

Border Force, Customs & Immigration

Sailing your pleasure craft to and from the UK

The following information is extracted from the GOV.UK website - the full text is available at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/notice-8-sailing-your-pleasure-craft-to-and-from-the-uk/notice-8-sailing-your-pleasure-craft-to-and-from-the-uk>

To report a vessel's arrival (If required)

National Yachtline Telephone: 0845 723 1110.

Do I need to fly the yellow 'Q' flag?

If you are arriving directly from another EU Member State there is no need to fly the 'Q' flag. If you are arriving from outside the EU (and this includes the Channel Islands) you must fly the 'Q' flag. Do not take down the flag until you have finished reporting to the customs authorities.

Do I need to notify the customs authorities on arrival?

Whether you need to notify your arrival to the customs authorities depends upon where your last port of call was. If you are **arriving directly from an EU Member State**, you only need to contact the customs authorities if you have goods to declare.

- any animals or birds
- any prohibited and restricted goods including certain foodstuffs
- items in excess of duty free allowances
- if the boat itself is liable to VAT

When **arriving direct from a country outside the EU (the Channel Islands are regarded as outside the EU for this purpose)**, you must phone the National Yacht line on Telephone: 0845 723 1110. If arriving from outside the EU the National Yachtline will ask you to complete form C1331.

What are the 'duty free' allowances within the EU?

If you arrive in the UK by pleasure craft directly from the EU, you will be allowed to bring back as much EU duty paid goods, including tobacco and alcohol, as you like as long as it is for your own use. If you bring back large quantities of alcohol or tobacco goods, you may be asked some basic questions about the trip and the purchases and the purpose for which you hold the goods. Guideline amounts:

- 800 cigarettes
- 200 cigars
- 400 cigarillos
- 1kg of smoking tobacco
- 110 litres of beer

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- 90 litres of wine
- 10 litres of spirits
- 20 litres of fortified wine (such as port or sherry)

Prohibited and restricted goods?

The importation, possession or use of certain goods in the UK is either prohibited or restricted. The following are just a few examples of goods that are either prohibited or restricted. Examples are - controlled drugs, firearms, ammunition and explosives, offensive weapons, indecent and obscene material, endangered animal and plant species including derivatives and products that contain them, cat and dog fur and products made from such fur, seal products.

If goods are smuggled, the vessel itself may be seized and the persons concerned liable to a heavy fine and/or a prison sentence following prosecution.

Animals including pets, dogs, cats, birds, rabbits and rodents

It is advisable to check with DEFRA Animal Health before bringing in any live animals or birds. DEFRA helpline number: 08459 335 577. Any animals or birds, which are kept on board the vessel, must be reported to the National Yachtline on arrival.

IMMIGRATION:

Arriving in the United Kingdom

Anyone on board who is not an EU national must get a UKBA officer's permission to enter the UK from a place other than the Isle of Man, or the Channel Islands. As the person responsible, you must make sure that anyone requiring immigration clearance (including yourself if appropriate) obtains the necessary permission to enter.

Leaving the United Kingdom

It is an offence not to notify the customs authorities when you intend to take your vessel directly **to a country outside the EU**.

If you are going **directly to another Member State**, you won't need to make a report unless specifically asked to do so by an officer. There is no need to make a report if you intend to ultimately leave the EU but will be calling first at another port in the EU on passage.

The Plymouth office can be contacted on 01752 689200 and 01752 689231 (fax) or via email to indukisplymouthshippinglist@homeoffice.gsi.gov.uk