



British Forces Cyprus/ SBAA

Brexit Update

October, 2019

Foreword

Welcome to your updated guide to BREXIT within British Forces Cyprus (BFC) and the Sovereign Base Areas (SBAs) which follows initial advice published in March of this year.

I know that ongoing uncertainty around BREXIT may be continuing to cause you worry and frustration. This document is designed to provide you with assistance, advice and clarity that will help you and your families here in Cyprus understand some of the key issues that may affect you and therefore be of most concern.

It covers a variety of areas that could be affected by a no-deal BREXIT, including travel, online shopping, customs and post. While most of our rights and privileges stem from the 1960 Treaty of Establishment (ToE) between the UK and Republic of Cyprus, some changes to how we live and work in Cyprus may be needed as a result of the UK leaving the EU.

This advice is directed at military and civilian personnel and their dependants based here in Cyprus. The UK Government's general advice for expatriates and tourists can be found through the [gov.uk website](https://www.gov.uk). I urge you all to read this guidance carefully, to think about what it means for you, your families and visitors, and to ask us for further information if you are unsure of any aspect. I can assure you that we will continue to update you on the latest information as we receive it.

Commander British Forces Cyprus/ Sovereign Bases Administrator Major General Rob Thomson.

Travel

Travelling to Cyprus.

Personnel and their dependants posted/detached to Cyprus will still be able to enter and leave the Republic of Cyprus without a visa in both a deal and no deal scenario. This doesn't apply to people just visiting recreationally. All military personnel will be issued with an F/IDENT/173 document to demonstrate that they have been posted/detached to Cyprus. Civilians will be able to demonstrate this with their status certificates which they were issued with when they were originally posted/detached to Cyprus.

If you were issued with a status certificate you will need to check that it has not expired and that the passport number on it is the same as your current passport. If the status certificate is now invalid or you have lost it please contact the Fiscal Office by emailing: SBAA-FiscalGpMailbox@mod.gov.uk

All military personnel should also check that they have an up-to-date F/IDENT/173.

RAF Akrotiri Customs and Immigration Checks.

In a no-deal situation, there will be some changes to the immigration process on entering Cyprus through RAF Akrotiri. Immigration staff will check all passports and status certificates and carry out more robust customs checks on baggage, as certain items (such as meat and dairy products) will no longer be allowed.

If passengers bring in personal goods with a combined value of more than €430 per person, they will need to declare those goods and may be required to pay tax or duties. (Please check with the Fiscal Office by emailing: SBAA-FiscalGpMailbox@mod.gov.uk)



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Republic of Cyprus Customs and Immigration Checks

In a no-deal situation, there will be some changes to the immigration process on entering Cyprus through Paphos and Larnaca airports, and other ports of entry. All personnel, including military, should carry a status certificate or F/IDENT/173 (in the case of military) and passport with at least six months until it expires. Both should be presented to the immigration officer.

You will also be subject to greater customs controls than at present. Further information on the potential changes can be found [here](#) or through the following website address:

<https://www.mof.gov.cy/mof/customs/customs.nsf/All/D8E0334067181B47C22572BF002DF37C?OpenDocument>

General advice on traveling to the EU after BREXIT can be found [here](#) or through the following website address:

<https://www.gov.uk/visit-europe-brexit>

Travel to the north of Cyprus.

It will still be possible to travel to the north of Cyprus on personal visits using your UK passport with a status stamp. Please seek advice from the FCO website for travel advice for your visitors from the UK.

Pets

Pet travel to Cyprus.

If there is a no-deal BREXIT, pet passports issued in the UK will not be valid for travel to Cyprus and the rest of the EU. To make sure your pet is able to travel from the UK to Cyprus after October 31, 2019, in any scenario, you should contact your vet at least 4 months before travelling to get the latest advice, and make sure you have a valid EU pet passport for the duration of your tour.

Pet travel to the UK

There will be no change to the current requirements for pets entering the UK from the EU after October 31, 2019 in both a deal and no deal scenario.

Your pet must have one of the following documents when returning to the UK:

- An existing EU pet passport (both for UK and EU citizens)
- The EU health certificate issued in the UK used to travel to the EU (issued by an official vet)
- A UK pet health certificate (issued outside the UK for travel into the UK only)

For further details, advice and guidance can be found [here](#) or through the following website address:

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/pet-travel-to-europe-after-brexit>



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Driving & Insurance

The Republic of Cyprus will continue to recognise the UK driving licences of serving personnel and their dependants on the island in both a deal and no deal scenario. This will not apply to personnel visiting Cyprus for work reasons. If there is no deal, you will need to apply for an International Driving Permit to drive in other EU & EEA Countries. You can apply for an International Driving Permit which costs £5.50 at your local British Forces Post Office. Visiting families and friends will need an International Driving Permit to ensure they are covered to drive vehicles in Cyprus.

Further details, advice and guidance can be found [here](#) or through the following website address:
<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/driving-in-the-eu-after-brexit>

Healthcare

Arrangements for accessing medical care for all Cyprus-based personnel and their dependants will remain the same in both a deal and no deal scenario, although the EHIC card scheme will no longer be valid for visiting members of your family and friends.

Further details, advice and guidance can be found [here](#) or through the following website address:
<https://www.gov.uk/visit-europe-brexit>

Postal Service/Shopping Online

In the event of a no-deal, post-BREXIT, goods imported to the island from the UK by post may be subject to import duty and VAT on arrival in Cyprus. You are advised to check with your supplier before placing your order to ensure you are not charged UK VAT, otherwise you may need to reclaim UK VAT after receipt of your goods. Consignments with a total value less than €17.09 will be free of Republic of Cyprus tax and duties.

You should check the British Forces Post Office (BFPO) website at www.gov.uk/bfpo for the latest guidance on sending and receiving of mail and parcels through BFPO, including:

- How to ensure your mail is correctly addressed.
- The customs declarations you will need to complete.

For further details, advice and guidance please contact the Fiscal Office by emailing: SBAA-FiscalGpMailbox@mod.gov.uk

Look up information on Import Duty rates at: <https://www.gov.uk/trade-tariff>

Look up information on Prohibited and Restricted goods at:
https://www.mof.gov.cy/mof/customs/customs.nsf/ced03_en/ced03_en?OpenDocument



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VAT

VAT Free shopping in Forces Stores

Generally, Forces Stores will continue to sell their goods to entitled personnel free of tax and duties in both a deal and no-deal scenario. In addition, the rationed goods scheme for tobacco products and spirits will remain unchanged. Some food items may be subject to import duty and as such the prices of these products may rise.

VAT Free shopping in the RoC and SBA's

The entitlement for UK military, UKBCs and their dependants to purchase certain items VAT-free from VAT registered traders in the Republic of Cyprus and the SBA, with a value not less than €100 will continue after BREXIT. This is the same in a deal and a no-deal scenario.

Messes

Catering and bar sales will continue to be provided tax and duty-free in both a deal or no-deal scenario.

For further details, advice and guidance please contact the Fiscal Office by emailing: SBAA-FiscalGpMailbox@mod.gov.uk

Look up Import Duty rates at: <https://www.gov.uk/trade-tariff>

Prohibited and Restricted goods:

https://www.mof.gov.cy/mof/customs/customs.nsf/ced03_en/ced03_en?OpenDocument

Vehicles and Personal Belongings

Vehicles

It will still be possible for an entitled person (military personnel, UKBCs and their dependants) to import a vehicle free of tax and duties for their personal use. This entitlement shall continue in both a deal or no-deal scenario.

Currently, and during the implementation period if there is a deal, a vehicle can be returned to the UK at the end of the vehicle owner's tour VAT free. The conditions are that the vehicle must have been registered for use in Cyprus with the Republic of Cyprus Road Tax Department (for a minimum 28 days). Ownership should continue for another 6 months after arrival in the UK.

Vehicles returning to the UK in a no-deal scenario may be subject to import duty and VAT in the UK unless the vehicle qualifies for either Transfer of Residence Relief or Returned Goods Relief. To apply for Transfer of Residence relief, the vehicle must be registered and used in Cyprus for a minimum 6 months and owned in the UK for a further 12 months. For Returned Goods Relief the exporter must have originally imported the vehicle from the UK and paid VAT on it in the UK. If you meet the criteria you may be granted Transfer of Residence or Returned Goods Relief.

For more information

More information about BREXIT for UK nationals in the EU is available in the British High Commission's Living in Cyprus Guide and at the following website: www.gov.uk/EUExit.

Please email any questions you may have about BREXIT to

BFC-HQ-YHGpMailbox@mod.gov.uk