Brexit

Getting Brexit-ready Checklist

You've probably been spending many months preparing your business for Brexit, but we thought it prudent to share a quick checklist with you.

By continuing to prepare for Brexit together we put ourselves in the best position to adapt to whichever scenario we face and to minimise any barriers to seamlessly trading across the EU/UK border.

Check your goods are not restricted

Individual EU countries apply their own rules to all goods imported and exported, in particular foodstuffs and animal/plant-based products are likely to be subject to restrictions and customs procedures (similar to those experienced when trading with non-EU countries).

Check your goods do not require a license

A number of items and components are subject to license requirements, particularly if they could possibly be of military use, and some are not obvious. More information is available on your Government's website.

Get an EORI number if you don't already have one

EORI stands for Economic Operator Registration and Identification. An EORI number is already needed to import or export items outside of the EU, but if you currently only trade inside the EU it is likely that you will also need an EORI number for shipments to and from the EU. We recommend your business registers for an EORI number as soon as possible on the website of your government. It is quick and free.

Get VAT registered

For sales to the UK, sellers need to be VAT registered and to declare UK VAT for shipments with goods that have a value of below 135 GBP. Customs clearance and duty and tax payment for shipments over 135 GBP in value, will be customs cleared as per today's import processes.

https://www.gov.uk/vat-registration/how-to-register

Contact us

We understand that customers are preparing their own plans for Brexit. However, if you need any support, are considering changes to logistics and are looking for insights and advice, please contact your Account Manager.

Not currently shipping to the UK?

If the UK is not currently an important market for your business you could be missing out. The UK is the largest e-commerce market in Europe and is very lucrative for many international brands.

There may be more friction when trading with the UK from January 2021, but this shouldn't put you off. Please contact us for UK market insights as well as delivery solutions.

THE WORLD IS YOUR ADDRESS

Brexit update

Getting Brexit-ready Checklist

Capture and provide additional data about your products and recipients

After 31 December 2020, you need to provide additional information for all EU shipments about the sender, recipient and items you are sending.

- Commodity code (also known as HS code)
- Detailed product description
- Value of product
- Country of origin
- Your EORI number
- Address and telephone number of sender
- Address, email address and telephone number of recipient

You can start to gather this information now to ensure you are ready for the changes. before 31 December 2020, our shipping platforms will be updated to allow this additional data to be entered.

Describe your products correctly and with commodity codes

As mentioned above, you will need to provide commodity codes for each item you ship. Commodity codes (also known as HS codes) is an internationally standardised system of numbers used to classify traded products. This information is used by customs officials at customs clearance points across the world along with the value and origin of goods to calculate the duties to be paid so it's important you fill in this information accurately.

This harmonised system removes issues associated with descriptions that vary from one shipper to the next and language barriers. However you will also need to include a precise and descriptive product description, accurate value, and country of origin (remember this is country of manufacturer, not where it is shipped from).

Most ecommerce/fulfilment platforms will now have fields available to input this information and transfer it to your shipping provider, along with the recipient and sender information.

Communicate developments to your customers

Your customers will be more understanding about the impacts of Brexit if you have communicated these to them, this could include:

- Explaining why costs may go up with duties and taxes to pay.
- Why delivery may take a bit longer whilst customs departments adapt to the increased workload.
- Why more of their personal data is required and how it's processed.