



TRADE AFTER BREXIT: EORI NUMBER REQUIRED

On the 29th of March 2019, the United Kingdom invoked Article 50 of the Treaty of the European Union. Unless an extension is mutually agreed, this means the UK is due to leave the EU on the 29th of March 2019. As of June 2017, the UK entered negotiations with the EU to come to a Withdrawal agreement which is supposed to be a basis for future trade talks. If this agreement is accepted by both the UK and the EU, there will be a transition period till the end of 2020 to define a future trade deal. During this period, there won't be any customs formalities, customs controls or customs documents.

However, if the Withdrawal agreement is not accepted, a 'hard Brexit' will be happening. In this case, customs formalities, documents and controls will be required for trade between the EU and the UK. At this moment, a hard Brexit is becoming increasingly likely, meaning organizations that trade with the UK have to prepare themselves to limit its impact on their trade flows, especially those who are new to the concept of customs formalities.

To fulfill customs obligations, it is necessary that organizations register for an EORI number, short for **E**conomic **O**perator **R**egistration and **I**dentification number. This number is necessary to perform customs declarations and thus to do any import or export related activities with the UK in the event of a hard Brexit.

Applying for an EORI number can be done in any member state and will be acknowledged by all customs authorities of the EU. It can be done directly through the website of the Belgian Customs Service through the following links (only available in Dutch or French). [Dutch link](#)
[French link](#)

The Belgian Customs service urges organizations to get an EORI number as soon as possible to guarantee that their services can handle the requests before the 29th of March.

Organizations without any experience concerning customs formalities or documents, can ask a customs representative for assistance. A list of customs representatives can be found via the following link: [pdf](#).

For any further questions concerning Customs and Brexit, please our website ([link](#)) or contact one of our local Brexit coordinators.

