

Guidance Note

Edition:1 - January 2019

Brexit – What now for the marine industry?

Executive Summary

This guidance note tries to highlight various exit scenarios which may affect manufacturers either located:

- 1) In the UK exporting product to Europe
- 2) European manufacturers exporting product to the UK
- 3) In 'third' countries like Japan or USA who may be either using the UK as the entry point into Europe or exporting directly there

It follows the recent rejection on the 15th January 2019 by the UK Parliament on the draft withdrawal agreement with the UK Prime Minister set to propose a new withdrawal plan to the UK Parliament on Monday 21 January 2019 with the debate and key vote on that plan taking place on Tuesday 29 January 2019.

Background

A public referendum asking whether the UK should leave or remain in the European Union was held on Thursday 23 June 2016 with the Leave vote winning by nearly 52% to 48%.

Article 50 of the Treaty on European Union (TEU) was invoked by the UK on the 29 March 2017 which started the Member States withdraw from the EU and means that they would cease being a Member of the EU on 30 March 2019.

There are differing views as to whether Article 50 can be revoked as, despite a European Court of Justice ruling in December 2018 saying that a country that had given notice under Article 50 to leave the EU could exercise its sovereign right to revoke its notice, some UK lawyers have argued that the process could not necessarily be halted.

On the 22 January 2018 the European Commission released a notice to stakeholders' paper on the withdrawal of the United Kingdom and EU rules in the field of industrial products. Both the Machinery Directive 2006/42/EC and the Recreational Craft and Personal Watercraft Directive 2013/53/EU are listed in an Annex to the paper.



Notice to economic operators - EU legisla

In July 2018 the UK Government released a paper titled '*The future relationship between the United Kingdom and the European Union*'.



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This was followed by specific information being published on the 13 September 2018 relating to the sale of harmonised products that were subject to EU product specific rules – [link](#) to the website.

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Due to the considerable uncertainties which still exist, this guidance will need to be updated and revised as more details become known and further clarifications are made by both parties.

All members should ultimately prepare for the worst-case-scenario which is that no exit deal is reached between the UK and the EU.



Note: Should the UK further default to WTO trading arrangements in 2019, most marine products would fall within a 'bound' range for tariff duties imposed by the EU with average tariffs ranging from 2.3% to 4.2%

No exit deal or hard Brexit

Unless a ratified withdrawal agreement establishes another date, all European Union primary and secondary law will cease to apply to the United Kingdom from 30 March 2019 and the United Kingdom will then become a 'third country'.

After Brexit, if there is no deal, the results of any conformity assessment carried out by UK notified bodies will no longer be recognised in the EU. This means that products tested by a UK notified body will no longer be able to be placed on the EU market without retesting and re-marking by an EU recognised conformity assessment body.

All economic operators needing to place products on the EU market are advised to take the necessary steps to ensure that, where the applicable conformity assessment procedures require the intervention of a Notified Body, they will hold certificates issued by an EU-27 Notified Body ([link](#) to the current NANDO database) to demonstrate compliance for their products as from the withdrawal date. Note: It may also be possible to initiate a transfer of the file and the corresponding certificate from the UK Notified Body to an EU-27 Notified Body, which would then take over the responsibility for that certificate but this depends on the specific conformity assessment procedures required and we have not been able to confirm this.

Notified bodies based in the UK will be granted new UK 'approved body' status and listed on a new UK database. The approved bodies will be able to assess products for the UK market against UK essential requirements (which, immediately after exit day, will be the same as EU essential requirements).

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Existing harmonised standards (used to demonstrate conformity with EU essential requirements) will become UK 'designated standards.' Manufacturers in the UK will be able to continue to use standards as a way of demonstrating conformity with UK essential requirements and following the standards will still give rise to a presumption of conformity with the essential requirements (as following harmonised standards does now). The UK will publish a full list of the references of UK designated standards which will be identical to the current EU harmonised standards published in the Official Journal for the purposes of the EU legislation.

Specific guidance from the UK's Department for Exiting the European Union (DExEU) and Department for Transport relating to motor vehicle type approval if there's no Brexit deal can be found [here](#) or by clicking on the pdf below.



eu-exit-contingency
-plan.pdf

This document explains how existing EC type-approvals (for motor vehicles) would need to be converted into a UK type-approval to allow manufacturers to continue to place products on the market in the UK (with plans to issue provisional UK type-approvals to manufacturers that already have EC type-approvals). Products which do not require registration for use on the road, i.e. trailers, engines for non-road mobile machinery and components, may however continue to be placed on the market on the basis of existing EU approvals, at least until further UK legislation is introduced which is expected sometime in 2019.

Note: Future editions of this guidance document will hopefully be able to clarify this. Our understanding is that the UK government will be introducing an 'formal' 18-month transitional period, after 29 March 2019 but it's still uncertain what exactly will be covered by this transitional period.

Secondary vote by UK MP's

With the UK Prime Minister set to propose a new withdrawal plan to the UK Parliament this coming Monday 21 January 2019 this may include making some small adjustments and possibly requesting minor changes, from the EU, to the withdrawal agreement.

Renegotiation of an exit deal between the UK and EU

This could take a period of time and would almost certainly require an extension of Article 50 to delay Brexit. A request could be granted but only if all EU countries agree at a vote of the EU Council and the UK government would have to table a statutory instrument to change the definition of 'exit day' in the EU Withdrawal Act with MPs getting a chance to vote on this change.

Second referendum

Since there would have to be a new piece of UK legislation to make a referendum happen and to determine the rules as well as having enough time for the Electoral Commission to consider and advise on the referendum question, this too would also require an extension of Article 50 to delay Brexit.

More information

- UK guidance on customs processes etc. if the UK leaves without a deal:
<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/declaring-your-goods-at-customs-if-the-uk-leaves-the-eu-with-no-deal>
- Additional guidance on importing goods into the UK is available here:
<https://www.gov.uk/browse/business/imports>