

Government warns UK firms to act now on EU data flows

The [UK Government is advising businesses](#) to act now and work with EU/EEA organisations that transfer personal data to them to put in place alternative transfer mechanisms, such as Standard Contractual Clauses (SCCs) to ensure that data can continue to flow lawfully from 1 January.

The EU is currently conducting a data adequacy assessment of the UK and with only weeks to go until the end of the transition period, the EU has yet to signal that the UK's data protection regime is adequate. If the EU grants a positive [adequacy decision](#) by 1 January 2021, it would mean that personal data can flow freely from the EU/EEA to the UK, as it does now.

Guidance for hauliers and commercial drivers

The Government has published [guidance](#) in the form of a 'Haulier Handbook', as a one-stop-shop for hauliers and commercial operators working internationally, providing key information on how to prepare vehicles and goods to ensure a smooth process and help minimise disruption at the border.

Green Cards and GB stickers required on vehicles

The [Government is advising](#) that UK drivers are likely to need a Green Card to drive their vehicles in the EU (including the Republic of Ireland) from 1 January 2021.

A Green Card, which is an international certificate of motor insurance, is accepted in the 48 countries that are part of the Green Card scheme. UK drivers and operators should take action to ensure that they have Green Cards for all vehicles and trailers from 1 January 2021. You can get Green Cards from the insurance company insuring the vehicle or trailer.

Drivers will also need to display a GB sticker to the rear of the vehicle and trailer, even if the number plates include the GB identifier under the EU logo. Vehicles registered in Great Britain or Northern Ireland don't need to display a GB sticker to drive in Ireland.

Information about the UK points-based immigration system

[Information for employers](#) to help them prepare for the UK's new point-based immigration system from 1 January 2021 has been updated to include links to a new podcast on the future of immigration.

Trading under World Trade Organisation (WTO) rules

[Guidance](#) has been updated to reflect the latest information about trading under WTO rules from 1 January 2021 if no trade agreement exists between the UK and another country.

WTO rules state that the same trading terms must be applied to all WTO members, unless there is a trade agreement between two or more countries. This is known as [Most Favoured Nation \(MFN\)](#) treatment. The UK currently trades with many countries on WTO terms, including China, India, Brazil and Saudi Arabia.

Resources to support businesses that trade with the EU

The Government has produced a [series of videos](#) explaining what businesses need to do to be ready for 1 January 2021, covering a range of subjects including exports and imports, customs, commodity codes and controlled goods.

The Department for International Trade is also hosting a series of one-hour webinars between 3 and 17 December tailored for UK businesses who import and export goods. You can [register now](#) for the next webinar on 3 December at 10:30 am.

HMRC is also hosting a [series of webinars](#) between 1 and 4 December to provide support with customs declarations.

New public sector procurement process

The Government has published the first of two Procurement Policy Notes, introducing the new 'Find a Tender' service, a new e-notification service that will be used to post and view [public sector procurement](#) notices from 1 January.

Protection of trademarks and intellectual property

The Government has updated its [guidance for businesses](#) and organisations holding EU trademarks at the end of the transition period. On the 1 January 2021, the [Intellectual Property Office](#) will create a comparable UK trademark for all right holders with an existing EU trademark.

[Information](#) for customers and users of IP about how the IP system and the Intellectual Property Office will operate after the end of the transition period has also been published.

Support for trading in or via Northern Ireland

From 1st January 2021, the Northern Ireland Protocol will come into effect and as a result there will be changes to the way goods move between Great Britain and Northern Ireland.

To help businesses and traders of all sizes to navigate these changes, the UK Government has launched the [Trader Support Service](#) and businesses are being encouraged to sign up now. The service will:

- Provide a free end-to-end support package to manage import and safety and security declarations on behalf of traders.
- Educate businesses on what the Northern Ireland Protocol means for them, and the steps they need to take to comply with it. This includes online training sessions and webinars happening now.
- Help to complete relevant declaration forms for all businesses moving goods into Northern Ireland under new processes in the Northern Ireland Protocol that start from 1 January.