



EORI (UK) LIMITED

A 3DPAY COMPANY

# Low Value Imports

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# Low Value Imports Surge

Global customs authorities are re-evaluating how low-value e-commerce shipments are treated as the volume of parcels from online marketplaces to consumers has surged. Traditional customs systems were built for bulk freight, and they still struggle to handle the millions of additional fast-moving groupage movements created by Brexit. The addition of billions of small parcels crossing borders each year has further exposed the limitations of existing processes.

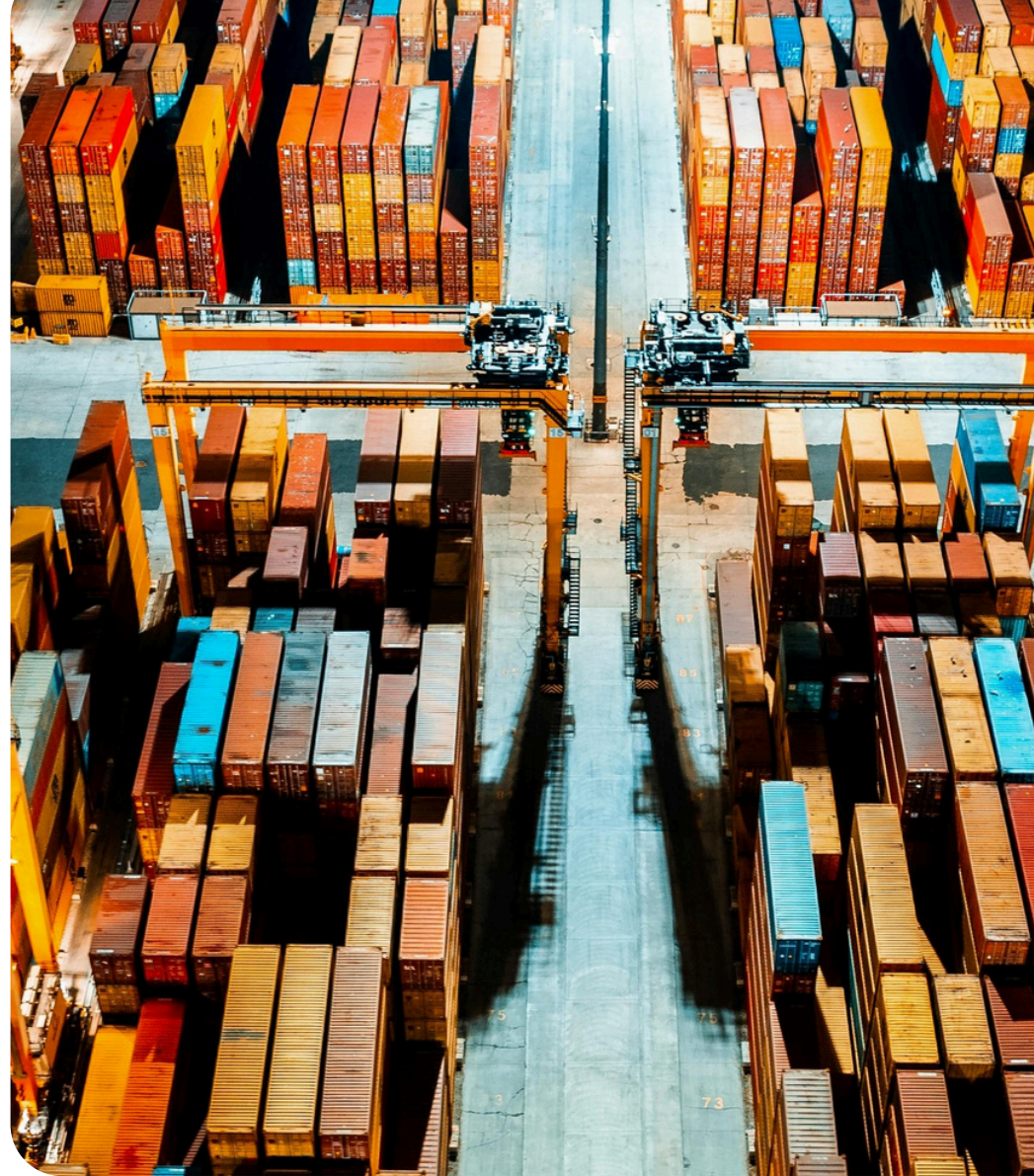
# Why Change Is Needed

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Many of these parcels benefit from de minimis thresholds, which allow duty-free entry and simplified clearance. Governments increasingly view these exemptions as outdated, allowing sellers to bypass duties, standards and undercut domestic retailers. This has raised concerns around lost revenue, product safety, and fair competition in local markets.



# Reforms in Motion



In response, the US, EU, and UK are all pushing forward with significant customs reforms. The EU plans to remove the €150 duty exemption for small parcels and introduce interim handling measures to manage growing shipment volumes and address concerns about lost revenue, product safety, and competition with domestic retailers. Meanwhile, the UK is consulting on similar reforms, including the creation of a standalone Low Value Imports system separate from the Customs Declaration Service (CDS) to handle high volumes of parcel data more efficiently. This would likely see the end of BIRDS (Bulk Import Reduced Data Set), which is currently used for low-value shipments through CDS.

# Rising Fears for SMEs



Recent research shows that

**52%** of UK goods importers say that if their import costs increased by 5-10% on small shipments, they would need to pass this on to consumers.

**60%** of businesses did not know about the planned change to UK de minimis or were unsure if they would be affected.

**24%** of UK goods exporters said an increase in costs of 10-15%, due to the removal of other countries' de minimis, would put more than half of their overseas sales at risk.

Rising import costs are forcing businesses to make tough decisions. Many may raise prices for customers, adjust supply chains, consolidate shipments, or scale back operations, all of which could disrupt trade flows, strain smaller businesses, and reduce overall trade volumes. There is also a huge concern that many businesses are not yet aware of these changes, leaving them unprepared for the financial and operational impact.

# What It Means Going Forward

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These reforms signal a shift towards the end of duty-free exemptions and more data being required for customs systems earlier. Governments are increasingly requiring information such as value, origin, and product details before goods arrive at the border, while marketplaces and sellers may take on greater compliance responsibilities.

For businesses, this could mean:

- New IT integrations
- Higher data requirements
- Possible changes to fulfilment models, including greater use of regional warehousing instead of direct cross-border parcel shipments.





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# How Can We Help?

At EORI, we can help traders find the right solution for any changes to low-value shipments. Whether that's moving to bonded warehousing, changing fulfilment models or integrating directly into the new LVI system. Whatever the approach, we can support with new HMRC systems and ensure compliance, accurate data handling, and efficient customs processes.

