



Ministry of Housing,
Communities &
Local Government

**Ministry of Housing, Communities & Local
Government**

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Dear colleague,

Thank you for taking the time to meet with the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government. I wanted to follow up with some more guidance to help you prepare for Brexit.

We would encourage you to:

- share the information below with your key stakeholders;
- attend events when and where appropriate.

Data protection, flow of goods at the border and EU citizens

The government recently published a [no deal readiness report](#). This document has specific sections on data protection, flow of goods at the border and EU citizens in case of a no deal Brexit.

Tariffs

The Department for International Trade has published the UK's import tariff schedule. This schedule would be used in a no deal Brexit from 31 October for all imports apart from those from countries the UK has signed a trade deal with. This is an update to what was published in March. The changes to that schedule have been minimal.

The relevant GOV.UK links are here:

- [Check temporary import tariff rates after a no-deal Brexit](#) (normal page with links to tables and other relevant links such as the tariff tool to look up commodity codes)
- [Non-preferential tariff rates and quotas on imports if the UK leaves the EU with no deal](#) (HTML publication with full list of products retaining tariffs)

Every month, the Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy publishes [statistics on building materials and components](#).

EU exit import and export trader helpline

As part of the *Get ready for Brexit* campaign, the government is setting up a dedicated telephone service for traders and hauliers trading goods with the EU after 31 October 2019. The helpline will provide up-to-date signposting and guidance to help businesses prepare for Brexit - and to continue to operate afterwards - through a single point of enquiry.

This is a cross-government initiative being facilitated by HMRC in conjunction with other government departments, aimed at supporting UK businesses to prepare for Brexit.

The helpline will primarily support traders and hauliers who have questions that will need to be answered by HMRC, Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (BEIS), Department for the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA), Department for Transport (DfT), and the Department for International Trade (DIT), signposting to advice about goods crossing the UK / EU border. It is envisaged this will cover:

- Requirements of the trader (e.g. customs declarations, export health certificates, controlled goods licences/permits).
- Requirements of the haulier (e.g. trailer registrations, international driving permits).
- Other pre-requisites to trade (e.g. Economic Operator Registration and Identification (EORI) number).
- Import easements (e.g. Transitional Simplified Procedures).

The helpline (0300 3301 331) opened on 16 September 2019 and, following a test and learn phase, will be fully operational by the end of September. Lines will be open Monday to Friday, 8am to 6pm.

Calls will be answered by staff from the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP), using the existing HMRC K-Com telephony platform. The helpline will not cover queries relating to goods moving between Ireland and Northern Ireland as these are subject to different procedures.

For HMRC Helpline guidance only: This new helpline will not deal with more complex EXCIT (Excise, Customs and International Trade) queries so colleagues on the EXCIT Helpline can expect to receive warm handovers from this team when a customer wants more detailed advice.

Construction Products Regulation (CPR) no deal guidance

The UK intends to leave the EU on 31 October. In the event that the UK leaves the EU without a deal, the EU CPR will be retained in domestic law by the EU (Withdrawal) Act 2018. The government has made [legislation](#), which ensures that the UK-based CPR system will continue to operate after exit day.

Following the UK's exit from the EU, European harmonised standards and UK designated standards will be identical. Notified bodies operating under the CPR and based in the UK will be granted new UK 'approved body' status and listed on a new UK database. Where a UK approved body has undertaken conformity assessment activity against UK designated standards, the manufacturer must affix a [UKCA marking](#).

Goods affixed with a compliant CE marking on the UK market before exit day will be able to continue to circulate in the UK. Additionally, goods which are made and assessed against EU harmonised standards and carry a compliant CE marking can continue to be placed on the UK market. It is intended that these arrangements will be for a time-limited period and sufficient notice will be given to economic operators before that period ends.

For further information, please read [Construction Products Regulation if there is no Brexit deal](#). This guidance was updated on 8 August, and we would welcome any feedback you have on the guidance.

Our colleagues in the Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy have also produced guidance, which may be useful: [placing manufactured goods on the EU market if there's no deal](#) and [placing manufactured goods on the UK market if there's no deal](#).

Brexit readiness WebEx seminars

To help businesses understand how they need to prepare, officials from the Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (BEIS) are hosting a series of WebEx seminars on topics including employing EU citizens and import/export services post-brexite. Details and booking arrangements can be found [here](#).

The Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy also hosted a WebEx seminar on the regulation of manufactured goods in the event of no Brexit deal and have now released the slide deck, which I have attached to this email. The webinar covered: CE and UKCA marking, notified bodies, conformity assessment, importer duties and declarations of conformity.

For enquiries and possible future dates, please contact +44 (0)20 7412 7901 or bipcworkshops@bi.uk.

Get ready for Brexit: Advice for businesses

The Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy has provided a **leaflet for SMEs** providing further advice on leaving the EU. This information will help you understand how Brexit may affect your business, whether you sell manufactured goods in the UK, trade with the EU or employ EU citizens.

This leaflet contains some of the actions you can take now to help you prepare. It also includes guidance on the wide range of support available to help your business grow as the UK leaves the EU.

Get ready for Brexit: advice for businesses can be found [here](#).

Are you aware of the UK-wide Business Readiness Events?

Join HMG at a free Brexit Business Readiness event in your area to meet government advisers and to find out what actions your business needs to take to prepare.

The events will combine a keynote address, interactive support, advice stands and in-depth sessions led by subject matter experts. They will provide you with specific business-focussed advice and help.

To join HMG at a location near you to get free help and advice to get your business ready for Brexit, please register now at [Get Ready for Brexit](#).

Digital Business Readiness Roadshow

On 16 October, the UK government will be hosting a Digital Business Readiness Roadshow event online. Through a variety of presentations and opportunities for Q&A, representatives from a wide range of government departments will be presenting on what steps businesses should be taking to prepare for Brexit. Topics covered will include dealing with **personal data, chemicals, trade, import, export and customs, exporting services and employing EU citizens**. To join, please register here: <https://bit.ly/2OxKA7a>.

Please contact Kate Pickering or myself with any questions and/or to let us know how we can further support your business in the lead up to 31 October.

Kind regards,



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