



The Road Haulage Association

Brexit Update

29 October 2019

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Status - Road haulage operators

1. Brexit has been fluid and major political activity and noise is still expected.
2. However, no-deal Brexit is now off the table until at least 31 January 2020.
3. Therefore, there will be no change in international road haulage movements (or indeed international trade between then and now).

What can happen next (road haulage and international trade)

4. If a Brexit deal is done any time before 31 December 2020 the UK will remain in the rules of the EU during an implementation / transition period. In effect business continues as if the UK is still in the EU until at least 31 December 2020 which is when the implementation period is due to end.
5. The implementation period exists to allow the UK and the EU to agree a future trading relationship. It is possible that the UK and the EU could extend that period for up to a further 2 years.
6. At the end of the implementation period in December 2020 (or later) it may be the case that customs formalities will be introduced. Traders will need to be mindful of the need to continue to prepare for customs under any Brexit scenario.
7. If no Brexit deal is done, the UK remains inside the rules of the EU until 31 January 2020 at least. A further extension at the Article 20 period may be agreed, but that is not certain.



Yellowhammer preparations

8. The Government has stood down it's planning for a No-Deal Brexit – codenamed Operation Yellowhammer as no-deal Brexit will not happen before next January. This follows the widely reported events in the House of Commons and a likely election date in December.
9. Operation Brock which was designed to manage the flow of traffic on the M20 leading to Kent's ports is being suspended – just two days after the more mobile infrastructure was put in place. The removal of the latest infrastructure is likely to disrupt traffic on the motorway until Wednesday.
10. The RHA is relieved that a damaging no deal Brexit has been avoided this year. But uncertainty in our industry remains high and it's vital this extra time leads to a deal and transition period to break the gridlock and let the country move on.
11. Preparation, especially for traders who will have significant new obligations to make customs declarations, will need to continue.
12. There will be no need for any ECMT permits in 2019 for UK operators moving goods around the EU. Further guidance will be provided by the RHA on what may or may not be needed in the next few days.
13. If an election is called we can expect Government communication on Brexit preparation of any sort to all but cease while an election takes place.

29 October 2019
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