



HM Government  
UK TRANSITION

# UK'S NEW START LET'S GET GOING

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# Businesses need to take action

The UK has left the EU and the transition period will end on 31 December. As we transition to our new relationship with the EU, we all need to take action to prepare.

From 1 January 2021, there will be a series of guaranteed changes and opportunities for businesses.

Many of these changes will be required regardless of the agreement we reach with the EU on our future trade relationship, as the UK will be leaving the single market and customs union. You can be confident that your preparations for these changes will not be wasted.

You need to check what will change for your business from 1 January 2021 and take action now, to ensure you are not at risk.

We have put together a list of actions that are relevant to your sector to help you to start identifying what your business needs to do. We have provided a summary for each action, explaining why your business needs to act and where you can find further information.

These actions have been categorised into separate themes to help you decide which actions are relevant to your business.

There may be more actions that are relevant to your business. You should visit [gov.uk/transition](https://www.gov.uk/transition) and use the simple checker tool to find out if your business needs to take any further actions.

## Importing and Exporting

The process for importing and exporting goods from the EU will change. Businesses in Great Britain need to complete the following actions to continue importing and exporting with EU countries from 1 January 2021.

- ✓ **Make sure you have a GB EORI number**

You will need a unique trader reference number, called an Economic Operator Registration and Identification (EORI) number, to complete customs declarations from 1 January 2021. If you do not yet have one, you can register for free by going to [www.gov.uk/eori](https://www.gov.uk/eori).

- ✓ **See if your imported goods are eligible for staged controls**

If you import non-controlled goods into Great Britain from the EU, you may be able to defer import declarations until 1 July 2021. Most traders with a good compliance record will be eligible. More information is available at: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/using-simplified-declarations-for-imports>.

- ✓ **Check the Controlled goods list to see if you need to complete declarations from January.**

If you're importing and exporting goods that are categorised as 'controlled' you'll need to submit declarations from 1 January 2021. To check if your imported goods are on the Controlled goods list, go to <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/list-of-goods-imported-into-great-britain-from-the-eu-that-are-controlled>.

- ✓ **Decide how you're going to make customs declarations**

Most businesses choose to hire a person or business to help with importing and exporting, such as a customs agent, freight forwarder or express operator. They can help you with declarations and ensure you're providing the necessary information. For more information, go to <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/appoint-someone-to-deal-with-customs-on-your-behalf>.

- ✓ **Check if Import VAT is due at the border**

If you import any goods from the EU into Great Britain, you may need to pay Import VAT from 1 January 2021. Import VAT will not be due at the border if goods in a consignment are worth less than £135. The only exception to this is consignments containing excise goods, where Import VAT (along with Excise and Customs duties where applicable) will be due at the border. For more information, go to <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/changes-to-vat-treatment-of-overseas-goods-sold-to-customers-from-1-january-2021>.

- ✓ **Decide how you will account for import VAT when you make a customs declaration**

If your business is VAT-registered, from 1 January 2021 you'll be able to use postponed VAT accounting to account for Import VAT, for goods imported into the UK from anywhere in the world. This means you can account for VAT on goods imported through your VAT Return. For more information, go to [www.gov.uk/guidance/check-when-you-can-account-for-import-vat-on-your-vat-return](https://www.gov.uk/guidance/check-when-you-can-account-for-import-vat-on-your-vat-return).

#### Other useful links:

- **How to import and export goods between Great Britain and the EU from 1 January 2021:** [www.gov.uk/government/publications/how-to-import-and-export-goods-between-great-britain-and-the-eu-from-1-january-2021](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/how-to-import-and-export-goods-between-great-britain-and-the-eu-from-1-january-2021).

## Selling your goods

- ✓ **Use gov.uk to identify how your business can be ready to sell certain goods in the UK and EU**

From the 1 January 2021 the essential requirements and standards that can be used to demonstrate compliance will be the same as they are now. However, there may be other changes you need to make. These are:

- **Check which regulations apply to your product** – to determine what steps you or others in your supply chain need to take, identify what EU regulations are relevant to you.
- **Check if you need a new product approval and begin the process as soon as possible** – if your product requires third-party approval, you may need a new approval especially if you sell in both UK and EU. Subject to negotiations, from 1 January 2021 the EU will stop recognising UK approvals.
- **Check if you need to appoint a new authorised representative to act on your behalf** – UK-based individuals and legal entities will no longer count as established in the EU, and vice-versa. You may need to appoint someone to undertake certain tasks in the EU or UK.
- **Speak to your supply chains / distributors and understand new legal duties** – make sure your suppliers/distributors/customers understand the actions they need to take. If you distribute EU goods, or have your goods distributed by someone in the EU, you may acquire new legal duties.
- **Consider what marking / labelling changes apply to your product** – you may need to make changes to the information or regulatory markings that appear on your product, for example to reflect changes to product approvals or new representatives you appoint in the EU.

More information is available at: [www.gov.uk/transition](https://www.gov.uk/transition).

## Trading with the EU

After 31 December 2020, EU trade agreements will not apply to the UK. The UK is seeking to reproduce the effects of existing EU agreements for when they no longer apply to the UK. This will ensure continuity of trading arrangements for UK businesses. This means businesses will have to take action.

- ✓ **Apply for an export licence to export dual-use items to the EU and Channel Islands**

From January 2021, you will need an export licence issued by the UK to export dual-use items from Great Britain to the EU or Channel Islands. If you do not have the correct licence, your goods may be held at the border. Register now for an Open General Export Licence through SPIRE, the online export licensing system. More information is available at: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/exporting-controlled-goods-after-eu-exit#exporting-dual-use-items>.

- ✓ **Use the ‘Check How to Export Goods’ tool on gov.uk to look up information on overseas tariffs, rules and border formalities for trading your goods worldwide.**

Use the ‘Check How to Export Goods’ service on GOV.UK to check duties and customs procedures for exporting your goods worldwide. Failure to complete the proper documentation or follow the correct procedures may result in delays getting goods through customs as well as unexpected taxes on goods upon entry to the destination and country. From January 2021, there will be new requirements for how you export goods from the UK. Use the service at: <https://www.gov.uk/check-duties-customs-exporting>.

- ✓ **Use the new UK Global Tariff schedule to check what tariff will be payable on goods entering the UK from 1 January 2021.**

If you import goods into the UK, you should check the new UK Global Tariff schedule. From 1 January 2021, the UK Global Tariff schedule will apply to all goods imported into the UK unless an exception applies. Exceptions include goods you import from a country that has a trade agreement with the UK or from a developing country that pays less or no duty because it's part of the Generalised Scheme of Preferences. You can check the tariffs that will apply to goods you import at: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/uk-tariffs-from-1-january-2021>.

- ✓ **Check changes to trading with developing countries currently benefitting from the EU Generalised Scheme of Preferences.**

From January 2021, the UK will have its own Generalised Scheme of Preferences. Businesses importing goods from eligible developing countries will be able to get trade preferences through the UK's new scheme. This means that you may be able to benefit from a reduction or removal of duty (tariffs) on imports from developing countries into the UK. Check the guidance at <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/trading-with-developing-nations-during-and-after-the-transition-period>.

- ✓ **Use GOV.UK guidance to understand changes to trading with non-EU countries from 1 January 2021. Check if the UK has negotiated a trade agreement with the country you will be trading with.**

Trading with countries outside the EU may change from January 2021. Find out about trade continuity agreements the UK has signed and agreements that are still under discussion at: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/uk-trade-agreements-with-non-eu-countries>.

- ✓ **Businesses will be able to submit applications via the UK's new independent trade remedies system if they believe they are being injured by the effects of unfair trade practices or surges in imports. Familiarise yourself with the UK's new trade remedies process on GOV.UK.**

From 1 January 2021, if you think your business has been injured by unfair import practices, you can submit an application to the UK's new trade remedies system. Create an account and register your interest in UK trade remedy investigations and reviews on the Trade Remedies Service. For more information, visit: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/the-uk-trade-remedies-investigations-process>.

#### Other useful links:

- **Check UK trade tariffs from 1 January 2021:** <https://www.gov.uk/check-tariffs-1-january-2021>.
- Search for **'UK global tariff'** on **GOV.UK**.
- To find out what rules of origin apply to your exports, use the new UK's Check How to Export Goods system here: <https://www.check-duties-customs-exporting-goods.service.gov.uk/selectdest>.
- **Contact Us:** <https://www.great.gov.uk/transition-period/contact/>.

## Chemicals Regulations

UK REACH, the UK's independent chemicals regulatory framework, starts on 1 January 2021. Anyone making, selling or distributing chemicals in the UK and the EU needs to follow UK REACH and EU REACH rules. You will also need to apply for an import and export licence when trading drug precursor chemicals with EU countries.

- ✓ **Comply with UK REACH to trade chemicals in the UK**

If you want to place new chemicals on both the EU/EEA (including Switzerland) and UK markets from 1 January 2021, you must follow both EU REACH and UK REACH rules. You must register new chemicals you want to sell on the UK market from 1 January 2021 with the Health and Safety Executive. HSE will publish detailed guidance in October. More information is available at: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/how-to-comply-with-reach-chemical-regulations#prepare-for-1-january-2021>.

- ✓ **Regulatory systems - Apply for licences to trade drug precursor chemicals with the EU from 1 January 2021.**

If you trade drug precursor chemicals from 1 January 2021 you may need import or export licences to trade drug precursor chemicals with the EU. You need a domestic licence or registration before you can apply for import or export licences, this depends on the chemical you are trading. Applications usually take 12 to 16 weeks to process. More information is available at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/trading-in-drug-precursors-if-theres-no-brexit-deal/trading-in-drug-precursors-if-theres-no-brexit-deal>.

## Animal, Plant, Food, and Drink Regulations

You will have to follow new processes to import and export animals, animal products, high-risk food and feed between UK and EU from 1 January 2021. Food and drink producers, manufacturers, retailers and suppliers will have to change labels from 1 January 2021.

- ✓ **Register for the UK's new Import of Products, Animals, Food and Feed System**

If you import animals or animal products to the UK, you will need to register for the new Import of Products, Animals, Food and Feed System. To register for the system you will need to create a Government Gateway account for the business or organisation you represent. More information is available at:

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/importing-animals-animal-products-and-high-risk-food-and-feed-not-of-animal-origin-from-1-january-2021>.

- ✓ **Register to submit Export health certificates and understand border checks on animals and animal products for export**

If you export animals or animal products from Great Britain to the EU or from Great Britain to Northern Ireland, you'll need an Export Health Certificate from 1 January 2021. An Export Health Certificate is an official document that confirms your export meets the health requirements of the destination country. You need to apply for an Export Health Certificate in advance and get your goods checked at a Border Control Post in the first EU country they enter. You will not be able to export these goods from 1 January 2021 if you do not apply in time. Register for the new Export Health Certificate Online system to be ready from 1 January 2021. More information is available at: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/get-an-export-health-certificate>.

- ✓ **Use new documentation and understand border checks on plant products for export and import**

From 1 January 2021, Great Britain, including Scotland and Wales, will need to meet third country rules to import and export plants and plant products. You will need to follow new processes: to export plants and plant products, goods will need to be accompanied by a phytosanitary certificate applied for using the relevant system.

A similar process will need to be followed to import plants and plant products into Great Britain from the EU from 1 January 2021. All high-priority goods will require a phytosanitary certificate issued by the plant health authorities of the exporting country and pre-notified using the relevant notification system.

In early 2021 new IT systems will be used to import and export plants and plant products – replacing the current systems. More information is available at: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/importing-and-exporting-plants-and-plant-products-from-1-january-2021>.

- ✓ **Producers of GB protected products to start using new logo as part of new GB GI scheme from 1 January 2021**

The UK will have its own geographical indication (GI) scheme which provides a set of rules to protect the geographical names of food, drink and agricultural products. New UK GI logos will be available to identify products protected under the UK scheme from 1 January 2021. Producers of UK food, drink and agricultural GI products registered before 1 January 2021 will have until 1 January 2024 to change packaging to display the new UK GI logos. From 1 January 2021 New UK products seeking EU GI protection will need to secure protection under UK schemes first. For more information visit:

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/protecting-food-and-drink-names-if-theres-no-brexite-deal>.

## Northern Ireland Protocol

From 1 January 2021, the Northern Ireland Protocol will take effect. Businesses and individuals will be able to move goods from Northern Ireland into the rest of the United Kingdom on the same basis as now. However, the application of the Protocol will involve some changes for goods movements into Northern Ireland.

✓ **Follow NI specific rules for trading between GB and Northern Ireland.**

There will be some changes for goods movements into Northern Ireland from Great Britain. The new Trader Support Service is available to support businesses with these movements.

The free Trader Support Service:

- will help if you move goods between Great Britain and Northern Ireland, or bring goods into Northern Ireland from outside the UK
- will be free to use and guide you through any changes to the way goods move between Great Britain and Northern Ireland
- can complete declarations on your behalf

Processes for Northern Ireland businesses moving goods to and from the European Union (including Ireland) will not change after the Transition Period.

More information is available at: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/trader-support-service> and <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/moving-goods-under-the-northern-ireland-protocol>.

## Data

Personal data is any information that can be used to identify a living person, including names, delivery details, IP addresses, or HR data such as payroll details. Most organisations use personal data in their daily operations. If you receive personal data from the EU for business use, you may need to take action on data protection. Additionally, if you provide online service in the EU, you will have to ensure that you are compliant with relevant requirements in each EU country you operate in.

- ✓ **Be prepared on data protection and data transfers.**

If you're a business or organisation that receives personal data from the EU/EEA, you may need to take action on data protection as we transition to our new relationship with the EU. Check how you can legally continue to receive personal data such as names, addresses or payroll details from organisations in the EU or EEA from 1 January 2021. You may need to update your contracts or take other steps.

A UK company that receives customer information from an EU/EEA company, such as names and addresses of customers, suppliers or partners to provide goods or services should check how they can legally keep receiving the data from 1 January 2021.

To understand more about the steps you need to take, visit:

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/using-personal-data-after-brexit>.

A full list of EU and EEA countries is available at: <https://www.gov.uk/eu-eea>.

- ✓ **Replace .eu top level domain names**

If you hold a .eu domain, check if you need to replace it. From 1 January 2021, you'll no longer be able to register or renew .eu domain names if your organisation, business or undertaking is established in the UK but not in the EU/European Economic Area (EEA), or if you live outside of the EU/EEA and are not an EU/EEA citizen. Find out more at: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/eu-domain-names-what-you-need-to-do-to-get-ready-for-brexit>.

- ✓ **If you provide online services to countries in the EEA, check if rules in those countries newly apply.**

The eCommerce Directive currently allows UK based online service providers to operate in any EEA country, while only following relevant rules in the country in which they are established. This framework will no longer apply to UK providers from 1 January 2021.

You should consider whether your services are currently in scope of the Directive, and if so, ensure that you are compliant with relevant requirements in each EEA country you operate in. Depending on the nature of your online services you may already comply with these requirements.

Find out more at: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/e-commerce-directive-what-online-service-providers-in-the-uk-should-do-to-get-ready-for-brexit>.

- ✓ **Ensure compliance with Network and Information Systems Directive if operating in the EU/EEA**

If your business is a UK based Digital Service Provider to the EU/EEA, make sure you comply with the Network and Information Systems Regulations and the associated EU Directive from 1st January 2021. The Network and Information Systems Directive provides legal measures to boost the overall level of network and information system security in the EU. To comply, you must appoint a representative in one of the EU member states where you offer services. Find out more at: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/nis-regulations-what-uk-digital-service-providers-operating-in-the-eu-should-do-after-brexit>.

#### Other useful links:

- **ICO Website - Data protection at the end of the transition period:** <https://ico.org.uk/for-organisations/data-protection-at-the-end-of-the-transition-period/>.
- **Legal aspects of information society services:** <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/ALL/?uri=CELEX%3A32000L0031>.

## Workforce

The UK has left the EU and from 31 December 2020, free movement of people between the UK and EU will end. Currently, EU citizens have the right to move freely into the UK to live, work and study here. This will come to an end after the transition period and the UK will introduce a points-based immigration system.

The new system will change the way you hire from the EU and it is important you take the necessary steps to prepare. Anyone you want to recruit from outside the UK, excluding Irish citizens, will need to apply for permission first, and you will need to be registered as a licensed sponsor. Further information can be found below.

The new system will not apply to EU employees already working for you in the UK. EU citizens and their family members living in the UK by 31 December 2020 can apply to the EU Settlement Scheme. Similarly, EU citizens who are employed, or self-employed in the UK, but live elsewhere, otherwise known as frontier workers, will be able to keep their status if they are frontier working in the UK by 31 December 2020, but they will need to apply for a permit. Irish citizens will not need a frontier worker permit but may apply for one if they wish. Additionally, EU citizens can continue to visit the UK for up to six months without applying for a visa and may also participate in a wide range of activities, including business-related activities, such as events and conferences.

- ✓ **Signpost your current employees to the EU Settlement Scheme**

If you employ EU, EEA and Swiss citizens, you can signpost them to the information they need to apply to the EU Settlement Scheme, enabling them to secure their future in the UK. The deadline for applying is 30 June 2021. Find out more at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/eu-settlement-scheme-introduction-for-employers/eu-settlement-scheme-introduction-for-employers>.

- ✓ **Comply with the new immigration policies for recruiting from overseas**

From 1 January 2021, the UK will introduce a points-based immigration system. EU and non-EU citizens will be treated equally and will need to meet certain requirements to come to the UK to work. If you want to recruit workers from outside the UK from 1 January 2021, you will need to be a licensed sponsor. Registering as a sponsor normally takes eight weeks and fees apply. To find out more about the new system, including how to register as a sponsor, visit: <https://pbisemployers.campaign.gov.uk/>

- ✓ **Check if a visa or work permit is required to travel to the EU for work purposes and apply if necessary.**

If you travel to the EU for work purposes from 1 January 2021, you may need a visa or work permit. The country you are travelling to might also ask you to have other additional documents depending on the activity you perform. This advice may be relevant to anyone travelling to the EU for work purposes: this could include anyone working in the private, public or third sector, for example, professional and business services, manufacturing, charities, or the arts. For more information, visit: <https://www.gov.uk/visit-europe-1-january-2021>.

## Other useful links:

- **Travel Advice:** <https://www.gov.uk/foreign-travel-advice>.
- **Entry Requirements for providing services and travelling for business to the EU:** <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/providing-services-to-eea-and-efsa-countries-after-eu-exit>.
- **Further Guidance on visiting Europe from 1 January 2021:** <https://www.gov.uk/visit-europe-1-january-2021/business-travel-extra-requirements>.
- **Checking passport validity:** <https://www.gov.uk/checkpassport>.
- **EU Settlement Scheme:** <https://www.gov.uk/settled-status-eu-citizens-families>.
- **Employer resources for understanding the new points-based immigration system:** <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/uk-points-based-immigration-system-employer-information>.
- **Further guidance on frontier working in the UK:** <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/frontier-workers-in-the-uk-rights-and-status>.

## Providing Services

If you're a UK business or professional providing services in the EU or EFTA region, you will need to check the national regulations of the country you're doing business in to understand how best to operate. You will also need to have your UK professional qualification officially recognised if you want to work in a profession that is regulated in the EU or EFTA.

- ✓ **Get your qualifications recognised now by EU regulators to be able to practise or service clients in the EU.**

If you have a UK professional qualification you will need to have this officially recognised by the appropriate regulator for your profession in each country where you intend to work. You will need to do this even if you are only providing short-term or occasional professional services. If you do not do this, you may be unable to continue to practice or service clients in the EU from 1 January 2020. There are different rules if you are a lawyer or an auditor. For more information, visit: [www.gov.uk/guidance/providing-services-to-any-country-in-the-eu-iceland-liechtenstein-norway-or-switzerland-after-eu-exit#recognition-of-professional-qualifications](https://www.gov.uk/guidance/providing-services-to-any-country-in-the-eu-iceland-liechtenstein-norway-or-switzerland-after-eu-exit#recognition-of-professional-qualifications).

- ✓ **If UK-adopted international accounting standards are not determined as equivalent to EU-adopted international accounting standards, UK businesses listed on EU markets may need to produce accounts that comply with EU-adopted international accounting standards (or an equivalent) and UK-adopted international accounting standards.**

Companies preparing IFRS accounts will need to use 'UK adopted IFRS' instead of 'EU adopted IFRS' for financial years beginning after the 1 January 2021. UK incorporated groups with securities admitted to trading on a UK regulated market will need to prepare accounts using UK adopted IFRS for all accounting periods beginning on or after 1 January 2021. UK incorporated companies listed on other EU markets will need to comply with the rules of those markets as well as preparing accounts that comply with the UK Companies Act 2006.

UK incorporated parent companies with a subsidiary in the EEA and UK companies with a presence in the EEA (for example a branch) need to check the reporting requirements in the country where the subsidiary, or branch, is based.

UK incorporated groups that issue debt from a subsidiary incorporated in the EU will need to comply with the rules of the country where the subsidiary is based as well as produce accounts that comply with the UK Companies Act 2006. More information is available at: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/accounting-for-uk-companies-from-1-january-2021>.

UK companies listed in the EEA need to secure an auditor who is registered as a third country auditor in the relevant EEA states to comply with local audit requirements. More information is available at:  
<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/accounting-for-uk-companies-from-1-january-2021>.

- ✓ **Businesses should check if there are any changes to who can own, manage or direct companies in the sector(s) and country(ies) they operate in.**

If you have a UK business or are a UK citizen, you might face restrictions on your ability to own, manage or direct a company registered in an [EEA country](#) or Switzerland from 1 January 2021. You should be prepared for: additional requirements on the nationality or residency of senior managers or directors and/or limits on the amount of equity that can be held by non-nationals. Find out more at: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/providing-services-to-any-country-in-the-eu-iceland-liechtenstein-norway-or-switzerland-after-eu-exit>.

- ✓ **Businesses should check if there are any changes to the regulations for providing services remotely from the UK to the EEA. They should do this both for the sector they operate in, and the EEA country they wish to provide services to.**

If you have a UK business or are a UK citizen, you might face changes to the regulations governing remote service provision from the UK into an EEA country e.g. providing consultation services over email or video call. Certain sectors may face additional information or authorisation requirements, or a requirement to establish a legal presence in the EU to continue providing such services. This will vary by sector, and also by member state.

If you provide a more highly regulated service, such as legal, accounting or healthcare related services, it is more likely there will be new requirements to consider. You should check the relevant member state sectoral regulation and seek legal advice if you require further guidance.

Find out more at: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/providing-services-to-any-country-in-the-eu-iceland-liechtenstein-norway-or-switzerland-after-eu-exit>.

- ✓ **Legal professionals should understand the changes to the legal framework (including changes to civil judicial cooperation) and rights to practice after 31 December.**

EU and EFTA legal professionals practising in the UK will no longer be able to carry out reserved legal activities in the UK under their home title after 31 December. The appropriate action will depend on the legal services you practise and your business model.

If you want to provide reserved legal activities, you will need to requalify as an English, Welsh or Northern Irish lawyer with the relevant regulator under routes for foreign lawyers. If you do not want to provide reserved legal activities but want to work jointly with an English or Welsh lawyer, you will need to register as a Registered Foreign Lawyer in England and Wales with the relevant regulator.

You can also work under the supervision of an English, Welsh or Northern Irish lawyer, or only undertake unreserved legal activities. You may still need to register with another type of regulator depending upon the activities you choose to undertake, for example the OISC for immigration advice and FCA for claims management activities.

Find out more at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/eu-lawyers-in-the-uk-from-1-january-2021/eu-lawyers-in-the-uk-from-1-january-2021>

There will also be changes to family law disputes, including divorce and maintenance cases. More information is available at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/family-law-disputes-involving-the-eu-guidance-for-legal-professionals-from-1-january-2021/family-law-disputes-involving-the-eu-guidance-for-legal-professionals-from-1-january-2021>)

There will also be changes to cross-border commercial and civil legal cases. More information is available at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/cross-border-civil-and-commercial-legal-cases-guidance-for-legal-professionals-from-1-january-2021>).

Legal professionals should make themselves aware of these changes and understand how they may affect cases.

#### Other useful links:

- **European Commission's Regulated Professions Database:** <https://ec.europa.eu/growth/tools-databases/regprof/index.cfm?action=regprofs>.
- **Single Point of Contact:** [https://ec.europa.eu/growth/single-market/services/services-directive/in-practice/contact\\_en](https://ec.europa.eu/growth/single-market/services/services-directive/in-practice/contact_en).

## Access to Research and Development Funding

Organisations can apply for a funding opportunity. Each opportunity has its own eligibility criteria and scope. UK scientists, researchers and businesses can continue to participate in Horizon 2020 programmes.

✓ **Find out more about Horizon 2020 on gov.uk**

You can continue to apply for Horizon 2020 grant funding. Although the UK has left the EU, you'll continue to get any EU funding you've already been awarded. UK scientists, researchers and businesses can continue to participate in Horizon 2020 programmes and receive EU grant funding for the lifetime of individual projects. This includes projects finishing after 1 January 2021. Apply now to Horizon 2020 to secure your funding. For more information, visit: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/horizon-2020-what-it-is-and-how-to-apply-for-funding>.

### Other useful links:

- **Horizon 2020 and EU Exit Q&A can be found on:** <https://www.ukri.org/research/international/ukri-europe/horizon-2020-q-a/>.

## Energy

The EU ETS is the largest multi-country, multi-sector greenhouse gas emissions trading system in the world. It includes around 1,000 power stations and industrial plants in the UK. These include power stations, oil refineries, offshore platforms and industries that produce iron and steel, cement and lime, paper, glass, ceramics and chemicals. Other organisations, including aviation operators flying into or from a European airport are also covered by the EU ETS. Businesses should take necessary steps to ensure they meet compliance obligations by a certain date.

✓ **Comply with UK emissions levels for 2020 by April 2021**

During the transition period from 1 February to 31 December 2020, the UK remains a full participant in the EU Emission Trading Scheme. This means that participating UK operators must meet their 2020 compliance obligations.

UK operators will continue to be able to access their accounts in the Union Registry and any allowances they contain, for the purpose of 2020 compliance on 30 April 2021, and business should take necessary steps to ensure your business meets compliance obligations by this date.

Access to Union registry operator accounts after this date may no longer be possible. Additionally, as of 1 January 2021, trading accounts in the UK sections of the Registry will no longer have access to these accounts. If any account holders wish to continue holding allowances after their respective loss of access, they may wish to open a trading account in the Union Registry administered by an EU Member State and move their assets to this account.

More information is available at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/meeting-climate-change-requirements-if-theres-no-brexid-deal/meeting-climate-change-requirements-if-theres-no-brexid-deal#actions-euets>.

## Intellectual Property

The Intellectual Property system will continue as it is until 31 December 2020. There will be no disruption to IPO services or changes to the UK IP system during this transition period. The IPO will convert almost 1.4 million EU trade marks and 700,000 EU designs to comparable UK rights at the end of the transition period. However, there will be some actions business will have to take in order to protect their intellectual property.

- ✓ **Business should consider whether changes to the framework for the exhaustion of IP rights will impact their business. They may want to seek legal advice to inform their assessment.**

If you currently export intellectual property protected goods (such as goods branded with a trade mark) from the UK to the EEA that have already been placed on the UK market, you may need to contact the rights holder to get permission to continue after 1 January 2021. If you own intellectual property rights in goods first sold in the UK, you will need to consider if you want to allow parallel exports of your intellectual property-protected goods from the UK to the EEA after 1 January 2021. More information is available at: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/exhaustion-of-ip-rights-and-parallel-trade-after-the-transition-period>.

- ✓ **Business should consider if any potential changes to the eligibility for unregistered designs rights in the UK and the EU will impact their business.**

From 1 January 2021 onwards the unregistered Community design will no longer cover the UK. A new supplementary unregistered design, mirroring the characteristics of the Community right will be introduced in the UK. Unless there is an agreement on disclosure, eligibility will be restricted to the territory in which a design is first disclosed, either the UK or EU. You may not have IP protection in your most important market if you do not make an informed choice about first disclosure of their unregistered designs.

You should consider if any potential changes to disclosure requirements will impact your business and check with your legal team about how best to secure unregistered design protection in the UK and EU. More information is available at: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/changes-to-unregistered-designs-after-the-transition-period>.

## Timber Regulations

Businesses will need to take action when importing and exporting timber between UK and EU after the transition period.

- ✓ **Apply due diligence to export/import timber from UK to EU to meet legal harvest requirements.**

If you import or export timber between the UK and EU/EEA, you may need to prove it's been legally harvested from 1 January 2021. You'll need to show imports from the EU and EEA to the UK have been legally harvested by carrying out due diligence checks. If you're exporting timber to the EU or EEA, you may need to supply documentation about the source and legality of your timber. This is so EU and EEA-based customers can meet the EU Timber Regulation (EUTR) due diligence rules. Due diligence systems will vary business by business. More information is available at: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/trading-timber-imports-and-exports-if-theres-no-brexit-deal>.

## Waste Movement

Businesses will need to follow EU customs guidelines when shipping waste to the EU after the transition period.

- ✓ **GB businesses to familiarise themselves with EU requirements for waste movements between GB and EU**

If you import or export waste, you'll need to make yourself aware of the EU customs guidelines and the EU Waste Shipment Regulations. Approval is required from the regulator in the country of dispatch, country of destination and when relevant, country of transit before notifiable wastes can move. Depending on the EU competent authority it may take 30 days or more to process applications.

The GB regulators endeavour to process applications within the 30 day time period laid out in the EU legislation. EU regulators often take more time and that is outside our control.

More information is available at: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/importing-and-exporting-waste-if-theres-no-brexit-deal>.