

## **New laws remove UK's obligation to share vehicle keeper data**

The Government has [published new regulations](#) removing the obligation on the UK to facilitate cross-border exchange of information on road safety related traffic offences with EU Member States.

The UK will not process requests for vehicle keeper data from enquiring EU Member States associated with the following eight traffic offences: speeding; not using a seatbelt; not stopping at a red traffic light; drink-driving; driving under the influence of drugs; not wearing a safety helmet; using a forbidden lane; and illegally using a mobile or another communication device while driving.

## **New process for tendering for public sector contracts**

From 1 January 2021, businesses will be able to use a new 'Find a Tender' online service to view [public procurement notices](#) published by UK contracting authorities. This will replace the requirement to publish notices in the Official Journal of the European Union.

You will also still be able to use existing portals such as Contracts Finder, MOD Defence Contracts Online, Public Contracts Scotland, Sell2Wales and eTendersNI to view low value or location specific notices.

## **Claiming VAT refunds from EU countries**

The Government has [published guidance](#) on how to claim VAT from EU member states from 1 January 2021 advising that you can continue to use the EU VAT refund system to claim a VAT refund on expenses incurred before 1 January 2021 in EU member states, until 11pm on 31 March 2021.

You will not be able to use the EU VAT refund system to claim refunds of VAT on expenses incurred in an EU member state on or after 1 January 2021.

## **Completing customs import declarations**

HMRC is inviting members to [register to attend](#) one of a series of webinars taking place between 13 and 18 November designed to explain how to make import declarations to goods between the EU and Great Britain, including simplified and supplementary declarations. Key terminology and new processes will also be explained.

The Government has [published a list](#) of customs agents and fast parcel operators who can help submit customs declarations.

## **New immigration rules enshrined in law**

The Immigration Act has now received Royal Assent and been signed into law, ending free movement of people at 11pm on 31 December 2020.

The Government has published [information for employers](#) on the new UK points-based immigration system as well as information for EU, EEA or Swiss [citizens who want to work in the UK](#) in 2021. Those already living and working in the UK before 31 December should apply to the [EU Settlement Scheme](#)

## **Support on managing intellectual property**

The Intellectual Property Office is inviting members to [register to attend](#) a webinar taking place at 2pm on Tuesday 17th November to hear about changes to registration of EU Trademarks and Designs and changes to copyright licencing.

The IPO will also provide an update on operational changes to office processes for the registration of trademarks, designs and patents after the end of the transition period.

## **FCA invites members to 'Brexit webinar'**

The Financial Conduct Authority is inviting members to [register to attend](#) a webinar taking place at 10am on 18 November to discuss what the end of the EU Exit transition period will mean for firms. There will be presentations from specialists and an opportunity to ask questions.

The hour-long webinar is aimed at senior level staff in FCA-regulated firms who are involved in EU Exit preparations and the regulator is encouraging representatives from smaller firms to attend.

The regulator has also published [Key requirements of firms](#) on the FCA website to help prepare businesses for their new obligations when the EU transition period ends on 31 December 2020.

## Managing data internationally beyond 1 January

Members who receive and transfer personal data to or from organisations abroad, including the European Economic Area (EEA) are being invited to [register to attend](#) a webinar taking place at 11am on Wednesday 18 November.

This webinar will provide information on the actions you should take to prepare your business for new rules from January 2021 and will discuss:

- The UK Data Protection regime from January 2021
- Data Adequacy
- Data Preparedness

Experts from the Department for Business Energy and Industrial Strategy and the Department for Culture Media and Sport will be hosting the webinar and attendees will have the opportunity to ask questions.

The BVRLA is keen to hear from members on issues relating to data preparedness and what the implications will be for members' businesses should the EU not grant an Adequacy Agreement to the UK. Email BVRLA Senior Policy Adviser, [Thomas McLennan](#) with your views.

## Placing manufactured goods into Northern Ireland

[Guidance has been published](#) on what you need to do to comply with regulations on manufactured goods you place on the Northern Ireland market from 1 January 2021.

There are different rules for goods regulated under the old approach, goods covered by national rules (non-harmonised) and certain other goods, such as medical devices and civil explosives. EU rules will continue to apply to most 'old approach goods' in Northern Ireland, which includes [vehicles](#).

Section 2 of the Guidance on [Moving goods under the Northern Ireland Protocol](#) has also been updated.

## Update on Trade Agreements

The Government has published details of the latest [trade agreements](#), adding Côte d'Ivoire (Ivory Coast) and Ukraine to the list of countries and territories with whom the UK now has a signed trade agreement.

The new agreements will take effect on 1 January 2021 and are expected to represent around £401m and £1,533m in UK trade.

## Trading with developing nations

From 1 January 2021, eligible developing countries will be able to get trade preferences through the [UK Generalised Scheme of Preferences](#), reducing or removing tariffs on imports into the UK. The [announcement](#) means that imports from 47 of the world's least developed countries, including Bangladesh and Malawi, will not face any tariffs, supporting their economic development through business and trade.