

# Change is coming. Are you prepared?

An importer'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 import goods from any country outside of the UK, you will need to submit a customs declaration. For businesses who have only ever imported from the EU, this will be a new factor to get used to. We've put together a step-by-step guide to importing after Brexit.



## 1.

### EORI Number

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.

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## Commodity Codes

## 2.

To complete import customs declarations you will need to know the commodity codes for your goods. They will also be needed for HMRC to work out the duty & VAT. 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 importing 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.



[www.businesswest.co.uk/getprepared](http://www.businesswest.co.uk/getprepared)

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# Get prepared with Business West

## 4.

Check the rate of tax and duty you will need to pay



You'll need to pay customs duties and VAT on all imports from the EU after 1st January 2021. You can look up import duties which will apply [here](#).



## 5.

Customs Declarations



Businesses will be required

to submit customs declarations from 1st January 2021 when importing from the EU to the UK. 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 declaration for you**

Our [expert customs declarations service](#) can take the hassle out of importing 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 if you can make importing quicker



From 1st January 2021, you'll need to make customs declarations when you import goods from the EU. However, in some situations, you might be able to delay making a declaration for up to 6 months after you imported the goods. You can check whether this is the case [here](#).

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