

## The EU-UK Trade and Cooperation Agreement

### Company Statement

The EU-UK Trade and Cooperation Agreement concluded between the EU and the UK sets out preferential arrangements in areas such as trade in goods and in services, digital trade, intellectual property, public procurement, aviation and road transport, energy, fisheries, social security coordination, law enforcement and judicial cooperation in criminal matters, thematic cooperation and participation in Union programmes. It is underpinned by provisions ensuring a level playing field and respect for fundamental rights.

Source: [https://ec.europa.eu/info/relations-united-kingdom/eu-uk-trade-and-cooperation-agreement\\_en](https://ec.europa.eu/info/relations-united-kingdom/eu-uk-trade-and-cooperation-agreement_en)

Recognising the changes resulting from end of the transition period on 31st December 2020, and the conclusion of the EU-UK Trade and Cooperation Agreement between the EU and the UK, the company envisages no significant changes to its ability to meet clients' needs and with the conformity of the products it produces and supplies in accordance with EU regulations.

Products supplied through Protec Fire and Security Group Ltd. within the UK and exported to the EU are currently fully CE marked in accordance with the prevailing UK and EU regulations. Any legal and regulatory changes that affects product certification relating to CE marking for the EU market and the planned UKCA (UK Conformity Assessed) mark for the UK market have already been implemented as Company Policy.

### CE marking

Our products will continue to carry a CE mark for export to the EU market (including Northern Ireland under the Withdrawal Agreement Northern Ireland Protocol).

Where certification (for example International Product Scheme certification) or system design features due to any local market needs i.e. in Great Britain, Northern Ireland, within the EU and also outside the EU, these features are included into the relevant product certification and in our manufacturer's declarations as the accompanying certification supplied to these particular markets.

In line with our company policy to meet all our customers' requirements, Protec Fire and Security Group Ltd. maintains and will continue to maintain a presence in the EU. Our sister companies Protec Spain and Protec Holland, our other EU based partners, as well as clients in Northern Ireland, require our products are produced for them in the UK for distribution in those countries and be in conformance with all relevant EU regulations.

## UKCA marking

We can confirm that our products will bear a UKCA mark when placing them on the market in Great Britain.

Protec Fire & Security Group Ltd is taking actions in 2021 to comply with the new UK regulations:

- Changes have been made in our procurement process to increase assurance controls within our supply chain because of changes associated with UKCA marking and designated standards linked to our products.
- The timeframe of our transition, including amendment of existing EU compliance documentation such as Technical Files and Declarations of Conformity (DOP) to reference current UK Regulations and Standards for products being manufactured and/or imported is to be completed by Autumn 2021.
- Amendment of Technical Submittals to include valid DOP certification for UKCA marking and affixing UKCA Marks to products will be completed by Autumn 2021 following receipt of mandated UKCA certification from our selected UK Conformity Assessment Bodies.

Further information is available here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/prepare-to-use-the-ukca-mark-after-brexit>

## Continuity of supply

The continuation of supply is of upmost importance, and the Company will follow closely any changes within the legislative framework concerning the movement of goods and services to and from the EU and making changes in business strategy as appropriate. Regarding the provision of Services, particularly technical support services and after sales support services, the company will ensure we have resources in place, as we currently do with UK and non-EU countries. With regulations or approved codes of practice associated with installation work and/or servicing and maintenance of our equipment, this will be in line with the rules/obligations associated with those markets.

## Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs):

### 1. UK/EU borders

Q: "How much impact from the changes to customs arrangements for supply routes via UK border crossings?" (e.g. reliance on 'just-in-time' deliveries via a UK port – and is the supplier liable for paying service credits in the case of delayed deliveries?)"

A: We do not envisage any significant disruptions to supply of component parts or resale imported goods with the border changes. We have multi stream importing options and retain a relatively high stock of component parts and "core" finished goods. We are not reliant on JIT supply systems for our products.

## 2. Customs tariffs

**Q:** "How much impact from changes in customs tariffs between the UK and EU? (e.g. are products manufactured in the EU or the UK.)

**A:** Possible impact, but the significance is yet undetermined.

Products are manufactured and supplied from within the UK. We have very few EU based only suppliers and we have made provision for possible delays in transportation and import restrictions. Any sudden or planned changes in tariffs or delays that do impact on our business operations would be subject to Senior Management review.

## 3. Data

**Q:** How much impact with contracts with data stored/processed in the EU?

**A:** No impact – no data stored in EU

## 4. Human resources

**Q:** How much impact to contracts by a more restrictive immigration regime?

**A:** No significant impact envisaged.

**Q:** Is it the case where delivery of the contract is dependent to some degree on EU nationals working in the UK?

**A:** No Protec contracts are dependent on EU nationals working in the UK.

## 5. Regulation

**Q:** Excluding the EU procurement directives, does the contract rely on specific regulations from the EU in order to specify the services/goods being delivered?

**A:** There will be no impact, as we will continue to meet our obligations under relevant EU regulations associated with products which we place on the market e.g. CE marking (see Brexit statement above).

## 6. Supply market

**Q:** Is there a competitive market for the goods/services being provided under this contract and are there substitute products/services that could be procured?

**A:** We do not envisage the need to source alternative suppliers related the EU legislation enacted by HM Government under the EU-UK Trade and Cooperation agreement.

## 7. Public facing

**Q:** Do the general public directly interact with the provider of the goods/services in this contract? (e.g. call centre services)?"

**A:** No

## 8. Volume changes

**Q: Does the new changes significantly increase the demand volume on the services being provided? (e.g. increase in call volumes) ?**

A: Services are UK based – so no increased demand envisaged

## 9. Supply

**Q: Will the company be able to meet its contractual commitments?**

A: Yes, and will apply resources to continue to meet commitments

## 10. Contract changes

**Q: Will you need to make substantial changes or variations to the contract terms or specification as a direct result of the EU-UK Trade and Cooperation Agreement?**

A: Unlikely, however they may affect contractual arrangements over time.

## 11. Economic

**Q: How impacted would the contract be by changes in the value of sterling?**

A: Little impact, with wholly owned European subsidiaries we enjoy a natural hedging over currency fluctuations.

## 12. Finance

**Q: How impacted would the contract be by disruptions to the flow of funding between the UK and EU?**

A: We do not envisage any significant impact.

We will continue to revise this statement as and when necessary.



Alan Palmer Group Conformity Manager

Protec Fire and Security Group Ltd.

**Email:** alan.palmer@protec.co.uk

**Web:** www.protec.co.uk