

! Brexit Statement: For imports into the UK

As you are probably aware, the UK formally left the European Union earlier this year; entering a temporary nine-month 'transition period' to help businesses plan and prepare for the UK's official departure from the EU's Customs Union.

This transition period is due to end soon, meaning that as of the 1st of January 2021, the UK will be seen as a 'Third Country' by the EU and its' member countries. This change of EU membership means that new rules and regulation are being put into place by both the UK and the EU to minimise the impact on trade.

We anticipate that these new regulations will have a minor short-term impact, but we would like to reassure customers that we're confident that their level of service will not change. We have briefed all of our staff on these new measures; made internal changes to ensure that we can get products into the UK as smoothly as possible; and have recruited a full-time Shipping & Stock Controller to assist us in understanding the continually changing regulations.

We are also working closely with our sister company to share resources and stock; ensuring that we have enough products available to meet customer demand.

Whether you purchase items 'ex-stock' from our warehouses; or purchase stock on 'Forward Order' direct from our suppliers, we would like to update you on the immediate changes you'd expect to see come January 2021:

>> For items usually available 'ex-stock':

We are confident that we will still be able to continue stocking all of our European-based collections from January 2021 onwards. There are no plans to reduce stock availability in any capacity, and all current sizes/thicknesses currently available 'ex-stock' will continue to be available.

The cost of these items, however, may increase to factor in the additional cost of bringing these products into the UK from the European Union (i.e. the reintroduction of import taxes, excises and tariffs as the UK becomes recognised as a 'Third Country' by the EU). Your usual Sales Representative will inform you of any planned price increases as and when you place an order.

Non-EU collections, such as Canadian Douglas Fir, may also experience price increases – but this will be largely dependent on what trade deals are agreed between the UK and a products' respective country of origin. We will provide regular updates as official news of trade deals are announced; and inform you of what this means in relation to products originating from that country.

>> For items available on 'Forward Order':

We are again confident that we will still be able to process forward orders with suppliers within the EU; albeit at a slightly increased price to factor in the additional cost of bringing these products into the UK from the European Union. We will, again, advise you on any expected price increase when you place an order.

Forward Orders may also take slightly longer to arrive whilst the UK gets used to its new border system. Please allow an additional 5-7 days on advertised lead times to anticipate potential backlogs at the UK border. We will contact you if we encounter any issues and expect an item on Forward Order to take longer than usual.

Non-EU products on Forward Order may again be subject to the above – but this will again be dependent on what trade deals are agreed between the UK and said products' respective country of origin.

We will continue to keep you updated should any of the above statement change. Our team are working around the clock to ensure that we are working with the most up-to-date information provided by both the UK government and our nominated shipping/logistics providers.

If you have any questions – or require further reassurance regarding specific product lines – please do not hesitate to contact your usual sales representative for information. You can also contact us directly by phone on **01708 866177**; by email on sales@decor-melamine.co.uk; or via social media.

Thank you for your continued custom – we look forward to working with you in 2021 and beyond.

