



HM Government  
UK TRANSITION



# BREXIT TRANSITION CHANGES - ACTIONS FOR BUSINESSES

**NEW RULES ARE HERE**



TAKE ACTION NOW  
[GOV.UK/TRANSITION](https://www.gov.uk/transition)

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# INTRODUCTION AND AVAILABLE GUIDANCE

The UK and EU have agreed a Trade and Cooperation Agreement governing future trade relations from 1 January 2021, that will see no tariffs or quotas on the movement of goods produced between the UK and the EU. Further details and a summary explainer document are available [here](#).

Your business has to make a number of changes to ensure continued flow of people, data, goods and services between the UK and the EU. Businesses should take action as the UK is no longer in the single market or the customs union.

This document provides a summary of some of the key actions.

## What guidance is available?

The best place for businesses to get support and information about the changes is at [GOV.UK/transition](https://www.gov.uk/transition), including:

- A [transition checker tool](#), so businesses can get personalised results about the specific actions they need to take;
- The [latest news](#) from the Government.

## Additional key Government advice:

- The [Border Operating Model](#) is a guide to how the border with the EU works. See the 'Guide to changes at the border' for a summary.
- Businesses can sign up to Business Readiness bulletins produced by BEIS [here](#).

## The Devolved Administrations have also published guidance:

- [Scotland](#)
- [Wales](#)
- [Northern Ireland](#)

Information on relevant helplines is provided at the end of this document.

# ACTIONS FOR BUSINESSES TO TAKE NOW

Topic	Action	Guidance
<b>Businesses that import and export goods</b>	<p>To continue to trade with the EU, you will need to follow new rules for exporting, including changes to processes and licensing. Visit <a href="https://www.gov.uk/transition">GOV.UK/transition</a> to find out what you need to do. You can:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ get an EORI number if you do not already have one</li><li>▪ decide how you want to make customs declarations and whether you need to get someone to deal with customs for you</li></ul>	<p><a href="https://www.gov.uk/eori">https://www.gov.uk/eori</a></p> <p><a href="https://www.gov.uk/guidance/appoint-someone-to-deal-with-customs-on-your-behalf">https://www.gov.uk/guidance/appoint-someone-to-deal-with-customs-on-your-behalf</a></p> <p><a href="https://www.gov.uk/prepare-to-export-from-great-britain-from-january-2021">https://www.gov.uk/prepare-to-export-from-great-britain-from-january-2021</a></p> <p><a href="https://www.gov.uk/prepare-to-import-to-great-britain-from-january-2021">https://www.gov.uk/prepare-to-import-to-great-britain-from-january-2021</a></p> <p><a href="https://www.gov.uk/guidance/help-and-support-if-your-business-trades-with-the-eu">https://www.gov.uk/guidance/help-and-support-if-your-business-trades-with-the-eu</a></p> <p><a href="https://www.gov.uk/guidance/placing-manufactured-goods-on-the-market-in-great-britain-from-1-january-2021">https://www.gov.uk/guidance/placing-manufactured-goods-on-the-market-in-great-britain-from-1-january-2021</a></p>
<b>Businesses that have staff working between the UK and EU</b>	<p>If you travel to the EU for work purposes, you may need a visa or work permit. Visit <a href="https://www.gov.uk/transition">GOV.UK/transition</a> to find out what to do.</p>	<p><a href="https://www.gov.uk/visit-europe-1-january-2021/business-travel-extra-requirements">https://www.gov.uk/visit-europe-1-january-2021/business-travel-extra-requirements</a></p>

# ACTIONS FOR BUSINESSES TO TAKE NOW

Topic	Action	Guidance
<b>Businesses that deliver services between the UK and the EU</b>	Ensure your staff are able to continue to practise and provide services to clients in the UK by ensuring their professional qualification(s) are recognised by their professional body in the UK. Go to <a href="https://www.gov.uk/transition">GOV.UK/transition</a> to find out what to do.	<a href="https://www.gov.uk/guidance/get-your-eea-qualification-recognised-in-the-uk-from-1-january-2021">https://www.gov.uk/guidance/get-your-eea-qualification-recognised-in-the-uk-from-1-january-2021</a> <a href="https://www.gov.uk/guidance/providing-services-to-any-country-in-the-eu-iceland-liechtenstein-norway-or-switzerland-after-eu-exit">https://www.gov.uk/guidance/providing-services-to-any-country-in-the-eu-iceland-liechtenstein-norway-or-switzerland-after-eu-exit</a>
<b>Businesses that hire staff from the EU</b>	<p>Free movement has ended and the UK is introducing a new points-based immigration system.</p> <p>The way you hire from the EU has changed. If you want to hire anyone from outside the UK, you must be a Home Office licenced sponsor. This includes recruiting people from the EU.</p> <p>Anyone coming to the UK to work will need a job offer from a licenced sponsor in advance, and will need to meet certain skills and salary criteria.</p> <p>Find out more on <a href="https://www.gov.uk">GOV.UK</a></p>	<a href="https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/uk-points-based-immigration-system-employer-information/the-uks-points-based-immigration-system-an-introduction-for-employers">https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/uk-points-based-immigration-system-employer-information/the-uks-points-based-immigration-system-an-introduction-for-employers</a>
<b>EU citizens you already employ in the UK</b>	Inform your current EU employees about the EU Settlement Scheme. EU citizens and their family members living in the UK should apply to the EU Settlement Scheme.	<a href="https://www.gov.uk/staying-uk-eu-citizen">https://www.gov.uk/staying-uk-eu-citizen</a> <a href="https://www.gov.uk/settled-status-eu-citizens-families">https://www.gov.uk/settled-status-eu-citizens-families</a>

# ACTIONS FOR BUSINESSES TO TAKE NOW

Topic	Action	Guidance
<b>Travelling to the EU</b>	<p>There are new rules for travel to Europe.</p> <p>Things you may need to do before you travel include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ check the validity of your passport;</li><li>▪ get travel insurance;</li><li>▪ check you have the right driving documents;</li><li>▪ check roaming policies with your mobile provider before travelling.</li></ul>	<p><a href="https://www.gov.uk/visit-europe-1-january-2021">https://www.gov.uk/visit-europe-1-january-2021</a></p>
<b>Continue living and working in the EU</b>	<p>Living and working in the EU, EEA EFTA, Switzerland and Ireland depends on the rules in that country.</p> <p>You may need to take action such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ register or apply for residency;</li><li>▪ check that you are covered for healthcare;</li><li>▪ exchange your UK driving licence for a licence issued by the EU country where you live.</li></ul>	<p><a href="https://www.gov.uk/uk-nationals-living-eu">https://www.gov.uk/uk-nationals-living-eu</a></p>
<b>Businesses that transfer data between the UK and the EU</b>	<p>If you receive personal data from the EU for business use, you should check the current guidance on using personal data in your business or organisation. Find out more at <a href="https://www.gov.uk/transition">GOV.UK/transition</a>.</p>	<p><a href="https://www.gov.uk/guidance/using-personal-data-in-your-business-or-other-organisation-after-the-transition-period">https://www.gov.uk/guidance/using-personal-data-in-your-business-or-other-organisation-after-the-transition-period</a></p>

# SECTOR SPECIFIC GUIDANCE

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**For sector-specific guidance, please visit:**

- [Aerospace sector-relevant guidance on GOV.UK](#)
- [Automotive sector-relevant guidance on GOV.UK](#)
- [Chemicals sector-relevant guidance on GOV.UK](#)
- [Construction sector-relevant guidance on GOV.UK](#)
- [Consumer Goods sector-relevant guidance on GOV.UK](#)
- [Electronics and Machinery sector-relevant guidance on GOV.UK](#)
- [Life Sciences sector-relevant guidance on GOV.UK](#)
- [Metals and Materials sector-relevant guidance on GOV.UK](#)
- [Professional and Business Services sector-relevant guidance on GOV.UK](#)
- [Retail sector-relevant guidance on GOV.UK](#)



# HELPLINE NUMBERS

## Borders (Importing and exporting)

- Customs declarations, simplified customs procedures, duties and tariffs: **0300 322 9434**
- Trader import and export licences and certificates of free sale: **03300 416500**
- For exporting food, drink and agricultural products: **0300 020 0301**
- Import and export of timber: **0300 067 5155**
- Plants and plant products: **0300 1000 313**
- Importing and exporting of waste: **03708 506 506**
- Vehicles enquiries: **0300 790 6802**
- Driving licences and International driving permits: **0300 790 6802**
- Importing and exporting vehicle and trailer registration: **0300 790 6802**
- Operator licence and permits: **0300 790 6801**
- Certificate of Professional Competence (CPC): **0300 790 6801**

## Economy

- Business support helpline (England): **0800 998 1098**
- Find Business Support Scotland helpline: **0300 303 0660**
- Business Wales helpline: **0300 060 3000**
- Invest Northern Ireland helpline: **0800 181 4422**
- Regulation of manufactured goods: **0121 345 1201**
- CE / UKCA marking: **0121 345 1201**
- Regulation of medicines and medical devices: **020 3080 6000**
- Supply of medicinal products: **0800 915 9964**

- European Timber Regulations: **0300 067 4000**
- Forest Law Enforcement Governance and Trade Regulation: **0300 067 4000**

## Energy

- EU Emissions Trading System, Allowances and Carbon Emissions, UK Energy Markets, Single Electricity Market, Civil Nuclear and Electricity Suppliers and Systems: **020 7215 5000**

## Fish

- Fish Exports, Catch Certificates, Processing Statements and Prior Notification or Pre-Landing Declarations: **0330 159 1989**

## Animals

- Exporting of Equines and Import/Export of Animals, Endangered Species and Animal Products: **0300 020 0301**

## Data and Intellectual Property

- Intellectual Property Office: **0300 300 2000**.
- Information Commissioner's Office: **0303 123 1113**
- Consumer Rights: **0808 223 1133** (Welsh Language option: **0808 223 1144**)

## Programmes

- Funding by the EU, HMG Guarantee for EU Funds, Horizon 2020, Research Fund for Coat and Steel, COSME, Nuclear Fission, Fusion 4 Energy, EUROfusion and Connecting Europe Facility for Energy: **020 7215 5000**

## Other

- Department for Education helpline: **0370 000 2288**
- Home Office helpline: **0300 790 6268**
- Department for International Trade Brexit Enquiry Service: **0300 123 7379**



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