



Book your ticket for Brexit – it's a must!

By Kevin Richardson, Chief Executive, The Chartered Institute of Logistics and Transport

Has your organisation booked its ticket for Brexit?

For most of The Chartered Institute of Logistics and Transport's corporate and individual members, I passionately believe that positive and immediate action is required if we are to successfully negotiate Brexit.

Whether you voted for Brexit or not, it really doesn't matter; it is here now, it is happening and we must work together to ensure the future success of our profession, so that we can continue to propel national economic growth.

If there is one clarion call which I consistently recommend to Government, it is the imperative importance of **frictionless borders**. It is vital that we achieve this to get British products and services efficiently to market, both within Europe and further afield. However, our Government cannot do this alone – we all have our parts to play.

Following the vote for Brexit last summer, our profession has been in a period of continued uncertainty, but we must all be aware of the many opportunities that can arise from Brexit and be ready and able to seize them and add value.

The Institute is championing **Authorised Economic Operator (AEO)** certification to aid members to gain a competitive advantage, recognition for professional competence and



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trouble free border crossings. AEO status is an internationally recognised quality mark and is open to any company directly or indirectly involved in the international supply chain, however large or small.

This crucial ticket to negotiating Brexit indicates that your role in the international supply chain is secure, and that your customs controls and procedures are efficient and compliant.

Post-Brexit, an army of AEO accredited operators will be crucial to achieving the smooth transition of borders to our markets. Created after 9/11, authorised economic operators improve customs and security and ensure a delay free passage thereof.

This is a complex, formal accreditation to achieve with a very low pass rate so far. Very few UK companies have it; very many will need it, and CILT is encouraging all organisations to get on with it now.

AEO certifies that a company meets the

necessary standards in compliance, security and safety in the international supply chain – this will truly be the club to be in to guarantee success through Brexit and beyond.

CILT is encouraging that companies press forward and attain AEO status before Brexit, so that they can take advantage of the benefits available now and also be best placed to gain benefits post-Brexit. Holding this status is going key to experiencing the frictionless border or green channel that industry wants and needs, in whatever shape that is available post-Brexit.

So, to ensure that your Institute is helping members to the best of our ability we are laying on specialist courses in partnership with renowned experts - Morley Consulting - to provide crucial insights and information to guide you through the process to booking your 'Brexit ticket'.

The application process takes months not weeks and companies do need to prepare prior to submitting their applications. Now really is the time to get started. Those that have not yet chosen to be certified should be giving it serious consideration.

To book your ticket for Brexit and beyond, contact CILT's Professional Development Team. 01536 740166. pd@ciltuk.org.uk