

International Trade Centre Newsletter



February 2024

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Withdrawal of CDS Waiver Code 999L

CDS Waiver Code 999L was withdrawn by HMRC from the CDS service at the end of January 2024 for all import declarations. Exports will be unaffected by this change. To comply with the UK trade tariff regulations, HMRC expects all importers to use the correct waiver codes for their import declarations. We strongly recommend that you take proactive steps to familiarise yourself with the correct waver codes as per the UK trade tariff. By doing so, you can ensure compliance and avoid any disruptions to your import operations. [Click here](#) to find out more and discover the new codes replacing 999L.

For help with your customs declarations requirements, please contact our [International Trade Centre](#).

UK Critical Imports and Supply Chains Strategy

The events of recent years have severely disrupted the global supply chains which we rely on for our critical imports. In a rapidly changing world the UK needs to adapt to these challenges and seize opportunities to ensure the reliable flow of vital goods that underpin our prosperity.

The critical import and supply chain strategy helps UK businesses build secure and reliable

supply chains, which are vital to:

- the UK's economic prosperity
- national security
- the delivery of our essential services

The strategy sets out how government will work with business and international partners across 5 priorities:

1. Making the UK government a centre of excellence for supply chain analysis and risk assessment.
2. Removing critical import barriers to support the UK's business-friendly environment.
3. Building the UK's response to global supply chain shocks.
4. Ensuring the UK can adapt to long-term trends.
5. Expanding collaboration between government, business and academia.

Please click the link below for details of the full strategy and to view the BCC's response.

[Full Strategy and BCC response](#)

Common Sense Approach To Product Marking Welcomed

The Department for Business and Trade (DBT) has confirmed it will extend the indefinite use of the EU's CE mark to a further three product categories, having last summer announced it would extend its use within the UK indefinitely for the 18 categories under its remit.

The UK government has also announced:

- it will introduce new legislation to allow for digital labelling of imports to reduce the regulatory burden on businesses
- a new fast-track provision to allow manufacturers to place products on the GB market if they meet the EU essential requirements and have been conformity assessed by an EU-recognised body.

Responding to the Government's latest announcement on conformity assessment marking, BCC Head of Trade Policy said:

"Business will welcome this common-sense approach to showing that products sold in Great Britain have met safety, health and environmental rules. Crucially, it will help keep costs down for firms and prices for consumers."

[View full details here](#)

Trade With Canada

Negotiations with Canada on a new free trade deal have broken down, but what does this mean for businesses trading with the country and what happens next?

BCC Head of Trade Policy, William Bain, examines the implications:

One of the immediate effects of dialogue ending is that there will be no reprieve for cheese or dairy exporters in the UK. They have already been told they must access the non-EU quota for Canada cheese and dairy imports – this took effect on 1 January.

[Click here for William's full examination and to view the UK-Canada Trade Deal](#)

BTOM Reminder – New Import Controls

The UK's new Border Trade Operating Model entered into force on 31st January 2024. New border controls came into effect for "medium risk" animal and plant products which now require export health certificates and phytosanitary certificates.

[Click here for more information](#)

Monthly Focus

Employability Skills in Import and Export

Help us to help you!

Are you struggling to fill import/export related job vacancies?

Are there skills gaps within your organisation preventing you from being able to import/export efficiently, compliantly and cost effectively?

Our current Skills Bootcamp will be coming to an end shortly and we want to ensure that future Bootcamps and training programmes meet the needs of our international trade business community.

We would be very grateful if you could take a few minutes to let us know:

- what import/export skills and knowledge does your business require?
- are there any skills you feel are lacking locally which prevent you being able to fill the import/export vacancies you have?
- what training and/or support would you like to see added to our existing import and export training programmes? ([click here](#) to view our current provision)
- would you be willing to offer a Skills Bootcamp graduate a work experience placement?
- any other comments relating to employability skills in import/export?

Please [click here](#) to share your comments.

All comments and feedback are very much welcome and valued, and we would like to thank you in advance for your input.

Business Support, Events & Opportunities

Save the date! International Trade Conference Tuesday, 4th June 2024

We are excited to be incorporating the International Trade Conference into the [Chamber Expo](#) for a second year. Delegates will have the opportunity to engage with import and export specialists, discover new ways to improve your international shipments, and also solve any international trade issues you may have. Further details will be released shortly.

Chambers Trade Academy: Aid Funded Biz Opps for British companies



As part of our commitment to support businesses to navigate their international trade journey, we are pleased to be offering a series of free virtual sessions in partnership with a selected group of UK Chambers across the country.

The purpose of these sessions is to provide general insights into exporting, importing and customs, as well as to update traders with the latest changes in regulations and provide tips on how to grow globally.

[Aid Funded Business Opportunities for British Companies](#), Thursday, 21st March @ 12pm

Please click on the webinar link for further details and to book your place(s).

If you have an area of expertise and would like to be involved with the Chambers Trade

Academy and present to our importing and exporting audience, please get in touch with l.holt@hull-humber-chamber.co.uk

Grant Funding for Export of Services

The Department of Business and Trade has announced the UK Government's commitment to making £500,000 of grant funding available to help UK professionals export services around the world.

The funding is intended to support UK professionals such as architects, auditors and accountants export their services where their UK professional qualifications are not mutually recognised in the destination country, or where additional qualifications are required to support the export of those services.

The funding will be available through The Recognition Arrangements Grant programme that runs until 31 March 2025, with grants of up to £75,000 per financial year awarded to UK regulators and professional bodies.

The announcement from the DBT details the following:

- Government committing £500,000 to help UK professionals such as architects, auditors and accountants export their services around the world
- Grants of up to £75,000 are on offer for UK regulators to strike deals to get UK qualifications recognised overseas, which could help UK firms win international contracts
- Previous rounds helped secure recognition arrangements with Switzerland and New Zealand

This third round of funding follows two previous rounds of successful funding in this area and is intended to facilitate the international recognition of UK-qualified professionals, allowing them and their companies to focus on winning contracts, exporting their expertise abroad and growing their businesses.

[Apply for the grant programme here](#)

Grant Funding for Manufacturers

The next phase of the Industrial Energy Transformation Fund is open for applications from all sizes of businesses.

* Subsidies of between 30-70% towards the cost of deploying technology which reduces energy consumption and/or reduces carbon emissions at your production site.

* Must be for investing in the machinery and equipment that actually uses energy - the grant cannot support energy production (solar panels etc.)

* Subsidies starting from £75k to £14m

The International Trade Team at the Chamber recommends [registering](#) for the programme briefing for advice on completing an application - the next one is 6th February 2024.

[Further details here](#)

T Level Support Webinars

The Department for Education (DfE) is hosting free webinars on T Level support for both SMEs and large employers.

Attendees will hear from employers who have hosted industry placements in their business, the kind of challenges they faced, how they overcame them, and how they have created progression routes into apprenticeships.

- SME Employers = Monday 5 February, 14:00 - 15:00. [Book your place](#)
- Large Employers = Saturday 24 February, 09:00 - 10:00. [Book your place](#)

[Click here](#) to download a communications pack which includes the latest events and support available to help employers consider, plan and host T Level placements.

Computer Science Industrial Placements

The University of Hull is looking for in-industry placements for its computer science students. These types of placements can be a very cost-effective way to bring new perspectives into their business and be a means of assessing potential future employees in, what is, a very competitive recruitment marketplace. The students will have interests and skills in a wide range of disciplines including computer programming, games development, and the rapidly growing field of Artificial Intelligence (AI).

The next placement year runs from this September for a minimum of 40 weeks (although some students may be able to start as early as June), and the organisation will receive support throughout from the University's dedicated Placements team.

The University would be keen to explore this opportunity with any organisation, and/or discuss the other various means to engage with its students, including projects, internships, guest speaking opportunities and more.

To find out more, please contact [Louise Morris](#) in the University's Placements team.

Foreign exchange and global payments solutions from ChamberFX

Member Offer - if you would like an FX review or a meeting to discuss your foreign exchange requirements please get in touch with Lorraine at l.holt@hull-humber-chamber.co.uk

[Click here for weekly and monthly FX forecasts](#)

INTERNATIONAL TRADE CENTRE

IN PARTNERSHIP WITH

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