



**VOERMAN & BREXIT  
HOW CAN WE  
PREPARE FOR  
THIS?**



**VOERMAN GROUP**



## **BREXIT WILL AFFECT OUR INDUSTRY, HOW CAN WE PREPARE FOR THIS?**

Brexit is coming on October 31. What will this mean for our industry? As all is still unclear, we are working with different scenarios, although we do believe a “hard Brexit” is looking more likely every day now. People say it will all be ok, but we do believe there will be significant challenges. It looks like immigration issues will be dealt with if we follow the information so far. However, the main problem will be the shipments of household goods to and from the continent where customs clearance will probably be back in the system. As we are an AEO certified operator, it will be important to continue operating moves to and from the UK.

There are a few possible scenarios, all based on the way Brexit will be negotiated, be it a “hard Brexit”, still part of the single market, part of a customs union, or a free trade deal or a new hybrid solution. Based on the outcome of the political process, there are 3 possible scenarios for customs of HHG:

**1. Hard borders with customs control, just like any other non-EU country.**

This will lead to waiting times, which will depend on the capacity of both UK and EU customs. We’ve seen that customs authorities are actively recruiting, but it is hard to imagine that customs will be able to deal with the current flow of traffic any time soon.

**2. No hard borders (an as-is situation)**

**3. All sorts of hybrid versions, for example:**

- » .. whereby some goods classifications may be exempt from intensive customs checks at the actual border, but perhaps through spot checks at the (bonded) warehouses or at residence
- » .. just a document verification
- » .. mandatory customs clearance further inland to spread the traffic etc.
- » .. a situation whereby the UK and the EU agree on a transition period to implement the hard Brexit without too much disruption for the transportation of goods between the UK and the EU
- » .. a technological solution (at some point in the future)

As a worst-case scenario, an immediate “hard Brexit” with customs at the border and no exceptions will lead to inevitable delays. How much delay is very hard to predict at this stage.

We expect to be able to charge a per-diem/per-CBM charge, which is the easiest way to deal with it, since these are objective and measurable cost drivers. On top of that, a standard customs clearance fee will have to be charged, like regular fees for imports and export already in place.

**WHAT WE WILL DO:**

- » Advise clients proactively not to move household goods between UK and European Continent & vice versa in period of October 25 – November 15.
- » Consult with clients proactively to help manage relocations in that period with options such as temporary accommodation, temporary storage at origin or destination and potentially help with rental furniture
- » Stop moving to and from the continent by truck as of October and instead operate with containers only to meet transit times & avoid border chaos
- » Get all consolidated containers to port of Rotterdam
- » Keep proactively communicating with our clients
- » Create a Brexit task force at Voerman Group to consolidate expertise

**Wiebe van Bockel**

September 2019