Don’t miss opportunities that are just across the pond.

The United Kingdom is the fifth-largest export market in the world for U.S. goods, and ranks as the largest European consumer of American imports. As a long-time ally, the UK has strong ties both economically and politically with the U.S. These ties continue to grow.

Yet for all of our similarities, doing business in the UK still means doing business in another country. There are rules to adhere to, regulations to follow and customs compliance matters that can be the difference between a successful business venture and a costly mistake. That’s where UPS comes in. We can help minimize the mistakes and maximize your opportunities for success.

As one of the world’s largest customs brokers, we speak the import/export language in more countries than just about anyone. A trusted brand in the UK for almost 30 years, we’re well versed in reducing supply chain costs and increasing your speed to market. And we’re supported by the experience of our people who have made us one of the largest global transportation companies, known for reliable delivery, boosting efficiency, and providing the technology solutions to make it happen.

Let this guide be your playbook for your shipping needs into the United Kingdom. You’ll find the information, resources and compliance expertise you need to take your business across the pond. Best of all, you’ll know that you’re not alone, because when you choose UPS, you get a global logistics partner working by your side every step of the way.

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**Country Facts (4 parts of the United Kingdom)**

- **Capital of England:** London
- **Population of England:** 55,040,000 (2016 est.)
- **Area of England:** 130,281 km² (50,302 mi²)
- **Language of England:** English
- **Capital of N. Ireland:** Belfast
- **Population of N. Ireland:** 1,851,600 (2017 est.)
- **Area of N. Ireland:** 14,153 km² (5,457 mi²)
- **Language of N. Ireland:** English, Irish
- **Capital of Scotland:** Edinburgh
- **Population of Scotland:** 5,422,000 (2016 est.)
- **Area of Scotland:** 77,925 km² (30,087 mi²)
- **Language of Scotland:** English, Scots, Scottish Gaelic
- **Capital of Wales:** Cardiff
- **Population of Wales:** 3,168,000 (2016 est.)
- **Area of Wales:** 20,732 km² (8,005 mi²)
- **Language of Wales:** English, Welsh

**Economy**

- **Currency:** British pounds (GBP) (symbol £)
- **GDP (2016 est.):** Purchasing Power Parity: $2.788 trillion
- **Exports:** $412.1 billion (2016 est.)
- **Major Industries:** Manufactured goods, fuels, chemicals, food, beverages, tobacco
- **Imports:** $581.6 billion (2016 est.)
  - Manufactured goods, machinery, fuels, foodstuffs

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You’ll be gobsmacked by the possibilities we offer.

Since establishing our own UK-based operations, UPS has continued to enhance our capabilities and expand our services to stay out in front of our customers’ needs. From packages to pallets to ocean containers, we have your shipping covered, and the customs brokerage network to keep it all moving seamlessly. Combine that with our value-added options, and you’ve got everything you need to keep calm and carry on.

UPS® Export to the United Kingdom (as of April 2016)

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Note: Time-in-transit is based on a 10 lb., $80 shipment on a Monday in April 2016. Delivery times shown are the earliest available; actual delivery commitments vary by several factors, including destination postal code, shipment value and shipment date. Please check ups.com for specific transit times and service availability.

Customs Brokerage Network

UPS is one of the world’s largest customs brokers. Our expertise with the United Kingdom’s unique documentation and customs requirements helps ensure compliance, while reducing the chance of potential delays and extra fees. We offer 24/7 customs services with commodity and security inspections to facilitate smooth entry into the country and wheels-up clearance procedures that begin before our planes even land.

Learn more about all UPS Customs Brokerage Network options [here](#).

UPS® Export Services to the United Kingdom

- UPS Worldwide Express Plus®
- UPS Worldwide Express®
- UPS Worldwide Express Freight®
- UPS Worldwide Saver®
- UPS Worldwide Expedited®

- Bill shipper
- Bill receiver
- Bill third party
- Split duty and VAT
- UPS Broker of Choice — Onsite
- Dangerous Goods/Dry Ice
- UPS Import Control®
- UPS Paperless® Invoice
- UPS Proactive Response®
- UPS Returns® (all five options)
- UPS Trade Direct®
- World Ease®
- Air Freight: UPS Air Freight Direct®, UPS Air Freight Consolidated®
- Ocean Freight: Full container, Less-Than-Container load (LCL)

UPS Import Services from the United Kingdom

- UPS Worldwide Express Plus®
- UPS Worldwide Express NA1®
- UPS Worldwide Express®
- UPS Worldwide Express Freight®
- UPS Worldwide Saver®
- UPS Worldwide Expedited®

- Bill shipper
- Bill receiver
- Bill third party
- UPS Broker of Choice — Onsite
- Dangerous Goods/Dry Ice
- UPS Import Control®
- UPS Paperless® Invoice
- UPS Proactive Response®
- UPS Returns® (all five options)
- Saturday Delivery
- UPS Trade Direct®
- World Ease®
- Air Freight: UPS Air Freight Direct®, UPS Air Freight Consolidated®
- Ocean Freight: Full container, Less-Than-Container load (LCL), UPS Preferred® LCL

Calculate the times and costs for your shipping needs [here](#).
Though James Bond, King Arthur, football (soccer to the U.S.), whisky and the Titanic may be among the UK’s most famous exports, there’s so much more to the UK and its business than we may realize. From the bustling metropolis of London and its surrounding areas to picture-postcard countryside and more than 19,000 miles (or over 30,000 km) of coastline, each region has its unique qualities and industries. Our nearly 30 years in the country have given us the chance to know what businesses thrive where and the possibilities that these places hold. We’ve also teamed up with the U.S. Commercial Service (part of the International Trade Administration) to provide assistance in matching customers with your business.

1. Scotland
   - Agriculture: Livestock and field crops; malted barley is used in Scotch whisky
   - Forestry: Accounts for 50% of all timber production in the UK
   - Fishing: Two-thirds of British seafood comes through Scotland’s ports
   - High Tech: Midland Valley is home to “Silicon Glen”
   - Electronics
   - Financial services: Edinburgh ranks only behind London for these services in the UK
   - Oil and gas production
   - Distilling: Scotch is a leading export
   - Tourism

2. Northern Ireland
   - Agriculture: Consolidation has resulted in larger but fewer farms
   - Services: Have taken the place of manufacturing as the largest economic driver, especially retail, financial services and real estate
   - Tourism

3. North East
   - Known for its abundance of salt and coal
   - Dunston is home to MetroCentre, Europe’s largest shopping center
   - Pharmaceuticals
   - Commodity and petrochemicals
   - Plastics and polymers: One of the world’s first locations for manufacturing at a large scale
   - Home to a number of emerging electronics companies
   - Coal mining: Done on an industrial scale longer than anywhere in the world
   - Brewing
   - Largest automotive plant in the UK

4. North West
   - Has largest food processing plant in Europe
   - Aerospace and automotive manufacturing: Home to Bentley’s main facility and the primary manufacturer of ice cream trucks worldwide
   - Pharmaceuticals
   - Paper manufacturing
   - West Cumbria known as “Energy Coast” with its power stations, gas terminal and wind farms
   - Development in Liverpool and Manchester is boosting the economy

5. Yorkshire and the Humber
   - Food and beverage processing: Including beer and Coke’s largest bottling/canning facility in the world
   - Financial services
   - Industrial manufacturing: Steel and heavy machinery
   - Richmond area houses largest army base in Europe
   - Coal mining: Region has second largest power station in Europe

6. Wales
   - Agriculture: Livestock
   - Forestry: Government’s Forestry Commission handles large areas for production of timber
   - Energy: Oil refining; region includes some of Europe’s largest wind farms
   - Automotive parts manufacturing
   - Electronics manufacturing
   - Services: Financial, government and hospitality are more than 50% of GDP
   - Tourism

7. West Midlands
   - Industrial manufacturing: Automotive, aircraft and parts
   - Electrical engineering
   - Food processing
   - High tech
   - Brewing: Including largest cider factory in the world
   - Agriculture
   - Synthetic fibers
   - Home to Britain’s biggest coal producer
   - Steel manufacturing

Sources:
- Wikipedia.com
- Britannica.com

Continued on following page.
Prepare to have your idea of UK business shaken, not stirred. (cont.)

8. East Midlands
- Industrial manufacturing: Including automotive, aerospace, motorcycles and trains
- Lead mining
- Construction and building materials
- Textiles and clothing
- Food processing
- Healthcare: Including largest UK hospital and largest teaching hospital in Europe
- High Tech
- Finance
- Home to Peak District, the second most popular national park in the world

9. East of England
- Industrial manufacturing: Power equipment, tools, engines
- Food processing
- High Tech
- Printing
- Healthcare and pharmaceuticals
- Automotive manufacturing
- Aerospace
- Film: Location of Elstree Studios, home of the original Star Wars trilogy

10. South West
- Region with the largest area
- Aerospace
- Agriculture
- Tourism
- Food processing: Famous for producing Cheddar cheese
- Brewing
- Industrial machinery

11. South East
- Largest population of all regions and the second-largest regional economy in the UK
- High Tech
- Healthcare and pharmaceuticals
- Automotive and parts manufacturing
- Industrial machinery
- Oil refining
- Film: Location of Pinewood Studios, home to James Bond and Harry Potter

12. London
- Economic and cultural center of the country
- Financial services: Primary location for Europe’s large-scale securities trading; world center for aviation and marine reinsurance
- Media: Home of the BBC
- Tourism: Most visited city in the world by international tourists; tourists spend 100 million nights annually in London
- Clothing
- Manufacturing: Concentrated around products that travel on the river/sea, including petrochemicals, timber, grains and sugar
- Food processing
Is everything tickety-boo?

Brexit

What’s next for exports to the UK?

With the formal two-year process to leave the European Union to be complete by the end of March 2019, economic changes for the UK are coming, but with details still to be worked out, those changes are unclear. UK retailers and consumers are aware of the growing likelihood of rising costs that will affect them due to import tariffs. And a stronger dollar compared to the British pound could even reduce exports to the UK. Importers also may be looking at new licensing requirements, duties and customs documentation. In addition, the UK may enter into bilateral agreements with the EU and possibly join the European Economic Area (EEA) and/or the European Free Trade Association (EFTA). There’s much left to decide. Stay tuned.

Sources:
https://www.theguardian.com/politics/2017/mar/20/theresa-may-to-trigger-article-50-on-29-march;
https://www.transporteca.com/importing-after-brexit/, January 2017

Online shopping

A proven audience eager for e-commerce.

The UK ranks first among countries with the most online shoppers. As a percentage of its population, 77% of the UK are online shoppers, followed by Germany (74%), South Korea (72%) and the U.S. (66%). It’s estimated that online shoppers in the UK accounted for one third of all European online sales in 2015. And for 2016, UK shoppers are estimated to have spent £133 billion online, or £164.57 billion, which is an increase of nearly 16% over the previous year. By 2018, 18% of the UK’s total retail sales will be online, leading the world in this category as it has since 2015.

Sources:
https://www.emergogroup.com/resources/market-united-kingdom, January 2017;

Machinery manufacturing

Domestic supply can't meet demand.

Production of machinery in the UK is falling behind local demand, especially as the British government is investing heavily in infrastructure projects and property values rise, spurring construction. Due to the low number of machinery manufacturers in the UK, the manufacturing productivity level for machinery is currently 20 percent higher in the U.S. than the UK, producing better quality for a lower price. Add to this a much more cost-effective machinery import tariff than emerging markets such as Brazil and India, and the opportunities for machinery exports to the UK get better and better.

The state of Texas is taking full advantage of this growing market. It ranks first in machinery exports to the UK among all 50 states, and makes up 16 percent of the entire U.S.-UK manufacturing trade.

Healthcare

An aging population drives imports and innovation.

With approximately 17.8 percent of its population 65 and over and 2.3 percent 85 and over, the UK is looking to invest in innovative healthcare technology to improve care and reduce costs. Already the sixth-largest market in the world for medical equipment, the UK expects to see continued growth, with the UK National Health Service continuing to be the primary purchaser. As the population ages, products and equipment related to home healthcare, assistive technologies and preventive care are in especially high demand. And despite Brexit, the approval process for medical devices in the UK should change very little, if at all, since the UK is a member of the European Committee for Standardisation (CEN), and may also join the European Economic Area (EEA) and/or the European Free Trade Association (EFTA).

Sources:

The Olympic Games

The Official Logistics & Express Delivery Supporter of the 2012 London Olympic and Paralympic Games

Three years before the opening ceremonies for the 2012 London Olympic Games, UPS was on board to make sure the logistics supply chain would be in top form for the endurance test to come. A team of more than 1,300 helped to ensure that everything from setup to the Games themselves to departure operated at maximum efficiency. From the 32 million inventory items moved to the 120,497 athletes’ bags shipped to the more than 4,300 medals delivered, we cleared every hurdle to make sure we provided gold-medal service on a scale unlike any other. If we can handle the worldwide logistics for the Olympic Games, imagine what we can do for you.
Driving on the left side of the road is right, right?

You wouldn’t hit the street in the UK without knowing a few rules of the road first, would you? The same goes for shipping. Before you accelerate into trade traffic, there’s some basic information you should know to make sure it’s done right and the journey is as fast and easy as possible. Trust us to be your shipping instructor, providing the answers you need as we guide you through paperwork and customs information. We’re right there with you, preparing your business for the road ahead.

## Special Clearance Requirements

In addition to the commodities that UPS prohibits or has placed stipulations (restrictions) to all countries served [listed here](#), the following commodities to the United Kingdom are prohibited or restricted:

- Alcoholic Beverages
- Beef Jerky
- Electronic Cigarettes
- Furs
- Hazardous Materials
- Knives
- Plants
- Plastic Kitchenware
- Samurai Swords
- Seeds
- Vegetable Matter

For details, search [Special Clearance Requirement here](#).

## Essential Paperwork

Select the links below to access the forms you need.

**U.S. Export Forms: from the U.S. to the UK**

- **Commercial Invoice** — Non-document shipments must include one original and two copies. Shipments of documents do not require an invoice.
- **UPS Paperless® Invoice** is accepted by Customs for small package exports to the United Kingdom.
- **U.S. Certificate of Origin** — A certificate of origin is not required for the import clearance of textiles. The need of a certificate of origin for the import clearance was reversed on October 24, 2011.
  - **Textiles:** The country of origin must be stated on the invoice for each invoice line. If the customs authorities doubt the correctness of the declared country of origin they may request an additional proof which might be a certificate of origin.
  - **Electronic Export Information**

**U.S. Import Forms: from the UK to the U.S.**

- **Commercial Invoice** — Non-document shipments must include one original and two copies. Shipments of documents do not require an invoice.
- **UPS Paperless® Invoice** is accepted by Customs for small package imports into the United Kingdom.

To learn more about how to complete these forms, download this detailed reference guide here.

Find and search all international forms here.

## Imports from Outside the EU

Goods that are imported from outside the European Union (EU) require:

- Correct commodity code
- Payment of duty and VAT, in some cases, and a VAT return if you have filed a VAT registration (Additional duties may apply, such as anti-dumping duties.)
- Registration with the Customs Handling of Import and Export Freight (CHIEF) system
- Declaration to HM Revenue & Customs (HMRC) via the CHIEF system
- Single Administrative Document (SAD), also known as a form C88, can be filed manually or electronically
- **Import license** for certain goods, such as firearms

For details, search United Kingdom imports here and banned imports here.

## UPS Paperless® Invoice

UPS Paperless® Invoice simplifies your paperwork by eliminating the need for paper commercial invoices. It allows you to integrate order and shipment processing electronically, and it reduces customs holds by streamlining the customs clearance process through transmitting information digitally.

Learn more about UPS Paperless® Invoice here.

## Prepayment of Duties and Taxes Online

A new service for consignees of cross-border shipments to prepay duties and taxes online prior to delivery for any package that is cleared by UPS brokerage. This service is available from the U.S., or any export country, to the UK and 15 other destination countries when UPS is the broker.

## Unique Customs Info

Use the following information to help ensure that your shipments are compliant with the United Kingdom’s customs requirements for exporting and importing.

**Import Value Limits to the UK:**

- **Duty:** In most cases, when the value of the shipment is equal to or less than the de minimis value (private and commercial shipments – £135.00 GBP) the shipment may enter the country duty free but tax is raised.
- **VAT:** Shipments valued up to £15.00 GBP will not be charged VAT. Shipments valued above £15.00 GBP require customs clearance as a formal entry.

This regulation does not apply to alcoholic beverages, tobacco and perfume.

Find more information unique to the United Kingdom here.
British playwright George Bernard Shaw is famously said to have quipped that the United States and Great Britain are “two countries separated by a common language.” But when it comes to doing business in the UK, you have to know more than changes in spelling (‘ou’ instead of ‘o’; ‘s’ in place of ‘z’) or that “lorry” is the word for truck. That’s why we have the information to guide you through what you need to know about shipping, so everything can be spot on (exactly right).
Congratulations on all your ventures in the British market. Use the following step-by-step checklist to prepare your shipments for delivery across the pond. Taking the time to cover all the steps now will help to ensure that your items arrive promptly and safely.

1. Select an International Service
   Now that you've familiarized yourself with the regulations in the United Kingdom, choose the UPS international shipping services that best fit your import and export needs, from guaranteed delivery times to destinations and more.
   
   Choose an international service here.

2. Choose an International Billing Option
   Different businesses have different billing needs. UPS international billing offers a variety of options to best fit the requirements of your specific business model.
   
   Choose a billing option here.

3. Prepare Your Shipping Label
   You are now ready to prepare your shipping label and fill out any final international forms required for your shipments.
   
   Fill out necessary forms and labels here.

4. Create Required Documentation
   Now that you've selected your shipping and billing options, let UPS guide you through the process of filling out each of the required export or import forms you'll need to get your shipment to its final destination.

5. Entrust It to Your Worldwide Delivery Partner
   It’s time to let UPS handle it from here. You can either drop off your shipment to one of thousands of UPS locations, including at The UPS Store® locations and drop boxes, or you can schedule a pickup using UPS On-Call Pickup® service. We’ll gladly pick up all of your ground, air and international shipments for a single fee, regardless of how many packages you have.
   
   Find a drop-off location here.
   Schedule a pickup here.

6. Check Your Shipment Status
   Your shipment may have left your hands, but it hasn’t left your sight. Use your UPS tracking number to access information about your shipment at any point in the delivery process. You can receive information online at ups.com, by email or through Quantum View™ alerts.
   
   Track your shipment here.
   Learn about more ways to track here.

That’s all there is to it. And it will get easier every time you do it. Keep this guide as a reference, and thank you once again for choosing UPS as your global delivery and logistics partner.

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United Kingdom Guide: Shipping Checklist

Cheers!!

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UPS Capital® Services

UPS Capital services offers a full range of financing and insurance options to help you operate with greater productivity and minimize risk when shipping from the U.S. to the UK. These options include:

- **Flexible Parcel Insurance**
  Protect your goods against loss, damage or delay, including time- and temperature-sensitive items. Select coverage at the time of shipping, with no upfront costs or deposits. If there’s a loss, you’re covered up to the full invoice value of the goods.

- **Cargo Insurance**
  This option insures your goods in transit anywhere in the United Kingdom or the world, no matter how they move or where they are in your supply chain.

- **Trade Credit Protection Services**
  Offered in partnership with Euler Hermes®, this option enables you to grow your business in the United Kingdom safely while protecting you against customer insolvency, bankruptcy and political risk.

- **Global Asset-Based Lending**
  For customers with goods warehoused off shore, or in transit from faraway places, that's working capital that's not really working for you. With this option, you can borrow against offshore-warehoused or in-transit goods, as well as domestic inventory and receivables. This provides a secure revolving line of credit that can improve your company's liquidity and financial flexibility.

Learn more about all UPS Capital® services options here.