



Is your business Brexit ready?

Since Ireland joined the EU Single Market, we have availed of the benefits that membership brings including the ease of trading in goods and services with our nearest neighbour- the United Kingdom (UK).

On 29 March 2017, the United Kingdom notified the European Council of its intention to leave the European Union. Unless a ratified withdrawal agreement establishes another date or the European Council, in accordance with Article 50(3) of the Treaty on European Union and in agreement with the UK, unanimously decides that the Treaties cease to apply at a later date, all Union primary and secondary law will cease to apply to the UK from 30 March 2019. The UK will then become a third country and as such trade in goods and service between the UK and the EU will be affected. It will have an impact not only on the goods exported from Ireland but also imported goods that come into Ireland from the UK.

Some potential impacts are that organisations may be required to demonstrate their 'Green' credentials due to supply chain or tender requirements. Such organisation who relies on UK based certification or verification may be affected by the UK decision to leave the EU.



In the EU procurement market, economic operators from the UK will have "third party" status as all other economic operators based in a third country with which the EU does not have any agreement and will be subject to the same rules as any third country tenderer.

Below you will find some useful information on the changes in trading standards and common green type certifications and verifications that are expected to take place to both product and services post-Brexit.

What are the implications for standards?

At this point in time, technical standard documents such as *Structural timber- Wood poles for overhead lines* to EN 14229 or *Environment* to ISO 14001 will remain the same post Brexit.

What are the implications for certification/ verifications?

The **Eco label** is the EU sponsored product eco-friendly certification scheme for products and is confined to national boundaries within the EU. Post-Brexit, UK based competent bodies will cease to be recognised. No Irish organisations will be directly affected. However, if you purchase Ecolabel products from the UK or from a non-EU Member State who relies on an UK based Ecolabel based organisation, you will need to advise the manufactures of the changed conditions due to Brexit and the need to source alternative Ecolabel competence from within EU-27. As a third country, UK manufactures can choose any one of the EU-27 competent Ecolabel bodies to supply this service.





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Brexit Factsheet: Green Procurement Certification

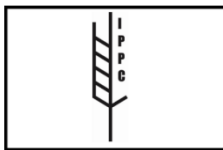


The EU Eco-Management and Audit Scheme (EMAS) is a management instrument developed by the European Commission for companies and other organisations to evaluate, report and improve their environmental performance. EMAS relies heavily on ISO 14001:2015 the Environmental management standard as a core document.

Post-Brexit, UK based certification to EMAS will cease. If your EMAS verification is provided by a UK based body, you will need to source an alternative provider within EU-27.

The EU Emissions Trading Scheme focuses on large industry and electricity generation installations across the EU. It enables certain categories of industry trade "allowances" for their Greenhouse gas emissions (GHGs). This scheme is administered by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) in Ireland. Applicable organisations must ensure their previous year's emissions are verified by an accredited verification body for reporting purposes. Post-Brexit, if your verification is provided by a UK based body you will need to source alternative provider within EU-27.

Subject to any transitional arrangement that may be contained in a possible withdrawal agreement, as of the withdrawal date, **EU waste law** no longer applies to the UK. Post-Brexit, all exports of waste for disposal and the export of mixed municipal waste for recovery from the EU to the UK will be prohibited.



In the event of the UK leaving the EU in March 2019 without a withdrawal agreement all **Wood Packaging Material (WPM)** being imported from the UK to the EU (including Ireland) will need to be **ISPM 15** compliant which is not currently required. ISPM 15 is an internationally recognised phytosanitary measure that establishes standards for the treatment and marking of WPM (pallets, crates, dunnage etc.) and affects all WPM used in international trade. The WPM associated with these products may be subject to official checks either upon entry to the EU (including Ireland) or after entry. The UK may introduce reciprocal arrangements requiring EU (including Ireland) exporters to the UK to ensure WPM arriving in the UK from the EU is ISPM15 compliant.

The **Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine (DAFM)** is responsible for implementing the ISPM 15 scheme in Ireland. NSAI carries out audits of companies registered to the ISPM 15 scheme on DAFM's behalf.

Post-Brexit, UK based certification to **EU Reg 995/2010 Fight against illegal logging** will cease. If your verification is provided by a UK based body, you will need to source an alternative provider within EU-27.

Subject to any transitional arrangement that may be contained in a possible withdrawal agreement, as of the withdrawal date, **Council Regulation (EC) No 338/97 on the protection of species of wild fauna and flora by regulating trade therein** no longer applies to the United Kingdom.

Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR)

International standard ISO 26000 will remain as the main reference standard for Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR). It is currently not envisaged that the many reporting systems, certifications and international protocols should be affected by Brexit.





The UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development sets out 17 **Sustainable Development Goals** and 169 sub-targets which apply to both developed and developing countries. It is hoped that they will inspire action to 2030 in areas of critical importance for humanity and the planet and as such become increasingly relevant to businesses and the procurement supply chain.

The **Business in the Community Ireland (BiTC)** 'Working Responsibly Mark' will continue to be the major focus for Irish organisations wishing to prove their sustainability credentials and will continue to be audited by the National Standards Authority of Ireland (NSAI).

Management System Certification

It is expected that Certification to any of the International Standards Organisations Management Systems Standards such as ISO 9001 Quality, ISO 14001 Environment or ISO 45001 Occupational Health and Safety will not be directly affected by Brexit. For Irish businesses under European Accreditation, the status of UK based certification to International Standards may in time be impacted.



Looking for further information?

You can also contact the NSAI Brexit Unit at BrexitUnit@NSAI.ie for any queries on standards and certifications, and your business post-Brexit. The EU Commission has also produced a suite of official guidance notices on Brexit Preparedness for a wide range of sectors. Further information business can also be found on the websites below

Further Information	
NSAI	https://www.nsai.ie/about/news/is-your-business-ready-for-brexit/
Department of Business, Enterprise and Innovation	https://dbe.gov.ie/en/What-We-Do/EU-Internal-Market/Brexit/
Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade	https://www.dfa.ie/brexit/
Department of Agriculture, Food and Marine	https://www.agriculture.gov.ie/forests-service/forest-health-and-seeds/export-of-wood-packaging-materials/pmo15/
EU Commission NANDO website	http://ec.europa.eu/growth/tools-databases/nando/
EU Commission Information on Brexit	https://ec.europa.eu/info/brexit_en
EU Commission Timber Regulations	https://ec.europa.eu/info/sites/info/files/notice_to_stakeholders_brexit_timber.pdf
'Blue Guide' on the implementation of EU product rules	https://ec.europa.eu/growth/content/%E2%80%98blue-guide%E2%80%99-implementation-eu-product-rules-0_en
Selling products in the EU	https://europa.eu/youreurope/business/selling-in-eu/selling-goods-services/selling-products-eu/index_en.htm
Eco label	http://ec.europa.eu/environment/ecolabel/index_en.htm
EMAS	http://ec.europa.eu/environment/emas/index_en.htm
Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)	https://www.epa.ie/
Waste	http://ec.europa.eu/environment/waste/index.htm
Trade in protected species of wild fauna and flora	http://ec.europa.eu/environment/cites/legislation_en.htm

