



Preparing for “No Deal” Brexit

Guide I – International Permits and Customs

6 November 2018

For UK International Operators

1. Haulage operators, their staff and their customers will have to make significant changes to working practices in the event of a no-deal Brexit. These changes will have to be undertaken very quickly and in a complicated and rapidly changing environment.
2. To support members, over the coming months the RHA will be publishing guidelines as it becomes more apparent as to what actions need to be taken and when.
3. There will also be a checklist of key actions and issues. This will be a simplified list giving an overview of when action (if any) needs to be taken on a range of issues.
4. All RHA papers relating to Brexit will be published on our website [here](#).

International Permits

5. Unless told otherwise, international operators should assume that if there is a no-deal Brexit they will need to use quota-limited European Conference of Ministers of Transport (ECMT) permits to access the European Union after 29 March 2019.
Please note that current Community Licences will be valid until at least 23:00 GMT on 29 March 2019.
6. Applications for annual ECMT permits will be open from Monday 26 November until Friday 21 December 2018. No applications will be accepted after that time. Operators will be informed if applications have been successful in early January.
7. There will not be enough ECMT permits to meet demand and annual permits will only be available for EURO VI lorries.
8. If the outcome of negotiations results in a no-deal situation, it is likely that bilateral permits between the UK and some EU Member States will be introduced. This will reduce the pressure on the permit system, but currently there is no information on which States will introduce bilateral permits, nor what conditions will apply to them.

Action that must be taken NOW

9. **Operators wanting to apply for ECMT permits must have an account on the DVSA Vehicle Operator Licensing (VOL) online system. It is not possible to apply for an ECMT permit without a VOL account.** (Many international operators will already have a VOL account)
10. Operators can check their account or create an account [here](#).
11. It can take DVSA up to 2 weeks to process new account registrations - so do not delay if you do not already have an account on the DVSA system.
12. We recommend operators sign up for alerts on international road freight – this can be done [here](#).

Other ECMT Information

13. Just under 1,000 annual ECMT permits will be available for allocation during the November/December bid round. When open, the application process will be online only. In addition to annual permits, permits valid for one month will be introduced. These are limited in number and applications will open in early 2019.
14. There is no advantage in applying at the beginning of the application period – an application made in mid-December will have the same chance of a permit as that made in late November.
15. Each permit applied for will cost £10 (none-refundable). If successful a permit fee will also be charged.
16. Not needed yet, but worth noting is the information that will be needed to apply for ECMT permits, this can be reviewed [here](#).
17. DVSA has published a short overview of the ECMT permit process [here](#).
18. If successful, and upon receipt of the permit/permits, the DVSA logbook must be carried in the vehicle after the 29 March. An ECMT 'certificate of compliance' to show the vehicle is Euro VI will also be needed. These are completed by the vehicle manufacturer or DVSA. Compliance certificates will also be needed for the trailer.

Customs

19. In the event of a no-deal, from 23:00 on the 29 March 2019 shipments to and from the EU will require customs declarations.

20. This will completely change Customs procedures. There will be new obligations for all operators, importers and exporters dealing with the EU and European Economic Area (EEA). **The scale of the changes needed in the event of a no deal are enormous.**

21. There are four different declarations.

- Export Customs Declaration – the responsibility of the exporter
- Export Safety and Security Declaration – the responsibility of the haulier
- Import Safety and Security Declaration – the responsibility of the importer
- Import Declaration – the responsibility of the importer

These are new processes for the movement of goods travelling between the EU and the UK.

22. The information provided by HMRC is currently incomplete, in particular that relating to the new Safety and Security Declarations that will be the responsibility of the road haulage operator.

23. The quality of the paperwork currently used to control shipments across the EU is inadequate for customs controls. This will change. As previously advised by the RHA and you should alert you customers to this. In simple terms, the standard of exporters and importers paperwork will need to be the same as if they were trading with the Far East or the USA.

Action that must be taken NOW

24. **UK Operators wanting to undertake international road haulage will need to have a UK Economic Operator Registration Identifier (EORI) number. HMRC have made this requirement clear and operators should to obtain their EORI numbers as soon as possible.**

25. Applications EORI numbers can be made [here](#).

26. Please be aware that that the HMRC website has not been redesigned to 'accommodate' Brexit. Advice is written based on our membership of the European Union –somewhat confusing when completing the forms for EORI.
27. If you are VAT registered, there is a single form to complete. If not, you have a choice – our suggestion is that you fill in the export form as best you can.
28. **Advise your customers (importers and exporters) to obtain EORI numbers. Please feel free to provide them with this guidance and the links so they can action if they do not already have their EORI numbers.**

Other Customs Information

29. There will be significant changes for all operators, importers and exporters. We recommend that operators and their customers sign up to the HMRC Exit Update Service [here](#).
30. A more detailed RHA paper relating to Brexit customs from the end of October is available [here](#).
31. Official information is available in the HMRC Partnership Paper – available [here](#).

Further information

32. The RHA will keep members informed, for latest policy news, please download the RHA's newsfeed app – RoadwayLive. (available for Android or Apple platforms) [here](#).