

Change is coming. Are you prepared?

An exporter's guide on how to prepare for new EU trading rules from 1st January 2021.

What is going to change?

From 1st January 2021, when you export goods to any country outside of the UK, you will need to submit a customs declaration. For businesses who have only ever exported to the EU, this will be a new factor to get used to. We've put together a step-by-step guide to exporting after Brexit.



1. EORI Number 123

Your company will need an EORI number that starts with GB to move goods to or from the UK. Most businesses should have now received this - you can check easily with an EORI number validator. If you haven't got one, you can [apply](#) for one online.



2. Commodity Codes

To complete export customs declarations you will need to know the commodity codes for your goods. If you don't know them, you can look them up [here](#).



3. Licences or special requirements



Check if there are any new rules surrounding exporting your goods; whether they need a licence, certificate or different labelling for example. For most controlled goods such as chemicals, food and drink or animals, there will be additional documents/certificates and processes that you will need to follow.



Get prepared with Business West

4.

Check VAT conditions



You may be able to charge customers VAT at 0% (known as zero rate) when your export goods to the EU after 1st January 2021. Check if you can zero rate your goods [here](#).



5.

Customs Declarations



Businesses will be required

to submit customs declarations from 1st January 2021 when exporting from the UK to the EU. This can be a complicated process and you will need specially trained staff to understand how to do this accurately and efficiently. You may also need to acquire special software so it's important you look into how you are going to handle customs declarations as soon as possible. There are two options below.

Get someone to deal with customs declarations for you

Our [expert customs declarations service](#) can take the hassle out of exporting your goods, by submitting customs declarations for you.

Do them yourself

If you'd like to submit customs declarations yourself, we offer [training](#) on everything you need to know to do this accurately.



6.

Check the EU business you're exporting to is ready



It's a good idea to check with the businesses that you're exporting to that they are ready for the end of the EU transition period too! Before sending the business your goods, check they can make the necessary import customs declarations. They'll also need a licence or certificate to import some types of goods.

Avoid delays. Avoid costly mistakes. Keep your business moving.