

Importing & Exporting Products in a no-deal Brexit:

20 essential actions businesses should take



IMPORT PROCESS

1. Ensure you have a UK EORI number. You will not be able to import without one and it only takes a few minutes to apply.
2. Check you are using the correct commodity codes to ensure you are ready to pay the right tariffs on any imported goods.
3. Check your eligibility to use Transitional Simplified Procedures (TSP) and register now. TSP allows you to make customs declarations after you have imported, thereby ensuring free flow of goods over the border.
4. Ensure you are aware of any new processes and procedures that will apply to imports of high-risk plants and plant products.
5. Decide if you will use a customs agent.

TRANSPORT & LOGISTICS

1. Speak to your freight supplier about the information they will need from you before they can transport your goods across the EU border.
2. Check if the ports you use have traffic management systems (e.g. Operation Brock at Dover) and the correct authorisations. Identify EU Border Inspection Posts (BIPs) you may need to use when exporting. Sign up for road freight updates.

EXPORT PROCESS

1. Ensure you have a UK EORI number. If you need to interact with EU customs, you will also need an EU EORI number from the country where you first lodge a declaration.
2. Check you are using the right commodity codes to avoid problems when your goods arrive in the EU.
3. Ensure you are aware of required certification and pre-notification processes, e.g. plant health controls, chemical regulations etc.
4. Ensure product labelling meets EU third country requirements.
5. Prepare packaging artwork changes.
6. Decide if you will use a customs agent.

FINANCIAL CONSEQUENCES

1. Assess your currency exposure to volatility that could affect your costs. Speak to your bank about hedging to manage these risks and about your cash flow limits.
2. Check supply agreements to understand who is responsible for payment of duties. Check who is responsible for goods that are delayed. Seek legal advice about potential breaches of contract or is you need to abandon a supply contract.

SUPPLY CHAINS

1. Work with suppliers, customers and service providers to map your supply chain, identifying where potential risks and problems could arise.
2. Identify opportunities to change your supply chain to mitigate against disruption at the ports or added costs of raw materials.
3. Be aware of stocks of key imports and exports in the UK and EU. The cost and lack of storage capacity in October means stockpiling will not be possible for most businesses.

IRISH BORDER

1. Assess tariff and practical implications facing goods that needs to cross the Irish border.
2. Monitor updates from Government departments in Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland.

WORKFORCE

1. Help your EU national employees in the UK apply for the EU Settlement Scheme to ensure they can continue to reside in the UK.
2. Download an Employers Toolkit from gov.uk.
3. New EU employees arriving after 31 October can register their stay after three months.

For further assistance on preparing your business for Brexit, visit www.hta.org.uk