Notice to Importers 2921 issued on 16 July 2019 by Import Licensing Branch (ILB), Queensway House, West Precinct, Billingham TS23 2NF.

MANDATORY USE OF EORI NUMBERS FOR IMPORT LICENCES

This notice explains that as a result of a new HMRC policy on the use of EORI numbers, importers will have to provide EORI numbers to ILB in order to obtain an import licence.

1. As you may be aware, HMRC have made the use of an Economic Operator Registration & Identification (EORI) number mandatory on customs entries on their Customs Declaration Service (CDS), the replacement for the current Customs Handling of Import and Export Freight system (CHIEF). This will also apply to import licences. An EORI number will still be required when we leave the EU.

2. For a period of time both the CHIEF and CDS systems will run concurrently, meaning that your import licence could be used as part of a customs entry on either CHIEF or CDS. CHIEF does not currently have a mandatory requirement for an EORI number. In order to minimise the risk of newly issued import licences being unusable on CHIEF, we would be grateful if you could email your EORI number to enquiries.ilb@trade.gov.uk.

3. If you are unsure whether or not you have already provided an EORI number then you will find it in your account information. If we leave the EU without a deal, you will need an EORI number that starts with “GB…”.

4. Please use the following link to see HMRC’s guidance on EORI numbers, including how to apply for one: https://www.gov.uk/eori

Further advice

5. Email: enquiries.ilb@trade.gov.uk if you need more advice.

This document is for information purposes only and has no force in law. Please note that where legal advice is required, you should make your own arrangements.