The ELAN data model

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European Commission publishes instructions for the ELAN1L-TCDOC data model, which will be mandatory from 17 January 2028

Commission Notice on the instructions for completing the ELAN1L-TCDOC data model

Update

From January 2028, competent authorities in countries exporting agri-food products to the European Union (EU) must issue the following documents electronically through the new Electronic Agricultural Non-customs formalities system (ELAN):

- documents supporting imports into the EU under tariff rate quotas
- documents required for exports under sheepmeat and goatmeat tariff quotas
- authenticity certificates for Basmati rice exports.

These documents must be issued by the relevant competent authorities in the exporting country using the **ELAN1L-TCDOC** data model either directly in ELAN, or via their own national electronic systems.

The European Commission has published instructions to help authorities use this model.

What is changing?

The European Commission's new Electronic Agricultural Non-customs formalities system (ELAN) will support the management and storage of the following non-customs documents required in the trade of agri-food products (Regulation 2025/1272):

- documents supporting imports into the EU under tariff rate quotas (Regulations 2020/761, Annexes II–XII and 2020/1988, Annex II)
- documents required for exports under sheepmeat and goatmeat tariff quotas (Regulation 2020/1988, Art. 31)
- authenticity certificates for Basmati rice exports (Regulation 2023/2834).

From **January 2028**, authorities in the non-EU exporting country must either produce these documents directly in ELAN, or transmit them to ELAN from their own national electronic systems. See ELAN: Electronic system for Agricultural Non-customs formalities.

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These documents must be issued by the relevant competent authorities using the **ELAN1L-TCDOC** data model (Regulation 2020/761, Annex XIV.8).

To guide competent authorities, the European Commission has published instructions on how to use the ELAN1L-TCDOC data model. The instructions explain the type and format of information required in each column in the model, and clarify which information is mandatory or optional.

Why?

The EU is moving towards an electronic information exchange system linking all customs authorities and other relevant bodies within and outside the European Union. The new ELAN system will be connected with the EU Single Window Environment for Customs.

Timeline

Use of ELAN for these documents is mandatory from **17 January 2028**.

What are the major implications for exporting countries?

These instructions are not legally binding, but provide practical information to support implementation of the ELAN requirements.

Recommended Actions

Exporting countries should ensure that competent authorities are familiar with the ELAN1L-TCDOC template and that national electronic systems are ELAN-compatible ahead of January 2028. Non-EU authorities can already access ELAN to test the issuing and transmitting of documents in an “ELAN acceptance environment”.

To learn more about how ELAN works, see the video and presentation of the AGRINFO’s webinar Introducing the EU’s new Electronic system for Agricultural Non-customs formalities (ELAN).

Resources

European Commission: ELAN

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Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2025/1272 laying down rules for the application of Regulation (EU) No 1308/2013 with regard to the electronic system for agricultural non-customs formalities (ELAN)

Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2023/2834 as regards imports in the sectors of rice, cereals, sugar and hops

Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2020/1988 as regards the administration of import tariff quotas in accordance with the 'first come, first served' principle

Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2020/761 as regards the management system of tariff quotas with licences

Sources

Commission Notice on the instructions for completing the ELAN1L-TCDOC data model

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