

Economic Operators Registration Identification number (EORI)

In July 2009, the European Commission will implement an Economic Operator Registration Identification scheme (EORI). The scheme will enhance the security measures introduced by the Security Amendment to the Modernised Customs Code by introducing a unique common identifier number for all traders within the EU who are involved in Customs related activities.

HMRC have confirmed that the EORI number will be based on the Trader Unique Reference Number (TURN) and traders who currently use the TURN or, have done so in the last two years will automatically qualify for an EORI number and will be sent notification to that effect. You do not need to respond to this unless your details are incorrect, you do not require an EORI number or you do not wish your details published on the Commission internet site.

If however you are a new trader or one that has not used your TURN in the last 2 years, you will have to submit an application via the EORI processing team based at HMRC in Cardiff. Interestingly, if you are a trader not established in the EU but who are involved in Customs related activity in the Community, you are entitled to a EORI number and the application is the same as for a new trader.

Complications have been identified concerning traders' branch offices or divisions. However, HMRC intend to write to those affected.

HMRC plan to notify traders of the changes from April 2009 with a dual running period taking place until 1 July. Once issued the EORI should be the only reference number used on declarations made to any customs authority within the 27 member states. Thus the EORI will become the chief mechanism to identify a trader or trader's supply chain and inform administrations of the validity of a traders' authorisations. As such traders should regulate the issue and use of EORI to ensure that agents acting on their behalf are aware of the implications of its use.

EORI data will be exchanged between Member States and the EU Commission only. There is an intention that limited data will be disclosed on a general public database but this will only happen with the express consent of the economic operator concerned.

If you want more information, need assistance or training on the change please contact RHA.