

Travelling Outside of the UK to Channel Islands and France

The information and guidance provided has been sourced from a number of locations, including



the UK government website.

Leaving and Arriving UK

Since the beginning of this year there have been 3 methods to inform UK Government of your movements out of and into UK Territorial Waters:

- Submission of Form C1331 by post
- Submission of Form eC1331 via email
- Telephone National Yacht-Line

Experience of using these methods has been mixed and in general it has been cumbersome and not mobile friendly.

A new on-line form has now been launched which is currently in beta mode of development but can still be used - <https://www.spcr.homeoffice.gov.uk/> This is mobile friendly. It requires you to first register your pleasure craft with this information forming part of your 'account' and need only be entered once, including skipper/crew and passport details:

- Boat Registration Number
- MMSI and Callsign
- AIS
- Skipper's details
- Full names, date and place of birth, passport or travel document details for all people on board

When you decide to leave/arrive you submit the 'voyage plan' no sooner than 24 hours before departure and no earlier than 2 hours. However you can plan the voyage in advance of this and 'save' in the system. It is extremely simple and can be done on a mobile phone. You input the information via the 'Plan a Voyage' button. When typing in your point of departure or arrival you no longer have to find the Port Code, you simply input the first few letters and a drop down list appears. When it comes to passenger details it presents all of the individuals whose information you have stored in the system.

Your account can hold a number of voyage plans in draft format which you can pull up and submit at the required time.

This is a big step forward and is much more user and device friendly.

There is still a requirement to fly the Q flag on your return when you enter UK Territorial Waters. Common practice would indicate that few are doing this as there is no-one around to see it and your clearance to enter UK comes back within a couple of hours of submitting the form.

Channel Islands

There is a requirement to submit a form for leaving to and coming from the Channel Islands. This can cause some confusion as there is a line of thought that as they are 'British' there is no need to inform UK Government. However to get to the Channel Islands you are leaving UK Territorial Waters and visiting tax free islands.

Travel to France

France wants you to visit and locally is reluctantly applying their own government guidance. But as ever with France there may be many requirements but not all are viewed as necessities. An indication of their welcome is the request **not** to fly the Q Flag unless you have something to declare.

The basics have not changed since UK became a third country with, a number of designated ports of entry/exit, requirement to submit a PPF prior to arrival and having your passport stamped in and out. This latter part is important as it starts and stops the 90 in 180 day clock. If you get stamped in and not out that clock keeps ticking which could impact any travel to EU countries if you go over the 90/180 day rule.

French 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 - [Le Havre PPF](#)
- Honfleur
- Caen-Ouistreham
- Cherbourg - [Cherbourg St Vaast Carentan Barfleur PPF](#)
- Dielette - [Dielette PPF](#)
- Carteret - [Carteret PPF](#)
- Granville - [Granville PPF](#)
- St Malo
- St Brieuc/Légué - [St Brieuc_Legue PPF](#)
- Roscoff - [Roscoff PPF](#)
- Brest.

Note - it appears Boulogne is no longer a port of entry and are not processing PAFs.

Special Arrangements for Northern Brittany

When arriving to the ports of Saint Cast and Saint Quay you may submit a PPF form to avoid the need for passports to be stamped. The form must be submitted at least 24 hours in advance of arrival or for shorter passages before departure from the previous port. The same process applies to departure. A copy of the PPF form must be kept on board at all times. This dispensation applies uniquely to Saint Cast and Saint Quay. [St Cast and St Quay](#) It appears it is only valid for visits to

other ports in Brittany. If you travel outside of Brittany to another French port you will need to enter/leave a formally designated port.

Booking In/Out of France/EU

You will need to book in and out of France using a PPF 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.

PPF Submission

Prior to arrival at your Port of Entry you should complete a PPF (Preavis Police Aux Frontiere). These are port specific but essentially the same format. As an example Cherbourg can be found [PPF Cherbourg](#). 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. However this summer the Police were visiting the marina office around 0800 in the morning and on some evenings. The marina office can advise.

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.

Departure

Prior to departure, even if it is the following morning you will need to submit a PPF 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. Personal experience has indicated that the Police are sometimes willing to travel out to St Vaast to stamp out if you are departing back to UK from there rather than via Cherbourg. They are not required to do this so being 'polite' can elicit a better outcome.

