

# SENDING TO EUROPE FROM 1 JANUARY 2021 FAQS

Our most frequently asked questions  
are available to support you



## How does the EU-UK Trade and Cooperation Agreement (TCA) affect shipping parcels to Europe?

The EU-UK Trade and Cooperation Agreement (TCA) that was announced on December 24th 2020 provides more clarity for UK and EU trade from the end of the transition period.

**Customs Declarations are required** between Great Britain and the European Union, therefore Commercial or Pro-Forma Invoices are needed.

The **EU-UK Trade and Cooperation Agreement (TCA)** means that in most cases Customs duties will not be applied as a zero tariff has been confirmed for goods sent between the UK and EU, however this **is conditional on Rules of Origin Requirements** being confirmed when shipping. Note that VAT will still be levied.

**Changes to UK VAT requirements** will still be implemented.

Details for trade with **Northern Ireland** have been confirmed on 31 December 2020.

## What additional information do I need to provide?

Our despatch systems and shipping tools have been developed to capture the below additional information:

### Product:

1. Commodity code (also known as HS code)
2. Detailed product description
3. Value of product
4. Country of origin

### Sender:

1. EORI number
2. Address and telephone number

### Recipient:

1. Address, email address and telephone number

## What is a commodity code?

Commodity codes (also known as HS codes) is an internationally standardised system of numbers used to classify traded products.

Basic commodity codes are 8 digits long composed of a number of different parts based on:

- type of product
- material used to make it
- production method

To find out commodity codes for your product catalogue, visit: [www.gov.uk/trade-tariff](http://www.gov.uk/trade-tariff)

## What is an EORI number?

EORI stands for Economic Operator Registration and Identification.

An EORI number is currently needed to import or export items outside of the EU. After 31 December 2020 UK businesses will also need an EORI number for shipments to and from the EU.

To register for an EORI number, visit: [www.gov.uk/eori](http://www.gov.uk/eori)

## Do I also need to provide printed copies of the commercial or pro-forma invoice?

A commercial or pro-forma invoice is essential paperwork in order for your goods to clear Customs in the destination country.

Our despatch systems and shipping tools will produce a standard commercial or pro-forma invoice and will print the requirement number of copies.

For DHL Parcel UK to clear shipments through customs on your behalf, the following must accompany your shipment:

- Commercial or pro-forma invoice
- DHL Parcel UK shipping label
- Electronic shipment data

## What are Rules of Origin requirements?

In order to benefit from the EU-UK Trade Agreement 'zero tariff' (zero Customs duties), it's essential that traders provide evidence of the country of origin.

Traders need to check if their products comply with agreed Rules of Origin, Chapter 2 of the Agreement, and product specific rules of origin in the Annex.

As indicated in the Section 2 of Chapter 2 of the Agreement, a claim for preferential treatment shall be based on 'a statement of origin' or 'the importer's knowledge'.

Therefore, we recommend customers to review the Agreement and check if their goods comply with the rules of origin and, if so, the way to claim preferential treatment.

## Do I need to make any changes to the manifest data I send to you?

Our despatch systems and shipping tools have been reviewed and developed to ensure they are ready and can accept increased customs data requirements.

Our iConsign system will be updated automatically.

If you are using a 3rd party integrator or our API, you will have been supported to migrate to our Brexit ready version.

## Have transit times been impacted since the end of the transition period?

We have been working hard to prepare and are continuing to make investment across our business to ensure that we can maintain service quality.

The addition of customs formalities in the movement of your parcels may mean your parcels will incur a delay as we start the new trading relationship with the EU. There may be delays or disruption to services which is outside of our control, such as congestion in the ports. We will keep you up to date through our live service updates.

We have revised the transit times for the Road Economy and Worldwide Air products for all countries to reflect the new customs processes that have been introduced.

## Have the type of commodities I can send to Europe changed?

For details regarding the new rules visit:

[www.gov.uk/prepare-to-export-from-great-britain-from-january-2021](http://www.gov.uk/prepare-to-export-from-great-britain-from-january-2021)

[www.check-duties-customs-exporting-goods.service.gov.uk/selectdest](http://www.check-duties-customs-exporting-goods.service.gov.uk/selectdest)

The following products are known as excise goods:

- Alcohol/alcoholic drinks
- Energy products and electricity
- Tobacco products

[https://europa.eu/youreurope/business/taxation/excise-duties-eu/product-excise-duties/index\\_en.htm#:~:text=The%20following%20products%20are%20known,Tobacco%20products](https://europa.eu/youreurope/business/taxation/excise-duties-eu/product-excise-duties/index_en.htm#:~:text=The%20following%20products%20are%20known,Tobacco%20products)

## Are there any changes for sending shipments to Northern Ireland?

In December 2020 the UK-EU Withdrawal Committee Joint Committee reached an agreement on the implementation of the Northern Ireland Protocol. This agreement is unchanged by the UK-EU Trade and Cooperation Agreement.

Further guidance regarding the movement of parcels was published on 31 December.

**On 4th March 2021** the Government announced an extension to the temporary approach (known as an easement period) for the movement of goods in parcels by express carriers.

**For business to business shipments** the easement period has been extended to 1st October 2021. From 1st October a customs declaration will be required.

**For business to consumer shipments** the Government has stated that businesses and carriers will have 6 months to prepare after guidance as to the long term requirements for these movements are published.

**For goods valued at £135** or more received by Northern Ireland businesses (from Great Britain), a declaration must be submitted by the receiver within three months of receiving the goods. They will be able to use the free Trader Support Service to do so.

**Restricted and prohibited goods** sent from Great Britain to Northern Ireland cannot be accepted by DHL Parcel UK.

**Northern Ireland to Great Britain** the majority of goods will not attract new customs processes.

**Between Northern Ireland and the EU** no customs declarations are required for these movements, they will be treated as intra-EU.

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/sending-parcels-between-great-britain-and-northern-ireland>

# I'VE READ YOUR FAQS AND I STILL HAVE QUESTIONS.

We are here to support you, our customers, and your business, in sending to Europe.

Our dedicated task forces in the UK and EU have been assessing every aspect of Brexit since the referendum, and continue to evaluate implications and risks for international trade. Our planning is based on available information. As requirements change, we will work to overcome challenges and will keep you informed of all developments.

Our network is well prepared for the new requirements.

Please contact your Account Manager if you have any questions.

If you should require any further assistance, our dedicated Brexit team are here to support you. Please email [brexitenquiry\\_ecsuk@dhl.com](mailto:brexitenquiry_ecsuk@dhl.com)

