



Now that the EU Exit Transition Period has ended, the UK's rules on product regulation and in particular product safety and metrology (weights and measures) have been assessed and where appropriate amended, to ensure they work smoothly, with **no reduction in safety or consumer protections**.

Here's what all businesses need to do

1. Note the main changes

- [Read the 'What's Changed' guidance](#) to see how the changes affect your business
- [Review the sector specific guidance](#) published by OPSS
- [See 'Product Safety and Metrology EU Exit Statutory Instrument'](#) on GOV.UK

2. Check if you are now an importer

- Businesses which distribute goods from the EU within the UK will now fulfil that role as an **'importer'**. You should check whether this applies to your business and understand your obligations if your status has changed. It may mean you have more responsibilities to ensure the product is safe and labelled correctly.
- There is a 24-month transitional period on address requirements for distributors who need to take on new **'importer'** responsibilities, giving you the option to affix your address with a label, or for it to be placed on accompanying documentation.
- This transitional period does not apply for other responsibilities importers must take on, such as checking manufacturers have carried out the right conformity assessment procedures.
- From 1 January 2021, a business's Authorised Representative for the Great Britain market must be based in the UK.

[Find out more about placing manufactured goods on the market in Great Britain](#)

3. Check your products' marking and labelling



From 1st January 2021, the new UKCA (UK Conformity Assessed) marking can be used for goods being placed on the market in Great Britain and must be used from 1st January 2022 - or earlier if the EU changes its legislation. It covers most goods which previously required the CE marking or other conformity markings to denote compliance.

The UKCA mark will not be recognised in Northern Ireland or the EU market. Products currently requiring a CE mark for sale there will continue to need a CE mark.

The Government is allowing the continued acceptance of CE marked goods onto the UK market for 12 months (ending 31 December 2021) before making the new UKCA mark mandatory from January 2022. This is to give businesses more time to prepare and adjust to the new requirements.

[Find out more about the UKCA mark](#)

4. Prepare for new ways to upload and access data

OPSS has developed three new databases, designed to support businesses and stakeholders for use from 1st January.

- The **Submit Cosmetic Product Notifications** (SCPN) service replaces the EU's Cosmetics Products Notification Portal in GB. Responsible Persons will have 90 days (from 1st January) to notify their cosmetic products on SCPN (for products already placed on the market).
- The **UKMCAB register of Approved Bodies** on gov.uk replaces the EU's NANDO database that publicly lists notified bodies.
- The **Product Safety Database** replaces RAPEX and ICSMS for market surveillance purposes.

5. Check how to get UK approvals

Most UK Notified Bodies **automatically become UK Approved Bodies** to provide third party conformity assessment for goods to be placed on the UK market (including Northern Ireland) and listed on the new UK register.

UK Notified Bodies **will not be able to provide third party conformity assessment** for goods to be placed on the EU market.

From 1 January 2021, third-party conformity assessment for the EU market will need to be carried out by an EU-recognised conformity assessment body.

On 1st January, all EU harmonised standards become designated standards recognised in Great Britain (England, Scotland and Wales). Businesses can use designated standards to demonstrate your products, services or processes comply with essential requirements of GB legislation. On 1st January, designated standards will be the same as the harmonised standards.

[Find out more about Conformity Assessment Bodies](#)

[Find out more about Designated Standards](#)

6. Check your packaged goods

If you import packaged goods from the EU you must either check the packages or have obtained sufficient evidence to take responsibility for their quantity and labelling – including the name and address of the packer or importer (or the person who arranged packing or importing) in the UK.

The **UK will recognise the voluntary use of the e-mark** to denote compliance with the average system of quantity control for packaged goods.

7. Check elsewhere

- [If you import timber from the EU go to: Trading Timber – exports and imports](#)

The Northern Ireland Protocol includes provision whereby EU rules on manufactured goods remain applicable only in Northern Ireland while maintaining a single customs zone for the whole of the UK.

- [If you place goods on the Northern Ireland market: see the Guidance: Product Safety and Metrology](#)