

Construction

Key facts

- 1 Businesses operating in the construction sector will be affected by new rules after the transition period ends
- 2 Importing and exporting construction materials and chemicals will require compliance with two sets of rules
- 3 Construction workers moving between the EU and the UK will be subject to immigration and employment rules

Examples include:

Construction companies, builders, tradespeople, distributors of construction materials and chemicals

How we buy and sell products, provide services and hire staff from the EU, will change after the transition period ends. Businesses are advised to consider their route to market and look at what it means for their margins when they provide services, export and import to and from European countries on different terms, and when costs of recruitment will rise.

People

- EU nationals currently in the UK can apply for (pre-)Settled Status under the Settlement Scheme
- After the transition period ends, EU staff that come to the UK to work, will need to apply under the points-based immigration system, and businesses have to sponsor applicants they want to recruit
- EU business visitors can travel to the UK visa-free with a valid passport, and they can stay for a maximum of 6 months, but there will be restrictions on paid activities
- UK nationals can travel to the EU visa-free with a passport that is valid for at least 6 months, and they can stay for a maximum of 90 consecutive days in any 180 day period, but there will be restrictions on paid activities
- UK construction workers carrying out projects in Europe may be subject to local employment and immigration rules. Their professional qualifications may not be recognised.

Trade

- Import and export of goods will be subject to customs controls and may attract tariffs
- Rules around placing products on the EU and UK markets will be different
- UK services providers will be subject to more local rules in an EU country than now

Regulation

- Construction Products Regulation: CE marking will be replaced by a UK Conformity Assessment (UKCA) mark and conformity assessments and certificates for Europe-bound products will have to be issued by an EU-recognised notified body
- Chemicals: The EU's main chemicals regulation, REACH, will be replaced by UK REACH and the manufacturing and importing of biocides, pesticides, and classification, labelling and packaging of chemicals will also be impacted

To do

People

- Support and encourage current EU staff to apply for (pre-)settled status. Check out the [Settlement Scheme Employer Toolkit](#)
- Read about the [details of the new points-based immigration system](#)

Trade

- Check what it will mean to [provide services in EU countries](#) and which business activities will require compliance with local rules
- Find out what [exporting goods](#) to EU countries will mean after the transition period ends
- Find out what [importing goods](#) from EU countries will mean after the transition period ends
- Call the UK Export/Import helpline for support: 0300 3301 331

Regulation

- Read the guidance on the [Construction Products Regulation](#) (withdrawn, yet valid)
- Find out [how to comply with REACH](#), how rules will be different for using or importing chemicals and read the [guidance from ECHA](#)
- Check the transition page of the [Health and Safety Executive](#)
- Anticipate opening an account on REACH IT (not yet in use) to provide information on your chemicals registrations
- Consider changes to the labelling and packaging of chemicals and to using biocides, pesticides and hazardous chemicals
- You may also want to read the EU Readiness Notices on [professional qualifications](#), [services and posted workers](#), [timber products](#), [REACH](#), [plant protection products](#), [biocidal products](#), [industrial products](#), [emission standards](#), [explosives for civil uses](#), [fertilisers](#), and [detergents](#)
- Understand changes to your [VAT obligations](#) and what it means to trade as a [business from a non-EU country with regard to VAT](#), and read specific guidance on [VAT on goods](#)
- Check the [ICO guidance on GDPR](#)

Go to the [Government's checker tool](#) and the [EU Readiness Notices](#) for more information on EU exit and your sector.

What's next?

Trade under EU rules will continue as normal until the transition period ends. A new trade agreement will lay down the final conditions for UK-EU trade in goods and services. As part of the new commercial environment, a UKCA mark and UK REACH will be phased in.

For more information visit [London Growth Hub](#), [check out other fact sheets](#) or email growthhub@london.gov.uk

Disclaimer

At the time of writing, the transition period ends on 31 December 2020, and the changes outlined in this fact sheet will occur from 1 January 2021. If that date slips, the changes will still happen, but at a later date. For latest updates go to www.gov.uk/transition

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