



BREXIT STATEMENT

Dear Customer,

With Brexit date of 23.00hrs on 29th March fast approaching, the possibility of a no-deal situation is becoming more and more possible. We have put together some steps that may help our customers to prepare if the United Kingdom does officially cease to be a member of the EEC without a deal, and Great Britain and Northern Ireland will be immediately treated as a third party country. All goods being sent to or from the UK will then subject to customs clearance procedures.

In addition some products – such as plant and animal products in particular – will also need to be declared to the authorities so that sanitary or phytosanitary certificates can be issued. This is to confirm the product is safe to be consumed, or in the case of plants, that they are disease free before entry into the UK.

In view of this and to avoid shipping delays we recommend the following measures to be taken:

- **Economic Operator Registration and Identification number (EORI)**

In order to continue trading with an EU business who purchases from the UK, ensure you register for a UK EORI number, if not already done so. <https://www.gov.uk/eori>

This usually takes 3-4 working days for HMRC to confirm the application and provide your EORI number by email. In addition, please ensure your EU customer is also registered for an EORI number with their local authorities, if they do not already have one. Without it, they will be unable to import the shipment.

- **Customs Commodity Codes**

Establish what your commodity codes are for the goods you export by using this online classification link <https://www.gov.uk/trade-tariff>

This will ensure the correct duties and taxes are levied against the importer by the destination Customs authorities and that the exporter declares the correct information to UK HMRC.



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- **Export Commercial Invoice**

Attach the commercial invoice to your consignment and also provide a copy to Whittles at the time of shipment booking.

The commercial invoice must contain:

1. Full name, address and contact details of the sell and buyer
2. Include both your own and consignee EORI numbers
3. Number and date of issue of the commercial invoice
4. Number and date of the pro-forma invoice
5. Price, method of payment and currency
6. Quantity, gross and net weight of goods
7. Number, weight and type of packages
8. Harmonised system (HS) tariff code and plain English description of the products
9. Incoterms including delivery and payment
10. Country of origin of the goods
11. Actual value of the goods

It is also advisable to summarise the totals of different tariff numbers listing total number of pieces, gross weight, value per tariff code.

- **Destination Contact and Customs Clearance**

Whilst the goods are en route to destination, our EU counterpart in the country of destination will liaise with the consignee and make arrangements for customs clearance either via their own service or perhaps handover to the broker of the consignee (if they already have one nominated)

- **Import Shipments**

Relevant VAT/Duties and related customs documentation charges will be raised against the consignee (subject to incoterms) by either the local destination authorities, forwarder or broker (depending on country regulations) and in most circumstances, once VAT/Duty and associated charges are settled, the goods will be released by our EU counterpart for final mile delivery to the consignee.



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- **Summary on immediate steps to prepare for no-deal**

UK Exporter:

1. Ensure you have an EORI number
2. Inform your buyer they must have an EORI number
3. Classify your goods
4. Ensure the export commercial invoice contains the information we have listed
5. Send your export invoice to the EU importer at the time of despatch

EU Importer:

1. Ensure they have an EORI number
2. Nominate a freight forwarder/customs broker to handle import customs formalities on their behalf and give that party authority to clear on your behalf

The above measures are helpful and will eliminate some problems but this is not an exhaustive list. We will review as more info becomes available.

Whittle Eastern Europe is Brexit ready and we have many years of experience dealing with countries outside the EU. We have full AEO accreditation in customs clearance, security and safety and we are confident that we have capabilities to handle your shipments whatever the Brexit outcome.

If we can help any further please let us know.

