



What to expect on day one of a no deal scenario: Traders in drug precursor chemicals^Δ

If the UK leaves the EU without any deal on 29 March 2019, EU regulations on trading in drug precursor chemicals would no longer apply to the UK.

The UK would be treated by the EU as a third country, which means the current rules for trading in drug precursor chemicals with countries outside the EU will apply for UK-EU trade.

How processes will change

You will need to apply for an import and/or export licence or licences when trading with EU countries in certain categories of drug precursor chemicals (see table below for details).

You might also need a pre-export notification (PEN) to trade in certain drug precursor chemicals, depending on the category of chemical and individual country's requirements.

Import or export applications could take seven working days to process, so you are advised to factor this into your manufacturing and distribution timescales.

If a PEN is also needed, this means that the substance cannot be shipped for 15 days while the importing authority considers the export.

If you only handle drug precursor chemicals in the UK, or only trade with non-EU countries, there will be no change to the licensing and registration requirements.

Read more information about trading in drug precursor chemicals under a no deal scenario.



Changes to rules for trading within the EU

| Chemical category | Domestic licensing/registration requirements | Import and export licensing/registration requirements |
|--------------------|--|---|
| Category 1 | <p>No change.</p> <p>A domestic licence is always required if you are using drug precursors in the UK, trading within the EU or exporting/importing with third countries.</p> | <p>Change in requirements.</p> <p>You will need to apply for an import and export licence and PEN.</p> |
| Category 2A | <p>Change in requirements.</p> <p>You will need to register with the Home Office regardless of volume (currently you are only required to register if more than 100L per annum).</p> | <p>Change in requirements.</p> <p>You will need to apply for an export licence and PEN.</p> <p>No change to import licences.</p> |
| Category 2B | <p>Change in requirements.</p> <p>You will need to register with the Home Office regardless of volume (currently you are only required to register if it exceeds certain volumes).</p> | <p>Change in requirements.</p> <p>You will need to apply for an export licence. A PEN may be required depending on the importing country's requirements.</p> <p>No change to import authorisations.</p> |

| Chemical category | Domestic licensing/registration requirements | Import and export licensing/registration requirements |
|-------------------|--|---|
| Category 3 | <p>Change in requirements.</p> <p>You will need to register with the Home Office if you are exporting quantities which exceed certain volumes (depending on chemical but between 20KG -100KG per annum).</p> | <p>Change in requirements.</p> <p>You will need to apply for an export authorisation. A PEN may be required depending on the importing country's requirements.</p> <p>No change to import authorisations.</p> |
| Category 4 | <p>No change.</p> | <p>Change in requirements.</p> <p>You may need to apply for an export licence and a PEN depending on the importing country's requirements.</p> <p>No change to import authorisations.</p> |

How to register and apply for licences

Read more information on drug precursor chemical licensing including how to apply for licences and registrations and the associated fees.

You can apply for a domestic licence and registrations for drug precursor chemicals online now.

Fees are payable for all domestic licences and registrations and range from £109 to £3,655, depending on whether you already hold a licence.

To apply for import and export licences/registrations, you first need to [register for a National Drugs Control System account](#).

Once registered you can then apply for import and export licences. The fee for an individual import or export licence is £24.

Making importing easier from the EU

HMRC is introducing new [Transitional Simplified Procedures \(TSP\)](#), to make importing through roll-on, roll-off ports and the Channel Tunnel easier for the initial period after the UK leaves the EU, should there be no deal. We anticipate TSP will remain in place until traders are ready to use rest of the world processes and permanent arrangements are in place, which will take at least a year.

Sign up for HMRC's new [Transitional Simplified Procedures \(TSP\)](#), online from 7 February, to make importing easier for you until at least April 2020.

Once you are registered for TSP you will be able to:

- transport most goods into the UK without having to make a full customs declaration at the port
- postpone paying your customs duties.

However, for controlled goods, such as animal products and most plants, or excise goods like alcohol or tobacco, you will have to provide some customs information before import.

We have published further [guidance on TSP](#) on GOV.UK, including the locations TSP applies to.

Actions you should take now

1. Consider any changes you may need to make to adapt to new processes and systems.
2. Apply for an import and/or export licence or licences for trading with EU countries in certain categories of drug precursor chemicals (see table above for details).
3. Ensure your company notifies the Home Office's Drug and Firearms Licensing Unit of your intention to export as soon as possible.
4. Sign up for [Transitional Simplified Procedures \(TSP\)](#), online from 7 February, if it's suitable for your business but you should note that:
 - you will need to use your EORI number to register
 - if you are importing controlled goods such as animal products and most plants, or excise goods like alcohol or tobacco, you will have to provide some customs information before you import
 - read further guidance on TSP on GOV.UK, including the locations TSP applies to.
5. The passport rules for travel to most countries in Europe will change if the UK leaves the EU on 29 March 2019 without a deal. Read the government's guidance on [Travelling to the EU with a UK passport if there's no Brexit deal](#) and, if relevant, ensure your employees and customers are aware of the potential changes.
6. Stay up-to-date with these changes by [registering for email alerts](#). Follow the link, add your email address, select 'Submit', select 'Add subscription' and choose 'EU Exit' then select 'Submit'.