



**YOU NEED  
TO ACT  
NOW**

November 2020

## **ARE YOU READY FOR NEW RULES FOR BUSINESS WITH THE EU?**

### **Urgent message from the Business Secretary**

There is just over **a month to go** until the end of the transition period and there will be new rules to follow from 1 January 2021 onwards. As Business Secretary, I urge you to **ACT NOW** to avoid your business operations being interrupted when the transition period ends.

As a business in the life sciences sector, you can find out what you need to do by going to [gov.uk/life-2021](https://gov.uk/life-2021). The top actions you can take now to prepare are:

- 1. Check the new rules on importing and exporting goods between the EU and Great Britain from 1 January 2021. Different rules will apply in Northern Ireland.**  
Your business could face delays, disruption or administrative costs if you do not comply with new customs procedures from 1 January 2021.
- 2. Use GOV.UK to identify changes affecting manufactured goods, such as new marking requirements or approvals needed, to ensure your business is ready to sell them in the UK and EU.**  
You may not be able to sell your goods in the UK and the EU from 1 January 2021 unless you act.
- 3. Get ready to make customs declarations.**  
Import and export declarations are complicated, requiring specialist skill, knowledge and IT. If you are not able to make declarations or provide the wrong information, your business could face delays, disruption or administrative costs.
- 4. If you are moving goods into, out of, or through Northern Ireland, check the latest guidance.**  
At the end of the transition period, the Northern Ireland Protocol comes into force. There will be special provisions which only apply in Northern Ireland so if you move goods into, out of, or through Northern Ireland make sure you check the latest guidance at: [gov.uk/northern-ireland-trade](https://gov.uk/northern-ireland-trade)



**FIND OUT WHAT YOU  
NEED TO DO BY USING  
THE CHECKER TOOL**



**GOV.UK/LIFE-2021**

- Check**
- Change**
- Go**

**THE CHANGES CAN TAKE LONGER THAN YOU THINK, SO START TODAY**

The Government is providing a range of support, including webinars to walk you through the changes. These are available to watch on demand at: [gov.uk/transition-webinars](https://www.gov.uk/transition-webinars). You should also check with your suppliers and customers that they are taking action.

These are challenging times, but the transition period is ending on 31 December 2020 and there will be **NO EXTENSION**. Unless you take action, there is a risk your business operations will be interrupted. The Government will be there to help you to take advantage of the many new opportunities that being an independent trading nation will bring.

Yours sincerely,



**The Rt Hon Alok Sharma MP**  
Secretary of State for Business,  
Energy & Industrial Strategy



**SCAN TO LISTEN TO**  
**OUR WEBINARS**  
[GOV.UK/TRANSITION-WEBINARS](https://www.gov.uk/transition-webinars)

-  **Check**
-  **Change**
-  **Go**



Department for  
Business, Energy  
& Industrial Strategy

**NEW RULES FOR BUSINESS WITH**  
**EUROPE START ON 01 JAN 2021**

THERE ARE ACTIONS YOUR BUSINESS NEEDS  
TO TAKE NOW AT [GOV.UK/LIFE-2021](https://www.gov.uk/life-2021)