



Following the introduction of the new Common Health Entry Document (CHED) reference format for movements to Northern Ireland on 15 September 2025, we have identified some common errors made by declarants which may cause delays or holds as they move goods.

A CHED is a mandatory document that must be presented at a border control post in order to carry out security checks when any of the following goods enter Northern Ireland or the EU:

- animals or products of animal origin
- some plants or products of plant origin
- feed and food products

To avoid any delays or holds we encourage all declarants to review the following advice.

**For non-Northern Ireland Retail Movement Scheme (NIRMS) declarations pre-notified to the Trade Control and Expert System (TRACES)**

The CHED reference format must include letters followed by numbers, and the 3 '.' characters.

Your reference will be provided on the TRACES NT platform where the CHED was applied for. You can copy and paste this into 'Data Element 2/3' on the Customs Declaration Service (CDS).

The CHED reference will depend on the CHED type you are using:

- document code 'C640', Live Animals – 'CHEDA.XI.yyyy.nnnnnnn'
- document code 'C085', Plant Products – 'CHEDPP.XI.yyyy.nnnnnnn'
- document code 'N853', Products of Animal Origin – 'CHEDP.XI.yyyy.nnnnnnn'
- document code 'C678', Feed and Food of Non-Animal Origin – 'CHEDD.XI.yyyy.nnnnnnn'

Note that:

- 'yyyy' represents the year the licence was issued, for example '2026'
- 'nnnnnnn' represents the CHED reference number, for example '1234567'
- the 3 '.' characters must be included

As an example, for Live Animals, the new CHED format reference would be 'CHEDA.XI.2026.1234567'.

## For NIRMS movements

For NIRMS movements from Great Britain to Northern Ireland the CHED reference must be in the format 'GBCHDyyyy.NIRMS'.

Note that:

- 'yyyy' represents the year the movement took place, for example '2026'
- the '.' after the year must be included

An example of the CHED format for NIRMS movements would be 'GBCHD2026.NIRMS'.

## Correction: Multiple CHED document codes on the same goods item line

In our January 2026 communications we incorrectly advised that, when multiple CHED document codes are declared on the same goods item line, original write-off quantities had to be provided in the relevant sub-components of 'Data Element 2/3' on CDS to prevent delays or holds on goods.

The correct procedure to prevent delays or holds on goods is as follows:

- you may declare different CHED document code types on the same goods item line. For example, a single item line may require a CHED.D for food and feed of non-animal origin (document code C678) together with a CHED.PP for plants and plant products (document code C085).
- you must not declare multiple CHED document codes of the same type on the same goods item line. For example, you should not include two CHED.Ds for food and feed of non-animal origin (document code C678) on a single item line.

## Additional support and guidance

- for further guidance search 'moving licensed goods into or out of Northern Ireland' on GOV.UK.
- for further support contact the Trader Support Service, if you are a user, if you are not a user you can contact HMRC for help with your query by searching 'imports exports enquiries' on GOV.UK.
- for support for goods in movement, contact the Northern Ireland Department of Agriculture and Rural Affairs (DAERA) on 0300 200 7852 or email [daera.helpline@daera-ni.gov.uk](mailto:daera.helpline@daera-ni.gov.uk).