

1. Get an EORI Number

A UK issued [Economic Operator Registration and Identification \(EORI\)](#) number is essential for UK businesses that wish to import or export goods with the EU after the UK leaves the EU. [Apply for an EORI](#) number and you should receive it within 2-3 working days.

Once you have an EORI number, if you are importing products from the EU, register to use [Transitional Simplified Procedures](#) to avoid making full customs declarations for imports at borders, and to postpone paying import duties.

2. Check your commodity/tariff codes

Exporters should plan on the basis that WTO tariffs will be introduced following no-deal. However, [temporary tariffs](#) will be introduced for imports for 12 months following no-deal.

Use the UK Trade Tariff tool to find the [commodity codes](#) for your goods. Using the wrong codes risks paying the wrong tariff, costly delays at the border or even goods being blocked into the EU.

Find the [WTO tariff for exports](#). The UK will not appear on this list until after Brexit, so choose another country that does not trade with the EU under a FTA.

View the [temporary rates of customs duty on imports](#) after EU Exit. [HMRC can advise](#) if further help is needed.

3. Know what certificates your products need

To ensure your product can enter the EU, it will need to be able to pass EU regulatory checks for third country goods. Products of animal origin will be subject to [additional requirements](#).

Products of animal origin will need an [Export Health Certificate](#) and must enter the EU via a designated [Border Inspection Post \(BIP\)](#). Some fish products will need a [catch certificate](#), but not farmed fish.

Some plants and plant products may also require a [Phytosanitary Certificate](#).

4. Check your product labelling

Exported products must be [labelled correctly](#) to reflect the UK's third country status. UK products can no longer use 'EU' in country of origin labelling while products marketed as [organic](#) may face EU export restrictions until the UK becomes an approved third country.

An EU importer/Food Business Operator address will be required on product labels and products of animal origin must include the [new UK health and ID mark](#).

5. Decide if you will use a customs agent

Most businesses use a customs broker, agent, or freight forwarder to make [customs declarations](#) for them. This can make exporting simpler and faster.

Alternatively, you can make [declarations](#) yourself by obtaining [approved software](#).

Other Information

Read the full technical notice: [The food and drink sector and preparing for EU exit](#).

Got a question? [Submit an enquiry](#) or call Scottish Enterprise on 0300 303 0661.

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