

Mapping your supply chain

1. Start with a large sheet of paper (either in hard copy or electronically) or post it on a whiteboard (as below).

Begin by listing your key suppliers (tier 1) and key customers within your chain as far as you can.

Start with a key product - try to show the inter-linkages between the supply chain stages from supply, manufacturing and distribution.

Supply chains can be complex - attempt to note the location of each supplier; the product/service that they deliver, and **even the percentage risk on your business (this can be an educated guess)**. If you can also gauge a percentage on how much this component makes up of your business product, this can be very useful in understanding where key risks exist.

Then begin to compile a supply chain map that shows the tiers of supply working back from your organisation to the point of origin or at least until the risk is minimal. See Figure 1 for a sample supply chain map.



Figure 1: Sample supply chain map

Where risks exist, highlight these as red items needing urgent attention.

Get Supply Chain ready for Brexit



2. Create a supply chain database of this information

A Supplier Database Excel file is included in the **Do More** resources to help you with this activity.

3. Find out missing information

Where you have missing information, such as contact details of a key supplier or invisibility of tier 2 suppliers, contact your suppliers to find out the missing information. A sample supplier information letter is included in the **Do More** resources to help you with this activity.

Your supplier database should by this stage have a list of suppliers from within each of your products supply chain, with the level of risk identified and mitigation strategies to resolve risks. Once you have completed your mapping exercise, you need to develop contingencies in the event of the various Brexit scenarios; considering each of your issues or pressure points. Access the other topics to get more detailed insights and information on how you might mitigate these potential Brexit risks. For example, once you identify weaknesses in your supply chain, your contingency plans may include alternative sourcing arrangements, supplier audits to assist in risk mitigation, reviewing of contracts with current UK based or outside UK based suppliers (depending on your home country).