

Travelling to EU as a Third Country Visitor

UPDATED 9TH MAY 2022

3rd Country Status

The UK is now a Third Country with respect to the EU and procedures for vessels sailing between the UK and all of the EU and Schengen countries have changed. The following is based on our current understanding of regulations of both the UK government and EU and Schengen countries.



Departing and Arriving from/to the UK via EU Countries, Including Channel Islands - Form C1331

There is a need to check out and in via the Border Force and the National Yacht Line. This process has become much simpler with individuals encouraged to make use of Form e-C1331. This is excel based and can be downloaded and pre-populated with key information which simplifies updating prior to departure and emailed to the appropriate area office. [Link to eC1331](#) The form having to be submitted on both departure from and return to the UK.

There are 4 'tabs' to the form: boat and crew details, goods carried, signature and submit, guidance on completion.

Points to note:

- On tab 3 when you press to submit it creates a blank email with the address of the regional office to which you need to attach the form.
- On tab 4 there is a list of codes for various ports and countries. Whilst they prefer you to use these, spelling out in the form your port of departure (and arrival) is acceptable.
- **Important note - this form needs to be completed not just for visiting EU countries but also the Channel Islands.**

There is a requirement to fly the Q flag once you enter the 12 mile limit upon return to UK. Once you have mobile signal it is worth calling the National Yachtline - Telephone Number 0300 123 2012. It is open 24/7/365. It is likely that if you have nothing to declare and you have submitted eC1331 that they will ask you to lower Q flag and there is no need to undertake any further clearances. Formal guidance on sailing to and from the UK can be found at - [Notice 8 Sailing your Vessel to and from UK](#) and [HMRC National Yachtline](#)

For those without access to laptop/computer, for C1331 can be posted to the Border Force.

Sailing to the Channel Islands

Booking Out of UK. As with France you will need to complete a e-C1331 form and submit prior to departure from UK - link above.

Bailiwick of Guernsey. This includes Guernsey, Her, Sark, and Alderney. With effect from 17th February 2022 **there will no longer be a requirement to complete a travel tracker form** as all borders will be open to those arriving from the Common Travel Area. This is defined as United Kingdom, the Bailiwick of Guernsey, the Bailiwick of Jersey, the Isle of Man and the Republic of Ireland. However all are advised to have available their Covid vaccination proof both on your mobile and in hard copy.

Jersey. Jersey suspended the need for a Travel Tracker Form earlier in February. As with the Bailiwick of Guernsey it is recommended that you have proof of vaccination readily available.

Sailing to France

General Comments. The purpose of the requirements to book in and out of an EU country are linked to the 90/180 day EU ruling. A third country citizen can spend no longer than 90 days in any rolling 180 day period in EU countries without a formal visa. Hence the importance of having passports stamped. If your passport is not stamped out of the EU, you will continue to clock up days. Any time in the EU - whether that is business, non-sailing or sailing holidays count. This is an administrative burden for everyone and no-one wants to do it - but it is a requirement. There are nuances around your individual passports - must have longer than 3 months before it expires and for some EU countries must have been issued no longer than 10 years previously.

Ports of Entry. There is not a requirement to fly the Q flag unless you have goods to declare and you are specifically requested not to do so. You need to arrive at a designated Port of Entry which are currently: Calais, Boulogne, Dieppe, Le Havre, Honfleur, Caen-Ouistreham, Cherbourg, Dielette, Carteret, Granville, St Malo, St Brieuc, Roscoff, Brest.

Booking In/Out of France/EU. You will need to book in and out of France using a PAF, if you have sailed to France (Cherbourg) on your way to the Channel Islands - even if you are then going from the Channel Islands back to France. Similarly if returning from N Brittany to UK via Channel Islands and Cherbourg. You will need to book out of a Port of Entry/Exit in France and then after the Channel Islands book in and out of Cherbourg.

PAF Submission. Prior to arrival at your Port of Entry you should complete a PAF (Preavis Police Aux Frontiere). These are port specific, although all the forms for France seem to have the same format. As an example Cherbourg can be found [here](#) The form requests the usual information and provides an email address to which it should be sent. It is recommended that you send this prior to departure from UK. Note that it is the same form for arrival and departure - just tick the relevant box. It is also recommended that you print out the form together with your email as proof of submission for when you visit Police Aux Frontiere.

Upon Arrival. Having booked in at the Marina, **all** persons on board need to visit the Police Aux Frontiere. You will need to take ships papers, proof of medical insurance, passport and a copy of your PPF. Feedback indicates that they are more interested in your PPF than ships papers or indeed insurance or pet certificates. You will need to get your passport stamped for the 90/180 rule. It is recommended that you call before travelling to the Police which can be some distance from the Marina - Cherbourg is between 20-30 mins walk away. Do not expect them to know all the rules - it is also new to them with few visitors in 2021. Let them know when you are departing as you will have to visit the office again in 12/24 hours to book out - especially if this falls at a weekend. You may need to negotiate a process for departure including stamping of passport.

90/180 Rule. You are allowed to spend 90 days in a total of 180 days in an EU country if you are a non-EU citizen from a visa waiver country. All days count not just 'sailing days' so you also need to take into account other holidays and business travel. Hence it is important to have your passport stamped both on arrival and on departure to start and stop clock ticking.

Safety Equipment. French can fine you if any of your safety equipment is out of date - flares, life-rafts, life jackets. Whilst there may be a low probability of anyone inspecting them, you should be aware of the requirements.

Ships Stores. You are entitled to carry ships stores such as alcohol, food, dairy products etc. You are not able to take off the boat - for instance take ashore for a BBQ - foodstuffs, meat and dairy. Again the probability of anyone checking up on this is low - but be conscious of this rule.

Fuel. Important, Do not carry red diesel in cans if you are travelling to France/EU. Use of red fuel is illegal. However if you have red diesel in tanks purchased legally in the UK have to hand VAT receipts.

Departure. Prior to departure, even if it is the following morning you will need to submit a PAF for departure, send to the relevant Port and present yourself and the crew at the Police Aux

Frontiere with passports to be stamped. If you are just staying overnight and it is a weekend, it would be best to organise upon arrival and have the telephone number to 'prompt' them if they do not arrive. It is important that the passport is stamped otherwise your clock keeps ticking in terms of the 90/180 rule. Note you are booking out from the EU not from the port. Therefore if your next destination is another French port or EU port, you do not need to book out at this point only when it is your last EU port. If you are travelling from France to the Channel Islands and back to France you **will** need to book out and then book in again as you will be departing France/EU.

Future Systems. Many of you may have heard of ETIAS (European Travel Information and Authorisation System) and EES (Entry Exit System). Neither of these systems are likely to be up and running in 2022. ETIAS enables those from Visa Waiver countries to apply to travel in the EU for a period of 3 years (within the guidance of 90/180) for the cost of around £7. It is the same as the US ESTA programme. EES is the system for booking in and out of an EU country. Whilst these are 'electronic' systems they do not solve our problems! EES requires the taking of biometric information - fingerprints - which will still necessitate a visit to the Police Aux Frontiere. Indeed it may become more complicated as it is unknown which locations will be equipped with the means to conduct biometric measurements. But not a worry for 2022!

Points of Contact - France

Dunkirk. The Police Aux Frontiere office is near the commercial ferry port so about 10 miles from the marinas. Its address is Rte du Petit Dena, 59279 Loon-Plage, Dunkerque; and phone +33 3 28 58 82 40. Bus no. 25 may be the best option, Buses are free, but check the timetable and route.

Calais. The Police Aux Frontiere is at the ferry terminal near the car check-in booths in the building described as "Immigration, Terminal E, 62100 Calais, France". +33 3 21 46 60 10. This is shown as 2.4km walk from the marina

Boulogne. The office for checking in is believed to be Douane at 3 rue Roger Salengro, BP77, Plateforme Garromanche, Outrea. Tel +33 9 70 27 08 43. Email r-boulogne@douane.finances.gouv.fr. Note this is stated as office hours only and closed at lunchtime.

Dieppe. The customs office for Dieppe is reported to be in the ferry terminal, so about 1.5km walk.

Le Havre. <https://lehavreplaisance.com/procedure-vers-ou-depuis-le-royaume-uni-1-80-41-pix-ray.html>. Note that this form is not in keeping with what is understood to be the rule of one form per boat; instead it is one form per person. So this is likely to change. The Police Aux Frontiere is believed to be at Terminal de la Citadelle which is off Avenue Lucien Corbeaux and near the Brittany Ferry building. Tel no. +33 2 35 41 40 40

Honfleur. The office for checking in is believed to be Douanes (Customs) at 4 Quai Lepaulmier, 14600 Honfleur, France. Tel: +33 2 31 14 44 30 or maybe +33 9 70 27 44 86 (as reported by a member).

Caen-Ouistreham

Cherbourg. https://www.portchantereyne.fr/fileadmin/user_upload/Port_Chantereyne/Services_et_demarches/Informations_pratiques/Formulaire_PAF_plaisanciers_britanniques.pdf
Police Aux Frontiere: 27 Rue Dom Pedro, Cherbourg (a 15min walk from the marina: <https://goo.gl/maps/R3JQGqCvWMWRmLYA9>). Telephone +33 2 33 88 72 20. Note the office is in a courtyard behind no. 27.

For St Vaast, Barfleur, Carentan. <https://apisspl.kpratik.com/storage/uploads/2021/05/21/60a75faab2f6bPREAVIS-immigration-MARITIME-St-Vaast-Barfleur-Carentan.pdf>

Dielette. Dielette is not an official port of entry but because it has a ferry service to the Channel Islands we are informed that it does have officials who can process entry/exit papers. You are required to send the relevant form (24 hours or 48 hours at weekends) in advance by email and then take your boat to pontoon O (the passenger pontoon) and report to the Office.
<https://apisspl.kpratik.com/storage/uploads/2021/05/21/60a75fadc172ePREAVIS-immigration-MARITIME-Barneville-Carteret-Port-Bail-Dielette.pdf>

Carteret. For Dielette, Barneville-Carteret and Port Bail. <https://apisspl.kpratik.com/storage/uploads/2021/05/21/60a75fadc172ePREAVIS-immigration-MARITIME-Barneville-Carteret-Port-Bail-Dielette.pdf>

Granville. <https://apisspl.kpratik.com/storage/uploads/2021/05/21/60a7806e4c190PREAVIS-immigration-MARITIME-Granville.pdf>

Brittany. Update 13th August 2021. We have now had notice from Customs Officials in Brittany (and at this time only Brittany) that all visiting vessels arriving from outside of the Schengen area or European Union must first visit a Port of Entry. This changes previous advice that they were moving to a system allowing notification by emailed form followed by a visit to a port of entry. So, unless you have already checked into France then your first port of call in Brittany must be a port of entry which, on the North Brittany coast, are those listed below. The forms listed below might still speed the administration when you visit.

Breaking News. Announced on 16th May2022. Following ongoing representations to the maritime authorities in Brittany, it has been announced that the non-PPF ports of Saint Cast and Saint Quay have now been granted a temporary exemption from the requirement that all non-Schengen boats should proceed initially to a PPF before continuing to other marinas in Brittany. This temporary exemption will come into operation on June 1st, 2022 and terminate on September 30th, 2022. A modified Notice of Arrival will be on the Digimap Marinas website. This document should be downloaded and completed by all boats and crew members wishing to visit Saint Cast, and sent to the Saint Cast port office at least 24 hours before the planned ETA in the port. The port office will then forward the document to the maritime authorities in Saint Brieuc. A Notice of Departure on leaving the Schengen area will also be required.

The port of Saint Quay will be issuing similar information in due course.

Please note that this temporary exemption only applies to the two Brittany marinas of Saint Cast and Saint Quay. Visitors to all other Brittany marinas must first proceed to Saint Brieuc PPF for the necessary control procedures to be carried out.

St Malo. Police Aux Frontiere: at Quai Du Naye in St Malo - <https://goo.gl/maps/bq5N5Mtn1ydRSgdw8>. According to a CA member the place to get passports stamped is the police kiosk used by cars just before they load onto the ferry. To get to this follow the signs for foot passengers for the ferry, enter the terminal, then keep left and go through a single aluminium door which looks like a fire exit and a mesh gate from which you can see the car passport huts.

St Brieuc/Légué. Douane is located at 3 Imp. des Longs Reages, 22190 Plérin. Tel: +33 9 70 27 51 51. This is a long (40min) walk up steep hill so a taxi might be advised on the way, then a pleasant walk back. <https://www.cotesdarmor.cci.fr/file/4178/download?token=X94kA4JB>

Roscoff. http://www.plaisancebaiedemorlaix.com/sites/default/files/preavis_roscoff_0.pdf
The Police Aux Frontiere/Customs office is in the passenger ferry terminal building which is a short walk from the marina. Reportedly if it is open walk through as if a departing passenger to find the passport control, if it is closed there is a button marked "Douane" which will call them to the door.

Brest. Although not in the Channel area this is included as it covers some ports e.g. L'aber w'rach which are. The customs office is close to Marina du Chateau at 14 Quai de la Douane. Note that it is probably worth calling to make an appointment as they reported to be open

weekday mornings only, but members have been met at other times. Phone: +33 9 70 27 51 56.
EMail crd-brest@douane.finances.gouv.fr

Force Majeure

All rules are put aside if Force Majeure occurs - weather, injury/illness, breakages. The Law of the Sea takes precedence over all of the above comments.

Recommended Documentation

- Vessel registration certificate
- Certificate of Ownership including VAT status
- RCD certificate or exemption evidence
- Ship's Radio Licence (including reference to portable VHF, RADAR, AIS, EPIRB, PLB, ATIS etc. where fitted)
- Certificate of Competence (Operator's) e.g. ICC and CEVNI for some inland waterways
- Vessel insurance particularly third party
- Certificate for radiotelephony
- Ship's Log book
- Record of fuel purchase invoices for the last 12 months and earlier ones if possible - to avoid red diesel penalties
- Passports for all crew and visas if necessary
- Consider also:
 - Driving Licence and international driving permit
 - Travel and health insurance
 - Life raft test certificate (life raft and flares must all be in date)

Experience to date from visitors to France is that the marinas are not interested in examining documentation and the Douane are only interested in Passports and in some instances COVID certificates. **Note: all crew members must visit the Douane - not just the skipper. This is to match people to passports.**

This note has been written with information available at time of writing. It is the responsibility of all Skippers to check latest information and any changes to guidance and procedures.

*Compiled by Michael Lithgow Sailing Committee (Cruising Representative)
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