounts as well as a specific portal if your business is based in Northern Ireland.
- **Sign up to system:** On completion of pre-registration, you will then be able to sign up using the new digital platform which will allow you to send or receive goods under the Northern Ireland Retail Movement Scheme.

- **During registration:** You will need to provide details of all establishments for dispatch or receipt of goods under the scheme and confirm that you are a registered food business operator (FBO) in the UK. The business sending the consignment in GB and the business receiving the consignment in NI need to be registered for the scheme.
- **Application process:** You will need to agree to the terms and conditions of the scheme. If your application is successful, you will receive an email confirmation along with a Scheme Membership Number for your business and Establishment Numbers for all establishments sending or receiving goods.
- **Registered:** Once you are registered on the Northern Ireland Retail Movement Scheme, you will be able to complete the General Certificate (GC) via a link which will be provided following sign up to the scheme through [Export Health Certificate Online](#) (EHC Online).
- **Sealing consignments:** All consignments must be sealed with an authorised seal with appropriate supervision. The seal must have a unique identifier with associated number, and the number must be included in the General Certificate. **Further explanation on sealing consignments can be found [here](#).**
- **Compliance:** In line with the existing processes under STAMNI the NI destination establishment must inform DAERA of the arrival of the goods at the NI listed establishment via the [Common Health Entry Document Operators Platform](#) (CHOP) system, within 48 hours. DAERA will complete any channelling procedures and will follow up by email if necessary, rather than "if there are any discrepancies"?

DAERA will complete 100% documentary verification on the General Certificate and Common Health Entry Document (CHED) using the CHED Inspection Platform, Common Health Entry Document Interface Platform (CHIP). All goods must be labelled in accordance with the scheme's [labelling](#) requirements. Details on the eligibility of products that you can move under the Northern Ireland Retail Movement Scheme can be found [here](#).

**Further details and full guidance can be found [here](#)**

### **How do I express an interest in registering for the Scheme?**

Expressing an Interest in joining the Northern Ireland Retail Movement Scheme will grant you access to further details and webinars on how the scheme will work and the onboarding requirements, including what can be done ahead of 1 September 2023. If you would like to **express an interest** in registering for the scheme, please send an email to

[NIRetailMovementSchemeRegistration@defra.gov.uk](mailto:NIRetailMovementSchemeRegistration@defra.gov.uk)

We will require your name, email address, company name and whether you are based in GB or NI.

Please note, expressing an interest does not constitute registering for the NI Retail Movement Scheme, registration will open 1 September 2023.

## Northern Ireland Retail Movement Scheme: groupage and mixed load consignments

The guidance published is specifically for businesses moving consignments of scheme-compliant agrifood products within grouped loads (known as 'groupage') from Great Britain (England, Scotland and Wales) to Northern Ireland, which may include consignments of Northern Ireland Retail Movement Scheme (NIRMS) goods and consignments of non-NIRMS goods.

Details of eligible products can be found within the **section** above. It also notes the steps to take to utilise the certification and standards benefits of the NIRMS when moving scheme-compliant goods in a load which contains non-NIRMS goods (which will be subject to full Official Control regulations (OCR) controls).

You can find existing guidance on moving groups of agrifood products from Great Britain to Northern Ireland under full OCR compliance [here](#).

Full guidance can be found [here](#) but the guidance covers in detail:-

- **What groupage is under the Windsor Framework:** how you can continue to move goods using any of the following groupage models; [linear](#) or [consolidation hub](#).
- **Actions consignor is required to follow, in line with current arrangements under STAMNI, after contacting the haulier:** which is to complete a General Certificate (GC) for the consignment, provide a packing list with your GC, submit both the GC and the packing list, confirming consignment meets the scheme conditions and send the GC and attachments to the Consignee in NI, who will raise a Common Health Entry Document (CHED).
- **Actions consignee is required to follow, in line with current arrangements under STAMNI, once the above paperwork has been received from the consignor:** Produce a retail movement CHED (at least 4 hours in advance of arrival in NI), attaching the General Certificate (including seal number) and packing list and finally the NI destination establishment must inform DAERA of the arrival of the goods at the NI listed establishment within 48 hours, as is currently the case under STAMNI.
- **Sealing your NIRMS consignment (and if all consignments on lorry are NIRMS consignments):** You must ensure that all your consignments are sealed with an authorised seal under the supervision of a Scheme member's responsible person. The seal must have a unique identifier with associated number, and the number must be included in the General Certificate. **Further explanation on seal requirements can be found in the Northern Ireland Retail Movement Scheme section above and full guidance [here](#).**
- **Mixed load of NIRMS and non NIRMS consignments:** If the grouped load contains a mix of NI Retail Movement Scheme compliant goods and consignments which are not eligible for the NI Retail Movement Scheme the lorry, as a whole, cannot benefit from all the facilitations under the Northern Ireland Retail Movement Scheme. **Further explanation can be found in the full guidance [here](#).**

## Invitation for Expression of Interest to Scheduled Webinars:

In order to support guidance around the movement of goods from Great Britain to Northern Ireland under the Windsor Framework, a series of interactive webinars have been scheduled, which will enable you gain further information and explanation around the changes that will be coming into effect from 1 October 2023.

Webinars covering the Northern Ireland Retail Movement Scheme, groupage and mixed load consignments will be run across 3 consecutive weeks.

The sessions will be approximately 45 minutes to 1 hour in length and will include a presentation and a Q&A section. The webinars will take place on the following dates/times:

Tuesday	8 <sup>th</sup> Aug	09:30*	The Northern Ireland Retail Movement Scheme, groupage and mixed load consignments
Wed	16 <sup>th</sup> Aug	14:00*	The Northern Ireland Retail Movement Scheme, groupage and mixed load consignments
Tuesday	22 <sup>nd</sup> Aug	09:30*	The Northern Ireland Retail Movement Scheme, groupage and mixed load consignments

To register your interest please email [NIDBusinessReadinessTeam@defra.gov.uk](mailto:NIDBusinessReadinessTeam@defra.gov.uk). We will then send you an invite for the session(s) which will be held on MS teams.

### Action:

You should continue to use guidance and procedures that presently are in place on gov.uk until new procedures come into effect on 1<sup>st</sup> October 2023.

[For up-to-date guidance we encourage you to sign up for gov.uk alerts.](#)

### Keeping you informed

We will continue to update on the new Windsor Framework at our fortnightly agri-food forum and roundtables and encourage you to attend. The Forum is open to all traders. If you would like to attend and do not already have the invite, please email us at:

[NIGBFoodSupplyChainForum@defra.gov.uk](mailto:NIGBFoodSupplyChainForum@defra.gov.uk)

Defra will continue to keep you informed and up to date on developments that affect traders moving goods from Great Britain to Northern Ireland.

Should you have any questions or queries about this in the meantime, please email us for:-

- guidance questions: [traders@defra.gov.uk](mailto:traders@defra.gov.uk)
- to register your interest in signing up for the Northern Ireland Retail Movement Scheme: [NIRetailMovementSchemeRegistration@defra.gov.uk](mailto:NIRetailMovementSchemeRegistration@defra.gov.uk)
- to register your interest in signing up for the webinars: [NIDBusinessReadinessTeam@defra.gov.uk](mailto:NIDBusinessReadinessTeam@defra.gov.uk).

Kind regards

**Business Readiness | Northern Ireland Directorate**  
Department for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs

\*Defra Personal Information Charter: [here](#)