



Turkey No. 2 (2025)

Exchange of Letters

between the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and
the Republic of Türkiye amending the Free Trade Agreement between the
United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the
Republic of Turkey

London and Ankara, 7 May 2025

[The Exchange of Letters is not in force]

*Presented to Parliament
by the Secretary of State for Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Affairs by
Command of His Majesty
September 2025*



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**EXCHANGE OF LETTERS BETWEEN THE UNITED KINGDOM OF
GREAT BRITAIN AND NORTHERN IRELAND AND THE REPUBLIC OF
TÜRKİYE AMENDING THE FREE TRADE AGREEMENT BETWEEN
THE UNITED KINGDOM OF GREAT BRITAIN AND NORTHERN
IRELAND AND THE REPUBLIC OF TURKEY**

Letter No. 1

Department for Business and Trade to Turkish Ministry of Trade

*London
7 May 2025*

Your Excellency

I have the honour to refer to the Free Trade Agreement between the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the Republic of Turkey, done at Ankara on 29 December 2020 (the "Agreement"), and to the recent discussions between our respective governments pursuant to paragraph 5 of Article 4 of the Agreement, to agree on text replacing, modernising, or expanding on the provisions relating to Technical Barriers to Trade.

Further to those discussions, and pursuant to paragraph 3 of Article 10 of the Agreement, I have the honour to propose that the Agreement be amended as follows:

1. Chapter 4 (Technical Barriers to Trade) of the Agreement shall be replaced by the text in Annex 1 to this Letter,
2. Annexes 4-A and 4-8, as set out in Annex 2 to this Letter, shall be inserted after Annex 2-B-2a of the Agreement.

I have the further honour to propose that references to "the date this Chapter enters into effect" in the text in Chapter 4 and its Annexes are read as references to the date this amendment enters into force.

If the foregoing proposals are acceptable to your government, I have the honour to propose that this letter, and Your Excellency's reply in the affirmative, each signed in both the Turkish and English languages, both language versions being equally authentic, shall together constitute an agreement in the form of an Exchange of Letters between the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the Republic of Türkiye, which shall enter into force on the date of receipt of the later of the Parties' written notifications of completion of their respective internal procedures necessary for the entry into force of this agreement.

I avail myself of this opportunity to renew to Your Excellency the assurances of my highest consideration.

ANNEXES

ANNEX 4-A

ANNEX ON CHEMICALS

ARTICLE 1

Scope

This Annex applies to the trade and regulation of chemicals between Türkiye and the United Kingdom.

ARTICLE 2

Definitions

For the purposes of this Annex:

- (a) “responsible authorities” means:
 - (i) for Türkiye: the government of the Republic of Türkiye; and
 - (ii) for the United Kingdom: the government of the United Kingdom.
- (b) “UN GHS” means the United Nations Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals.

ARTICLE 3

Objectives

- 1. The objectives of this Annex are to:
 - (a) facilitate the trade of chemicals and related products between the Parties;
 - (b) ensure high levels of protection for the environment, and human and animal health; and
 - (c) provide for cooperation between Türkiye and the United Kingdom responsible authorities.
- 2. The Parties acknowledge that the commitments made under this Annex do not

prevent either Party from setting its own priorities on chemicals regulation, including establishing its own levels of protection in respect of the environment, and human and animal health.

ARTICLE 4

Relevant International Organisations and Bodies

The Parties recognise that international organisations and bodies, in particular the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (“OECD”) and the Sub-Committee of Experts on the Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals (“SCEGHS”) of the United Nations Economic and Social Council (“ECOSOC”), are relevant for developing scientific and technical guidelines with respect to chemicals.

ARTICLE 5

Participation in relevant International Organisations and Bodies and Regulatory Developments

1. The Parties shall actively contribute to the development of the scientific or technical guidelines referred to in Article 4 with respect to the assessment of hazards and risks of chemicals and the formats for documenting the results of such assessments.
2. Each Party shall implement any guidelines issued by the international organisations and bodies referred to in Article 4, unless those guidelines would be ineffective or inappropriate for the achievement of that Party’s legitimate objectives.

ARTICLE 6

Classification and Labelling of Chemicals

1. Each Party shall implement the UN GHS as comprehensively as it considers feasible within its respective system, including for chemicals that are not within the scope of this Annex, except where there are specific reasons to apply a different labelling system for particular chemical products in their finished state intended for the final user. Each Party shall update its implementation based on the regularly issued revisions of the UN GHS.
2. Where the responsible authority of a Party intends to classify individual substances in accordance with its respective rules and procedures, it shall give the responsible authority of the other Party the possibility of expressing its views in accordance with those respective rules and procedures within the applicable

timelines.

3. Each Party shall make information about its procedures related to the classification of substances publicly available in accordance with its respective rules and procedures. Each Party shall endeavour to respond to comments received from the other Party pursuant to paragraph 2.

4. Nothing in this Article shall oblige either Party to achieve any particular outcome regarding the implementation of the UN GHS in its territory or regarding the classification of a given substance, or to advance, suspend or delay its respective procedures and decision-making processes.

ARTICLE 7

Cooperation

1. The Parties recognise that voluntary cooperation on chemicals regulation can facilitate trade in ways that benefit consumers, businesses and the environment and that contribute to enhancing the protection of human and animal health.

2. The Parties commit to facilitating the exchange of non-confidential information between their responsible authorities, including through cooperation on electronic formats and tools used to store data.

3. The Parties shall cooperate where appropriate with a view to strengthening, developing and promoting the adoption and implementation of internationally agreed scientific or technical guidelines, including, where feasible, through the presentation of joint initiatives, proposals and approaches in the relevant international organisations and bodies, in particular those referred to in Article 4.

4. The Parties shall cooperate, if considered beneficial by both Parties, with regard to the dissemination of data related to chemicals safety, and shall make such information available to the public with the objective of ensuring easy access to and the comprehensibility of that information by different target groups. Upon request of either Party, the other Party shall provide available non-confidential information on chemicals safety to the requesting Party.

5. If a Party so requests and the other Party agrees to do so, the Parties shall enter into consultations on scientific information and data in the context of new and emerging issues related to the hazards or risks posed by chemicals to human health or the environment, with a view to creating a common pool of knowledge and, if feasible, and to the extent possible, promoting a common understanding of the science related to such issues.

ARTICLE 8

Information Exchange

The Parties shall cooperate and exchange information with respect to any issue relevant for the implementation of this Annex within the Joint Committee.

ANNEX 4-B

ANNEX ON MOTOR VEHICLES AND EQUIPMENT AND PARTS THEREOF

ARTICLE 1

Scope

This Annex applies to the trade between the Parties of all categories of motor vehicles, equipment and parts thereof, as defined in Paragraph 1.1. of UNECE Consolidated Resolution on the Construction of Vehicles (R.E.3)¹, falling under, inter alia, Chapters 40, 84, 85, 87 and 94 of the HS 2022 (hereinafter referred to as “products covered”).

ARTICLE 2

Definitions

1. For the purposes of this Annex:
 - (a) “1958 Agreement” means the Agreement concerning the Adoption of Harmonized Technical United Nations Regulations for Wheeled Vehicles, Equipment and Parts which can be Fitted and/or be Used on Wheeled Vehicles and the Conditions for Reciprocal Recognition of Approvals Granted on the Basis of these United Nations Regulations, done at Geneva on 20 March 1958, administered by the WP.29, and all subsequent amendments and revisions thereof;
 - (b) “1998 Agreement” means the Agreement concerning the Establishing of Global Technical Regulations for Wheeled Vehicles, Equipment and Parts which can be Fitted and/or be Used on Wheeled Vehicles, done at Geneva on 25 June 1998, administered by the WP.29, and all subsequent amendments and revisions thereof;
 - (c) “GTR” means a Global Technical Regulation established and placed on the Global Registry in accordance with the 1998 Agreement;
 - (d) “HS2022” means the 2022 edition of the Harmonized System Nomenclature issued by the World Customs Organization;
 - (e) “type approval” means the procedure whereby an approval authority certifies that a type of vehicle, system, component or separate technical unit satisfies the relevant administrative provisions and technical requirements;

¹ECE/TRANS/WP.29/78/Rev.7 of 15 May 2023.

- (f) “type-approval certificate” means the document whereby an approval authority officially certifies that a type of vehicle, system, component or separate technical unit is type-approved;
- (g) “U-IWVTA UN” means the United Nations Universal International Whole Vehicle Type Approval.
- (h) “UN Regulations” means Regulations adopted in accordance with the 1958 Agreement;
- (i) “WP.29” means the World Forum for Harmonization of Vehicle Regulations within the framework of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (“UNECE”);

2. Terms referred to in this Annex shall have the same meaning as they have in the 1958 Agreement or in Annex 1 to the TBT Agreement.

ARTICLE 3

Objectives

With regard to the products covered, the objectives of this Annex are to:

- (a) eliminate and prevent any unnecessary technical barriers to bilateral trade;
- (b) promote the compatibility and convergence of regulations based on international standards;
- (c) promote the recognition of approvals based on approval schemes applied under the agreements administered by WP.29;
- (d) reinforce competitive market conditions based on principles of openness, non- discrimination and transparency;
- (e) promote high levels of protection of human health, safety and the environment; and
- (f) maintain cooperation on issues of mutual interest to foster continued, mutually beneficial development in trade.

ARTICLE 4

Relevant International Standards

The Parties recognise that the WP.29 is the relevant international standardising body and that UN Regulations and GTRs under the 1958 Agreement and 1998 Agreement are relevant international standards for the products covered by this Annex.

ARTICLE 5

Regulatory Convergence based on relevant International Standards

1. The Parties shall refrain from introducing or maintaining any domestic technical regulation, marking, or conformity assessment procedure diverging from UN Regulations or GTRs in areas covered by such Regulations or GTRs, including where the relevant UN Regulations or GTRs have not been completed but their completion is imminent, unless there are substantiated reasons why a specific UN Regulation or GTR is an ineffective or inappropriate means for the fulfilment of legitimate objectives pursued, such as in the areas of road safety or the protection of the environment or human health.
2. A Party which introduces a divergent domestic technical regulation, marking, or conformity assessment procedure as referred to in paragraph 1, at the request of the other Party, shall identify the parts of the domestic technical regulation, marking, or conformity assessment procedure which substantially diverge from the relevant UN Regulations or GTRs and provide justification for the divergence.
3. Each Party shall systematically consider applying UN Regulations adopted after the date of entry into effect of this Chapter, and shall inform each other of any changes regarding the implementation of those UN Regulations in its respective domestic legal system following the protocol established under the 1958 Agreement and in line with Articles 8 and 9 of this Annex.
4. Insofar as a Party has introduced or maintains domestic technical regulations, markings or conformity assessment procedures that diverge from UN Regulations or GTRs as permitted by paragraph 1, that Party shall review those domestic technical regulations, markings or conformity assessment procedures at regular intervals, preferably not exceeding five years, with a view to increasing their convergence with the relevant UN Regulations or GTRs. When reviewing their domestic technical regulations, markings and conformity assessment procedures, each Party shall consider whether the justification for the divergence still exists. The outcome of these reviews, including any scientific and technical information used, shall be notified to the other Party upon request.

5. Each Party shall refrain from introducing or maintaining domestic technical regulations, markings, or conformity assessment procedures which have the effect of prohibiting, restricting or increasing the burden for the importation and putting into service on their domestic market of products type-approved under UN Regulations for the areas covered by those UN Regulations unless such domestic technical regulations, markings or conformity assessment procedures are explicitly provided for by those UN Regulations.

ARTICLE 6

Type Approval and Market Surveillance

1. Each Party shall accept on its market products which are covered by a valid UN type-approval certificate as compliant with its domestic technical regulations, markings and conformity assessment procedures, without requiring any further testing or marking to verify or attest compliance with any requirement covered by the UN type-approval certificate concerned. In the case of vehicle approvals, the U-IWVTA shall be considered valid in respect of the requirements covered by the U-IWVTA. UN type-approval certificates issued by a Party can only be considered valid if that Party has acceded to the relevant UN Regulations.

2. Each Party shall only be required to accept valid UN type-approval certificates issued pursuant to the latest version of the UN Regulations it has acceded to.

3. For the purpose of paragraph 1, the following shall be considered sufficient proof of the existence of a valid UN type-approval:

- (a) for whole vehicles, a valid UN Declaration of Conformance certifying compliance with a U-IWVTA;
- (b) for equipment and parts, a valid UN type-approval mark affixed to the product; or
- (c) for equipment and parts to which a UN type-approval mark cannot be affixed, a valid UN type-approval certificate.

4. For the purpose of conducting market surveillance, the competent authorities of a Party may verify that the products covered comply, as appropriate, with;

- (a) all the domestic technical regulations of that Party; or
- (b) the UN Regulations with which compliance has been attested, in accordance with this Article, by a valid UN Declaration of Conformance certifying compliance with a U-IWVTA in the case of whole vehicles, or by a valid UN type-approval mark affixed to the

product or a valid UN type-approval certificate in the case of equipment and parts.

Such verifications shall be carried out by random sampling in the market and in accordance with the technical regulations referred to in subparagraph (a) or (b), as the case may be.

5. The Parties shall endeavour to cooperate in the field of market surveillance to support the identification and addressing of non-conformities of vehicles, systems, components or separate technical units.

6. A Party may take any appropriate measures with respect to vehicles, systems, components or separate technical units that present a serious risk to the health or safety of persons or with regard to other aspects of the protection of public interests, or that otherwise do not comply with applicable requirements. Such measures may include prohibiting or restricting the making available on the market, the registration or the entry into service of the vehicles, systems, components or separate technical units concerned, or withdrawing them from the market or recalling them. A Party that adopts or maintains such measures shall promptly inform the other Party of those measures and, at the request of the other Party, shall provide its reasons for adopting those measures.

ARTICLE 7

Products with New Technologies or New Features

1. Neither Party shall refuse or restrict the access to its market of a product that is covered by this Annex and that has been approved by the exporting Party on the grounds that the product incorporates a new technology or a new feature that the importing Party has not yet regulated, unless it can demonstrate that it has reasonable grounds for believing that the new technology or feature creates a risk for human health, safety or the environment.

2. If a Party decides to refuse the access to its market or requires the withdrawal from its market of a product of the other Party covered by this Annex on the grounds that it incorporates a new technology or a new feature creating a risk for human health, safety or the environment, it shall promptly notify that decision to the other Party and to the economic operator or operators concerned. The notification shall include all relevant scientific or technical information taken into account in the decision.

ARTICLE 8

Cooperation

1. In order to further facilitate trade in motor vehicles, their parts and

equipment, and to prevent market access problems, while ensuring human health, safety and environmental protection, the Parties shall endeavour to cooperate and to exchange information as appropriate.

2. Areas of cooperation under this Article may include in particular:

- (a) the development and establishment of technical regulations or related standards;
- (b) the exchange, to the extent possible, of research, information and results linked to the development of new vehicle safety regulations or related standards, advanced emission reduction, and emerging vehicle technologies;
- (c) the exchange of available information on the identification of safety-related or emission-related defects and non-compliance with technical regulations; and
- (d) the promotion of greater international harmonisation of technical requirements through multilateral fora, such as the 1958 Agreement and the 1998 Agreement, including through cooperation in the planning of initiatives in support of such harmonisation.

ARTICLE 9

Working Group on Motor Vehicles and Parts

1. A Working Group on Motor Vehicles and Parts is to be established in accordance with the Article 10.1 of this Agreement and it shall assist the Joint Committee in monitoring and reviewing the implementation and ensuring the proper functioning of this Annex.

2. The functions of the Working Group on Motor Vehicles and Parts shall be the following:

- (a) discussing any matter arising under this Annex, on request of a Party;
- (b) facilitating cooperation and exchange of information in accordance with Article 8;
- (c) carrying out technical discussions in accordance with Article 4.10 (Technical discussions) of this Chapter on matters falling within the scope of this Annex; and
- (d) maintaining a list of contact points responsible for matters arising under this Annex.

Letter No. 2

Turkish Ministry of Trade to the Department for Business and Trade

Ankara

7 May 2025

Your Excellency

I have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your Letter dated 7 May 2025 which reads as follows:

‘As Above’

I have the honour to inform you that my government agrees to this proposal.

I avail myself of this opportunity to renew to Your Excellency the assurance of my highest consideration.

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