



HM Government

## Importing animal products, high risk food and feed and caught fish into the UK?

If so, and if you are an Importer or Customs Clearing Agent who uses the EU TRAdE Control and Expert System (TRACES) to create Common Veterinary Entry Documents (CVEDP's) or Common Entry Documents (CED's), then you need to be aware of changes to the imports process being introduced for all the industry by HM Revenue & Customs (HMRC) and Department for Environment Food & Rural Affairs (Defra) on Tuesday 13 January 2015.

The changes specifically affect animal products, high risk food and feed, and caught fish that are imported for commercial purposes from outside of the EU, which are subject to Port Health checks. Imports of caught fish from EEA countries (Iceland and Norway) are not affected by these changes.

The changes relate to the extension of the existing Automatic Licence Verification System (ALVS) to include imports which are controlled on TRACES. ALVS provides an electronic link between TRACES and HMRC's Customs Handling of Import and Export Freight (CHIEF) system resulting in customs clearance times being reduced from two hours down to 10 minutes (once the inspections by Port Health Authorities have been completed). In addition, ALVS removes the need for Agents or Importers to send relevant certification to HMRC's National Clearance Hub.



## ALVS - What you need to know

- The onus is on the importer or agent to ensure the customs declaration (box 44) contains **exactly the same** CVEDP or CED Reference number as the associated CVEDP or CED created by TRACES. The reference number must be entered onto the customs declaration in the format of YYYY.1234567 where YYYY=Year and 1234567 = the CVED/CED Reference Number. If the number does not match, or is in the incorrect format, customs clearance will be delayed.
- The importer or agent must also ensure that both the commodity code and the net weight entered onto the customs declaration **exactly matches** the commodity code and the net weight recorded on the CVEDP or CED. If these details do not match then customs release of the consignment will be delayed.
- Agents should consult their software suppliers to ensure their customs entry software is set up to generate 'E0' exception reports. These reports are essential to resolving any queries or errors that may arise under ALVS.
- ALVS has no impact or interaction with any Port or Port Health System.
- Common Agriculture Policy (CAP) checks will continue to be undertaken by HMRC under the current manual process

Further information on ALVS can be found at: <https://www.gov.uk/automatic-licence-verification-between-defra-rpa-and-hmrc>

