

CUSTOMS AND INTERNATIONAL TRADE IN EUROPE

How we can help you



GETTING READY FOR BREXIT

Ten ways BDO can help importers and exporters manage the changes

CUSTOMS DUTY

Today's global economy brings both an increased volume of imports and exports and greater scrutiny of cross-border goods movements. This poses a significant challenge to business supply chains because the international movement of goods can be costly and the legislative infrastructure, including the new Union Customs Code (UCC), is complex. In this dynamic trading environment, a global business must ensure compliance whilst carefully managing its international trade costs in order to stay competitive and profitable.

BDO is committed to helping you to succeed by understanding your needs and delivering exceptional client service. Our rapidly growing Customs and International Trade team comprises over 30 specialists located across Europe. By drawing on our experience and specialist knowledge, we seek to identify opportunities to help you to operate in a duty-efficient manner.

A key challenge for companies trading in today's competitive market is to focus on growth by being more innovative in their strategy and structure than their competitors. To achieve this requires a full understanding of the issues affecting your business and the ability to develop solutions to improve compliance, reduce costs and ultimately improve profitability. BDO can help you to accomplish this aim.

HOW BDO CAN HELP YOU

BDO's European Customs and International Trade team can help you to move goods around the world more effectively. We can develop and implement strategies to manage import duty costs by utilising free trade agreements, customs regimes and international trade structuring.

We would welcome the opportunity to invest our time to learn more about you and your business. This will enable us to pinpoint areas where we can work together to ensure that the company's supply chain is operating efficiently and spot potential opportunities for savings.

Please ask us for a free-of-charge meeting or, if you have already identified a need for advice, call us to ask for a quote.

1. BREXIT: MITIGATING THE IMPACT

When Brexit takes effect (perhaps as soon as April 2019), one of the key changes that businesses will face is that goods traded between the UK and the EU will be treated as imports and exports rather than as intra-community movements. This may mean that customs duty could potentially become payable when goods move between the UK and EU member states and full import / export declarations may be required.

We are carrying out many Brexit Impact Mitigation projects at the moment to help our clients to be ready by the time the UK leaves the EU (eg by changing supply chains and seeking relevant Customs-related authorisations in the UK / EU). If Customs Duty has recently become a permanent fixture on your board's agenda as a result of the 'hard Brexit' that many people now expect to happen, please ask us for a quote.

2. CONTROLS AND PROCESSES REVIEW

It is common for today's businesses to have a decentralised customs function which is not aligned to other core business processes. Our reviews are designed to evaluate current processes and procedures against tax authority requirements, identify any gaps and make recommendations for efficiency in the supply chain operation. These reviews can also help the business meet the standards required by the Authorised Economic Operator accreditation and the UK's Senior Accounting Officer requirements.

3. MANAGEMENT SUPPORT SYSTEM (MSS) DATA REVIEWS

Many businesses may feel that they have little or no visibility over their customs duty processes. BDO has developed a management tool to enable businesses to obtain comfort that their supply chain processes are operating efficiently and that potential saving opportunities are not being missed.



4. KEY PROCESS REVIEWS

BDO can provide guidance to businesses on classification, valuation and preference compliance to try to ensure that the optimum amount of duty is being paid and to minimise the risk of tax assessments and / or penalties:

- **Tariff Classification** - this drives a number of import variables such as the duty rate, entitlement to preferential rates of duty and import restrictions such as quotas and suspensions.
- **Valuation** - the customs value declared on imports forms the basis for calculating the amount of duty payable, so it is essential that these are set in accordance with valuation rules.
- **Preference** - a variety of preferential trade agreements exist between the EU and its key trading partners (and hopefully between the UK and other countries inside and outside the EU post-Brexit). The ability to claim preference on import and/or export of a product is governed by legislation which requires certain key criteria to be met and supporting documentation (such as a certificate of origin) to be obtained.

5. TRAINING COURSES

BDO offers bespoke and standardised training programmes. Our on-site training covers all areas of customs planning and compliance for global businesses. We can provide a standard training session or a tailored programme to address the individual commercial needs and practical challenges faced by your organisation.

6. ASSISTANCE WITH IMPLEMENTING CUSTOMS RELIEFS / REGIMES

A variety of reliefs and regimes exist to encourage manufacturing within the EU (and hopefully within the UK too post-Brexit), which either suspend or extinguish customs duty liabilities. BDO can provide guidance on which duty reliefs and/or regimes may be appropriate to a business, thereby reducing its costs and improving its margins.

7. AD-HOC CONSULTANCY

We can offer advice and assistance in all areas of international trade with a view to delivering best practice methodologies and developing global trade programs that can maximise risk management and cost reduction, thus driving improved business performance.

8. AUDITS / INVESTIGATIONS BY TAX AUTHORITIES

All businesses have to deal with tax authorities from time to time and there are a number of ways we can help to relieve the pressure this puts on your organisation. Where a difficult customs duty matter arises, you can instruct us to discuss the situation with the tax authorities on your behalf to help negotiate an acceptable solution.

9. EXPORT CONTROLS AND DUAL-USE

The export of strategic goods is subject to control. Strategic goods are military goods and so-called 'dual-use' items, i.e. goods that usually have a civil use but which can also be used for military purposes. Services related to 'strategic goods' (eg intangible transfer of technology, technical assistance or brokering) are also subject to export controls. Our team has significant experience, as well as bespoke software which we can license to you, to help determine if goods can be categorised as strategic goods.

10. HELPLINE / RETAINER ARRANGEMENTS

Many of our clients just want a trusted advisor to provide them with a second opinion or a quick steer on how to handle an urgent issue.

We provide our clients with a helpline /retainer arrangement providing immediate assistance when they need it. Clients can choose from a flat monthly fee, a single hourly rate or a lower hourly rate for a pre-purchased 'bank of hours' each month / quarter. We would be delighted to offer this to you too.

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

EUROPEAN CUSTOMS & INTERNATIONAL TRADE TEAM
Key team members



MARK ELLIS
Partner
UK
t: +44 (0)7813 629444
e: mark.l.ellis@bdo.co.uk



PIETER HAESAERT
Partner
Belgium
t: +32 (0)499 58 28 77
e: pieter.haesaert@bdoc4t.com



ONELIA ANGELOSANTO
Director
UK
t: +44(0)7786 703996
e: onelia.angelosanto@bdo.co.uk



GRIT KÖTHE
Partner
Germany
t: +49 (0) 30 885 722 528
e: grit.koethe@bdo.de



HAKAN HENNINGSSON
Senior Manager
UK
t: +44 (0)7976 252605
e: hakan.henningsson@bdo.co.uk



CAROL LYNCH
Partner
Ireland
t: +353 (0)87 7533 933
e: clynch@bdo.ie