

# EU Customs Reform Preparedness Checklist

AEB

This checklist prioritizes action items, tasks, and considerations that will help you identify risk areas and stay ahead of each milestone with a practical framework for planning and execution. Tick each action item you have already taken care of. If you tick fewer than two boxes per chapter you should look into your cross-border processes promptly.

## 1. Conduct a customs audit

- ☐ Confirm HS codes and product descriptions are accurate and up to date
- ☐ Get your product identifiers together as soon as possible – don't wait until November when they're mandatory
- ☐ Make sure your supplier and seller data is complete
- ☐ Verify country of origin is correctly assigned for all SKUs
- ☐ Validate product values, including declared customs value, and ensure they're consistently recorded
- ☐ Work toward a master dataset shared across regions and business units
- ☐ Adopt centralized data standards to support automation and interoperability

## 2. Build duty forecasting into pricing models

- ☐ Model the impact of the fixed €3 duty per HS code
- ☐ Analyze the impact of the handling fee at both €2 and €3
- ☐ Look at new internal compliance and tax infrastructure costs if you didn't carry them before
- ☐ Account for costs related to validating HS codes, country of origin, and providing real-time data to avoid narrow margins or penalties of up to 6% of annual imports for repeated non-compliance
- ☐ Decide how you will split the costs
- ☐ Consider B2B2C models or in-country bulk fulfillment

### 3. Update operational workflows and customs compliance

- ☐ Verify HS codes at pick and pack
- ☐ Automate validation of product descriptions against customs classification databases
- ☐ Run compliance checks for country of origin and duty rates
- ☐ Harmonize reporting to align with anticipated EU Customs Data Hub fields

### 4. Upgrade technology with an eye toward interoperability and automation. Look for:

- ☐ Integration with your WMS, TMS, or ERP system
- ☐ Data standards that align with the forthcoming EU Customs Data Hub protocols
- ☐ Scalability to handle increasing declaration volumes and regulatory changes
- ☐ Real-time visibility into customs status, exceptions, and clearance performance
- ☐ Audit trails and documentation management to support compliance
- ☐ Built-in compliance screening and controls to reduce regulatory risk
- ☐ Cloud-based deployment, maintenance, and regulatory updates

### 5. Look into AI-assisted classification, risk scoring, and sanctioned party screening

- ☐ Automatically ingest documentation
- ☐ Classify goods more accurately
- ☐ Detect anomalies in valuation or documentation
- ☐ Automatically scan customers, vendors, and transactions against global watchlists
- ☐ Optimize workflows



**Get in touch to discuss your readiness gaps with an AEB cross-border expert**

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