



Brexit Transition: Actions Northern Ireland businesses can take now

If you're a Northern Ireland business, it is important that you act now to prepare for the new rules in force from 1 January 2021 after the Brexit Transition period ends.

NIBusinessInfo.co.uk has created a checklist with key actions that Northern Ireland businesses should consider taking as they prepare. Please see below with links to guidance and further support.

The original nibusinessinfo.co.uk article was published [here](#).

1. Assess your exposure to changes

There are free tools available to assess where your business will need to make changes. Use Invest NI's [EU Exit Resilience Tool](#) to assess where you will need to make changes. You can also access the UK Government's Transition Checker at gov.uk/transition. This will provide you with a personalised list of actions to take.

2. Register for the Trader Support Service

The [Trader Support Service](#) will provide free training and support for businesses for customs processes that will arise for goods moving between Great Britain and Northern Ireland. The Trader Support Service can provide support in registering for an EORI number, understanding Incoterms and in making declarations for goods moving from Great Britain to Northern Ireland. Even if you are not sure whether you will buy from/sell to Great Britain in the next year, it is worth registering just in case.

3. Get an EORI number

If you trade with Great Britain, and you do not already have an EORI number you should apply for one now - for information on what an EORI is and how to get one, click [here](#). There is no risk to having an EORI number if you do not use it.

4. Find out the commodity code for goods you buy or sell

If you buy from or sell to GB, you will need to know the commodity codes for the goods you purchase and sell. For goods you purchase, you should speak to your supplier, they may be able to tell you the code. You can also [check the code using the Trade Tariff](#). You should check the tariffs applicable under the EU Common External Tariffs and UK Global Tariff (UKGT).

5. Register for the UK Trader Scheme

From 1 January, you will need to make declarations and may need to pay any tariffs due when bringing goods into Northern Ireland from Great Britain or from countries outside of the EU. Whether you have to pay a duty, and how much that duty is, will depend on where you are bringing the goods from and whether they are 'at risk' of onward movement to the EU.

[Find more on who is eligible and how to apply for the UK Trader Scheme.](#)

It may take some time for your application to be processed. However, if you meet the conditions, you will be granted a provisional authorisation that will allow you to declare goods not to be 'at risk' until HMRC reaches a final decision on your application. All businesses that bring goods from Great Britain to Northern Ireland

All businesses that bring goods from Great Britain to Northern Ireland should consider whether they meet the criteria for the UK Trader Scheme.

6. **Speak to your haulier**
If you move goods to or from GB, ask your haulier what information they will need from you. Find out whether your goods routinely move through Dublin port, as processes will be different for goods that travel via Ireland.
7. **Speak to suppliers**
Ask your suppliers what preparation they have made for Brexit. If your supplier is in Great Britain ask whether the terms of trade (responsibilities of buyers and sellers) through Incoterms will remain the same and who will be accountable for declaring goods to customs. You should suggest that your supplier registers for the Trader Support Service.
8. **Check your goods regulation**
Check whether your goods must meet EU standards and how these goods are approved for the EU market at the moment. Ask your supplier whether they will continue to ensure the products meet the requirements for the EU market. If you bring agri-food products from Great Britain, guidance and support is available from the Movement Assistance Scheme. The new scheme will assist traders moving animals, plants and associated goods from Great Britain to Northern Ireland and will include a helpline with advisers ready to help you with the new requirements, including advice on export health certificates, live animals, animal products, plant and plant product types.
9. **Consider your data**
Make a list of all the data flows into and out of your business. If you receive personal data from the EU (including Ireland), you may need to take action. The Information Commissioner's Office has information on possible steps you will need to take and you can also read further information at gov.uk.
10. **Check if you need to apply for the EU Settlement Scheme or an Immigration Sponsorship License**
If you or one of your staff is an EEA national (excluding Ireland), you or they will need to apply to the EU Settled Status Scheme. Your employees 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.

If you wish to hire foreign nationals (EU and non-EU, excluding Irish nationals) you will be required to apply for a sponsorship licence from the Home Office. You should also consider the impacts of the new points-based immigration system on recruitment timelines and the costs of the immigration fees associated with the skilled worker route.