

ELAN: Streamlining Agricultural Trade with the EU's Digital Single Window -

20-21 October 2026



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1. The EU Single Window Environment for Customs (EU-CSW)



EU-CSW in a nutshell

What is it?

A digital platform to simplify and unify trade procedures in the EU.

What it does?

- Replaces **fragmented data submissions** (customs, SPS, etc.) with a **single entry point**
- Users submit information **once**, shared automatically with all relevant EU authorities.

How does it work?

- **Streamlined cooperation framework** – unified digital system enabling interoperability between customs and non-customs authorities (e.g., health, safety, and environmental agencies).
- **Three core components** –
 - **Union non-customs systems** (e.g., EU-wide regulatory databases),
 - **National single window environments** (member states' customs platforms),
 - **EU CSW-CERTEX** (the central hub for **electronic certificate exchange**).
- **Real-time data exchange** – Facilitates **automated administrative checks** during customs clearance by linking national and EU systems, reducing delays and manual processing.

Scope of EU CSW

Core objective = to modernise trade while maintaining EU standards.

1. Increase efficiency: Automates data collection → cuts processing times/costs.

2. Ensure compliance: Real-time sharing between customs/agencies → fewer paper checks, better risk management.

3. Enhance predictability: Centralises all formalities (customs + sector-specific docs) in one platform.



2. The Electronic system for Agricultural Non-customs formalities (ELAN)



ELAN in the EU-CSW

What is ELAN?

- Union non-customs system for trade of agricultural products.
- Focuses on **non-customs formalities** for agricultural imports (e.g. authenticity/eligibility certificates, IMA1s, certificates of origin, etc...).
- **Transitions from the use of paper documents to electronic ones and transforms paper workflows into digital** - no new requirements added.

Who can use ELAN?

- Issuing authorities in EU Member States
- Issuing authorities/agencies in non-EU countries

Benefits of ELAN:

- **Faster processing** (automated validation).
- **Reduced risk of errors** (real-time data exchange).
- **Higher transparency** (single platform for customs and issuing authorities).

N.B - No new documents required — ELAN introduces a mere change of format (paper to electronic).

How ELAN works

Users* submit electronic documents via

- User Interface
- Interconnection



Real-time sharing with EU customs/agencies

ELAN validates documents' seals/signatures and various data (e.g. product codes, TRQ number)



Paperless customs controls

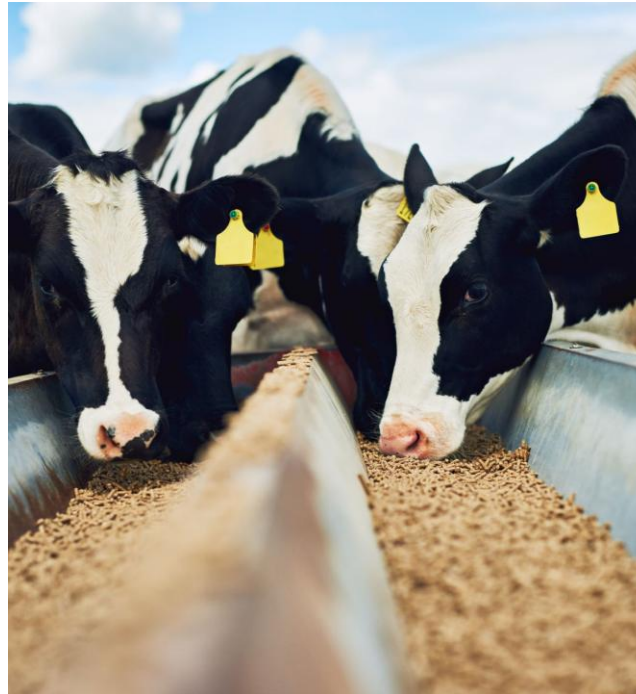
* EU Member States and non-EU authorities

ELAN1L -1st phase of development

Scope

Documents for tariff rate quotas and certificates for basmati rice

1 unique harmonised data-model for all documents



Timeline

Voluntary use ongoing

Mandatory use from 17 January 2028



ELAN2C -2nd phase of development

Scope

- Certificate of conformity with the EU marketing standards for F&V
- Attestations of equivalence for imports of products of the hops sector
- VI-1 documents for wine imports
- Inspection certificates for cereals
- 4 data models, one for each document

Timeline

- Legislation under preparation
- Voluntary use from 2028
- Mandatory use from 2031



ELAN2C for Fruits and Vegetables

Certificate of conformity with the EU marketing standards for F&V

- For the import and export of fruit and vegetables into the EU. This applies to products that have to comply with general or specific marketing standards.
- All documents will be managed in ELAN (issued via the ELAN user interface or the national electronic system that is interconnected with ELAN).

Third countries concerned

- **All third countries** listed in Annex IV of the regulation (EU Reg 2023/2430) shall have access to ELAN interface and/or will be able to interconnect with ELAN.
 - Switzerland, Morocco, South Africa, Israel, India, New Zealand, Senegal, Kenya, Turkey, United Kingdom.
 - Webinars and instructions on use of ELAN will follow.

ELAN2C for Wine

VI-1 document for import of wine, grape juice or grape must into the European Union

- All VI-1 documents will be managed in ELAN (issued via the ELAN user interface or the national electronic system that is interconnected with ELAN).

Third countries concerned:

- **All third countries** shall have access to ELAN
 - This includes access for competent bodies, designated bodies or departments (laboratories) and authorised producers (where applicable).
 - Feel free to reach out to us for further information and/or if you are interested in participating in the testing phase.
 - Webinars and instructions on use of ELAN will follow.

ELAN2C for Hops

Attestations of equivalence (AoE) for imports of products of the hops sector

- All AoE documents will be managed in ELAN (issued via the ELAN user interface or the national electronic system that is interconnected with ELAN).

Third countries concerned:

- **All third countries** shall have access to ELAN
 - This includes access for Agencies authorised to issue AoE documents.
 - Feel free to reach out to us for further information and/or if you are interested in participating in the testing phase.
 - Webinars and instructions on use of ELAN will follow.

ELAN2C for Cereals

Certificate of conformity for imports of cereals

- Certificates of conformity for cereals may be managed in ELAN (issued via the ELAN user interface or the national electronic system that is interconnected with ELAN). The legal framework under preparation does not provide for a mandatory use of ELAN for these documents.
- Documents issued in ELAN shall align with the ELAN1L-TCDOC data model

Third countries concerned:

- **Argentina** – flint maize
- **USA** – common and durum wheat, barley (TRQ 09.0076)
- **Canada** - common and durum wheat

3. ELAN1L – What changes for non-EU countries?



Non-EU country documents (TCDOCs) covered by ELAN

Certificates authenticity

- Beef
- Rice TRQs
– Basmati
- Citrus fruits

Inward Monitoring Certificates (IMA1)

- Dairy

Export certificates

- Rice

Export licences

- Sugar

Certificates eligibility

- Beef
- Dairy
- Sheep/Goat
meat

Document 31(5), Reg 2020/1988

- Sheep/Goat
meat

Certificates of origin

- Poultry
- Sugar
- Sheep/Goat
meat
- Fruit &
Vegetables
- Garlic
- Rice

Non-EU countries issuing the documents

 Certificates of Authenticity <u>Beef</u> • Argentina • Australia • West Balkan countries⁽¹⁾ • Brazil • Canada • Chile • New Zealand • Paraguay • Switzerland • Uruguay • USA <u>Rice - Basmati</u> • Vietnam • India • Pakistan <u>Citrus fruits</u> • All non-EU countries⁽²⁾	 IMA1s • Australia • New Zealand	 Export certificates • Australia • Thailand	 Export licences • Albania • Bosnia and Herzegovina • North Macedonia • Serbia	 Eligibility certificates • New Zealand	 Document sheep/goat meat All non-EU countries (excluding New Zealand and Ukraine) benefitting for TRQs for the following products: • Boneless lamb and goatmeat of kid • Boneless mutton-sheep and goatmeat other than kid • Bone-in and carcasses (sheep and goatmeat)	 Certificates of origin • Argentina • Australia • Bangladesh • Brazil • China • Cuba • India • Indonesia • Iran • Lebanon • Malaysia • Taiwan • Thailand • UAE • USA • Vietnam
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⁽¹⁾ Serbia, Montenegro, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Republic of North Macedonia, Customs territory of Kosovo*

* (This designation is without prejudice to positions on status, and is in line with UNSCR 1244/1999 and the ICJ Opinion on the Kosovo declaration of independence).

⁽²⁾ Excluding Belarus, Russia, UK

ELAN1L-TCDOC – a common harmonised data model

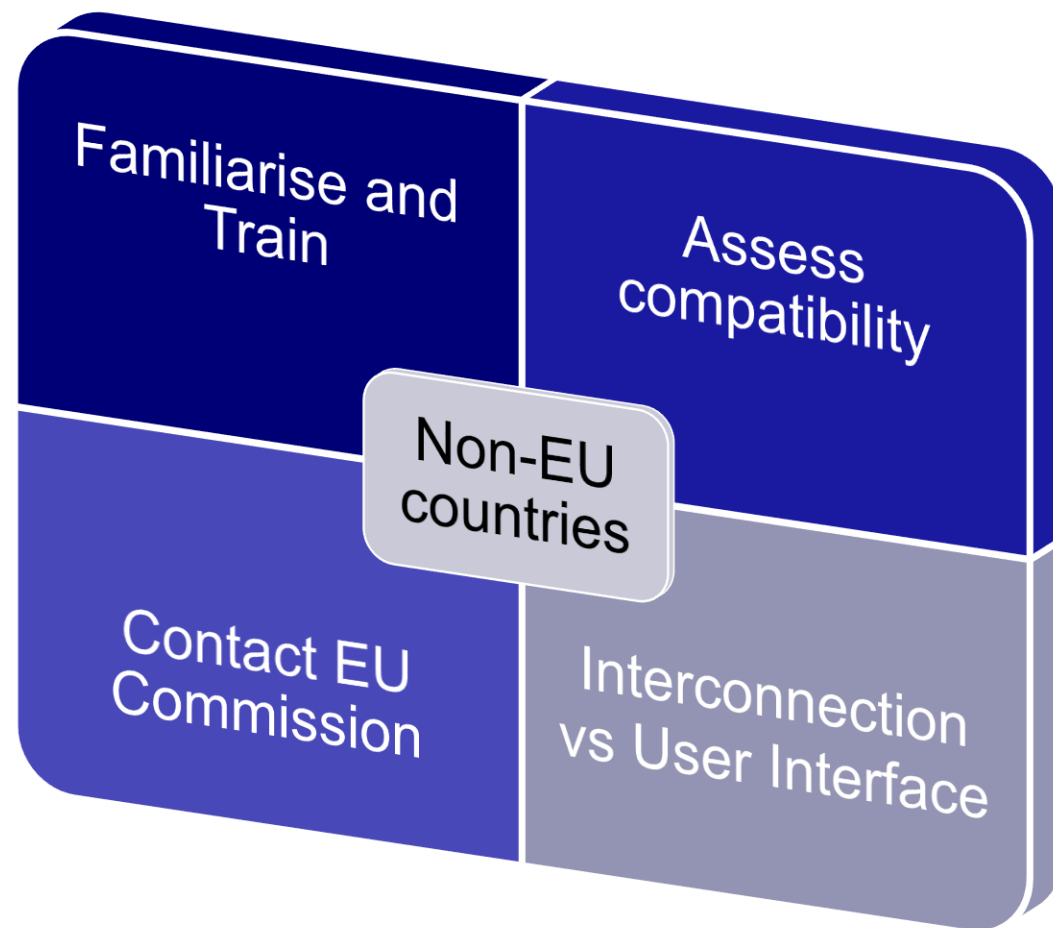
Documents shall comply with the [ELAN1L-TCDOC](#) data model:

- A [single data model](#) for all different documents
- A data model that allows more [data granularity](#) (and faster customs controls)
- Rules on filling the data model [specific for each TRQ](#) available in Annex XIV.8 to Regulation (EU) 2020/761



- 1.Familiarise:** Review ELAN's requirements via the [official website](#) of the EU Commission
- 2.Assess compatibility:** Check if your e-certification systems meet ELAN's technical standards (e.g., **eIDAS** for e-signatures)
- 3.Communicate:** Notify the EU of your **designated issuing authorities** [via this form](#)
- 4.Train:** test the system in the dedicated environment created by the EU Commission
- 5.Decide how to submit documents:** User Interface, interconnection S2S. Interconnection requires to **plan the development** project for integration ahead

Next steps for non-EU countries



4. ELAN – Electronic signatures/seals



Issue of documents (Art. 4 Implementing regulation)

“1. National issuing authorities, and third country issuing authorities shall either produce the relevant electronic documents directly in ELAN or transmit them to ELAN upon having produced them in their respective national electronic systems.”

- Produce the document implies manual encoding of the required data via ELAN user interface and the generation of the document by ELAN.
- Transmit the document may be done by importing the document via user interface or via system-to-system connectivity.

Issue of documents (Art. 4 Implementing regulation)

What is a document from the technical point of view:

- An XML compliant with a specific format which reflects the data model specified in the legal basis.

What is **NOT** a document in the ELAN context:

- A PDF or similar format file or a screenshot -> these are representations of the document to facilitate its use by a final user.
- A database entry -> this is a technical representation for storage.
- An XML file not compliant with the ELAN format (for example obtained by exporting to XML from a general-use platform) -> this could be your customized representation of the data.

Required signature or seal (Art. 4 Implementing regulation)

“2. Each document made available in ELAN shall bear:

- (a) the qualified or advanced electronic seal based on a qualified certificate of the competent issuing authority; or
- (b) the qualified or advanced electronic signature based on a qualified certificate of an authorised representative of the competent issuing authority, in accordance with Regulation (EU) No 910/2014 of the European Parliament and of the Council 15).”

The signature or seal should be valid at the moment the document (creation or correction) is issued in ELAN/transmitted to ELAN.

Required signature or seal (Art. 4 Implementing regulation)

Signature or Seal:

- Seal: similar to the “stamp” in paper. An eSeal certificate is issued to the Organization, which is then used by authorized people.
- Signature: similar to the hand-written signature in paper. An eSignature Certificate is issued to the person, meaning that each person has its own Certificate (and it is responsible for it) but the Organization is still responsible for the authorization of the user to apply the Signature to the document.

Required signature or seal (Art. 4 Implementing regulation)

Qualified or Advanced electronic signature or seal:

- Regulation (EU) No 910/2014 of the European Parliament and of the Council eIDAS Regulation, also known as eIDAS Regulation.
- Refers mainly to minimum technical requirements. For XML documents it implies to comply with XADES and the requirements defined in [ETSI EN 319 132-1 standard](#)
- Difference between Qualified or Advanced refers to the device/software where the signature or seal is calculated.

Required signature or seal (Art. 4 Implementing regulation)

Qualified Certificate:

- Regulation (EU) No 910/2014 of the European Parliament and of the Council eIDAS Regulation, also known as eIDAS Regulation.
- Refers to the procedures followed by the Trust Service Provider to ensure that the certificate has been really issued to the requesting person or Organization.
- At this moment, only EU Trust Providers issue qualified certificates.

User interface

When the Third Country Issuing Authority (TCIA) produce documents via the ELAN user interface, only qualified seals are applied, no signatures.

To create this eSeal, a qualified eSealing certificate issued to the TCIA is needed. This certificate is obtained following a specific procedure, after the registration of the TCIA in TRACES/ELAN.

The TCIA user administrator remains responsible to keep up to date in ELAN which ELAN users are authorised to apply the Seal to the documents issued by that TCIA.

Interconnection (XML import / S2S)

When the TCIA produce documents in their national system and transmit them to ELAN, the documents may include a qualified or advanced signature or a seal, always based on a qualified certificate.

The signature / seal should therefore be applied outside ELAN and before it is transmitted to ELAN.

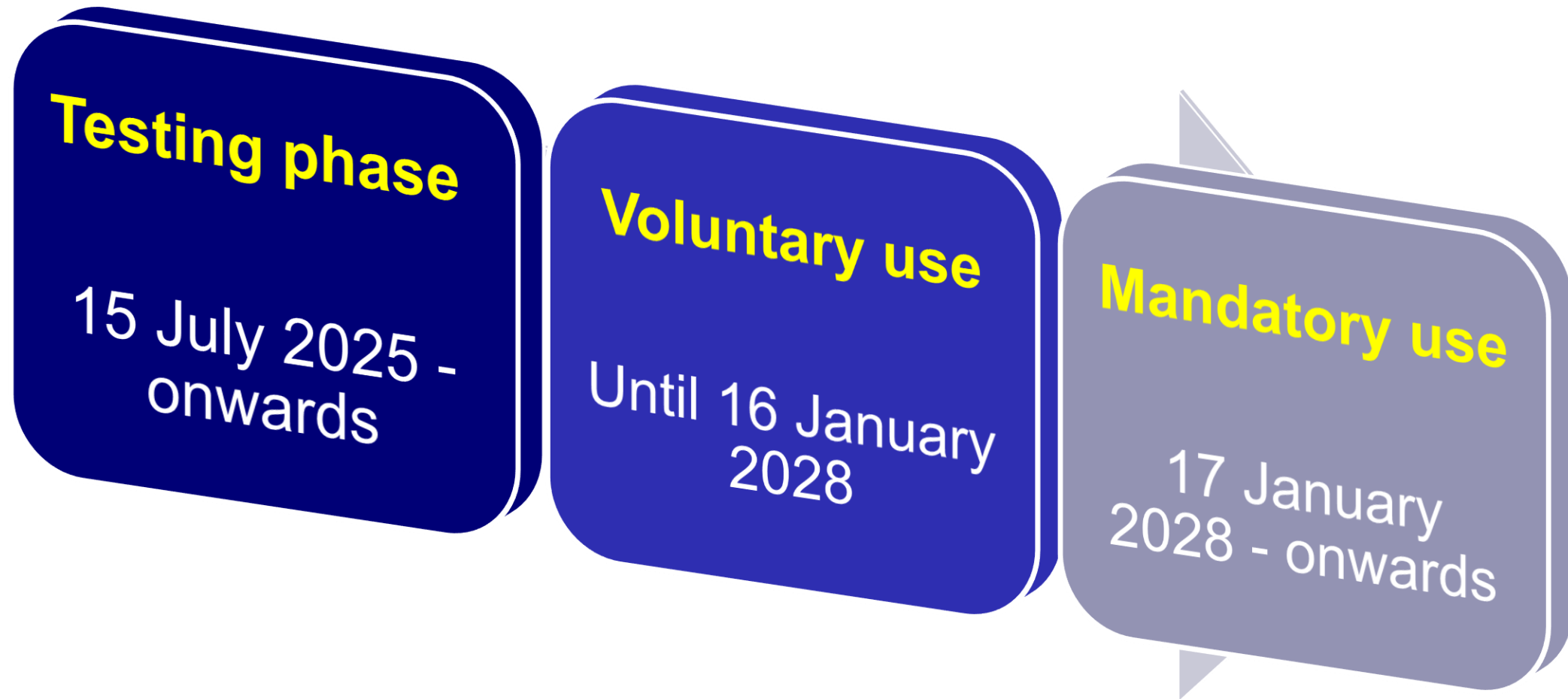
The certificate to use should therefore be managed (obtained, kept in custody, renewed, accessed) by the TCIA outside the ELAN system.

ELAN is only responsible for the validation of the signature/seal upon reception of the document.

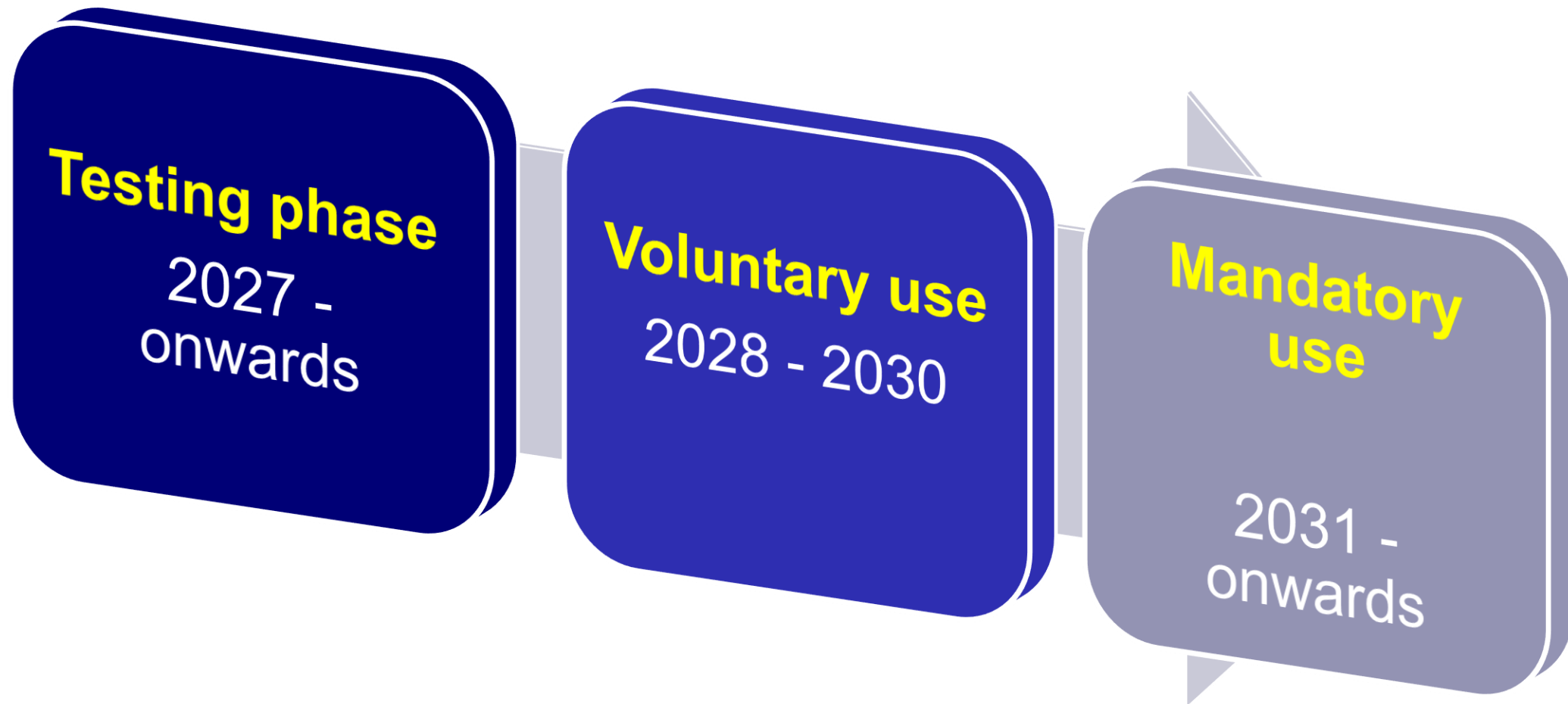
5. ELAN – Final key information



Key Dates for ELAN1L Implementation



Key Dates for ELAN2C Implementation



How to Access ELAN & Contact Points

Resources and support are available.

- **General information available @ <https://agriculture.ec.europa.eu/elan>** (guidance, technical specs).

- **Email**

- For access requests: **AGRI-SINGLE-WINDOW@ec.europa.eu**
- For questions on the system, testing: **TRACES-Support@ec.europa.eu**

- **Regulations:**

- Delegated Regulation [\(EU\) 2025/1269](#)
- Implementing Regulations [\(EU\) 2025/1272](#), [\(EU\) 2020/761](#) (ELAN1L)

List of documents issued by trading partner authorities in the scope of ELAN1-L (1)

- [Certificates of authenticity for beef TRQs](#) (e.g., for high-quality or protected products) - Mandatory for tariff rate quotas with order numbers 09.4002 (beef – USA and Canada), 09.2203 (USA), 09.4001, 09.4451 (buffalo/beef – Australia), 09.4004, 09.4450, 09.0143 (buffalo/beef – Argentina), 09.4181 (beef – Chile), 09.4198 (beef – Serbia), 09.4199 (beef – Montenegro), 09.4200 (beef – Customs territory of Kosovo*), 09.4202 (beef – Switzerland), 09.4452 (beef – Uruguay), 09.4453 (beef – Brazil), 09.4454 (beef – New Zealand), 09.4455 (beef – Paraguay), 09.4454 (bovine - Bosnia and Herzegovina), 09.4505 (bovine - Republic of North Macedonia).
- [Authenticity certificates for rice](#) - Mandatory for tariff rate quota with order number 09.4731 (rice – Vietnam) and imports of Basmati rice governed by Article 2 of Delegated Regulation (EU) 2023/2835.
- [Certificates of authenticity for citrus fruits](#) – Mandatory for for tariff rate quotas with order numbers 09.0025 (sweet oranges – All third countries excl. Belarus, Russia, UK), 09.0027 (Citrus hybrids known as ‘minneolas’ - All third countries excl. Belarus, Russia, UK), 09.0033 (frozen concentrated orange juice - All third countries excl. Belarus, Russia, UK)

* *(This designation is without prejudice to positions on status, and is in line with UNSCR 1244/1999 and the ICJ Opinion on the Kosovo declaration of independence).*



List of documents issued by trading partner authorities in the scope of ELAN1-L (2)

- [Export licences and certificates](#) - Mandatory for tariff rate quotas with order numbers 09.4128 and 09.4149 (rice – Thailand), and 09.4129 (rice – Australia), 09.4324 (sugar – Albania), 09.4325 (sugar – Bosnia and Herzegovina), 09.4326 (sugar – Serbia), 09.4327 (sugar – Republic of North Macedonia).

Not mandatory for the export certificate laid down in Annex XIV.2, Part C to Implementing Regulation (EU) 2020/761, required for tariff quota 09.4127 (rice – USA), and for the certificate of conformity laid down in Annex II to Implementing Regulation (EU) 2020/1988, required for tariff quota 09.0076 (barley – USA).

- [Certificates of origin for non-preferential imports under various specific tariff quotas](#) - Mandatory for tariff rate quotas with order numbers 09.4317 (sugar – Australia), 09.4318, 09.4329, 09.4330, and 09.4915 (sugar – Brazil), 09.4319 (sugar – Cuba), 09.4321 (sugar – India), 09.4287 (garlic – Iran, Lebanon, Malaysia, Taiwan, United Arab Emirates, Vietnam), 09.4169 (poultry – USA), 09.4211, 09.4214, 09.4217, 09.4251, 09.4252, 09.4253, 09.4410, 09.4420 (poultry – Brazil), 09.4212, 09.4215, 09.4254, 09.4255, 09.4256, 09.4257, 09.4258, 09.4259, 09.4411, 09 (poultry – Thailand), 09.4269, 09.4283, (poultry – China), 09.4289, 09.4290 (poultry – Argentina), 09.0090 (corn gluten USA), 09.0124 (potatoes – China), 09.0125 (Manioc – Thailand), 09.0126 (Manioc – Indonesia), 09.0126 (manioc – China), 09.0141, 09.0165, 09.0166, 09.0167, 09.0168, 09.0169, 09.0170, 09.0171 (rice – Bangladesh)



List of documents issued by trading partner authorities in the scope of ELAN1-L (3)

- [Documents issued by third countries as provided for in Article 31\(5\) of Implementing Regulation \(EU\) 2020/1988](#) - Mandatory for tariff rate quotas with order numbers 09.2105, 09.2106, 09.2012 (sheep/goat meat – Australia), 09.2109, 09.2110, 09.2013 (sheep/goat meat – New Zealand), 09.2111, 09.2112, 09.2014 (sheep/goat meat – Uruguay), 09.2115, 09.2116, 09.1922 (sheep meat – Chile), 09.2125, 09.2126, 09.0693 ((sheep/goat meat – Greenland), 09.2129, 09.2130, 09.0690 (sheep/goat meat – Faroes), 09.2131, 09.2132, 09.0227 (sheep/goat meat – Turkey), 09.2171, 09.2175, 09.2015 (sheep/goat meat – all WTO Members excl. Argentina, Australia, Chile, Greenland, Iceland, New Zealand, Russia, UK, Uruguay), 09.2128, 09.2129, 09.2016, 09.2181, 09.2019 (sheep/goat meat – All third countries excl. Belarus, Russia, UK)
- [Certificates of eligibility](#); Mandatory for tariff rate quotas with order numbers 09.4456 (beef – New Zealand), 09.4518, 09.4519, 09.4520, 09.7903 (dairy – New Zealand), 09.7901, 09.7898, 09.7899, 09.7902, 09.7896, 09.7897 (sheep/goat meat – New Zealand)
- [Inward Monitoring Arrangement \(IMA1\) certificates](#); Mandatory for tariff rate quotas with order numbers 09.4523, 09.4521, 09.4522 (dairy – Australia), 09.4524, 09.4525, 09.4516 (dairy – New Zealand).



List of documents issued by trading partner authorities in the scope of ELAN2-C (under development)

The following documents will be covered by the second phase of development of ELAN (voluntary exchanged in electronic form from 2028 – mandatory exchange in electronic form from 2031):

Certificate of conformity with EU marketing standards for fruits and vegetables and bananas issued by approved Third Countries as listed in Annex IV of (EU) Reg 2023/2430: Switzerland, Morocco, South Africa, Israel, India, New Zealand, Senegal, Kenya, Turkey, United Kingdom.

Accompanying documents (VI-1 document) for imported wine issued by the Third Countries issuing authorities and producers in Third Countries (EU) Reg 2018/273.

Attestation of Equivalence for imported hops, (EU) Reg 1308/2013, Impl Reg (EU)2023/2834.

Certificates of conformity for cereals as laid down at Annexes VIII (Argentina), IX (USA) and X (Canada) to Regulation (EU) 2023/2834 and at Annex II.A to Regulation (EU) 2020/1988



Thank you



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Slide 11: New Zealand flag, source: <https://storage.googleapis.com/dprbewleccecepe/show-pictures-of-new-zealand-flag.html>;
Other slides, source: Microsoft 365 Stock Images library

