

ELAN: Electronic system for Agricultural Non-customs formalities

Published by AGRINFO on 17 Feb 2025

EU to develop new electronic system for non-customs documents related to agri-food trade

Draft Commission Implementing Regulation laying down rules for the application of Regulation (EU) No 1308/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council with regard to the electronic Union non-customs system for trade in agricultural products ('ELAN')

Update

The European Commission is proposing to establish a new Electronic system for Agricultural Non-customs formalities (ELAN) that will allow authorities to process and store documents relating to agri-food trade, such as documents issued by non-EU authorities to secure tariff rate quota licences. ELAN will be part of the Trade Control and Expert System (**TRACES**). This new system aims to streamline cooperation between authorities.

What is changing?

The European Commission is proposing to establish an Electronic Agricultural Non-customs formalities system (ELAN) that will support the management and storage of non-customs documents required in the trade of agri-food products. For non-EU countries, this concerns documentation including:

- documents issued to support imports to the EU under tariff rate quotas (referred to in Regulation 2020/761 and Regulation 2020/1988)
- authenticity certificates related to the export of Basmati rice (referred to in Regulation 2023/2834).

EU authorities will also use the ELAN system to issue and manage import licences.

Once the system is operational, non-EU authorities will either produce these documents directly in ELAN, or transmit them to ELAN from their national electronic systems. ELAN will automatically verify the validity of the documents.

Why?

The EU is systematically moving towards an electronic information exchange system linking all customs authorities and other relevant bodies in EU and non-EU countries. The new ELAN system will be interconnected with the EU Single Window Environment for Customs. See [Proposal to reform the EU Customs Union](#).

Timeline

The draft Regulation foresees that from **17 January 2028**, non-EU authorities must transmit all relevant documents using ELAN (those relating to tariff rate quotas, and Basmati rice authenticity certificates).

What are the major implications for exporting countries?

Non-EU authorities will need to ensure that they can use ELAN directly, or that their national system that stores and processes the non-customs documents for agri-food trade can be connected to it.

Recommended Actions

The EU's [Have your say](#) consultation closed on 27 February 2025.

Non-EU authorities should follow the development of this proposal to understand how ELAN is incorporated into TRACES and how national systems can interact with it.

Background

The aim of ELAN is to support the implementation of some of the rules in Regulation [1308/2013](#). This Regulation establishes a common organisation of the markets for agricultural products (except for fishery and aquaculture products). Among other requirements, it sets out rules on import and export licences, import duties, tariff quotas, safeguards, and export refunds.

Resources

Regulation (EU) [1308/2013](#) establishing a common organisation of the markets in agricultural products

Sources

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