

Voluntary use by non-EU countries of the Electronic system for Agricultural Non-customs formalities (ELAN)

Published by AGRINFO on 03 Aug 2026

Documents submitted to ELAN on a voluntary basis to have legal value during the transitional period

[Draft](#) Commission Implementing Regulation on amending Implementing Regulations (EU) 2016/1239, (EU) 2020/761, (EU) 2020/1988 and (EU) 2025/1272 to allow issuing authorities of third countries to use ELAN on a voluntary basis during the transitional period [[scroll down to download](#)]

Draft [Annex](#)

Update

The European Commission's new Electronic system for Agricultural Non-customs formalities (ELAN) was established in 2025. ELAN will allow authorities in European Union (EU) and non-EU countries to process and store documents relating to agri-food trade. These include documents issued by non-EU authorities to secure tariff rate quota licences. Use of ELAN for issuing these documents will be mandatory from **17 January 2028**.

Since July 2025, non-EU authorities have been able to test the ELAN system, but the documents it produced during this transition period have had no legal value for the purpose of clearing goods through customs. This proposed Regulation will now allow authorities to issue documents with legal value in ELAN.

The Regulation also revises the template to be used by non-EU authorities when issuing documents.

Stakeholders have an opportunity to comment on the draft Regulation via the EU's [Have your say](#) consultation until **20 August 2026**.

What is changing?

When does ELAN come into force?

From **17 January 2028**, non-EU countries will have to issue the following using the Electronic system for Agricultural Non-customs formalities (ELAN):

- documents that support imports into the EU under tariff rate quotas referred to in Regulations 2020/761 (Annexes II–XII) and 2020/1988 (Annex II)
- documents required to export under tariff quotas in the sheepmeat and goatmeat sectors in Regulation 2020/1988 (Art. 31)
- authenticity certificates related to the export of basmati rice, referred to in Regulation 2023/2834.

Transition period: voluntary use of ELAN and legal status of documents

Since July 2025, to allow authorities in non-EU countries to get used to the new system, they have been able to issue documents through ELAN on a voluntary basis. However, these documents have not had any legal value for performing customs clearance. This new Regulation will allow such documents to have legal value during the transition period before 17 January 2028, allowing EU Member State customs authorities to use them as a basis for releasing agricultural products onto the EU market. If the documents issued in ELAN are used in another context outside the electronic system (e.g. to complete paper procedures), they will only have legal value if they bear the signature stamp of the issuing authority.

The Commission will publish on its [ELAN webpage](#) a list of countries using ELAN before January 2028 on a voluntary basis.

Revised template

This Regulation also slightly revises the ELAN1L-TCDOC template that sets out the information required by non-EU authorities to prove the origin or the conformity to certain standards of the product to be exported to the EU (Draft Annex, XIV.8).

Why?

As a number of non-EU countries have been successfully using ELAN on a voluntary basis, giving legal value to the documents generated will improve the efficiency of completing customs procedures.

The EU is moving towards an electronic information exchange system linking all customs authorities and other relevant bodies within and outside the EU. The new ELAN system will be

connected with the EU Single Window Environment for Customs. See [ELAN: Electronic system for Agricultural Non-customs formalities](#).

Timeline

The Regulation is expected to be published in September 2026.

What are the major implications for exporting countries?

Non-EU authorities that issue non-customs documents supporting preferential trade with the EU must ensure that they are in a position to use the ELAN1L-TCDOC template by January 2028, and that national electronic systems for collecting the relevant data and issuing origin certificates are compatible with ELAN.

Recommended Actions

The consultation via the European Commission's [Have your say](#) platform closed on 20 August 2026.

Background

For further information see [ELAN: Electronic system for Agricultural Non-customs formalities](#) and the European Commission's [ELAN webpage](#).

Resources

European Commission (2025) [Notice on the instructions on completing the ELAN1L-AGRIM and ELAN1L-AGREX data models](#).

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

Regulation (EU) [2025/1271](#) amending Implementing Regulations (EU) 2016/1239, (EU) 2020/761, (EU) 2020/1988 and (EU) 2023/2834 as a consequence of the establishment of the ELAN, and amending Implementing Regulation (EU) 2020/1988 as regards two new tariff quota numbers for imports of rice from Bangladesh

Regulation (EU) [2025/1272](#) with regard to the electronic system for agricultural non-customs formalities (ELAN)

Regulation (EU) [2016/1239](#) with regard to the system of import and export licences

Regulation (EU) [2020/761](#) as regards the management system of tariff quotas with licences

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

Sources

[Draft](#) Commission Implementing Regulation to allow issuing authorities of third countries to use ELAN on a voluntary basis during the transitional period [[scroll down to download](#)]

Draft [Annex](#)

Visit the [AGRINFO website](#) to view the latest AGRINFO Update newsletters and [search](#) the database.

Disclaimer: *Under no circumstances shall COLEAD be liable for any loss, damage, liability or expense incurred or suffered that is claimed to have resulted from the use of information available on this website or any link to external sites. The use of the website is at the user's sole risk and responsibility. This information platform was created and maintained with the financial support of the European Union. Its contents do not, however, reflect the views of the European Union.*