

VAT & Customs Services

So much more than just a
Customs Agency

Dains' VAT & Customs Services for International Traders

The Dains VAT and Customs practice comprises experienced specialists who provide pragmatic, bespoke solutions for businesses trading internationally.

Our services include:

- VAT & Customs advice
- Customs agency services
- Commodity code, origin and procedure code reviews and claims
- Customs warehousing
- Processing
- VAT Registrations in the EU
- Efficient overseas structures



VAT & Customs

Many businesses trading internationally, particularly with European customers and suppliers, have experienced difficult trading conditions during 2021. The Trade Agreement (“TCA”) has introduced many complexities, some of which (such as increased administration) were expected, others, (such as the origin rules), were not. Many businesses have suffered unexpected costs and reductions in margins because of the UK leaving the EU.

The net effect of this could make UK businesses less competitive than their European counterparts. This is where we can help by levelling the playing field and protecting margins.

Customs Agency


We can complete all customs documentation for goods leaving and entering the UK including:

- Imports
- Exports
- Transit
- Carnets
- Warehouse entries
- Processing Documentation
- Entries into Northern Ireland
- Imports and exports into certain EU member States

We cover most UK ports, and we are already using HMRC's CDS system which will replace CHIEF in 2022.

We are confident we can meet your needs.





Commodity code, origin & procedure code reviews & claims

In our experience many businesses use the commodity code provided by the supplier when importing goods and do not undertake their own review of the code. This can lead to incorrect duty payments. Our Customs team is experienced in reviewing commodity codes to ensure that the correct and optimal code is used. This can result in claims for overpaid duty which can go back three years.

In addition, we will review the origin rules which apply to the commodity code to confirm whether duty is payable and/or whether a warehousing or processing solution would be beneficial.

Customs Warehousing

Contrary to popular belief, the TCA agreement is not a free trade agreement. Duty can still be paid on non-UK origin goods going into Europe (and vice versa) and, unless a customs simplification such as warehousing is used, duty can be paid twice.

A customs warehouse can be invaluable for businesses that import goods into the UK as they can generate both cash flow savings and absolute savings. Some of the many benefits of using a Customs warehouse are that businesses can:

- Defer the payment of VAT and duty on goods which remain in stock in the UK for long periods of time.
- Suspend the payment of VAT and duty on goods imported into the UK for re-export.
- Retain preferential duty status for goods coming into the UK for re-export e.g. Pakistan and India.
- Allow goods to be moved between customs warehouses without the payment of VAT or duty.
- Provide flexibility when goods are intended to be processed.

Processing

If goods are brought into the UK for processing or repair, authorisation from HMRC allows for VAT and duty to be suspended until the process has been completed.

Additional benefits can be achieved if processed goods are stored within a customs warehouse.



VAT registrations in the EU

Businesses which hold stock in Europe, or which buy and sell goods in the EU may be required to register for VAT in a European Member State. We can arrange for VAT registrations and VAT compliance. We are also able to appoint an indirect representative for Customs purposes in select member States. This can be of particular importance for the One Stop Shop (“OSS”) and Import One Stop Shop (“IOSS”)





Efficient overseas structures

For businesses that are seeking to review or improve their strategy for dealing with the EU we can create bespoke solutions. Our network of strong international advisors can also advise and support on issues in other territories.

Next Steps...

We appreciate that this is a very complex area. We also understand the complexities of VAT and how Customs Duties both increase the cost and complexity; but also, how VAT and duty can be inextricably linked. The simple solution is to call us to discuss your requirements.

Please call Terri Bruce or Mike Overington to set up an initial free of charge strategy meeting.

VAT & Customs Helpline



We also offer a VAT and Customs helpline, to provide advice from specialist consultants for a low fixed fee.

Terri Bruce

VAT & Customs Director

t: 0121 272 1370 / 07929 186 391

e: tbruce@dains.com

Mike Overington

VAT & Customs Manager

t: 01332 821144

e: moverington@dains.com



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