



Global
Support
Organisation

User Guide

EU Entry/Exit System



- [What is EES?](#)
- [What does it mean for me as a Service Person?](#)
- [What does it mean for my family?](#)
- [What about personal travel?](#)
- [Before you travel.](#)
- [What to expect at the border.](#)
- [How do I get an Individual NATO Movement Order](#)
- [Who do I contact?](#)



What is EES?

[← Back to Index](#)

On 12th October 2025, the European Union began a gradual roll out of the new Entry/Exit System (EES) for non-EU nationals traveling to the 29 Countries of the Schengen Area. This Automated system will track short stays of up to 90 days within any 180-day period.

- The EES introduces biometric checks (fingerprints and facial images) and automated tracking of entries/exits for non-EU nationals entering the Schengen Area.
- UK nationals are considered third-country nationals under EES.
- The EU is expected to fully implement EES registration at airports, seaports, and land borders by late 2025.
- This will impact all British travellers going to the European Union and the wider Schengen Area which includes Switzerland, Iceland and Norway but excludes Ireland.
- [EES - To whom does the EES not apply?](#) includes “Members of the armed forces travelling on NATO or Partnership for Peace business, who hold an identification and individual or collective movement order provided for by the Agreement between the parties to the North Atlantic Treaty regarding the Status of their Forces and may apply to civilian component or dependents referred to in the NATO Status of Forces Agreement.” Civilian Component applies to immediate family members who officially reside with you in your assigned country, children travelling on School Children’s Visits, and members of the Ministry of Defence Civil Service.
- To that end, UK military personnel and their immediate family members **DO NOT** need to register for EES. When transiting through the point of departure or arrival, personnel are advised to follow signage for EU personnel and carry all documentation detailed in this document. **DO NOT** attempt to register at one of the EES terminals.



What is EES?

[← Back to Index](#)

The Ministry of Defence continues engagement at inter-government level to determine the requirements for MOD personnel and their families under EES.

The Germany Enabling Office is the United Kingdom's Military Mission to sending States in Germany. It is the named Highest Service Authority in Germany in engagement with the Federal Government and is working alongside our allied sending States and the German Government to arrive at a permanent solution for Germany stationed personnel. Germany is unique due to the UK being a member of the multilateral sending States in Germany. In respect of residency of UK defence personnel in Germany, HQ Germany Enabling Office issued resident documentation, SOFA Stamp/Certificate in Passport and SOFA ID card are formally recognised in German legislation. HQ Germany Enabling Office is working with the German Authorities and the other Sending States to arrive at resolution based on this and legal residence recognised in German law so to formerly navigate EES/ETIAS.



What does it mean for me as a SP?

[← Back to Index](#)

UK Service Personnel assigned under the NATO SOFA or bilateral defence arrangements, including those working in diplomatic organisations, that do not hold a EU passport are exempt from EES requirements for duty travel.

Personnel should carry:

- Valid passport
- NATO travel orders and any MOD assignment documentation
- MOD-issued ID (if applicable)
- Host nation ID (if applicable)
- NATO SOFA Card
- Individual NATO Movement Order
- Any additional valid documents supplied by local agencies/authorities – necessary stay permits/host nation residence permits/cards if issued (varies by location)
- Print [EU confirmation](#) Armed Forces personnel and their accompanied family are exempt.
- Proof of association with Service Person.

Who is covered by the NATO SOFA Agreement?

While assigned to a NATO Member State, UK Ministry of Defence personnel, and members of the Civilian Component, are entitled, on arrangement, to the rights and privileges and subject to the obligations of the NATO Status of Forces Agreement, to which all NATO Member States are parties.



What does it mean for my family?

[← Back to Index](#)

Family members of UK Service Personnel who do not hold a EU passport, accompanying a Service Person under the NATO SOFA are generally exempt from EES.

Family members should carry:

- Valid passport
- Individual NATO Movement Order
- Host nation ID (if applicable)
- NATO SOFA card
- Any additional valid documents supplied by local agencies/authorities
- Proof of association with Service Person.



What about personal travel?

[← Back to Index](#)

When traveling for non-duty reasons, families may be subject to EES checks at borders. The 90/180-day rule applies unless exempt by residency or NATO SOFA status.

Recommended documents:

- Valid passport
- Host nation ID (if applicable)
- NATO SOFA card
- Copy of assignment orders
- Individual NATO Movement Order
- Any additional valid documents supplied by local agencies/authorities
- Proof of association with Service Person.



Before you travel

[← Back to Index](#)

Before you conduct any travel, personal or duty please ensure the following.

- You and your family have valid passports
- If your Host Nation issues residency cards, you have them, and they are valid.
- You have registered and received your NATO SOFA cards.
- You have checked and are carrying any other supporting documentation.
- You have given yourself extra time at borders for additional delays you may encounter following the introduction of EES.
- You have downloaded and printed your Individual NATO Movement Orders



What to expect at the border

[← Back to Index](#)

When transiting through the point of departure or arrival, personnel are advised to follow signage for EU personnel and carry all documentation detailed in this document. **DO NOT** attempt to register at one of the EES terminals.

For personal travel, if the arrival/departure point is EES enabled, each individual travelling will be asked to place their passport into a kiosk. They will then be asked for four fingerprints as well as a facial biometric scan. This will register the individuals' details on the EES system.

The system will not be live at this point, and it is not expected to become fully operational until 9th April 2026, this means that you may have to register in this manner more than once. Ensure you continue to give yourself extra time at borders until the EES system is fully in place.

After you have gone through the registration you and your family will then proceed as normal to the usual border checks with your passports. At this point there should be no difference to how the checks have been performed previously.



Be patient, Be kind and Be respectful!

Please remember, EES is a new system and delays are likely to occur. Those working at borders and ports are also new to EES and the nuances MOD personnel are going to bring.



How do I get an Individual Movement Order?

[← Back to Index](#)

Individual Movement Orders are a new document that will be issued for you and your family members by the Global Support Organisation. The Serving Person will access the system through their MOD IT that will issue these documents to each family member they have registered with their National Support Element (NSE). Communications on how to access this facility will be directed through your NSE. This document is yet to be endorsed by MOD but aims to provide individuals with locally issued documentation supporting their status to the border official. The Ministry of Defence continues engagement at inter-government level to determine the requirements for MOD personnel and their families under EES.

The screenshot shows a web application titled "Individual Movement Certificate" with a navigation bar containing "Home", "Settings", "Privacy", "Feedback", and "Back". The main header identifies the "Strategic Command Integrated Global Defence Network" and includes a note: "This app will enable you to update your family details and generate movement certificates to assist with crossing security borders." A "Check Details" button is visible next to a world map graphic.

Two sample certificates are displayed:

- Ordre de marche individuel de l'OTAN**: Issued for Andrew Borwn, passport number 123456789, born 27/01/1984. It certifies his status as a member of the British Armed Forces (SHADE) stationed in Belgium, SHAPÉ, under the NATO Status of Forces Agreement (SOFA) until 08/02/2027. It provides exemption from passport and visa regulations and immigration inspection for dependents of NATO personnel.
- Individual NATO movement order**: Issued for Andrew Borwn, passport number 123456789, born 27/01/1984. It certifies his status as a member of the British Armed Forces in the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO) operating under the NATO Status of Forces Agreement (SOFA) stationed in Belgium, SHAPÉ, until 08/02/2027. It provides exemption from residency rules (90 in 180 days) and immigration inspection for dependents of NATO personnel.

Both certificates include the GSO National Support Element logo and the date 04/09/2025.



Who do I contact?

[← Back to Index](#)

If you have questions regarding EES there are official sources on the internet.

[GOV.UK – EES](#)

[European Union – European Commission](#)

[Belgium Immigration Office](#)

Other open-source links with EES information.

[SKY News](#)

[BBC News](#)

If you have questions, issues, or experiences relating to EES then please use our GOV.UK-EES form.

[EU Entry/Exit System Issues & Questions](#)

