



New Customs Reporting Requirements for General Aviation (GA) moving from/to Great Britain

This guide sets out new customs reporting requirements for General Aviation (GA) aircraft travelling from Great Britain (GB) to the European Union (EU) from 1 January 2022. It also explains new time limits for the reporting of aircraft from this date. General Aviation covers owners and commanders of private or commercial aircraft making civil flights over the Common Travel Area and internationally.

What is changing?

GA aircraft are currently required to submit General Aviation Reports (GARs) for certain journeys in and out of GB. This is known as 'outward clearance' and 'inward reporting' and it allows the government to risk assess journeys and identify potential customs and immigration violations. Due to the UK's exit from the EU, this will also be required for journeys from GB to the EU. There will also be a reduction to the current time limits for reporting of aircraft to Border Force for customs purposes to at least two hours before departure from GB or at least two hours before departure from the last destination before the aircraft arrives in GB. Reporting timeframes and requirements under the Terrorism Act 2000 remain unchanged.

The tables below show which journeys are changing.

Outward Clearance

GB to EU Member Countries	New Clearance Requirements (Changed)
GB to the rest of the world	Clearance Still Required (Unchanged)
GB to Channel Islands	Clearance Still Required (Unchanged)
GB to NI	No Customs Clearance Required, however notification to the relevant police force is still required if departing from or arriving at a port that is not police designated (Unchanged)

Inward Reporting

EU Member Countries to GB	Reporting Still Required (Unchanged)
Rest of the world to GB	Reporting Still Required (Unchanged)
Channel Islands to GB	Reporting Still Required (Unchanged)
NI to GB	No Customs Clearance Required, however notification to the relevant police force is still required if departing from or arriving at a port that is not police designated (Unchanged)

When will these changes come into effect?

You will need to start submitting reports for journeys from GB to the EU from 00:00 GMT on 1 January 2022. The reduction in time limits will also apply from 1 January 2022.

How do I submit reports?



General Aviation Reports (GARs) can be submitted by the owner or commander of the aircraft.



Reporting for customs purposes is required at least two hours before departure (a reduction from the current time limits). The new time limits will be the same irrespective of where your flight is departing to or arriving into GB. These will be:

1. in the case of **arrivals**: no later than two hours before departure from the last destination before arriving into GB.
2. in the case of **departures**: no later than two hours before departure of the aircraft from GB.



If you are travelling between GB and another country within the Common Travel Area (NI, Ireland, the Channel Islands or the Isle of Man) and are using a port that is not police designated, you must still notify police at least 12 hours in advance of your journey. Failure to seek approval is a criminal offence under the Terrorism Act 2000.



The easiest way to submit a GAR is through the Border Force [“Submit a GAR portal”](#). This is a digital free to use service and is already used for reporting journeys. You can register for the service by visiting www.GOV.UK/submit-gar. You may also use third party applications which have secure links to Home Office systems for the transmission of this information. Please note that third party applications may incur a service/membership charge.



You may also submit a GAR by completing and emailing the GAR electronically in an excel format to the National Co-ordination Unit (NCU): ncu@hmrc.gov.uk. The latest GAR form is available on [GOV.UK](#).

Non-customs and excise designated aerodromes

Non-customs and excise designated aerodromes that handle GA permitted international flights are now covered by a blanket interim Certificate of Agreement (CoA) until 31 December 2023.

CoA aerodromes that handle limited freight will not be captured by this blanket and will need to apply full customs controls from 1 January 2022.

The new reporting requirements will apply for flights departing from both of these types of aerodromes.