

# Five essential steps: **IMPORTING** from the **EU**

## 1. Get an EORI number

- A UK issued **Economic Operator Registration and Identification (EORI)** number is essential for UK businesses that wish to import or export goods with the EU post-Brexit. If you interact with EU customs, you also need an **EU EORI number** from the country where you first lodge a declaration.
- **Apply for an EORI number** online and you will receive it straight away. If you already have one, check it begins with GB. If not, HMRC will publish guidance on how to switch.

## 2. Check your commodity/tariff codes

- **Commodity codes** are used to ensure goods have the correct tariff classification. Using the wrong codes for your products in customs declarations risks paying the wrong tariff, costly delays at the border or potential fines.
- **Search** for your commodity code codes and understand **how to value your imports**. **HMRC can advise** if help is needed. Details of no deal UK import **tariffs** and **TRQs** are now available.

## 3. If eligible, register for Transitional Simplified Procedures

- This will simplify the process of importing goods from the EU via RoRo locations like Dover or the Channel Tunnel. It allows you to complete customs declarations and pay tariffs away from the border. **Controlled goods** will need to be pre-lodged before they enter the UK.
- See further information and **register for TSP online**. You need a UK business address to register and an EORI number to demonstrate TSP status at the border.

## 4. Check processes for imports of high risk goods

- Imports of EU food and drink won't need a **health certificate** for 6 months. Importers of products of animal origin should investigate **import notification processes** required by the FSA which will come into effect from summer 2019 using IPAFFS.
- Fish products will need to be accompanied by a **catch certificate**. High risk non-EU imports need to be **pre-notified** via **IPAFFS**, which replaces the EU's TRACES system.

## 5. Decide if you will use a customs agent

- Most businesses use a customs broker, agent, or freight forwarder to make **customs declarations** for them. This can make exporting simpler and faster. Alternatively, you can make **declarations** yourself by obtaining **approved software**.
- You may want to check with the EU importers if they are ready to submit an import declaration when the goods arrive in the EU.