



WE NEED TO TALK ABOUT

BREXIT

The UK has left the EU, and the transition period after Brexit comes to an end this year. Are you ready for 1 January 2021? Our legal insights can help you and your business prepare so you can move forward with confidence.

hcr

**harrison clark
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ARE YOU BREXIT-READY?

Many people fondly thought that we would have all of 2020 to get ready for our actual exit of the EU on December 31 2020, but Covid-19 has delayed so many plans. It's not too late to get ahead and make the changes necessary to ensure you and your business are compliant, managing risks and taking advantage of the opportunities.

FOR YOUR BUSINESS

Take advantage of the trade agreements

Trade agreements set out the rules that cover trade between two or more countries. They aim to make trading easier between those countries and do this by reducing the restrictions on imports and exports between them. The free trade agreements (FTAs) that have been rolled over or are in process are generally flowing more smoothly than expected and we now have FTAs with countries representing 8% of British trade. These include deals with:

- Japan
- ten Latin American countries, including Chile
- eleven African countries, including South Africa
- South Korea
- Switzerland
- four Near/Middle Eastern countries, including Israel.

All of these will take effect at the end of this year. In addition to these, FTAs with Canada and Mexico are close to conclusion. You can find details on the GOV.UK website by searching for 'UK trade agreements'.

Customs and declarations changes

New HMRC guidance has been issued to importers, with several different options on offer, depending on the type of goods being imported and the eligibility of the importer. These include Deferred Declarations, standard import procedures, the Simplified Declaration procedure and the Transit procedure. In all cases, importers may use customs intermediaries, but if they choose not to, the requirements vary in complexity. You can find out more on by searching the GOV.UK website for 'How to import goods from the EU into GB from January 2021'.

Changes in product manufacturing

If your goods are already on the UK market (or in an EU country) before 1 January 2021, you do not need to do anything as regards the product itself. But if not, you need to be aware of the new rules and the action you should take depends on the type of goods and whether they are regulated under the old approach (such as chemicals, medicines and vehicles), under the new approach (which uses the CE marking), or are non-harmonised goods covered by national legislation. On a general level, manufacturers and distributors will all need to be aware of changes in conformity or assessment marking of goods which will change at the end of the transition period. You can find out more on our website at www.hcrlaw.com

FOR YOU

Changes to family law and divorce

EU laws about family proceedings will no longer apply to the UK from the end of the transition period and the government has recently published details of the impact it will have on divorce, maintenance and matters relating to children (including child abduction). Brexit will affect rules on the country that family law disputes are heard in and on how decisions made in one country will be recognised and enforced in another. If you're involved in international divorce proceedings, maintenance payments or orders about arrangements for your children, you may need to speak to a local lawyer in addition to seeking advice in your home country.

Need a notary?

Notaries are all qualified lawyers whose work is recognised internationally and their primary duty is to authenticate documents for use abroad. If you're buying or selling land or property overseas, need powers of attorney witnessed so they can be used to appoint an attorney in another country to act for yourself or a company, or need to authenticate documents for companies and businesses, e.g. verifying the identity of your directors, a notary can help.





For articles, advice and details of events that will help you and your business to be Brexit-ready, visit www.hcrlaw.com/insight/brexit

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FOR PEOPLE**

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