

# **PREPARING YOUR BUSINESS FOR BREXIT**

## The UK left the EU on 31 January

**2020.** They are currently in a Transition Phase, due to end on 31 December of this year. As a result there have been no changes for Imports and Exports, however, this will all change on 01 January 2021.

# TRANSITION

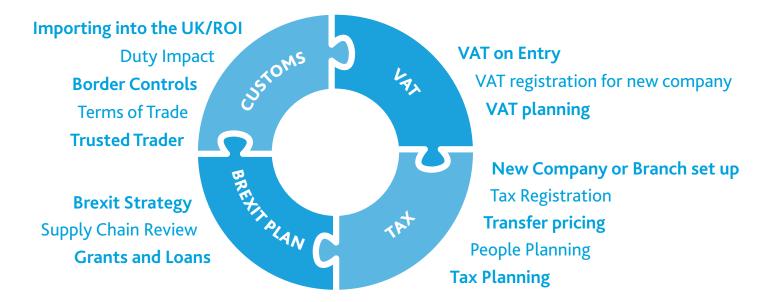
- > EU and UK companies will continue to trade as normal until 01 January 2021
- > There will be no Sanitary/Phytosanitary checks between the EU and the UK
- > EU & UK citizens will still be able to travel freely between both jurisdictions respectively
- > The UK will still implement EU legislation.

This transition phase will end on 01 January 2021. From that point on, the UK will no longer apply the rules of the European Union, the Single Market or the Customs Union.

In practice, for Irish traders, unless a free trade deal is agreed between the UK and the EU in 2020, tariffs will be applied to exports to the UK and imports from the UK. In addition, customs declarations will be required for imports and exports.

## PUTTING TOGETHER A CUSTOMS PROCEDURE GOING FORWARD

As you may now be importing/exporting for the first time it is essential to draft a Customs Procedure to ensure the correct processes are put in place for Importing and Exporting your goods.



#### WHAT CAN I DO?

BDO strongly advises traders to prioritise Brexit preparations now to get tariff mitigation procedures in place and to avoid the panic that will inevitably accompany the *31st of December 2020*.

# We recommend following the 6 point action list below:

Step <b>1</b>	Are you VAT registered in the UK/ Ireland? Required to sell goods DDP	Timing 4–6 weeks	Final Date URGENT
Step <b>2</b>	Do you have an EU/GB/NI EORI?	Timing 48 hours	Final Date BUT required for other Customs Authorisations so apply now.
Step <b>3</b>	Do you have a Customs Clearance Agent? If you are not "established"* for Customs Purposes you will likely find it difficult to get an agent to lodge declarations on your behalf. *Meaning of established – Company registered with CRO or Permanent Business Establishment	Timing Depends on availability, contractual agreements and whether you are "established"	Final Date URGENT
Step <b>4</b>	Do you need to set up a company to meet Import Requirements, obtain a clearance agent and meet Single Market rules?	Timing 2–3 weeks	Final Date URGENT – to enable you obtain a clearance agent and/or self file.
Step 5	Review your tax obligations to determine staffing/substance requirements, trading/12.5% rate, identify PBE impact.	Timing Now	Final Date URGENT – Impacts on all above.
Step <b>6</b>	Have you confirmed your Customs Classifications? Have you checked your Duty Rates if there is no FTA? Confirm you qualify** for origin status if there is an FTA? e.g. 55% added value in EU **FTA qualifications typically require direct shipment, substantial manufacturing operations, potentially no more than 40% imports, possible change of classifications, verification of origin from suppliers.		

#### FOR FURTHER INFORMATION PLEASE CONTACT:



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BDO are available to help your business be prepared for Brexit. Contact us for a full suite of Brexit services ranging from customs and tax to company set-up.

For more information contact the **BDO Customs** and International Trade Team, brexit@bdo.ie.

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