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Trading with the EU

Dear customer,

Full customs controls are now in place between the EU (except the island of Ireland) and Great Britain (GB).

We're writing to let you know what you need to do to make sure your goods are cleared through customs and avoid any potential delays.

Economic Operators Registration and Identification (EORI) number

You need an EORI number starting with GB, if you're moving goods between GB and any other country (including the EU). If you use a haulier, you will need to give this to them before your goods are moved.

If you've not got one, go to GOV.UK to [get an EORI number](#).

Goods vehicle movement service (GVMS)

Many ports have decided to use GVMS for moving goods into or out of Northern Ireland and GB. If your goods are being moved through a GVMS port, you or your haulier must enter all the information about your goods movement on GVMS before your goods arrive at the departure port.

You can then use GVMS to get a goods movement reference (GMR), which can be quickly checked at the border. A GMR is a single reference number linking multiple pre-lodged declaration references together.

We've published [a list of border locations using GVMS](#) so you can check whether GVMS is being used on the route you or your haulier plan to use.

If your goods are being moved through a border location that doesn't use GVMS, ask your carrier what information you'll need to clear customs.

If you move your own goods through a border location using GVMS

You'll need to [register for GVMS](#). Once you've registered, you can [create a GMR](#) to use at the border.

If you use a haulier or logistics company to move your goods

They'll need to [register for GVMS](#).

You should give them all the information they need about your goods movement, including your EORI number starting with GB, so they can [create a GMR](#).

Check if your goods need to be inspected

If you import goods into GB from the EU, you or the person moving your goods must [check whether the goods need to be taken for an inspection on arrival](#).

You don't need to be registered to use the service but will need the GMR to access the correct information.

If your haulier isn't registered for GVMS, you'll need to provide them with the email containing the GMR for them to enter.

If you or your haulier are registered, the information can be found on your dashboard in GVMS.

If you don't take your goods for an inspection when you're told to, you may need to pay a penalty up to £2,500. The person who created the GMR is responsible for making sure the goods are taken for an inspection.

The way you submit a declaration when importing goods into the UK has changed

In most cases, you no longer need to manually arrive your goods on the system. However, there are some exceptions where you may need to.

Please go to GOV.UK to read more about [making a full import declaration](#) and [making a simplified frontier declaration](#).

If you do need to arrive your goods manually on the system, you must do this by 11.59pm the day after the goods arrive in the UK.

If you're using a freight forwarder or customs agent to complete customs declarations on your behalf, you should make sure they're aware of this information.

Further support

You can:

- find out more about [appointing someone to deal with customs for you](#), including a list of customs agents and fast parcel operators
- watch our [webinars and YouTube videos on importing and exporting with the EU](#)
- use the government's free [Export Support Service](#), if you export to the EU
- call our Customs and International Trade helpline on 0300 322 9434 (8am to 10pm Monday to Friday, and 8am to 4pm at weekends).

We'll continue to provide guidance and support to help you and your business, including information on GOV.UK, our popular live webinars and through this regular email.

Yours faithfully



Directors General, Borders and Trade, HMRC



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