

Additional strategies for managing logistics difficulties in a Brexit context

As a result of potential delays associated with Brexit on cross-border routes, you will have to seek alternative logistics arrangements in order to reach EU markets. There are a number of logistics options you can plan for and implement:

- You should engage closely with hauliers, customs brokers and customers and suppliers that are particularly vulnerable to delays at cross-border routes. Mapping out your supply chain will be an important complement to this activity.
- You could seek out new distribution routes. However, you should be aware that new distribution lines will often only be available where there is significant demand.
- You should also consider holding inventory closer to your target customer markets. For example, these could include warehousing operations in or near the target markets, or at strategic ports in the UK or the EU. Whilst warehousing may be appropriate for longer shelf-life products, firms in perishable food supply chains should also consider refrigerated warehousing for some short-shelf life product ranges that can be frozen.
- If you are involved in perishable products supply chains you could also consider air freight to selected markets, where it is cost effective. For some high value, short shelf-life products being marketed to more distant European markets, the option of using air freight should be considered. However, the cost of air freight is considerably higher than by road but in some circumstances it may be the only option.