

**FedEx**<sup>®</sup>  
Express

Securing your  
supply chain







# Introduction

The UK will leave the European single market and customs union at the end of 2020.

This has obvious implications for any company shipping goods across the newly drawn EU border, but the business impacts will be far more wide-ranging.

Any firm with a supply chain that relies on products that pass in or out of the customs union will be affected by the outcome of trade negotiations between the EU and Britain – particularly if there is no agreement on a deal. With the end of the Brexit transition period fast approaching, it's essential that businesses prepare for a range of eventualities come the new year.

# The essential steps to take

With trade negotiations still ongoing, it's difficult to know exactly how to future-proof your business. We can help. Our expertise and experience in global trade means we are well-placed to ensure your supply and distribution networks continue to operate optimally, regardless of the eventual nature of the post-Brexit trade deal. But there are a number of things you can do too. The following steps will help improve resilience and flexibility as you prepare for 2021.

## Enhance your supply chain data

Understanding where your goods are at any one time will improve your ability to spot delays before they happen and improve efficiency. FedEx offers sophisticated online reporting and up to two years of shipping data to help you dig into the details of your supply chain. It's important to also look beyond your immediate partners. Finding out who supplies your suppliers will allow you to examine any difficulties they might face – and identify the implications for your orders.

## Understand the impact of taxes and tariffs

Examining where these might need to be paid throughout your supply chain will help predict possible effects on cash flow and profitability and allow you to plan for all scenarios. [Click here](#) for more details on EU import tariffs, which will apply to goods imported from the UK in the event there is no trade agreement after the transition period.

## Review licence and permission requirements

Find out in advance about any new requirements that may apply to goods you import. Some products will require import licenses or certificates - [click here](#) to find out more.







### **Consider changes to sourcing and distribution locations**

Changing suppliers, warehouse locations or shipping practices might help to mitigate the impact of new tariffs or border controls, by improving the speed at which you can service customers or production facilities. Of course, these kinds of measures will require careful consideration as part of your broader supply chain strategy.

### **Prepare for new documentation requirements**

There will be new customs requirements when the transition period ends. FedEx will perform customs clearance on your behalf but businesses should understand key documentation – such as commercial invoices, Incoterms® and EU and UK EORI numbers. It's also important to capture all the information you need – including country of origin and product composition details – at every stage of your supply chain.

FedEx Electronic Trade Documents (ETD) allows customers to submit their trade documents – including commercial invoices and associated information – electronically, saving time, reducing paperwork and helping to reduce customs delays.

### **Decide who will make import declarations**

Consider how to ensure your imports clear customs efficiently. You may have the capabilities you need within your business or you might benefit from external help provided by a partner such as FedEx. Export and import clearance is part of our standard service for goods moving across borders, unless customers advise otherwise.

### **Increase communication**

Make sure you are communicating effectively throughout your supply chain. It's vital that everyone involved in the shipping process understands the new processes they may have to implement and the new rules they may be subject to.

# How FedEx can help you

FedEx is known for its long-standing expertise in cross-border trade. We have the solutions, expertise and network strength to help businesses ensure their supply chains continue to operate efficiently – whatever the post-Brexit trading arrangements are.

We already clear thousands of shipments a day, and our Authorised Economic Operator status means we have simplified clearance procedures. These – combined with our 45+ years of experience – help us to keep goods moving quickly.

Find out more about how to prepare at our [Brexit transition hub](#) or contact us with any questions about shipping to and from the UK from 2021.

