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Part of
Brexit transition: new rules for 2021
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Get an EORI number

You need an EORI number to move goods between the UK and non-EU countries.

From 1 January 2021 you will need one to move goods between Great Britain (England, Scotland and Wales) or the Isle of Man, and the EU. You may also need a separate EORI number if you move goods to or from Northern Ireland.

If you do not have an EORI, you may have increased costs and delays. For example, if HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC) cannot clear your goods you may have to pay storage fees.

This guide is also available in Welsh (Cymraeg) (<https://www.gov.uk/cael-rhif-eori>).

If you already have an EORI

From 1 January 2021 you'll need an EORI number that starts with GB to move goods between Great Britain and other countries.

Check your EORI number. Apply for a new one if yours does not start with GB.

If you move goods to or from the EU

From 1 January 2021 you'll need an EORI number to move goods between Great Britain and the EU.

Apply for an EORI number (<https://www.tax.service.gov.uk/customs/register-for-cds/isle-of-man>) as soon as possible. It can take up to a week to get one.

You'll not usually need an EORI number if you only:

- provide services
- move goods between Northern Ireland and Ireland

If you use a post or parcel company they'll tell you if you need an EORI number.

You'll need an EORI number from an EU country if your business will be making declarations or getting a customs decision in the EU. Get this from the customs authority in the EU country where you submit your first declaration or request your first decision.

If you move goods to or from Northern Ireland

From 1 January 2021 you'll need an EORI number that starts with XI to:

- move goods between Northern Ireland and non-EU countries
- make a declaration in Northern Ireland
- get a customs decision in Northern Ireland

If you already have an EORI number from an EU country, you do not need an EORI number starting with XI. You may still need an EORI number starting with GB to use some UK customs systems.

To get an EORI number that starts with XI, you must already have an EORI number that starts with GB.

If you already have an EORI number starting with GB

You need to apply for an EORI number that starts with XI (<https://www.tax.service.gov.uk/shortforms/form/EORIContact>) if you have not already received one from HMRC in the post. It takes 5 to 10 minutes to apply.

You'll get your EORI number that starts with XI within 4 working days.

If you do not have an EORI number starting with GB

You can apply for an EORI number (<https://www.tax.service.gov.uk/customs/register-for-cds/isle-of-man>) that starts with GB and one that starts with XI at the same time.

You'll get your EORI number that starts with XI within 4 working days.

Get advice if you move goods between Great Britain and Northern Ireland

Sign up for the Trader Support Service (<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/trader-support-service>) to get advice on EORI numbers and moving goods between Great Britain and Northern Ireland. The service is free if you trade with Northern Ireland.

If you move goods to or from the Channel Islands

From 1 January 2021, if you're based in Great Britain you'll need an EORI number that starts with GB to move goods between Great Britain and the Channel Islands. You do not need to give it to the customs authorities in the Channel Islands.

If you're based in the Channel Islands, you only need an EORI number if you're giving information to HMRC.

Before you apply

To apply you need your:

- VAT number and effective date of registration (if you're VAT registered) - these are on your VAT registration certificate
- National Insurance number - if you're an individual or a sole trader
- Unique Taxpayer Reference (UTR) - find your UTR (<https://www.gov.uk/find-lost-utr-number>) if you do not know it
- business start date and Standard Industrial Classification (SIC) code - these are in the Companies House register (<https://www.gov.uk/get-information-about-a-company>)
- Government Gateway user ID and password

If you need a Government Gateway user ID, use either:

- the one for your business or organisation
- your own if you're applying as an individual

If you do not already have a user ID, you'll be able to create one when you apply.

Apply for an EORI number

Use this service to apply for an EORI number that starts with GB. It takes 5 to 10 minutes to apply. You'll get it either:

- straight away
- within 5 working days (if HMRC needs to make more checks)

Start now (<https://www.tax.service.gov.uk/customs/register-for-cds/isle-of-man>)

What you need to know

You can check the status of an application you have already made (<https://www.tax.service.gov.uk/customs/register-for-cds/are-you-based-in-uk>).

You may have to wait 48 hours to use your EORI number for customs declarations in the Customs Handling of Import and Export Freight (CHIEF) system.

If you need help

Forgotten or lost EORI number

You can contact the EORI team online (<https://www.tax.service.gov.uk/shortforms/form/EORIContact>).

Other problems getting an EORI number

You can contact the EORI team online

(<https://www.tax.service.gov.uk/shortforms/form/EORIContact>) or by phone.

Telephone: 0300 322 9434

Monday to Friday, 8am to 6pm (closed bank holidays)

Find out about call charges (<https://www.gov.uk/call-charges>)

Service issues

Online services may be slow during busy times. Check if there are any problems with this service (<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/get-an-eori-number-service-availability-and-issues/get-an-eori-number-service-availability-and-issues>).

Part of

- Prepare to export goods from Great Britain to the EU from 1 January 2021 (<https://www.gov.uk/prepare-to-export-from-great-britain-from-january-2021>)
- Get UK customs clearance when exporting goods outside the EU: step by step (<https://www.gov.uk/export-customs-declaration>)
- Prepare to import goods from the EU to Great Britain from 1 January 2021 (<https://www.gov.uk/prepare-to-import-to-great-britain-from-january-2021>)
- Import goods from outside the EU: step by step (<https://www.gov.uk/import-goods-outside-eu>)
- Get UK customs clearance when importing goods from outside the EU: step by step (<https://www.gov.uk/import-customs-declaration>)
- Export goods to countries outside the EU: step by step (<https://www.gov.uk/export-goods-outside-eu>)

Related content

- Starting to import (<https://www.gov.uk/starting-to-import>)
- Exporting and doing business abroad (<https://www.gov.uk/starting-to-export>)

Collection

- Construction sector: end of transition period guidance (<https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/construction-sector-end-of-transition-period-guidance>)
- Electronics and machinery sector: end of transition period guidance (<https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/electronics-and-machinery-sector-end-of-transition-period-guidance>)

- Metals and other materials sector: end of transition period guidance (<https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/metals-and-other-goods-sector-end-of-transition-period-guidance>)
- Life sciences sector: end of transition period guidance (<https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/life-sciences-sector-end-of-transition-period-guidance>)
- Retail sector: end of transition period guidance (<https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/retail-sector-end-of-transition-period-guidance>)
- + 10 more
- Chemicals sector: end of transition period guidance (<https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/chemicals-sector-end-of-transition-period-guidance>), Automotive sector: end of transition period guidance (<https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/automotive-sector-end-of-transition-period-guidance>), Aerospace sector: end of transition period guidance (<https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/aerospace-sector-end-of-transition-period-guidance>), Consumer goods sector: end of transition period guidance (<https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/consumer-goods-sector-end-of-transition-period-guidance>), Science, research and innovation sector: end of transition period guidance (<https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/science-research-and-innovation-sector-end-of-transition-period-guidance>), The art market sector from January 2021 (<https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/the-art-market-sector-from-january-2021>), The arts, culture and heritage sectors from January 2021 (<https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/the-arts-culture-and-heritage-sectors-from-january-2021>), The tourism sector from January 2021 (<https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/the-tourism-sector-from-january-2021>), The digital, technology and computer services sectors from January 2021 (<https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/the-digital-technology-and-computer-services-sectors-from-january-2021>), and The creative industries sector from January 2021 (<https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/the-creative-industries-sector-from-january-2021>)

Brexit transition

Check you're ready for 2021 (<https://www.gov.uk/transition>)

Explore the topic

- Exporting and doing business abroad (<https://www.gov.uk/browse/business/exports>)
- Importing (<https://www.gov.uk/browse/business/imports>)
- Import, export and customs for businesses (<https://www.gov.uk/topic/business-tax/import-export>)