

Get an EORI number

Service Overview

<http://www.gov.uk/eori>

Get an EORI number

To move goods into or out of the EU you need an Economic Operator Registration and Identification (EORI) number.

HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC) uses this number to identify you and collect duty on your goods.

You may have increased costs and delays if you do not get an EORI number. For example, if HMRC cannot clear your goods you may have to pay storage fees.

If the UK leaves the EU without a deal, you'll need an EORI number that starts with GB to move goods into and out of the UK. If you do not already have one, you can apply now, even if you do not use it.

You can check the status of an application you have already made.

Before you apply

Check if you need to register for VAT before you apply.

To apply you may need your:

- VAT number and effective date of registration - these are on your VAT registration certificate
- National Insurance number - if you're an individual or a sole trader
- Unique Taxpayer Reference (UTR) - find your UTR if you do not know it
- business start date and Standard Industrial Classification (SIC) code - these are in the Companies House register
- Government Gateway user ID and password

If you need a Government Gateway user ID, use either:

- the one for your business or organisation
- your own if you're applying as an individual

If you do not already have a user ID, you'll be able to create one when you apply.

Apply for an EORI number

It takes 5 to 10 minutes to apply for an EORI number. You may get the number immediately, but it could take up to 3 working days if HMRC needs to make more checks.

[Start now >](#)

What you need to know

You may have to wait 48 hours to use your EORI number for customs declarations in the Customs Handling of Import and Export Freight (CHIEF) system. You can check when your EORI number is ready to use.

If you need help

You can [contact the team online](#) if you have problems with getting an EORI number.

EORI team

Telephone: 0300 322 7067

Monday to Friday, 8am to 6pm (closed bank holidays)

[Find out about call charges](#)

Service issues

Online services may be slow during busy times. Check if there are any [problems with this service](#).

Related content

[Starting to import](#)

[Exporting and doing business abroad](#)

Start page

This page outlines:

- What an EORI number is
- Why you might need one
- What the consequences of not having one are
- How EU exit impacts the necessity for an EORI
- What details you need to apply for an EORI
- How long it typically takes to complete the application
- How long it takes to receive your EORI number
- How long it takes for the EORI to be active on CHIEF
- Who you can contact if you need help

Sign in using Government Gateway

Government Gateway user ID
This could be up to 12 characters.

Password

Sign in

[Create sign in details](#)

Problems signing in

[I have forgotten my password](#)

[I have forgotten my Government Gateway user ID](#)

[Get help with this page](#)

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Sign in

Users are asked to sign in with a government gateway credential (username and password) or create one if they don't have one.

If users sign in with an agent services or standard government gateway credential they will receive an error message explaining they can't apply for an EORI number using this type of credential and that they have to sign in with an administrator government gateway credential.

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Where are you based?

- ☐ United Kingdom
- ☐ Channel Islands or the Isle of Man
- ☐ A country in the European Union other than the UK
- ☐ Outside the European Union

[▶ Countries in the EU](#)[Continue](#)[Privacy policy](#) [Terms and conditions](#)**OGL** All content is available under the [Open Government Licence v3.0](#), except where otherwise stated

Where are you based

Users are asked where they're based so we can determine which identifying details we can ask them for later in the journey. If users select they are in the UK a Unique Taxpayer Reference (UTR) or a National insurance number are mandatory, whereas for non UK users they are optional.

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What do you want to apply as?

- ☐ a company
- ☐ a sole trader
- ☐ an individual
- ☐ a partnership
- ☐ a Limited Liability Partnership
- ☐ a charity, public body or not for profit organisation

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What do you want to apply as

Users are asked what legal entity they want to apply as which determines what details they need to provide later in the journey. The help text is on each page is also tailored to each legal entity type.

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What are your business details?

Registered business name

This is on your certificate of incorporation from Companies House.

Corporation Tax Unique Taxpayer Reference (UTR) number

This is 10 numbers, for example 1234567890. It will be on tax returns and other letters about Corporation Tax. It may be called 'reference', 'UTR' or 'official use'. You can [find a lost UTR number \(opens in a new window or tab\)](#).

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What are your business details

Users that chose to apply as a company, partnership, LLP or charity/ public body/ or not for profit are asked for their organisation or business name along with their UTR number.

Users that choose to apply as a an individual or a partnership are asked for their name, date of birth and either their self assessment UTR or National insurance number.

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These are the details we have about your organisation

Corporation Tax UTR Number	9172121600
Registered organisation name	TEST LTD
Registered organisation address	125 - 135 MANCHESTER ROAD BRADFORD BD1 3AF United Kingdom

Are these the organisation details you want to use to get an EORI number?

- ☐ Yes, these are the details I want to use
- ☐ No, I need to change my organisation address
- ☐ No, I need to enter all my organisation details again

Continue

These are the details we have about your organisation

Using an API the details are verified against an internal HMRC record and if correct the registered address is played back to the user. The user can then confirm that these are the details they want to use or alternatively change the address the EORI number will be registered against.

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When was the organisation established?

Enter the date shown on the organisation's certificate of incorporation. You can find the date your organisation was established on the [Companies House register \(opens in a new window or tab\)](#)

For example, 31 3 1980

Day	Month	Year

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When was the organisation established

If the user is applying as a business they are asked for their date of establishment.

Who can we contact?

We will use this email to contact you about your EORI number. We will also use it to contact you if there are any issues with your customs activities.

Full name

Email address

Telephone

Only enter numbers, for example 01632 960 001

Fax (optional)

Only enter numbers, for example 01632 960 001

Is this the right contact address?

We will use this address to contact you

125 - 135 MANCHESTER ROAD
BRADFORD
BD1 3AF
United Kingdom

☐ Yes

☐ No

Continue

Who can we contact

The user is asked for some contact details which will be used to inform them about their application and future customs activities that are related to CDS services.

The contact details gathered are:

- Contact name
- Email address
- Telephone number
- Fax number (optional)
- Address

The address captured earlier in the journey is the default contact address. If the user answers no to 'is this the right contact address?' some address form fields are revealed for the user to fill in.

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Is your organisation VAT registered in the UK?

☐ Yes☐ No[Continue](#)[Privacy policy](#) [Terms and conditions](#)**OGL** All content is available under the [Open Government Licence v3.0](#), except where otherwise stated

Is your organisation UK VAT registered

The user is asked if they're VAT registered, if they select no they aren't asked any further questions about UK VAT. If they select yes they're asked for their UK VAT details.

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Is the organisation you are registering part of a VAT group in the UK?

VAT groups are when two or more companies or limited liability partnerships register as one taxable 'person' for VAT purposes in the UK.

☐ Yes☐ No[Continue](#)[Privacy policy](#) [Terms and conditions](#)**OGL** All content is available under the [Open Government Licence v3.0](#), except where otherwise stated

Is the organisation part of a UK VAT group

The user is asked if they're registering an organisation that is part of a UK VAT group, if they select yes they are directed to apply via the KARNA form as the digital service is currently unable to process applications for VAT groups.

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What are your UK VAT details?

You can find these details on your VAT registration certificate.

The postcode of your VAT registration address

VAT registration number

Effective VAT date

For example, 31 3 1980

Day	Month	Year

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What are your UK VAT details

The user is asked for the postcode of their VAT registration, the VAT registration number and the effective VAT date. Using an API the details are verified against internal HMRC VAT records. If they aren't verified successfully the user receives an error message and is asked to enter their details again.

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Is your business VAT registered in other EU member countries?

☐ Yes

☐ No

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Is your organisation VAT registered in other EU member countries

The user is asked if they are VAT registered in other EU member countries, if they select no they aren't asked any other questions about EU VAT details.

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Enter the VAT details for an EU country

Country

VAT Number

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Enter the VAT details for an EU country

The user is asked for the name of the EU country of they're VAT registered in and the corresponding VAT number.

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You have added VAT details for 1 EU member country

France 1X123456789 [Change](#) [Remove](#)

Do you need to add VAT details for another EU member country?

You can add VAT details for 5 EU member countries.

☐ Yes

☐ No

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You have added VAT details for x EU countries

The VAT details for each EU member country entered by the user are played back. They can add VAT details for a maximum of 5 EU member countries.

They're asked if they need to add details for another EU member country, if they select yes they are taken back to the previous page to enter the VAT details. If they select no they're taken to the next question.

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Do you want to share your organisation name and address on the EORI checker?

HMRC will add your EORI number to a public checker kept by the European Commission. You can also agree to include your organisation name and address. This can help customs and freight agents identify you and process your shipments.

☐

Yes - I want my organisation name and address on the EORI checker

☐

No - Just show my EORI number on the EORI checker

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Do you want to share your organisation name and address on the EORI checker

Every EORI number created is stored on the EU commission's public EORI database so that EORIs can be verified. This page is asking users if they'd like to show their business name and address alongside their EORI number.

Check your answers

[Start again](#)

Organisation name	TEST LTD	
Corporation Tax UTR Number	9172121600	
Organisation address	125 - 135 MANCHESTER ROAD BRADFORD BD1 3AF United Kingdom	
Date of establishment	18 January 2017	Change
Contact	Joel Richards customs@testltd.com telephone: 01274 560982 125 - 135 MANCHESTER ROAD BRADFORD BD1 3AF United Kingdom	Change
Shortened name	Not entered	Change
UK VAT Number	820401199	Change
Postcode of your UK VAT registration address	BD1 3AF	
UK VAT effective date	1 May 2018	
EU VAT numbers	1X123456789 - France	Change
Standard Industrial Classification (SIC) code	62090	Change
Organisation details shared on the EORI checker	Yes - I want my name and address on the EORI checker	Change

By sending this application you confirm that the information you are providing is correct and complete.

[Send](#)

Check your answers

All the details the users have entered are played back to give the user the chance to identify and correct any mistakes they might have made throughout the application before submitting it.

Users can use the change links to visit a page to change a detail and be redirected back to this page without having to go through the whole journey again.

After clicking send the user's details are sent VIA an API to be checked. Moments later a response comes back with one of three possible outcomes.

**The EORI number for
Test Ltd is
GB123456789**

issued by HMRC on 27 June 2019

We have sent you a confirmation email.

[Download a PDF of your EORI number \(53kb\)](#)

[Download an accessible text file of your EORI number \(12kb\)](#)

Your EORI number is now ready to use for all your customs activities. It has no expiry date. You should only share it with trusted business partners or approved customs representatives. For example, you should give it to your courier or freight forwarder. They will use it to make customs declarations on your behalf.

What happens next

You may have to wait 48 hours to use it if you're making a customs declaration using the Customs Handling of Import and Export Freight (CHIEF) system. You can use the EORI validation checker to find out if it is ready to use.

Help and support

To get help or change any of the details you have given us, phone: 0300 322 7067. Open 8am to 6pm, Monday to Friday (closed bank holidays).

[What did you think of this service?](#)

Outcome 1 - Successful application

The user is given their EORI number straight away and given the option to download it as a PDF or a text file for their own records. They are also enrolled to CDS.

They're also given some general guidance on how they should use their EORI as well as some technical guidance around how long it takes for their EORI number to become active on CHIEF.

The EORI application for Test Ltd is being processed

Application received by HMRC on 27 June 2019

What happens next

We are processing your EORI application, this can take up to 3 working days.
We will send you an email when your application has been processed.

Help and support

If you are having problems phone: 0300 322 7067.
Open 8am to 6pm, Monday to Friday (closed bank holidays).

[What did you think of this service?](#)

Outcome 2 - Application is being processed

The user is presented with a message telling them that their application is being processed which can take up to 3 working days. A case is raised on the Referred Case Management (RCM) system of the EORI support team so that the user's details can be checked manually. The caseworker will then either:

- Approve the application after which the user will be notified by email that their EORI number has been issued. They will be told to log back in to the service to see it.
- Reject the application after which the user will be notified by email. The sole reason for a rejection is that a user already has an EORI number.

**Our records show that
Test Ltd already has an
EORI number.**

Application received by HMRC on 27 June 2019

What happens next

You do not need to take any further action.

[What did you think of this service?](#)

Outcome 3 - You already have an EORI

The user is presented with a message telling them that according to our records they already have an EORI number. To see the EORI number users have to call the support team or use the contact form and provide some details to verify their identity.