

Electronic logbooks: Questions and answers

What are electronic logbooks?

An electronic logbook is software that is installed on your vessel that allows you to record and submit the fishing activity of your vessel. This will replace the current paper log books.

Why do I need an electronic logbook?

EU Council Regulations 1066/2006, 1006/2008, Commission Regulation 1077/2007 and Council Regulation 1224/2009 mandate that vessels registered in EU states are required to submit fishing activity electronically.

The UK fisheries administrations have had their communication systems in place since 1 July 2010 and approved software is now available from a number of suppliers.

When do I need to have an electronic logbook installed?

- Vessels over 24 metres overall length: 1 January 2010
- Vessels over 15 metres overall length operating outside of Community waters: 1 January 2011
- Vessels over 15 metres overall length: 1 July 2011.

We expect owners of vessels over 24 metres overall length to demonstrate their intention to comply no later than 1 October 2010, either by having approved software installed and working, or by being able to provide evidence of taking specific steps to having a system installed.

Will I still be able to use my current paper logbook?

No. Paper logbooks will eventually be withdrawn from use.

Are there any exceptions?

There are no exceptions for vessels that are English administered and UK registered.

Who can see the information I submit on my electronic logbook?

All fishing activity submitted electronically may be viewed by Royal Navy patrol vessels as well as fisheries administration and enforcement staff.

The logbook information submitted will be also available to inspectors of other member states of the EU and third countries while vessels are in their waters.

Primary vessel owners can also register on their system which allows them to view activity for their vessels over an internet browser. The primary vessel owner can set up other users to view and administer their vessel activity. To register, vessel owners must complete the **UK Electronic Recording System: Primary vessel owner registration form (ELB2a)**, which is available on the Marine Management Organisation website.

Your vessel's activity will not be available to other vessel owners.

How do I get an electronic logging system on board my vessel?

- Visit the Marine Management Organisation's website at www.marinemanagement.org.uk/fisheries/monitoring/electronic_elogbooks.htm

- Choose your software – you will only be eligible for grant aid if your software is approved.
- Once you have chosen your software, arrange a date for installation with your supplier.
- Once the supplier's engineer installs the software on your vessel they will request a same-day confirmation from us that the system is working. Your vessel's details will be added to the list of compliant vessels.

Why do I have to purchase software approved by the UK fisheries administrations to be compliant and to qualify for grant aid?

Approved software has been through an extensive testing process commissioned by the UK fisheries administrations testing agent, National Computer Centre Group. This is to ensure that it meets the published specification required to communicate with the central system – the UK Hub.

What if the system fails at sea?

In the event the vessel becomes incapable of submitting electronic logs, it should call the UK Fisheries Call Centre and report the daily catch. This will then be manually updated on the system. The UK Fisheries Call Centre (UKFCC) details:

Telephone: +00 44 131 271 9700
 Email: ukfcc@scotland.gsi.gov.uk
 Fax: +00 44 131 244 6471

The vessel should repair any faults on return to land and before its next voyage, or demonstrate best efforts to do so. Where onboard software fails at sea and it is not possible to contact the UK Fisheries Call Centre, the vessel should return to port.

How do I apply for a grant to reimburse me for my costs?

Only vessels that are over 15 metres overall length and are administered in an English port are currently eligible to apply for a grant from the Marine Management Organisation.

To apply for a grant you must:

- Complete the **Details of suppliers form (AP201)**. This form will set you up on our finance system so that you will be able to receive your grant in aid.
- Once you have had the software installed, complete the **Electronic logbook grant claim form (ELB3)**. This will allow you to apply for a maximum of £2,000 to reimburse the cost of the software from an approved supplier – hardware costs cannot be claimed for. This form should be sent in with the original supplier invoice and proof of payment. Each invoice should be for a single vessel and clearly indicate the amount the software cost, or the claim may be rejected. If you have ordered software for multiple vessels, each must be invoiced separately.
- Sign both forms and send them to:
 IT Service Desk
 Marine Management Organisation
 PO Box 1275
 Newcastle upon Tyne
 NE99 5BN

Where can I find more information?

Visit the Marine Management Organisation's website at www.marinemanagement.org.uk/fisheries/monitoring/electronic_elogbooks.htm

Telephone: 0191 376 2660
 Email: it.helpdesk@marinemanagement.org.uk