

BREXIT FACTSHEET: GENERAL OVERVIEW

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). The UK is scheduled to leave the EU on the 31st of October 2019. Post-Brexit, the UK will become a “third country” and trade in goods and service between the UK and the EU will be affected with impacts on both imported and exported goods.

Below you will find some useful information on the changes in trading standards that will likely take place to both product and services post-Brexit.

What are the implications for certification?

Products Certification



Existing EU requirements will continue to apply in Ireland. If you currently ‘CE’ mark your product under present EU rules, you will be required to continue to do so post Brexit.

Post-Brexit, UK Notified Bodies will lose their status as EU Notified Bodies and will be removed from the EU Commission’s information system on notified organisations (NANDO database). This database provides a listing of all current European wide Notified Bodies.

If you or one of your product suppliers rely on a British Notified Body for certification of conformity to support your product declaration for ‘CE’ marking purposes, you will need to obtain alternatives.

The UK Government has indicated that goods that meet EU requirements (and were tested by an EU recognised conformity assessment body) can still be placed on the UK market post-Brexit. However, this is intended to be a time-limited measure and at some date to be determined unilaterally by the UK Government, Irish manufacturers will no longer be able to access the UK market using their EU conformity assessment. They will then be required to use a UK approved body for conformity assessment and affix the new UK conformity marking before placing a product on the UK market.

For Irish importers who import from the UK

Manufacturers, importers and authorised representatives established in the UK will no longer be considered an economic operator established in the EU, post-Brexit.

Distributors of products from the UK will become importers and will take on additional responsibilities.

An authorised representative is appointed by a manufacturer to act on his behalf in carrying out certain tasks. EU product legislation does not generally oblige the manufacturer to designate an authorised representative. However, certain EU legislation requires an authorised representative such as medical devices, transportable pressure equipment and marine equipment while cosmetic products requires a responsible person established in the EU.

A UK supplier can no longer act as an authorised representative and an alternative arrangement will need to be made. Importers may be required to fulfil the legal role of authorised representative.

More information on the duties of economic operators can be found in the *‘Blue Guide’ on the implementation of EU products rules 2016*.

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What are the implications for standards?

The relationship between standards and regulations will remain unchanged, while international (ISO) and European standards (such as IS EN) will be unaffected. For goods that the use of a harmonised standard is required (hENs), you be required to continue to use a harmonised standard from an EU 27 Member State.

Mutual recognition for non-harmonised products will no longer apply to British standards.

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 British based certification to international standards may in time be impacted.

What you need to do next?

If you currently use a UK based Notified Body, you will have to move an EU-27 Notified Body.

Check the EU 'NANDO' website for a Notified Body based in the EU-27.

Contact the new Notified Body and find out what you need to do to transfer product certification.

If you import from the UK, you will be required to hold additional information. Engage with your UK supplier to obtain this information as soon as possible.

If you have businesses based in both the UK and EU-27 consider how to reorganise your processes to minimise disruption.

Looking for further information?

NSAI have developed a range of Brexit factsheets across the following sectors: Construction, Medical Devices, Food/Agri, Chemicals/Petroleum, Pharma, Automotive and Green Procurement. Contact the NSAI Brexit Unit at BrexitUnit@NSAI.ie for any queries on standards and certification.

Further information

NSAI: <https://www.n sai.ie/brexit/>

Government of Ireland: <https://www.gov.ie/brexit/>

Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade: <https://www.dfa.ie/brexit/>

Department of Business, Enterprise and Innovation:

<https://dbei.gov.ie/en/What-We-Do/EU-Internal-Market/Brexit/>

EU NANDO website: <http://ec.europa.eu/growth/tools-databases/nando/>

EU Brexit information: https://ec.europa.eu/info/brexit_en

EU Preparedness Notices:

https://ec.europa.eu/info/brexit/brexit-preparedness/preparedness-notices_en

Enterprise Ireland: <https://www.prepareforbrexit.com/>

InterTradeIreland: <https://intertradeireland.com/brexit/>

