

Customs guidance and product labelling at the end of the Transition Period



Department for International Trade

We secure UK and global prosperity by promoting and financing international trade and investment, and championing free trade.

Responsibilities

We are an international economic department, responsible for:

- bringing together policy, promotion and financial expertise to break down barriers to trade and investment, and help businesses succeed
- delivering a new trade policy framework for the UK as we leave the EU
- promoting British trade and investment across the world
- building the global appetite for British goods and services



Department for International Trade (DIT) in Germany

In Germany, we operate across three key locations to provide in-market consultancy services for UK companies looking to export to Germany and to support German companies seeking to invest in the UK through dedicated, professional and personalised assistance.

DIT Germany has teams in **Berlin**, **Dusseldorf** and **Munich**.

Further information on trading with the UK or investing in the UK: www.great.gov.uk/international/

Enquiries: DITGermany@mobile.trade.gov.uk

Border formalities between GB and the EU at the end of the Transition Period

End of transition period

Whether we reach an agreement or not, the UK will leave the EU's customs union and single market. This means that there will be new processes that exporters and importers will have to comply with irrespective of whether an agreement is reached or not.

Today will cover the movement of goods between the EU and Great Britain.

We will not be covering the Northern Ireland Protocol.

Our objectives and priorities for the border:

- Maintaining security
- Facilitating the flow of goods (including animals, food and plants) and people
- Protection of revenue and compliance with standards

UK Global Tariff

From 1 January 2021, the UK will apply a UK-specific tariff to imported goods:

www.gov.uk/guidance/uk-tariffs-from-1-january-2021

- The UK Global Tariff (UKGT) will replace the EU's Common External Tariff, which applies until 31 December 2020.
- It will make it easier and cheaper for businesses to import goods from overseas.
- The changes include scrapping unnecessary tariff variations, rounding tariffs down to standardised percentages, and getting rid of all “nuisance tariffs” (those below 2%).

The UK Border Operating Model

- From 1 January 2021, the process of importing and exporting goods between Great Britain and the EU will change.
- The UK Border Operating Model (BOM) was first published in **July 2020** - the full document is available at www.gov.uk/government/publications/the-border-operating-model
- An update to the Border Operating Model was published on **8th October 2020** and includes further detail on a number of key policy areas.
- Practical summary PDFs for importing into the UK and exporting out of the UK are available at www.gov.uk/government/publications/how-to-import-and-export-goods-between-great-britain-and-the-eu-from-1-january-2021

Staged introduction of border controls

- The UK will be introducing border controls at the end of transition period in stages - starting with some controls from **1 January 2021** and moving to full controls for all goods from **1 July 2021**
- The requirement for Safety and Security declarations on import - Entry Summary Declarations (ENS) will be waived for 6 months
- Traders importing controlled goods (such as excise goods) will be expected to follow full customs requirements from **January 2021**
- The UK will join the Common Transit Convention (CTC) in its own right from **1 January 2021**. Moving to these requirements in stages will therefore not be applicable

Customs Declarations (Exports & Imports)

Importers and exporters will have to complete UK and EU customs declarations after the end of the transition period. Some locations will require pre-lodgement of customs declarations prior to the movement of goods, which will particularly affect 'roll on-roll off' (RoRo) movements.

Timing

1 January 2021

For importers, submission of supplementary declarations can be delayed up to six months after import during the period January to July 2021.

For details see BOM p. 32
(Imports) and p. 142 (Exports)

Customs Duties (Imports)

Importers will need to ensure that any customs duties applicable to their goods under the new UK Global Tariff are paid. In order to do this, importers will need to determine the origin, classification and customs value of their goods. There are options available to defer any payment that is due.

Timing

1 January 2021

For importers delaying their customs declarations the payment of duties can be delayed to the time when the supplementary declaration is submitted.

For details see BOM p. 36

VAT (Imports)

VAT will be levied on imports of goods from the EU, following the same rates and structures as are applied to RoW imports.

Timing

1 January 2021

There are options to defer VAT payments using postponed VAT accounting.

For details see BOM p. 36

Safety & Security Declarations (Exports & Imports)

In order to maintain safety and security standards, the UK Government will collect more information on goods moving into GB from the EU. By default, this will include safety and security declarations.

Timing

1 January 2021 (Exports)

1 July 2021 (Imports)

For details see BOM p. 110 (Imports) and p. 144 (Exports)

Additional Requirements

Goods covered by International Conventions / Commitments e.g. ATA Carnets. Timing: 1 January 2021 (Introduced in 1 stage.)

Goods subject to Sanitary and Phytosanitary controls e.g. animal products (products of animal origin and animal by-products); plants and plant products. Timing: 1 January 2021 to 1 July 2021 (Introduced in 3 stages for imports; 1 stage for exports.)

Goods with Additional Customs Requirements e.g. Excise goods. Timing: 1 January 2021 (Introduced in 1 stage.)

Other Goods including Strategic Exports Timing: 1 January 2021 (Introduced in 1 stage.)

Further details: see Border Operating Model, p. 20

Summary of changes from 1 January 2021

- Traders importing standard goods, covering everything from clothes to electronics, will need to prepare for basic customs requirements, such as keeping sufficient records of imported goods, and will have up to six months to complete customs declarations.
- While tariffs will need to be paid on all imports, payments can be deferred until the customs declaration has been made.
- There will be checks on controlled goods like alcohol and tobacco.
- Businesses will also need to consider how they account for VAT on imported goods.
- UK Safety and Security (S&S) declarations will not be required on imports for the first six months.

Summary of changes from 1 April 2021

- All products of animal origin (POAO) – for example meat, pet food, honey, milk or egg products – and all regulated plants and plant products will also require pre-notification and the relevant health documentation.

Summary of changes from 1 July 2021

- Traders moving all goods will have to make declarations at the point of importation and pay relevant tariffs.
- Full Safety and Security declarations will be required.
- For SPS commodities there will be an increase in physical checks and the taking of samples: checks for animals, plants and their products will now take place at GB Border Control Posts.

Prepare for 1 January 2021

- **Understand the requirements of EU Member States.**
- **GB EORI** – Traders will need a GB EORI number to move goods to or from the UK. Check your EORI number. Apply for a new one if yours does not start with GB: www.gov.uk/eori
- **EU EORI** – If undertaking any EU customs processes, traders will need an EU EORI.
- **If you are an importer, check which goods are on the controlled goods list** – If your good is on the controlled goods list, you will need to complete full customs declarations from January.
- **If you are importing non-controlled goods, decide whether to delay the customs declaration** for up to six months or complete full customs declarations on import.
- **Decide how to complete customs formalities:** Most traders are expected to use a customs intermediary. These are experts who can make declarations on your behalf.

Prepare for 1 January 2021

- **Duty Deferment Account (DDA)** - A DDA allows holders to delay customs duty, excise duty and import duty, to be paid once a month rather than on individual consignments.
- **Check to see if a facilitation would benefit the business** – there are a number of facilitations, including the Common Transit Convention, to help import and export goods.
- **If you are importing animals or plant products**, traders need to be prepared for submitting additional documentation and checks taking place at point of destination.
- If you are an exporter, be prepared to submit customs export declarations from January.
- If you are a haulier, be ready to use the “Check an HGV is ready” service.

Placing goods on the UK market and product labelling

Placing goods on GB market from January 2021



New Approach

Goods with a CE-marking
e.g. toys, PPE, machinery



Old Approach

Changes to existing standalone regulation models depend on specific goods.
e.g. chemicals, vehicles, aerospace



Non-Harmonised Goods

Mutual recognition will no longer apply to non-harmonised goods in GB.
e.g. foodstuffs, furniture



Other Goods

There are special rules for some goods including medical devices, construction products, civil explosives and products requiring eco-design and energy labelling.

Placing new approach goods on the market

From 1 January 2021, the UKCA mark will be the conformity assessment marking for Great Britain for most goods currently subject to CE marking. If you have already placed CE marked goods on the UK market before 1 January 2021, you do not need to take any action for those goods.

Placing CE marked goods on the GB market

- Businesses should take steps to prepare for the upcoming changes to the UK domestic regime at the earliest opportunity
- CE marked goods that meet EU requirements can continue to be placed on the GB market in most cases until 1 January 2022
- For most new approach goods you will be able to affix the UKCA marking on a label affixed to the product or on accompanying documentation until 1 January 2023

Labelling of new approach goods



- If you self-certify or use an EU Notified Body you can still use the CE marking until 1 January 2022 for goods placed on the GB market
- You will need to continue to use the CE marking for products placed on the EU market
- You can place the UKCA and CE marking on the same product if it is destined for both the GB and EU so long as the product meets the rules for both markets



- From the 1 January 2021 new approach products assessed against GB rules by a GB 'Approved Body' will need the UKCA marking
- If you currently self-certify for the CE mark you can also do so for the UKCA mark
- From the 1 January 2021 the essential requirements and standards that can be used to demonstrate compliance to the UKCA marking will be the same as they are now for the CE marking

Conformity assessment of new approach goods

- All UK-based 'notified bodies' will automatically become UK approved bodies from 1 January 2021. You can find details of UK notified bodies on the EU NANDO database or the UKAS website
- If your product requires third-party conformity assessment this will need to be done by a UK-recognised body from 1 January 2022 (in most cases)

Take action to ensure products are market compliant

If you plan to put goods on both the UK and EU market, you should start preparing now:

- Contact your notified bodies as soon as possible to understand your options for conformity assessments for the UK and EU markets
- Arrange for separate certificates for the UK and EU markets to be ready well in advance of 1 January 2022. There may be a requirement for a level of re-assessment before the second certificate is issued so you should start planning as soon as possible

Check your responsibilities for new approach goods

The responsibilities relating to certain categories of economic operators who deal with CE or UKCA marked goods will change from 1 January 2021. Economic operators include manufacturers, importers, distributors and authorised representatives.

- A UK-based distributor of EU goods may become an 'importer' – and vice-versa. Compared to distributors, importers have a stronger duty to ensure products are compliant and often must ensure their address is on a product. Review guidance on the responsibilities of importers by searching for 'placing goods on the GB market' on gov.uk
- Authorised Representatives for the GB market must be based in GB or NI from 1 January 2021

Find out more about placing goods on the market

- For guidance on placing goods on the GB market (including Old Approach goods) visit gov.uk/guidance/placing-manufactured-goods-on-the-market-in-great-britain-from-1-january-2021
 - Using the UKCA mark from January 2021: gov.uk/guidance/using-the-ukca-mark-from-1-january-2021
 - Status of conformity assessment bodies from January 2021: gov.uk/guidance/conformity-assessment-bodies-change-of-status-from-1-january-2021
- For guidance on placing goods on the market in Northern Ireland, or on goods moving between NI and GB, visit: gov.uk/government/publications/moving-goods-under-the-northern-ireland-protocol
- For any queries regarding this guidance please email goodsregulation@beis.gov.uk

**CHECK.
PREPARE.
KEEP MOVING.**

Keep business moving

www.gov.uk/eubusiness: our landing page for EU businesses, where you can find guidance and the most up-to-date information to prepare for the end of the transition period.

www.gov.uk/guidance/product-safety-for-businesses-a-to-z-of-industry-guidance: UK product safety rules

Contact DIT Germany: DITGermany@mobile.trade.gov.uk