



Department for the
Economy
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Preparing for the end of the transition period



Creating a globally competitive economy that works for everyone

What does it mean for Northern Ireland?

- The end of the transition period will result in changes to how you trade, whether you are based locally, across the UK or Ireland. Negotiations are moving at pace this week.
- *NI Protocol will come into effect – exact terms TBC*
- *UK-EU future relationship being negotiated – this week?*
- *International Free Trade Agreements - ongoing*

The exact nature of any changes will depend on your business model (for example if you buy and sell goods from across the UK). You should consider mapping out your logistics/supply chain to identify where changes could impact.



The end of the transition period – what should I prepare for?

The NI Protocol

- The Protocol on Ireland/NI of the Withdrawal Agreement aims to ensure there is no hard border between NI and the Republic of Ireland and by extension, the rest of the EU.
- To achieve this, it requires NI to remain aligned to range of EU Single Market law relating to the manufacture and sale of goods. This will not apply in Great Britain (GB).
- This will result in some changes particularly to how businesses trade goods to and from NI and GB. There will be new customs and regulatory processes.
- It will largely preserve how NI businesses trade in goods with Ireland and the rest of the EU.
- The Protocol will be implemented regardless of a UK-EU FTA. Some aspects of the Protocol are still to be resolved, likely in the next few days, however businesses should take steps now to prepare.

Moving Goods from NI to GB

- Unfettered access – designed to ensure NI goods move into GB on the same basis as now.
- No new regulatory checks and no additional approvals required except in limited circumstances for example to meet international obligations.
- Qualifying goods can be placed on the GB market whether certified against EU or UK rules.
- Some exceptions in terms of highly regulated goods e.g. chemicals, where some additional safety requirements may apply.
- *[Exit declarations? Decision this week that these won't be required – awaiting legal text]*

Moving Goods from GB to NI

- Some changes for goods movement from GB to NI.
- Customs requirements and SPS checks
- EU regulatory requirements for goods being placed on the market will apply. Generally this covers requirements such as CE marking, importer address on labelling and packaging – importer obligations. You should talk to your suppliers about these requirements, particularly in GB.
- Particular regulatory friction for highly regulated goods like chemicals and medicines, however some temporary mitigations apply to medicines in light of the pandemic.
- *[Tariffs on ‘at risk’ goods? Decision this week that for 98% of goods, won’t be required]*

Moving Goods from GB to NI – marking

For as long as the Protocol applies, most goods being placed on the market in NI will need to meet relevant EU rules.

This is particularly relevant if you source goods in GB for sale in NI, you will need to check what regulatory requirements will apply from 1 January 2021:

- The CE marking will continue to be the relevant marking for most goods (those goods regulated at EU level, like toys, machinery and PPE).
- If you self-certify for CE, you can continue to do this when placing goods on the NI market.
- The CE marking will need to be accompanied by the UKNI marking if you use a UK Notified Body to assess against EU rules. Goods with the 'CE UKNI' marking are not valid for the EU market.



Moving Goods from GB to NI – other requirements

- You may become an importer, possibly for the first time, if you bring goods into NI from GB or another non-EU country and place them on the NI market. This may differ from your current responsibilities if you trade in this way.
- The importer may need to make sure goods meet relevant rules and are labelled with an importer address in NI or the EU, among other responsibilities. This applies to CE marked goods, and food and drink products, for example.
- If you have already placed CE marked goods on the EU or UK markets before 1 January 2021, or are selling goods which have, you do not need to take any action for those goods. They can continue to circulate until they reach their end user. This is primarily for new goods being sold after 1 January 2021.
- **It may be that you will not be impacted by these changes, but you should talk to your suppliers, particularly if they are based in GB, and consider these requirements.**
- For more information, see the UK Government guidance [here](#)

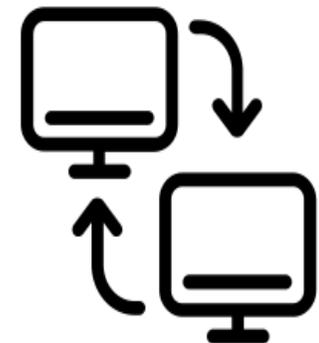
What does the Protocol not cover?



Settlement status

If an EU26 (excluding Ireland), EEA or Swiss national who arrives in the UK before the transition period ends on 31 December wishes to remain in the UK they will need to apply to the EU Settled Status Scheme before 30 June 2021. They risk not being able to continue living or working in the UK if they do not apply to the scheme. [Apply to the EU Settlement Scheme](#)

EU exit will change how personal data can move between the UK and EU. This may include data moving between Ireland and NI. You should conduct a data mapping exercise across your organisation to determine the types of data you send and receive and also where it is stored, to identify if you need to take any action now. Further advice and guidance can be found on the Information Commissioner's Office (ICO) [website](#) which has a section dedicated to preparing for the end of transition.



DATA TRANSFER

Summary - actions to take now

You can review this short 10 step [checklist](#):

- Assess your exposure to changes
- Register for the Trader Support Service
- Get an EORI number
- Find out the commodity code for goods you buy or sell
- Speak to your haulier
- Speak to your suppliers, particularly those in GB.
- Check your goods regulation
- Consider your data
- Apply for the EU Settlement Scheme
- Apply for an Immigration Sponsorship Licence



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EU exit readiness checklist - 10 steps to take

There will be new rules on how Northern Ireland businesses can operate from 1 January 2021. This checklist highlights the key actions that your business must take to get ready for the changes at the end of this year.

 Guide

Actions
Selling or moving goods to Northern Ireland from Great Britain: Guidance for businesses in GB (PDF, 374K) >

Also on this site
EU exit and trade >
Trade support for Brexit >
EU exit: Sign up for the Trader Support Service to move goods into and out of Northern Ireland >



Follow this checklist to prepare your business for trading after 1 January 2021. Find links to guidance and further support to help you prepare.

1. **Assess your exposure to changes**
Use Invest NI's [EU Exit Resilience Tool](#) to assess where you will need to make changes.

Actions to take now – GB businesses

It is important that GB based businesses which supply the NI market also take steps to get ready. You can share this [checklist](#) with your GB suppliers:

- Register for the Trader Support Service
- Get an EORI number
- Check your commodity codes
- Speak to your haulier
- Check your goods meet the required standards for the NI market, such as labelling and marking.
- Speak to your customers in NI



SELLING OR MOVING GOODS TO NORTHERN IRELAND?

IF YOU SELL OR MOVE GOODS TO NORTHERN IRELAND FROM GB, EVEN OCCASIONALLY, YOU WILL NEED TO TAKE ACTION TO PREPARE FOR 1 JANUARY 2020.

While we don't know everything that will happen, below are practical steps that you can take now to prepare.

1. REGISTER FOR THE TRADER SUPPORT SERVICE

The Trader Support Service (TSS) will provide free training and support for businesses for customs processes that will arise for goods moving from GB to NI. The Trader Support Service can provide support in registering for an EORI number, understanding Incoterms and in making declarations for goods moving from GB to NI.

Even if you are not sure whether you will sell to an Northern Ireland business in the next year, it is worth registering just in case. There is no risk to being registered with the service, even if you do not use it.

2. GET AN EORI NUMBER

Useful links

- [NI Business Info – 10 steps to take now](#) for NI businesses
- [NI Business Info – checklist for GB businesses supplying NI](#)
- Regulatory requirements for placing goods on the [NI](#) and [GB](#) markets from 1 January 2021
- [Trader Support Service guidance](#)
- [EU Settlement Scheme](#)
- [Information Commissioner – Data after EU Exit](#)
- [Invest NI – prepare for Brexit](#)
- [InterTradeIreland – advice for cross-border trade](#)