

Overview of Digital Carnets from 1 to 30 June 2026

ATA Carnets went digital on 1 June 2026, when the UK, EU, Norway and Switzerland formally began accepting ATA Carnets in digital format. By the end of June 2026, all UK issuing Chambers, with the exception of Bedfordshire Chamber and Liverpool Chamber, had digital Carnets successfully processed by both UK and foreign Customs authorities.

During the initial launch period, UK and European Chambers issued contingency (backup) paper Carnets alongside digital Carnets to mitigate any potential operational or technical issues. These contingency Carnets proved extremely valuable during the early stages of implementation, providing a reliable fallback procedure where required.

To support implementation across the UK network, UKNATACO established a dedicated Microsoft Teams feedback group involving all UK Issuing Chambers. This enabled the timely sharing of information, lessons learned and best practice, helping to resolve issues quickly and maintain a consistent approach across the network. In addition, any problems encountered at Customs were promptly reported to the relevant party to ensure smooth clearance of goods at the borders.

Since the launch, we have seen a significant improvement in the accuracy and reliability of digital Carnet processing by Customs administrations. In light of this positive performance, we consider that contingency paper Carnets will no longer be required from 13 July 2026.

Statistics:

From 1 - 30 June, there were 5,257 digital Carnet transactions involving UK issued ATA Carnets

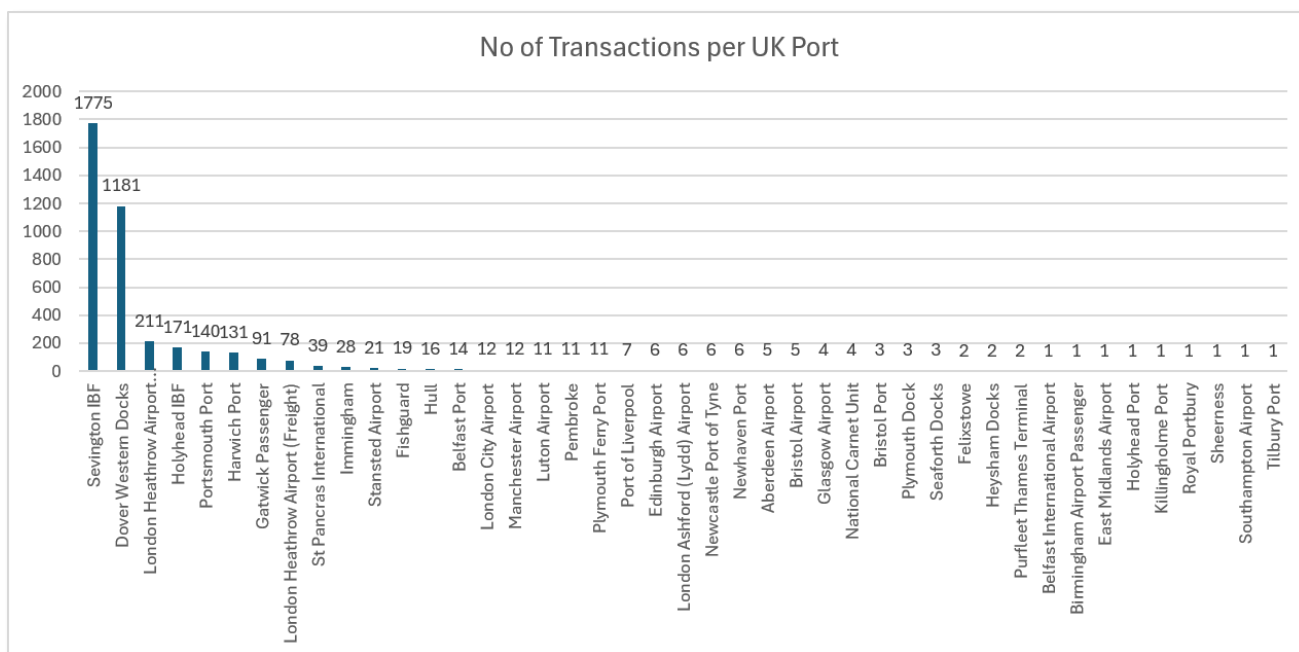
Transactions by type:

Transaction type	No of transactions
Validation	1424
Exportation	1516
Importation	774
Re-Exportation	720
Re-Importation	758
Transit close	30
Transit open	35

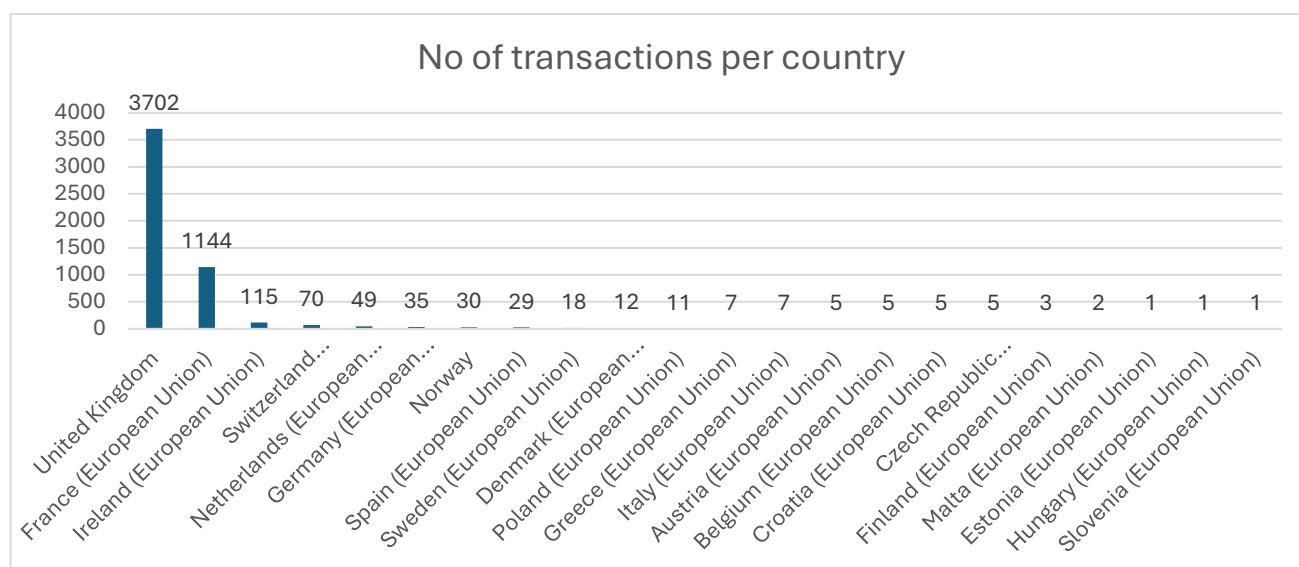
Observation – a number of Carnets were missing digital Validation on the first use.

Transactions by port:

From 1 – 30 June, 45 UK Customs Offices processed digital Carnets:



Number of UK issued Carnet transactions per country



We have also started seeing digital transactions by Carnet users arriving from paper countries:

Paper Country	Transactions in UK
Japan	7
Serbia	6
Australia	6
Thailand	4
Hong Kong	4
India	3
China	2
Canada	2
Moldova	1
Ukraine	1

Similar trends are also being observed in other digital countries. The number of digital Carnets arriving from paper countries is on the increase. We have also started to see paper Carnet Holder experiencing delays or rejections in digital countries (involving France, Greece and Netherlands).

Incorrect declarations (which will impact reconciliation of transactions)

We have identified 29 incorrectly declared transactions from UK Carnet users (goods were declared as not re-exported or not re-imported):

Country of Issue	Incorrect declaration
UK	29

These transactions had the goods declared in the incorrect section as shown below (paper Carnet is shown as a reference point):

To location/city/event/use (optional)

Means of transport
☒ Air ☐ Sea ☐ Land

Extra details (optional)
 Enter your remarks, flight number, license plate, ...

Declared items +

Items not being re-exported/re-imported +

In support of this declaration, present the following documents (optional)

Enter your comment

F. RE-IMPORTATION DECLARATION
 Déclaration de réimportation temporaire
 I, duly authorised: / Je soussigné, dûment autorisé:

a) declare that the goods enumerated in the list overleaf and described in the General List under Item No(s). / déclare que les marchandises énumérées à la liste figurant au verso et reprises à la liste générale sous le(s) N°(s) :

were temporarily exported under cover of exportation voucher(s) No(s). / ont été exportées temporairement sous le couvert du (des) volet(s) d'exportation N°(s) :

request duty-free re-importation of the said goods / demande la réimportation en franchise de ces marchandises

b) declare that the said goods have NOT undergone any process abroad, except for those described under No(s). / déclare que lesdites marchandises n'ont subi aucun traitement à l'étranger, sauf celles énumérées sous le(s) N°(s) :

c) declare that goods of the following Item No(s), have not been re-imported : / déclare ne pas réimporter les marchandises reprises sous le(s) N°(s) suivant(s) :

d) confirm that the information given is true and complete / certifie justes et complètes les indications portées sur le présent volet

* If applicable / * S'il y a lieu

b) This voucher must be forwarded to the Customs Office at :
 Le présent volet devra être transmis au bureau de douane de : *

c) Other remarks : / Autres mentions : *

At / A : _____
 Customs office / Bureau de douane

Date (year / month/day) : _____ / _____
 Date (année/mois/jour)

Signature and Stamp
 Signature et timbre

Place
 Lieu

Date (year/month/day) : _____ / _____
 Date (année/mois/jour)

Name
 Nom

Signature X _____ X
 Signature

re-imp.

Chambers must ensure that Carnet users are completing the correct section (i.e. Declared Items) to avoid goods being declared incorrectly in the Customs systems:

Type ▼	Type ▼	Date & time ▼	Cleared goods	Final date for duty-free re-export/production to Customs ▼	Final date for duty-free re-importation ▼	Customs territory ▼
ATA	ReImportation	18/06/2026 20:24	✗			Ireland (European Union)
ATA	ReExportation	18/06/2026 13:11	✗			United Kingdom
ATA	Importation	12/06/2026 18:18	1-242	09/06/2027		United Kingdom
ATA	Exportation	12/06/2026 12:10	1-242		09/06/2027	Ireland (European Union)

Comments and Recommendations

It is becoming increasingly evident that Customs authorities are moving towards the mandatory use of digital ATA Carnets. There are also indications that this requirement may extend to Carnet holders arriving from countries that still issue paper Carnets. **Issuing Chambers must therefore ensure that their Carnet users are provided with a digital Carnet whenever they are travelling to countries operating the digital system.** In addition, users must be given clear guidance and training on how to access and use the digital Carnet throughout their journey to avoid delays or compliance issues at the border.

Recommendations are as follows:

1. From 13 July 2026 – there is no longer any need to keep issuing backup paper Carnets if the itinerary includes only digital countries
2. Ensure that the Carnet user presents both the Validation and Exportation QR Code on the first use
3. Paper Carnets should only be used if:
 - The paper Carnet was issued before 1 June 2026
 - The GB user is travelling to a paper country
 - The GB user is arriving from a paper country (hence has paper country Customs endorsements on the Carnet)
4. Using paper and digital Carnets for mixed itineraries (what to use and when?):
 - On departure from UK: if the goods are going to both paper and digital countries, without returning to the UK in between – then validation + exportation must be presented for both Carnets. If the goods are returning to UK before travelling to the next destination – then only the Carnet type required for that leg of the journey should be presented for validation + exportation. The other Carnet can be validated + exported on the next leg of the journey
 - On return to the UK: present whichever GB Carnet(s) contains foreign Customs endorsements (for example if only one Carnet format was used abroad, then only present Re-importation for that Carnet. If both Carnets were used between paper and digital destinations, then present both on return to the UK)
5. We have received reports that some QR codes were presented as a screenshot or picture of the QR Code. Carnet users must present eATA Declarations via:
 - the Mobile Phone App (user will see Customs endorsements in the app)
 - QR code saved to the Apple / Google Wallet (Customs endorsements are currently not visible – but a ticket was logged to developers to see if this is possible)
 - QR code printout (containing transaction + cancelation codes and the QR code) – [recommended for Sevington, Holyhead, LHR Customs House, Inventory Linked Ports.](#) Note that using paper printouts means that the driver has no way to check that the Declaration has been processed by Customs, other than by contacting their back office for confirmation.
6. Ensure that Items declared for Re-export and Re-import are entered in the correct Box of the ACA or ACD Application:

- Items declared for Re-export and Re-import must be entered in the “Declared Items” Box (entering the items in the “Items not being re-exported” section means that the goods are not being re-exported or re-imported, which could result in Customs Charges. This field should only be used if the goods were sold or destroyed under Customs supervision).

Mode of transp. *

☒ Air ☐ Sea ☐ Land

Extra details

Enter your remarks, flight number, license plate, ...

BA12345

Declared items *

1

CANCEL SAVE

- What to do in case of a discrepancy between digital and paper Carnet:
 - If neither paper nor digital Carnet reimportation was processed on return to the UK – then get a Certificate of Location from the NCU
 - If paper reimportation has been endorsed (but not the digital) – and the paper reimportation was processed after any digital endorsements, then COL is not required. If there are digital endorsements on the digital Carnet dated after paper reimportation – then COL will be required if the re-exportation from the country of temporary admission has not been done either or there are item discrepancies
 - If the digital Carnet was processed fully (i.e. digital reimportation is the last transaction in the Carnet history), but paper re-importation has not been done – then the Holder will need to apply for a Transaction Receipt from the NCU (**note that this is new functionality with planned release for October / November 2026 – whereby the NCU will be able to print a digital transaction from the Customs Portal and manually stamp it so that it can be accepted by the claiming paper country. The exact details of the procedure are still to be determined**)
- Creating QR Codes for the European Union (Import / Re-export):
 - If driving – create a QR code for the country of entry into the EU (for example if driving to Germany, but the entry to the EU is at Calais – then create QR Codes for France. Once the goods enter France, they are in free circulation within the entire Customs Territory.
 - If flying – create a QR code for the country of destination (i.e. Germany)
- Creating Transit QR Codes when crossing through multiple EU Member States:
 - Create a Transit for the country of entry i.e. if entering France and then driving through Belgium and Germany en-route to Switzerland – create a transit for France (Open Transit is presented to French Customs on entry and Close Transit to German Customs when exiting the EU. Both QR Codes will show France but can be opened and transacted by any EU Member State
- How to reset the signature in the ACA / ACD (after the Carnet has been signed by the Holder):

- The Chamber must change the Carnet status to "Draft" in the issuing system
- Mercury Core will show the status as "Draft"
- Complete the Carnet as per usual
- The Carnet signature will have cleared in ACA and ACD
- Carnet can now be re-signed

Tickets logged to improve Carnet App functionality going forward:

We have logged a number of tickets to the developers for future consideration (we cannot guarantee when or if these will be implemented, but listing them here to avoid duplication of requests going forward):

1. Allow user to attach documents to their declaration – this will allow user to upload POA and other documents (i.e. ENS, AWB etc) to the Carnet declaration. This should be released in August / September 2026
2. ATA Carnet Desktop app – implement shared voucher log so the user knows what was shared with drivers etc. This should be released in August / September 2026
3. Revamp the Mobile App (ACA) and Desktop App (ACD) so that User Interface makes a better distinction between goods declared and goods not being declared

4. ACA and ACD, show which items will be declared to Customs – this is to ensure that the person creating declarations has a clear overview of what items have been included in different Travels. This will minimise chances of incorrect items being declared:

Details	Type	Items	Documents	Travels	History
1 St Pancras to Gare du Nord / 2.6.2026	Exportation / Importation	1-20, 25-55, 60-100	From: United Kingdom	To: France (European Union)	Delete Edit
2 GDN to St Pancras	ReExportation / ReImportation	1-20, 25-55, 60-100	From: France (European Union)	To: United Kingdom	Delete Edit

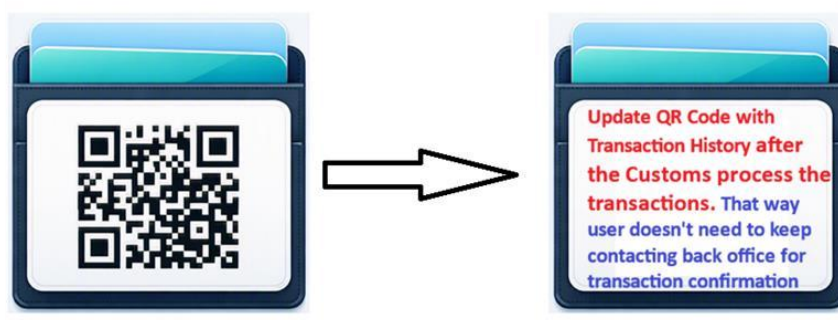
Show the items declared so that user can quickly check if there is a discrepancy

5. Creating Transits for itinerary involving multiple EU Countries – suggestion was put forward to either show EU as the country or allow specifying different country for entry and exit, so that QR Codes are adjusted accordingly
6. Add Transactions Section to the ACD – digital endorsements can be checked in the “History” section of the ACD. The view, however, only works for an individual Carnet. Transactions section showing all Carnets that the user is working with would provide a much better overview of what was processed by Customs and where the goods are
7. Add a Download Voucher Transaction link to the ACD - this would allow users who have only been provided with a paper QR code printout to download the voucher to their App or Apple/Google Wallet. This would, in turn, enable them to view Customs endorsements directly.

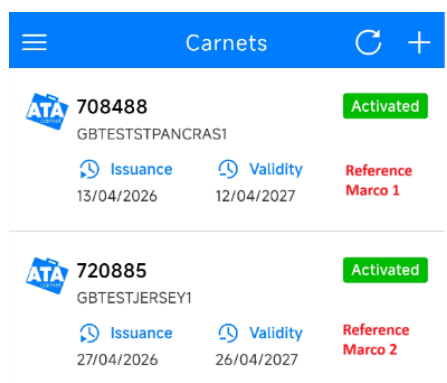
The image shows two mobile app screens. The top screen is titled 'Download carnet' and asks the user to 'Enter Carnet number/ID and PIN code to download Carnet in your Wallet'. It has input fields for 'Carnet number or ID' (with a QR code icon) and 'Carnet PIN Code' (containing '123456'). Below this is a section for 'Copy the sharing URL you received by email' with a 'Sharing URL' field containing 'https://'. The bottom screen is titled 'Download Voucher' and asks the user to 'Enter Carnet number/ID and transaction code to download Voucher to your Wallet'. It has input fields for 'Carnet number or ID' (with a QR code icon) and 'Carnet Transaction code' (containing '123456'). Both screens have 'Cancel' and 'Download' buttons at the bottom.

8. Allow QR Code to be printed without having to share with another user – currently a QR Code can be downloaded to the APP / Wallett or printed by the recipient. Printing should also be available to the person that has created the Declaration (without having to share the QR first). That way the back office can prepare all the documents for the driver, including the QR code printout (without having to share the voucher with themselves).
9. Update Apple / Google Wallett with Transaction History after Customs endorsement (this will enable users to check what was processed by Customs directly in the Wallett / without having to use the ACA App)

It would be great if the QR code downloaded to Apple / Google Wallet can be updated with transaction info after Customs endorsement. That way driver has transaction info in the wallet



10. Add search box for Carnets in ACA so the user can search the relevant Carnet easily (this is already available in the ACD)
11. Allow user to assign their own reference to the Carnet in ACA and ACD for easier identification of different Carnets:



12. Optimise ACD app for multiple Carnets – we have noticed that having multiple active Carnets in the ACD app can slow the app loading time considerably. Developers have been asked to find a solution for this problem.
13. Add Pre-Declaration authorisation to the shared Voucher – this way the driver will be able to to authorise Pre-Declaration after they arrive at the port without requiring access to the whole Carnet or without having to contact their back office, as it is the case now). Authorising the pre-declaration Unlocks it in the Customs portal so that it can be processed without having to scan the QR Code.
14. Add Items declared + link to the items descriptions to the paper printout of the shared QR Code:



Please note that the above tickets were logged based on the priorities identified by the UK network. Other countries may have their own suggestions, requirements or areas of focus. As a result, it may take some time before we align the international priorities and see progress being made on these items. We will keep the Issuing Network updated on any developments, including what is being implemented and the relevant timelines.

Best regards,

Davor Antonic-Mckinley
Head of ATA Carnets and Compliance