



5 Point UK Customs Checklist for Food & Meat Imports

Importing food products into the UK can be challenging — delays at customs can cause huge losses, especially for perishable goods. Here's a quick checklist to help you avoid the most common issues:

1. Correct Documentation

Ensure commercial invoice, packing list, and bill of lading/air waybill are accurate and consistent. HS codes must match product descriptions exactly.

2. Health & Phytosanitary Certificates

All meat, dairy, and food products require Export Health Certificates (EHCs) issued by the competent authority in the exporting country. Double-check validity before shipping — expired or incomplete certificates are the #1 cause of delays.

3. UK Port Health Notifications

Pre-notify shipments via the Import of Products, Animals, Food and Feed System (IPAFFS) before arrival. Missing IPAFFS entries = automatic delay at the border.

4. Temperature-Control Compliance

Ensure reefer containers/trailers are pre-set to the correct temperature. Record temperature logs to demonstrate compliance if inspected.

5. Importer & Customs Broker Details

The UK importer must have a valid EORI number. Work with a customs broker/freight partner who can manage declarations and duty/VAT payments quickly.

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