



HM Revenue  
& Customs

## Moving goods with a Certificate of Inspection (COI) into Northern Ireland (issued 22 June 2026)

As of September 2025, Certificates of Inspection (COI) for organic goods movements into Northern Ireland are automatically verified against declarations by an EU system called Certificates Exchange System (CERTEX).

To avoid delays or disruption to the movement of your organic goods, please follow these guidelines:

### **The first consignee must not sign the consignee declaration (box 30 of the COI) in TRACES.NT until the goods are received**

The first consignee is the person or company that receives the imported consignment for initial handling.

They will need to complete and sign box 30 of the COI in TRACES.NT to certify that all requirements have been met, but must not do so until the goods have been physically received and all CERTEX checks and amendments are complete. Signing too early will cause CERTEX validation to fail. Received goods will be marked as 'Arrived' on the Customs Declaration Service (CDS).

If using the Trader Support Service (TSS), both the importer and declarant can view the customs declaration status through the company's goods movement page.

### **Linking the COI to the CHED in TRACES.NT**

If you intend to release products in a consignment covered by a Common Health Entry Document (CHED) as organic or in-conversion products, the responsible party for the consignment must insert the product type 'organic' in the CHED in TRACES.NT and link a COI to the CHED.

The responsible party for the consignment should follow these steps:

- select the product type as 'organic' in the CHED
- link the COI to the CHED by adding the COI reference in the 'Accompanying documents' section of the CHED
- once linked, the COI reference appears in the 'Links' box of the CHED
- the CHED will be updated to reflect that the appropriate authority has reviewed the COI

## COI Base and COI Extract

A COI may exist in 2 forms:

- COI (Base) – the original certificate, which can be used on its own or serve as the basis for one or more COI Extracts
- COI Extract(s) – derived from COI (Base) when a shipment is split across multiple declarations, extracts can only be created if the decision by the competent authority for the goods being moved is 'To be released as organic'
- COI Extract(s) – where a COI Extract(s) is issued, the original COI (Base) becomes invalid for clearance purposes – in such cases, amend your customs declaration to reflect only the valid COI Extract(s)

### Declaring the COI on customs declarations sent to CDS

The declarant must enter each COI certificate or Extract reference generated by TRACES.NT in 'Data Element 2/3' of the customs declaration.

Format: COI.XX.YYYY.nnnnnnn:

- 'XX' is the country of export
- 'YYYY' is the year of issuance
- 'nnnnnnn' is the generic system number

Extracts use the same number as the Base, with the suffix '/mm' signifying the extract/batch number – for example, COI.XX.YY.nnnnnnn/01.

If multiple certificates or extracts apply, create a separate document item line for each COI entry.

### Changes to your customs declaration if goods are 'To be released as non-organic' or 'To be released as in conversion'

Where a consignment has arrived in Northern Ireland and Port Health authorities have completed their inspection, confirming that the goods are released as 'non-organic or in conversion', the trader must amend the customs declaration to remove the COI certificate as it is not required to be presented.

This is achieved by updating 'Data Element 2/3' (Document Codes) to remove any reference to 'C644 – Certificate of Inspection (COI)' and inserting the document code 'Y929'. Once this amendment is made, and if no further amendments are required, the customs hold should be lifted, allowing the goods to proceed.

If your goods are released as 'partially organic', you must split goods into non-organic and organic components. The organic components require a COI Extract and a new declaration with updated goods line details. Non-organic goods remain on the original declaration with adjusted quantities. 'Y929' in this context should only be used after the competent authority has made a decision to release the goods as non-organic.

## **UK-EU Sanitary and Phytosanitary agreement**

On 9 March 2026, the [government published further information](#) on how UK exporters and importers are expected to benefit from the new UK-EU Sanitary and Phytosanitary (SPS) agreement. It is the government's intent that the agreement will take effect in mid-2027.

The government knows that some businesses will require longer to adjust and will work with them to ensure a smooth transition. Negotiations are ongoing and the government will provide updates and guidance in the coming months.

In the meantime, you must continue to create, use and correctly declare the relevant licences for any goods subject to SPS controls until further notice.

### **Additional information**

Visit GOV.UK for [general information on moving licensed goods into or out of Northern Ireland](#) and [details of the licence reference formats to be declared in CDS Data Element 2/3](#).

For further support [contact the TSS](#), if you are a user. If you are not a user you can [contact HMRC for help with your query](#).

Yours faithfully  
HM Revenue and Customs