

Guidance – Port Customs Models

When importing goods into the UK, traders should be aware that **the customs process may be different depending on which port the goods move through**. Further detail on the different customs processes can be found in the [Border Operating Model](#).

Each port can apply either:

- A temporary storage model;
- A pre-lodgement model (using GVMS); or
- A mixed model enabling both pre-lodgement and temporary storage.

The use of a particular model is **not mandatory**; it is a **commercial decision taken by each port** as to which model they will implement. A list of the customs models being implemented by each port is included below.

Temporary Storage model

The Temporary Storage model enables goods imported from the EU to be **stored temporarily under customs control** before they are released to free circulation, exported or placed under the outward processing procedure, or placed under a special procedure.

Traders can defer making a customs declaration and paying duties and taxes for up to 90 days from the date the goods are presented.

Pre-lodgement model

The pre-lodgement model requires **customs declarations to be submitted prior to the movement of goods**.

Under the pre-lodgement model, traders must:

- Ensure their goods have the appropriate declarations before they board;
- Communicate to the person in control of the goods (e.g. the driver of a lorry for accompanied goods or the carrier for unaccompanied goods) by the time they arrive at the border, to inform them whether goods are cleared to proceed on their journey or alternatively whether the goods require a check.

Goods Vehicle Movement Service (GVMS)

The **Goods Vehicle Movement Service (GVMS)** is an HMRC IT platform which supports the pre-lodgement model. GVMS links together the declarations references into one single reference (Goods Movement Reference, or GMR) which hauliers must present before boarding. Hauliers can register for GVMS [here](#).

Ports may choose to operate GVMS for transit only, rather than adopting it under the pre-lodgement model. At these locations other customs requirements, such as Safety and Security declarations, will need to be met under the temporary storage model from July 2021.

- January 2021: The Goods Vehicle Movement Service (GVMS) will be available **for transit movements only** at border locations which have chosen to introduce it.
 - Traders should note that not all ports are using GVMS for transit movements. Some ports have chosen to operate a paper-based system (Manual Paper Transit – see list below).
- July 2021: GVMS will be in place for **all imports, exports and transit movements** at border locations which have chosen to introduce it.

List of Port Customs Models

Port	Customs model	Transit model
1 Cairnryan		
2 Port of Tyne		
3 Teesport		
4 Hull		
5 Killingholme		
6 Immingham		
7 Felixstowe		
8 Harwich		
9 Tilbury		
10 Purfleet		
11 Dover		
12 Eurotunnel		
13 Newhaven		
14 Portsmouth		
15 Poole		
16 Plymouth		
17 Pembroke		
18 Fishguard		

- GVMS (July 2021)
- Mixed Model (GVMS and Temporary Storage) (July 2021)
- Temporary Storage (July 2021) Using
- GVMS for Transit (Jan 2021)
- Manual Paper Transit (Jan 2021)

19 Holyhead		
20 Liverpool		
21 Heysham		

Infrastructure Sites Status

22 Warrington	
23 Holyhead	
24 South Wales	
25 Birmingham*	
26 North Weald Airfield	
27 Ebbsfleet Int. Station	
28 Ashford Waterbook	
29 Sevington Ashford	
30 Dover White Cliffs	
31 Manston Airport	

*Subject to planning permission

Potential Inland Site Locations (July 2021)

Intended Inland Site Location (Jan 2021)

Source: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/the-border-operating-model> (page 26)