



EORI (UK) LIMITED

A **360**PAY COMPANY

What are SPS Measures?

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Sanitary and Phytosanitary (SPS) Measures

These are controls introduced at the border to protect human, animal and plant health. All consignments entering through a Border Control Post (BCP) are subject to a range of SPS control requirements. These typically include three categories of checks:- documentary, identity, and physical.

What goods are affected?

Common examples include:-



Live Animals

Cattle, Pigs, Poultry & Horses



Products of Animal Origin

Meat, Dairy, Eggs & Fish



Plants & Plant Products

Fruits, Vegetables & Cut flowers



Food & Feed of Non-Animal Origin

Nuts, Seeds, Spices & Grains

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Why do they matter?

- **Protect Consumers:** Safeguard health and well-being
- **Ensure Fair Competition:** Create a level playing field by applying recognised standards across all businesses
- **Prevent the Spread of Pests and Diseases:** Protects livestock, crops and safeguards agricultural integrity
- **Maintain International Trade:** Support global commerce and partnerships
- **Improved Traceability:** Enables effective monitoring of shipments.

Risk Categories

Goods are classified into low, medium, or high-risk categories, taking into account factors such as product type, country of origin, and potential threats to biosecurity, food safety, and public health.

Each category comes with its own set of requirements; high-risk goods face more stringent controls, including physical inspections, whereas low-risk goods may undergo minimal or no scrutiny. However, medium and high-risk categories are often subject to very similar documentation requirements. It is also worth noting that additional documentation may be required across all risk categories when safeguard measures are in place.

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SPS Requirements

Depending on the risk category, you may need:

- Health Certificate (Products of Animal Origin)
- Phytosanitary Certificates (Plants and plant products)
- IPAFFS Pre-notification
- CHED (Common Health Entry Document)
- Any other necessary documentation, e.g., catch certificate, conformity certificate etc.

Plant & Plant Products:

Medium Risk A: Phytosanitary certificate and IPAFFS notification required.

Medium Risk B: Phytosanitary certificate required, no IPAFFS notification.

Low Risk: No phytosanitary certificate or IPAFFS notification required.

Border Checks

A documentary check reviews and verifies paperwork for a consignment. Inspectors ensure all required documents, such as Export Health Certificates, Phytosanitary Certificates, and import licences, are present, correctly completed, and valid.

An identity check verifies that the physical consignment matches its accompanying paperwork. Inspectors confirm consistency through identification marks, stamps, labelling, and any other required information.

Where required, a hands-on inspection of the goods will be carried out to assess whether the consignment poses any biosecurity risks, such as pests or disease.

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The Current Approach

Most traders are effectively treated the same, regardless of their compliance history or operational standards. At the same time, product risk categories are often overly broad, creating confusion, unnecessary checks, and avoidable costs. The one-size-fits-all approach fails to reflect the realities of modern trade or the differing levels of risk posed by individual traders, products, and supply chains.

The Takeaway

Sanitary and Phytosanitary (SPS) measures are designed to protect human, animal, and plant health by managing biosecurity and food safety risks associated with certain imported and exported goods. Understanding SPS requirements helps businesses move goods safely and compliantly. SPS measures apply to food, plant, animal, and agricultural products, with risk levels determining the type of controls and border checks required. Ensuring compliance helps prevent delays, rejected consignments, and the spread of pests or disease.



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