



HM Government  
UK TRANSITION



# SECTOR SPECIFIC BREXIT TRANSITION ACTIONS



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# INTRODUCTION

The UK has left the EU and now has a free trade agreement based on zero tariffs and zero quotas. It takes the UK completely out of the EU's customs union, the EU's single market and the EU's entire legal order. This means businesses should continue their preparations to operate in an independent trading nation.

## What is the purpose of this document?

- This document provides you with information about important actions for 10 sectors of the economy:
  - Aerospace
  - Automotive
  - Chemicals
  - Construction
  - Consumer Goods
  - Electronics and Machinery
  - Life Sciences
  - Metals and Materials
  - Professional and Business Services
  - Retail

## Changes that affect ALL sectors

### Free movement changes

The way businesses hire from the EU has changed. Free movement has ended and the new points-based immigration system introduces job, salary and language requirements for those wanting to come to the UK to work. Businesses need a sponsor licence to hire eligible skilled workers from outside the UK. Getting a licence normally takes 8 weeks and fees apply.

This does not apply when hiring Irish citizens or those eligible for status under the EU Settlement Scheme.

### Customs Declarations changes

Most businesses will need to work with a specialist, like a freight forwarding company or fast parcel operator, to complete import and export declarations.

# AEROSPACE

## Aerospace sector-relevant guidance on GOV.UK

Aerospace businesses should take these five actions as a start:

1. Visit [gov.uk/transition](https://www.gov.uk/transition) to find out what new rules they need to follow. 
  - Use the Brexit [transition checker tool](#) to get a personalised list of actions bespoke for their business.
2. Use GOV.UK to identify changes affecting manufactured goods, such as new approvals needed, to ensure businesses are ready to sell them in the UK and EU. 
  - Businesses may need additional approvals, certifications, or registrations. The legal responsibilities of businesses or their distributors may change. Businesses should also check the Civil Aviation Authority microsite for guidance on how to prepare. <https://info.caa.co.uk/uk-eu-transition/>
  - More information is available [here on GOV.UK](#)
3. Get ready to make customs declarations. 
  - Most businesses will need to work with a specialist, like a freight forwarding company or fast parcel operator, to complete import and export declarations.
  - More information is available [here on GOV.UK](#)
4. Check what actions to take under UK REACH, EU REACH and other chemical regulations to continue to manufacture and place chemicals on the Great Britain, Northern Ireland and EU markets. 
  - If businesses want to place new chemicals on both the EU/EEA and UK markets, they must follow both EU REACH and UK REACH rules.
  - They must register new chemicals they want to sell on the UK market with the Health and Safety Executive.
  - More information is available [here on GOV.UK](#)
5. If businesses are moving goods into, out of, or through Northern Ireland, they need to check the latest guidance. 
  - The Northern Ireland Protocol has come into force. There are special provisions which only apply in Northern Ireland so if a business moves goods into, out of, or through Northern Ireland they need to check the latest guidance [here on GOV.UK](#)

# AUTOMOTIVE

## Automotive sector-relevant guidance on GOV.UK

Automotive businesses should take these five actions as a start:

**1. Visit [gov.uk/transition](https://www.gov.uk/transition) to find out what new rules they need to follow.**

- Use the Brexit [transition checker tool](#) to get a personalised list of actions bespoke for their business.

**2. Get ready to make customs declarations.**

- Most businesses will need to work with a specialist, like a freight forwarding company or fast parcel operator, to complete import and export declarations.
- More information is available [here on GOV.UK](#)

**3. Use GOV.UK to identify changes affecting manufactured goods, such as new marking requirements or approvals needed, to ensure businesses are ready to sell them in the UK and EU.**

- Businesses may need to review product markings, labelling, and packaging. They may need additional approvals, certifications, or registrations. They may need to appoint a legal representative based in the UK or EU. The legal responsibilities of businesses or their distributors may change.
- More information is available [here on GOV.UK](#)

**4. If businesses are moving goods into, out of, or through Northern Ireland, they need to check the latest guidance.**

- The Northern Ireland Protocol has come into force. There are special provisions which only apply in Northern Ireland so if a business moves goods into, out of, or through Northern Ireland they should check the latest guidance [here on GOV.UK](#)

**5. Check what actions businesses need to take under UK REACH, EU REACH and other chemical regulations to continue to manufacture and place chemicals on the Great Britain, Northern Ireland and EU markets.**

- If a business wants to place new chemicals on both the EU/EEA and UK markets, they must follow both EU REACH and UK REACH rules. They must register new chemicals they want to sell on the UK market with the Health and Safety Executive.
- More information is available [here on GOV.UK](#)

# CHEMICALS

## Chemicals sector-relevant guidance on GOV.UK

Chemicals businesses should take these five actions as a start:

1. Visit [gov.uk/transition](https://www.gov.uk/transition) to find out what new rules they need to follow. 
  - Use the Brexit [transition checker tool](#) to get a personalised list of actions bespoke for their business.
2. Check what actions they need to take under UK REACH, EU REACH and other chemical regulations to continue to manufacture and place chemicals on the Great Britain, Northern Ireland and EU markets. 
  - If businesses want to place chemicals on both the EU/EEA and UK markets, they must follow both EU REACH and UK REACH rules. They must register chemicals they want to sell on the UK market with the Health and Safety Executive.
  - More information is available [here on GOV.UK](#).
3. Check the new rules on importing and exporting goods between the EU and Great Britain. Different rules apply in Northern Ireland. 
  - If businesses send goods from Great Britain to customers in Europe, they must complete export declarations for those goods. Goods exported to the EU may be subject to additional checks.
  - If they import goods from Europe that are on the controlled goods list (such as high-risk animal products, alcohol or tobacco, or firearms), they must also complete declarations. If they import non-controlled goods into Great Britain from Europe, they may be able to defer import declarations for up to six months.
  - More information is available [here in GOV.UK](#).
4. Check if a visa or work permit is required to travel to the EU for work purposes and apply if necessary. 
  - Business travellers may need to apply for a visa, work permit or other documentation before travelling to the EU, Switzerland, Norway, Iceland or Liechtenstein. This will depend on what they plan to do during their trip and which specific country they are travelling to.
  - It is advised that you apply well in advance of travel and check that your passport has at least six months validity for the duration of your stay.
  - More information is available [here on GOV.UK](#)
5. If businesses are moving goods into, out of, or through Northern Ireland, they should check the latest guidance. 
  - The Northern Ireland Protocol has come into force. There are special provisions which only apply in Northern Ireland so if businesses move goods into, out of, or through Northern Ireland they need to make sure they [check the latest guidance here](#).

# CONSTRUCTION

## Construction sector-relevant guidance on GOV.UK

Construction businesses should take these five actions as a start:

1. **Visit [gov.uk/transition](https://www.gov.uk/transition) to find out what new rules they need to follow.** 
  - Use the Brexit [transition checker tool](#) to get a personalised list of actions bespoke for their business.
2. **Check the new rules on importing and exporting goods between the EU and Great Britain. Different rules apply in Northern Ireland.** 
  - If a business sends goods from Great Britain to customers in Europe, they must complete export declarations for those goods. Goods exported to the EU may be subject to additional checks.
  - If they import goods from Europe that are on the controlled goods list (such as high-risk animal products, alcohol or tobacco, or firearms), they must also complete declarations. If a business imports non-controlled goods into Great Britain from Europe, they may be able to defer import declarations for up to six months.
  - More information **on [imported goods](#) and [declarations](#)** is available on GOV.UK
3. **Use GOV.UK to identify changes affecting manufactured goods, such as new marking requirements or approvals needed, to ensure businesses are ready to sell them in the UK and EU.** 
  - Businesses may need to review product markings, labelling, and packaging. They may need additional approvals, certifications, or registrations. They may need to appoint a legal representative based in the UK or EU. The legal responsibilities of businesses or their distributors may change.
  - More information is available **[here on GOV.UK](#)**
4. **If businesses are planning to recruit from overseas, they will need to register as a licensed visa sponsor.** 
  - The way businesses hire from the EU has changed. Free movement has ended, and the new points-based immigration system will introduce job, salary and language requirements for those wanting to come to the UK to work. Businesses will need a sponsor licence to hire eligible skilled workers from outside the UK. Getting a licence normally takes 8 weeks and fees apply.
  - This does not apply when hiring Irish citizens or those eligible for status under the EU Settlement Scheme.
  - More information is available **[here on GOV.UK](#)**
5. **If businesses are moving goods into, out of, or through Northern Ireland, they need to check the latest guidance.** 
  - The Northern Ireland Protocol has come into force. There are special provisions which only apply in Northern Ireland so if a business moves goods into, out of, or through Northern Ireland they will need to check the latest guidance **[here on GOV.UK](#)**

# CONSUMER GOODS

## Consumer Goods sector-relevant guidance on GOV.UK

Consumer Goods businesses should take these five actions as a start:

1. Visit [gov.uk/transition](https://www.gov.uk/transition) to find out what new rules they need to follow. 
  - Use the Brexit [transition checker tool](#) to get a personalised list of actions bespoke for their business.
2. Check the new rules on importing and exporting goods between the EU and Great Britain. Different rules apply in Northern Ireland. 
  - If a business sends goods from Great Britain to customers in Europe, they must complete export declarations for those goods. Goods exported to the EU may be subject to additional checks.
  - If they import goods from Europe that are on the controlled goods list (such as high-risk animal products, alcohol or tobacco, or firearms), they must also complete declarations. If a business imports non-controlled goods into Great Britain from Europe, they may be able to defer import declarations for up to six months.
  - More information [on imported goods](#) and [declarations](#) is available on GOV.UK
3. Use GOV.UK to identify changes affecting manufactured goods, such as new marking requirements or approvals needed, to ensure businesses are ready to sell them in the UK and EU. 
  - A business may need to review their product marking, labelling, and packaging. A business may need additional approvals, certifications, or registrations. They may need to appoint a legal representative based in the UK or the EU. The legal responsibilities of businesses or their distributors may change.
  - More information is available [here on GOV.UK](#)
4. Check if Import VAT is due at the border. 
  - If a business imports any goods from Europe into Great Britain, they may need to pay Import VAT. Import VAT will not be due at the border in most cases if goods in a consignment are worth less than £135 in value. The only exception to this is consignments containing excise goods, where Import VAT (along with Excise and Customs duties where applicable) will be due at the border.
  - More information is available [here on GOV.UK](#)
5. If businesses are moving goods into, out of, or through Northern Ireland, they need to check the latest guidance. 
  - The Northern Ireland Protocol has come into force. There are special provisions which only apply in Northern Ireland so if a business moves goods into, out of, or through Northern Ireland they will need to check the latest guidance [here on GOV.UK](#)

# ELECTRONICS AND MACHINERY

## Electronics and Machinery sector-relevant guidance on GOV.UK

Electronics and Machinery businesses should take these five actions as a start:

1. **Visit [gov.uk/transition](https://www.gov.uk/transition) to find out what new rules they need to follow.** 
  - Use the Brexit [transition checker tool](#) to get a personalised list of actions bespoke for their business.
2. **Get ready to make customs declarations.**
  - Most businesses will need to work with a specialist, like a freight forwarding company or fast parcel operator, to complete import and export declarations.
  - More information is available [here on GOV.UK](#)
3. **Use GOV.UK to identify changes affecting manufactured goods, such as new marking requirements or approvals needed, to ensure businesses are ready to sell them in the UK and EU.** 
  - Businesses may need to review product markings, labelling, and packaging. They may need additional approvals, certifications, or registrations. They may need to appoint a legal representative based in the UK or EU. The legal responsibilities of businesses or their distributors may change.
  - More information is available [here on GOV.UK](#)
4. **Check if a visa or work permit is required to travel to the EU for work purposes and apply if necessary.** 
  - Business travellers may need to apply for a visa, work permit or other documentation before travelling to the EU, Switzerland, Norway, Iceland or Liechtenstein. This will depend on what they plan to do during their trip and which specific country they are travelling to.
  - It is advised that you apply well in advance of travel and check that your passport has at least six months validity for the duration of your stay.
  - More information is available [here on GOV.UK](#)
5. **If businesses are moving goods into, out of, or through Northern Ireland, they need to check the latest guidance.** 
  - The Northern Ireland Protocol has come into force. There are special provisions which only apply in Northern Ireland so if a business moves goods into, out of, or through Northern Ireland they will need [check the latest guidance here](#).

# LIFE SCIENCES

## Life Sciences sector-relevant guidance on GOV.UK

Life Science businesses should take these five actions as a start:

**1. Visit [gov.uk/transition](https://www.gov.uk/transition) to find out what new rules they need to follow.**

- Use the Brexit [transition checker tool](#) to get a personalised list of actions bespoke for their business.

**2. Check the new rules on importing and exporting goods between the EU and Great Britain. Different rules apply in Northern Ireland.**

- If a business sends goods from Great Britain to customers in Europe, they must complete export declarations for those goods. Goods exported to the EU may be subject to additional checks.
- If they import goods from Europe that are on the controlled goods list (such as high-risk animal products, alcohol or tobacco, or firearms), they must also complete declarations. If a business imports non-controlled goods into Great Britain from Europe, they may be able to defer import declarations for up to six months.
- More information [on imported goods](#) and [declarations](#) is available on GOV.UK

**3. Use GOV.UK to identify changes affecting manufactured goods, such as new marking requirements or approvals needed, to ensure businesses are ready to sell them in the UK and EU.**

- Businesses may need to review product markings, labelling, and packaging. They may need additional approvals, certifications, or registrations. They may need to appoint a legal representative based in the UK or EU. The legal responsibilities of businesses or their distributors may change.
- More information is available [here on GOV.UK](#)

**4. Get ready to make customs declarations.**

- Most businesses will need to work with a specialist, like a freight forwarding company or fast parcel operator, to complete import and export declarations.
- More information is available [here on GOV.UK](#)

**5. If businesses are moving goods into, out of, or through Northern Ireland, they need to check the latest guidance.**

- The Northern Ireland Protocol has come into force. There are special provisions which only apply in Northern Ireland so if a business moves goods into, out of, or through Northern Ireland they need to make sure they check the latest guidance [here on GOV.UK](#)

# METALS AND MATERIALS

## Metals and Materials sector-relevant guidance on GOV.UK

Metals and Materials businesses should take these five actions as a start:

1. Visit [gov.uk/transition](https://www.gov.uk/transition) to find out what new rules they need to follow.

- Use the Brexit [transition checker tool](#) to get a personalised list of actions bespoke for their business.

2. Check the new rules on importing and exporting goods between the EU and Great Britain. Different rules apply in Northern Ireland.

- If a business sends goods from Great Britain to customers in Europe, they must complete export declarations for those goods. Goods exported to the EU may be subject to additional checks.
- If they import goods from Europe that are on the controlled goods list (such as high-risk animal products, alcohol or tobacco, or firearms), they must also complete declarations. All products with steel safeguards on them as well as the majority of basic aluminium products are on the controlled goods list.
- If they import non-controlled goods into Great Britain from Europe, they may be able to defer import declarations for up to six months.
- More information is available [on imported goods](#) and [declarations](#) are available on GOV.UK



3. Use GOV.UK guidance to understand trading arrangements for non-EU countries. Businesses need to check if the UK has negotiated a trade agreement with the country they will be trading with.

- Trading with countries outside the EU may change. Businesses need to find out about the trade agreements that the UK has signed or agreed in principle, and the agreements that are still under discussion.



- More information is available [here on GOV.UK](#)

4. If businesses are moving goods into, out of, or through Northern Ireland, they need to check the latest guidance.

- The Northern Ireland Protocol has come into force. There are special provisions which only apply in Northern Ireland so if a business moves goods into, out of, or through Northern Ireland they need to make sure they check the latest guidance [here on GOV.UK](#)



5. Familiarise themselves with the UK's new trade remedies process on GOV.UK.

- If a business thinks that it has been injured by unfair import practices, they can submit an application to the UK's new trade remedies system.
- More information is available [here on GOV.UK](#)



# PROFESSIONAL & BUSINESS SERVICES

## Professional & Business Services sector-relevant guidance on GOV.UK

Services businesses should take these five actions as a start:

1. Visit [gov.uk/transition](https://www.gov.uk/transition) to find out what new rules they need to follow. 
  - Use the Brexit [transition checker tool](#) to get a personalised list of actions bespoke for their business.
2. Get their employees' professional qualifications recognised by EU regulators to be able to practise or service clients in the EU. 
  - If an employee has a UK professional qualification they may need to have this officially recognised by the appropriate regulator for their profession in each country where they intend to work. They will need to do this even if they are only providing short-term or occasional professional services. Where a qualification has already been recognised by the relevant regulator in the EEA or Switzerland, UK professionals should make sure they understand the terms of the recognition decision by checking with that regulator. More information is available [here on GOV.UK](#)
3. Check if a visa or work permit is required to travel to Europe for work purposes and apply if necessary. 
  - Business travellers may need to apply for a visa, work permit or other documentation before travelling to the EU, Switzerland, Norway, Iceland or Liechtenstein. This will depend on what they plan to do during their trip and which specific country they are travelling to.
  - It is advised that you apply well in advance of travel and check that your passport has at least six months validity for the duration of your stay.
  - More information is available [here on GOV.UK](#)
4. Be prepared on data protection and data transfers. 
  - If the business or organisation receives personal data from the EU/EEA, they must check the current guidance on lawfully continuing to receive personal data such as names, addresses or payroll details from organisations in the EU or EEA from 1 January 2021.
  - More information is available [here on GOV.UK](#)
5. If businesses are planning to recruit from overseas, they will need to register as a licensed visa sponsor. 
  - The way businesses hire from the EU has changed. Free movement has ended, and the new points-based immigration system has introduced job, salary and language requirements for those wanting to come to the UK to work. Businesses will need a sponsor licence to hire eligible skilled workers from outside the UK. Getting a licence normally takes 8 weeks and fees apply.
  - This does not apply when hiring Irish citizens or those eligible for status under the EU Settlement Scheme.
  - More information is available [here on GOV.UK](#)

# RETAIL

## Retail sector-relevant guidance on GOV.UK

Retail businesses should take these five actions as a start:

1. Visit [gov.uk/transition](https://www.gov.uk/transition) to find out what new rules they need to follow. 
  - Use the Brexit [transition checker tool](#) to get a personalised list of actions bespoke for their business.
2. Check the new rules on importing and exporting goods between the EU and Great Britain. Different rules apply in Northern Ireland. 
  - If a business sends goods from Great Britain to customers in Europe, they must complete export declarations for those goods. Goods exported to the EU may be subject to additional checks.
  - If they import goods from Europe that are on the controlled goods list (such as high-risk animal products, alcohol or tobacco, or firearms), they must also complete declarations. If a business imports non-controlled goods into Great Britain from Europe, they may be able to defer import declarations for up to six months.
  - More information [on imported goods](#) and [declarations](#) is available on GOV.UK
3. Use GOV.UK to identify changes affecting manufactured goods, such as new marking requirements or approvals needed, to ensure businesses are ready to sell them in the UK and EU. 
  - Businesses may need to review product markings, labelling, and packaging. They may need additional approvals, certifications, or registrations. They may need to appoint a legal representative based in the UK or EU. The legal responsibilities of businesses or their distributors may change.
  - More information is available [here on GOV.UK](#)
4. Check if Import VAT is due at the border. 
  - If a business imports any goods from Europe into Great Britain, they may need to pay Import VAT. Import VAT will not be due at the border in most cases if goods in a consignment are worth less than £135 in value. The only exception to this is consignments containing excise goods, where Import VAT (along with Excise and Customs duties where applicable) will be due at the border.
  - More information is available [here on GOV.UK](#)
5. If businesses are moving goods into, out of, or through Northern Ireland, they need to check the latest guidance. 
  - The Northern Ireland Protocol has come into force. There are special provisions which only apply in Northern Ireland so if a business moves goods into, out of, or through Northern Ireland they will need [check the latest guidance here](#).

**NEW RULES ARE HERE  
ACT NOW TO**

**KEEP YOUR BUSINESS MOVING**



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- ✓ Check
- ✓ Change
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