

## Brexit / United Kingdom FAQs

Since 1st January 2021, the United Kingdom doesn't belong to the European Union anymore. In this document, you will find answers to key questions about Brexit and the customs regulations now expected for shipments to Great Britain. GLS has compiled this information to the best of its knowledge and in good faith. However, please note that this information is non-binding and that we accept no liability for it being correct, complete or up to date. All customers are responsible for ensuring that they comply with legal requirements.

### Commercial Shippers

#### 1. What does Brexit mean in terms of shipping parcels to the UK?

On 01.01.2021, the United Kingdom left the European Union.

The United Kingdom's customs status has changed and is identified as a third country from European customs' point of view.

This means that trade between the European Union and the United Kingdom, and therefore import or export parcel flows, are subject to customs formalities. These are the same formalities as for other third countries of the European Union.

#### 2. Are shipments to Ireland affected by Brexit?

With Brexit, the United Kingdom, that is to say Great Britain and Northern Ireland, came out of the European Union. The Republic of Ireland (southern part of Ireland's island) is not affected by Brexit and remains member of the EU. This means that shipments to Ireland (the Republic of Ireland) are not affected by a change.

#### 3. The particular status of Northern Ireland:

Northern Ireland has temporarily kept a status of EU semi-member for geopolitical reasons. Consequence: we don't have to establish customs declarations for this country and parcels are jointly treated with the Republic of Ireland ones.

#### 4. What are the rules for export to Anglo-Norman archipelago?

As a reminder, the archipelago includes Jersey, Guernsey and Man islands.

Because of Brexit, same rules are applied for Anglo-Norman islands that is to say customs formalities.

#### 5. What customs documents and information are required for shipments to the United Kingdom?

Since 01.01.2021, exporters must provide customs information to insure their shipments to the United Kingdom.

The following information must be added to the information generally required on commercial or pro forma invoices:

- **Full exporter contact information:** Name, address, phone number, EORI number (Economic Operators' Registration and Identification number), FR VAT number, Business Number (Exporter's UK VAT number) in case of Incoterm DDP 18 (low value <135 GBP).
- **Full importer contact information:** Name, address, phone number or email, EORI number (Economic Operators' Registration and Identification number). For commercial recipients (importing company), we also need their UK VAT number.

- **Full recipient contact information if different from the importer:** Name, address, phone number or email.
- **Invoice number, date and location**
- **Incoterm**
- Invoice value and currency
- Number(s) of GLS parcels associated with the invoice (essential to make the link between the invoice and the parcel numbers)
- Total gross and net weight
- Statement of origin, if necessary.
- Exporter company stamp, signature and signatory's name in capitals.

In addition, the following information must be provided **for each invoice's item**:

- HS Code (1)
- Origin country (1) (2)
- Exact description of the good
- Gross weight and net weight
- Value of the good

*(1) On an invoice, if a HS Code/origin couple appears several times in an identical manner, then they should be added up when the declaration is made in the GLS Customs portal (see next section "How to access the GLS Customs portal"). Concerned products' values must be added together: total gross and net weights, total the value of each product, and total the quantity to be declared for the same HS Code.*

*(2) Be careful to precise origin and not where the good is coming from.*

*A product bought in a third country by a French company, imported in France then exported to England has for "origin" the third country and not France.*

#### **What happen if customs documents and/or information are missing?**

Due to the shipping volumes to UK, GLS asks exporters to download the invoice in the AEB customs portal. If not, GLS asks exporters to send the invoice by email, specifying in the subject the international GLS number, to the specific email address sent by your sales contact.

**Without the invoice containing all the necessary information, GLS will have to return your parcel at your expense to complete the missing information.**

#### **6. What additional costs may be incurred for shipments to the UK?**

For shipments to UK, additional charges (e.g., charges, taxes, procedures and customs clearance fees) will be added to the shipping costs. According to the chosen Incoterm, the costs will be borne by either the shipper or the recipient.

- Today, in the United Kingdom, import VAT is 20%,
- Customs charges depend on the type of goods being shipped, and tariffs are set by the UK Government, once there is no applicable exemption related to the country of origin,
- Customs fees will be charged by GLS for all services related to the clearance of your goods, in order to cover the significant additional work resulting from customs procedures. Depending on the Incoterm selected, these charges will be chargeable to either the sender or the recipient.

## Procedures:

### 1. Where can I find my EORI number?

If you do not yet have an EORI Number, you will find the operating procedure of the creation procedure on the following site:

<https://www.douane.gouv.fr/demarche/enregistrer-votre-entreprise-aupres-de-la-douane-numero-eori>

### 2. Where can I find information on customs tariff numbers?

For shipments to the United Kingdom, you must enter the correct customs tariff number (also called HS Code) corresponding to the goods you are sending. Detailed information on the tariff numbers – updated in 2022 and every 5 years on 1<sup>st</sup> January – matching with your goods are available on the website:

<https://www.douane.gouv.fr/rita-encyclopedie/public/accueil/init.action>

### 3. What are the Incoterms (INTERNATIONAL COMMERCIAL TERMS) practicable to shipments to the United Kingdom?

Incoterms, updated every 10 years, define the distribution of the costs to be borne by the shipper, and by the importer. For shipments to the UK, GLS customers can choose one of the following options (GLS specific nomenclature):

Type of shipment	Incoterm	Shipper's charges (Excluding transport costs)	Recipient / Importer's charges
For shipments of <b>one or more</b> packages to the same importer/recipient.	<b>DDP / AEB INC 10</b>	All costs related to shipping: 1- Export customs fees 2- Import customs fees 3- VAT 4- Customs charges (depending of the type of goods)	
	<b>DAP / AEB INC 30</b>	1- Export customs fees 2- Import customs fees 4- Customs charges (depending of the type of goods)	3- VAT
	<b>DAP / AEB INC 40</b>	1- Export customs fees 2- Import customs fees	3- VAT 4- Customs charges (depending of the type of goods)
	<b>DAP / AEB INC 20</b>	1- Export customs fees	2- Import customs fees 3- VAT 4- Customs charges (depending of the type of goods)
<b>Incoterm dedicated to low value shipments</b>			
Mandatory for all UK shipments below GBP 135 with the exporter pre-registered with the UK tax authorities	<b>DDP / AEB INC 18</b>	Costs relating to shipping are: 1- Export customs fees 2- Import customs fees 3- VAT	None

In all cases above, the customs export formalities are due by the exporter.

#### a) Recommendation for DDP use (INC 10):

As a reminder, with this Incoterm all charges are for the exporter, including customs VAT of the importing country. The exporter is obliged to pay VAT off to importing country authorities with no possibility to get it back. So, he has to be sure that VAT is well including into his price sell to the recipient.

#### b) **How to use Incoterm DDP 18?**

Incoterm DDP 18 must be used and is mandatory for commercial shipments below GBP 135.

As well, it is essential to have a **Business Number** (UK VAT number creating by the exporter in order to export), which must appear on the invoice and in the AEB customs portal. A fiscal agent can guide you within the process and also with the management of your tax entries.

The link to create a Business Number is:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/changes-to-vat-treatment-of-overseas-goods-sold-to-customers-from-1-january-2021/changes-to-vat-treatment-of-overseas-goods-sold-to-customers-from-1-january-2021>

Next, go to :

- Under the section "**General information covering both strands of the measures**",
- Then "**Who should register for VAT**",
- Click on the link "**You should register for VAT if you haven't already**".

To access VAT1A directly, click on the link below:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/vat-application-for-registration-distance-selling-vat1a>

However, if you are exporting to a company in England, you can also decide with the importer by mutual agreement to provide its UK VAT number. In that case, the UK Importer VAT number must appear on the invoice with the following information: "**use importer account for VAT to HMRC**".

#### c) **Our recommendations:**

For a **B2B** shipment, we recommend the use of **INC DAP 20, 30 or 40**. Indeed, every company can recover the VAT.

For a **B2C** shipment, all Incoterms are available. However, we recommend the use of **INC DDP 10 and 18** in case of private individual deliveries who does not possess a VAT number and would have to pay additional fees to be delivered.

In case of **DAP** use, please note that if the recipient (company or private individual) would not discharge customs formalities generated by the import, they would be invoiced again to the exporter (sender).

#### 4. **Does this lead to changes in shipping rates?**

Customs fees are charged by GLS for all services related to the clearance of your goods, in order to cover the significant additional work resulting from customs procedures. Depending on the selected Incoterm, these charges are chargeable to either the sender or the recipient. Your GLS contacts can give you more information.

#### 5. **What are the customs clearance fees?**

To clear parcels, GLS charges clearance fees which amounts are detailed below. They vary according to the incoterm. These fees apply per customs declaration.

Incoterms DDP 10, DAP 30, DAP 40 and DAP 20 are listed here in descending order of exporter's obligation. Incoterm DDP 18 is intended and mandatory for low value shipments.

Type of shipment	Incoterm	Amount	Included costs
DDP	Incoterm <b>10</b>	18 €	1- Export customs fees 2- Import customs formalities (import clearance fees – customs duties and VAT are to be paid by the exporter)
DAP	Incoterm <b>30</b>	18 €	1- Export customs fees 2- Import customs formalities (import clearance fees - customs duties are to be paid by the exporter)
DAP	Incoterm <b>40</b>	18 €	1- Export customs fees 2- Import customs formalities (import clearance fees)
DAP	Incoterm <b>20</b>	10 €	1- Export customs fees
Incoterm dedicated to low value shipments			
DDP	Incoterm <b>18</b> (HT invoice value < 135€)	7 €	1- Export customs fees 2- Import customs formalities (import clearance fees – VAT is to be paid by the exporter)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ These fees are valid for a customs data entry on the GLS AEB portal.</li> <li>➤ The non-use of the GLS AEB portal automatically leads to a 5€ surcharge /customs declaration.</li> <li>➤ A 7€ surcharge will be charged from the 6<sup>th</sup> nomenclature per declaration.</li> </ul>			

#### 6. Is it possible to send gifts/samples to the UK without incurring duty?

No, the UK government has decided that the measures to clear low value parcels will cease to apply from 2021. All goods, regardless of their value, including very small, have to be declared.

#### 7. Is it possible to simplify procedures for bulk shipments to the UK?

Yes, in addition to the possibility of completing customs formalities for each single parcel shipment, GLS offers the possibility of making "collective" customs clearances to facilitate customs procedures and make them as efficient as possible.

Indeed, in the event that the shipment to be cleared includes one or more parcels sent to a **single consignee**, the clearance may be carried out in a global manner for the final consignee or the importer acting on behalf of the consignee. This requires a single invoice for all parcels. In case of control, and customs' request, the exporter has to be able to provide a copy of individual invoice of each parcel concerned by the control.

#### 8. What dimensions and weights apply to parcels sent to the UK?

The maximum dimensions and weights of EuroBusinessParcel continue to apply:

<b>Weight</b>	<b>Width (W)</b>	<b>Height (H)</b>	<b>Length (L)</b>	<b>Girth (= L+ 2xW +2xH)</b>
30 kg	80 cm	60 cm	200 cm	300 cm

#### 9. What delivery times are applicable to shipments to the UK?

GLS parcels from France reach their recipients in the UK within 4-5 business days (Monday to Friday). These delivery times also apply to parcels sent from the United Kingdom to France. We will make every effort to meet these delivery deadlines, however, the clearance procedures could lead to delays that are outside the control of GLS.

In the case of incomplete or incorrect documents provided or incorrect declarations, delays in customs processing and parcel deliveries may occur, the cause of which cannot be attributed to GLS.

#### **10. Are there any restrictions on shipping parcels to the UK?**

According to the General Terms and Conditions of Sale of GLS France, the restrictions applicable to «prohibited goods» remain the same. Some goods may be specifically prohibited in the UK: our teams are staying at your disposal to study your projects. GLS France monitors the restrictions' evolution on a weekly basis, as the AEB software is able to identify the HS codes subject to blocking.

#### **11. What changes take place in terms of imports?**

Basically, goods coming from the UK are subject to import customs clearance. For recipients, this means that any resulting taxes, customs duties and the customs clearance fee may depend on the Incoterms stipulated by the sender – have to be borne by the recipient.

In the event of incomplete or incorrect accompanying documents or incorrect declarations, delays may occur in parcel and customs clearance which are not caused by GLS.

#### **12. What changes in the GLS Client IT System?**

As a result, all GLS client IT systems are able to manage the UK as a customs destination, with the corresponding customs clearance management. If adaptations are to be made by shippers, they will be contacted by GLS.

Shippers using their own ERP system to connect to the GLS tagging solution must define the UK as a customs destination. Shippers who want to use Incoterms 10, 20, or 18 also need to integrate these Incoterms into their systems.

You can directly save the customs data of your shipments using the internet platform GLS or transfer them to GLS as a file in csv format via this same internet platform. You can find more information about this on [gls-group.eu](https://gls-group.eu). In this way, customs clearance operations can be carried out without delay.

#### **13. How do I access the GLS Customs portal to export a parcel?**

By clicking on the link <https://gls-customs-portal.next.aeb.com/portal/>, you directly access the GLS customs portal.

#### **14. Where can I find information that I need to know in order to send parcels to the UK?**

The GLS website can inform you about our international services.

We also recommend that you read the customs Brexit Preparation Guide:

<https://www.douane.gouv.fr/sites/default/files/uploads/files/Brexit/Guide-douanier-Preparation-au-Brexit-octobre-2020.pdf>

You can also find more information about Brexit by logging into the UK government website:

<https://www.gov.uk/brexit>.

## Consignees

### 1. **Are consignees based in France exposed to costs each time they receive a parcel from the UK?**

According to the Incoterms chosen by the shipper from the United Kingdom, the consignee may be exposed to customs charges as well as to the payment of charges and other customs taxes. GLS has nothing to do with these taxes and customs fees. The addressees have to get closer to the senders of these parcels if they wish to have more information on this point.

### 2. **Are delivery times for parcels from the UK extended after Brexit?**

Parcels from the United Kingdom to France should be delivered to their recipients within the usual delivery time of 4 to 5 working days (Monday to Friday). We make every effort to meet these delivery deadlines after Brexit. However, the process created by customs clearance procedures may cause delays that we cannot control.

In case of:

- Incomplete or incorrect provided documents,
- Incorrect declarations,
- Customs controls,

delays in customs processing and deliveries of parcels may occur whose cause cannot be attributed to GLS.

## Any Questions? Who to contact?

### **The International Service of GLS France**

**Email:** [service.export@gls-france.com](mailto:service.export@gls-france.com)

**Phone:** 0825 031 000

### **The Customs Service of GLS France**

**Contact:** contact your sales representative