



Europe · Medicines, tobacco, alcohol

United Kingdom

Tobacco has unit-level traceability since 2019 under rules kept from the EU directive. Great Britain stopped the EU medicines safety features after Brexit. Vaping products need duty stamps from 1 October 2026, with full implementation by 1 April 2027. On the retail side, Tesco is one of the most active 2D adopters.

THE REGIME

SYSTEM	UK tobacco track and trace; vaping duty stamps
CODE ON THE PRODUCT	Unique identifiers on tobacco packs; physical stamps with digital tracking on vapes
AGGREGATION	Tobacco: yes.

STEPS FOR A SUPPLIER

- ☐ Register your products and GTINs in the national system: UK tobacco track and trace.
- ☐ Print a unique serialised code on every saleable pack.
- ☐ Verify every code on the line; aggregate into cases and pallets where required.
- ☐ Report production and shipments to the national system.

ON THE LINE, BEFORE THE FIRST SHIPMENT

- ☐ The data in the code is agreed: GTIN, serial number, batch, expiry date or crypto tail, as the rules for your product group require.
- ☐ A verifier has graded printed samples (ISO/IEC 15415 for 2D codes) before the first shipment.
- ☐ A camera after the printer reads every code at line speed, and packs with an unreadable code are rejected.
- ☐ Records show which code went on which pack, case and pallet, ready for the report to the system.

DATES AHEAD

1 Apr 2027

Vaping stamp regime in full

SOURCES

1. HMRC / [tax-stamps.org](https://tax-stamps.org/news/interview-with-hm-revenue-customs-uks-new-vaping-duty-stamp/): vaping duty stamp: <https://tax-stamps.org/news/interview-with-hm-revenue-customs-uks-new-vaping-duty-stamp/>
 2. GOV.UK: tobacco track and trace: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/tobacco-track-and-trace-system>
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Current version and all sources:
2dtracker.com/country/uk.html

Typical steps. This is not legal advice: check the regulation
itself.