



Llywodraeth Cymru  
Welsh Government

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## **WRITTEN STATEMENT BY THE WELSH GOVERNMENT**

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**TITLE**            **The Official Controls (Extension of Transitional Period) and Plant Health (Frequency of Checks) (Miscellaneous Amendment) Regulations 2024**

**DATE**            **8 October 2024**

**BY**                **Huw Irranca-Davies MS/AS Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Climate Change and Rural Affairs**

Members of the Senedd will wish to be aware that I have given consent to the Minister of State exercising a subordinate legislation-making power in a devolved area in relation to Wales.

The Minister of State for Biosecurity, Animal Health and Welfare, Baroness Sue Hayman, sought my agreement to make a Statutory Instrument (SI) titled the Official Controls (Extension of Transitional Period) and Plant Health (Frequency of Checks) (Miscellaneous Amendment) Regulations 2024 (“the 2024 Regulations”) to apply in relation to the United Kingdom.

The above titled SI was made by the Minister of State, Baroness Hayman, in exercise of the powers conferred under article 144(6) of, and paragraphs 2 and 3(2) of Annex 6 to, Regulation (EU) 2017/625 of the European Parliament and of the Council (‘the OCR’).

Consent has been given for the UK Government to make this instrument as a result of the agreement on the Border Target Operating Model between the three governments in Great Britain to introduce a coherent and consistent sanitary and phytosanitary regime for goods imported into Great Britain to protect biosecurity and ensure food safety standards are maintained.

The purpose of 2024 Regulations is to extend the implementation period of import checks on certain sanitary and phytosanitary (‘SPS’) goods entering Great Britain (‘GB’) from certain countries, until 1 July 2025. The Regulations will protect biosecurity, ensure food safety and support trade, by introducing the second milestone of Border Target Operating Model agreed by all administrations in Great Britain. The Regulations and accompanying Explanatory Memorandum, setting out the detail of the provenance, purpose, and effect of the 2024 Regulations are available here:

[The Official Controls \(Extension of Transitional Periods\) and Plant Health \(Frequency of Checks\) \(Miscellaneous Amendments\) Regulations 2024 \(legislation.gov.uk\)](https://www.legislation.gov.uk/uk/2024/1000/1)

In addition, this instrument extends an easement which delays the requirement for import checks (that applies to rest of the world countries) in respect of plants, plant products, and other objects (such as machinery and vehicles which have been used for agricultural or forestry purposes) entering Great Britain from the EU, Liechtenstein and Switzerland through a West Coast Port (as listed in the definition of 'relevant port' in paragraph 2 of Annex 6 to Regulation (EU) 2017/625 of the European Parliament and of the Council ('the Official Controls Regulation'), before 1 July 2025. The instrument also adds Swansea Port to the list of West Coast Ports (contained in the aforementioned definition of 'relevant port').

Finally, the instrument extends an easement which delays the requirement for import checks (that applies to rest of the world countries) in respect of certain fruit and vegetables as set out in Schedule 2A of the Plant Health (Amendment etc.) (EU Exit) Regulations 2020 imported from the EU, Liechtenstein or Switzerland before 1 July 2025.

The 2024 Regulations were laid before the UK Parliament on 8 October 2024 and will come into force on 30 October 2024.

The 2024 Regulations do not diminish or undermine the powers of Welsh Ministers in any way, and they do not create, amend, or remove any functions conferred on the Welsh Ministers.

I would like to reassure the Senedd it is normally the policy of the Welsh Government to legislate for Wales in matters of devolved competence. However, in certain circumstances there are benefits in working collaboratively with the UK Government where there is a clear rationale for doing so. On this occasion, I have given my consent to these Regulations for reasons of efficiency and expediency in future policy change and adherence to international obligations, cross-UK coordination, and consistency.