

# Q&A Ask the experts

Need advice? Put your problems to our panel

## ARE REMOVALS HARDER POST-BREXIT?

I am moving to France this year. Is the removals process very different after Brexit?

**Jean Sullivan**

**GARY BURKE**  
of **Burke Bros** responds  
([burkebros.co.uk](http://burkebros.co.uk)):

Removals to the Continent are still entirely possible but the process has become much more rigorous and time-consuming. Using an experienced and reputable removal company is more important than ever.

There are lots of additional documents and restrictions. This will increase transit times, costs and paperwork that a removal company will need customers to complete. So, you need to make contact with your carefully chosen removal company with as much notice as possible and maintain a dialogue with them.

Essentially, the additional regulations affect three areas: **Removal staff:** Moves to France presently require permits or



Gary Burke

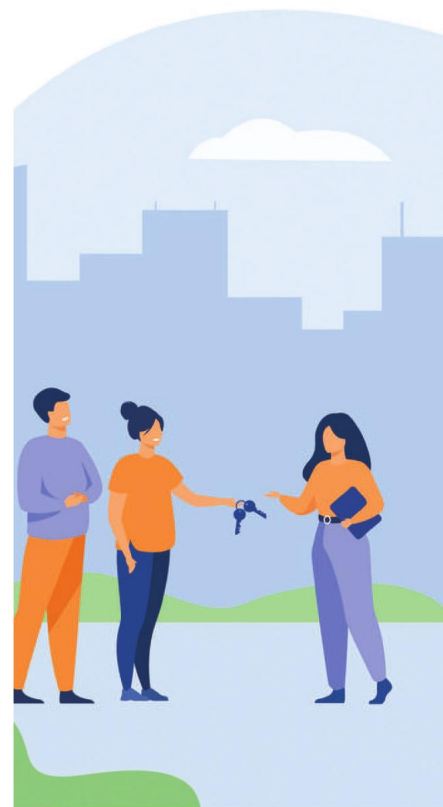
licences, as well as documents and requirements that the driver must deal with. These include their own proof of identity, licences, customs declarations, a packing list, along with compliance with Covid-19 protocol.

**Trucks:** Several documents are required including vehicle V5 registration plates and paperwork, certificate of conformity, current MOT, certificate of roadworthiness, insurance certificates and green card and tachographs.

**Customs and household goods:** Export and import

documents are required to enable household goods to be customs cleared. Customers essentially need to provide proof of who they are and proof of their property purchase or rental agreement etc to prove where they are going to. You now have customs fees added in order for the remover to clear customs, that weren't applicable whilst in the EU. When it comes to duty and tax, used household goods are not subject to duty and tax but any brand new goods are likely to be liable for customs duty. If you want to take a vehicle with you over to France, cars over six months old won't be subject to duty and tax, but those less than six months old will be. Garden plants are no longer freely admitted. Plants either from gardens or purchased from garden centres now require a phytosanitary certificate to be arranged before they can be taken to France.

The main advice to take from all of this is that it's vital to select the right remover.



## WE BOTH HAVE CHILDREN FROM PREVIOUS MARRIAGES

My partner and I recently got married and are looking to buy a holiday home in France.



Matthew Cameron

We both have adult children from previous marriages. Is there anything we need to be especially aware of when buying? I'm thinking particularly about inheritance issues.

**Malcolm Walker**

**MATTHEW CAMERON**  
of **Ashtons Legal** responds  
([ashtonslegal.co.uk](http://ashtonslegal.co.uk)):

You are quite right to be cautious about inheritance issues. Many people are aware

that in accordance with the terms of the EU Succession Regulation it is possible to apply the inheritance law rules of one's nationality to the assets they own in another jurisdiction, so in this case a British national could apply the relevant British or Irish rules to their house in France. However, consideration must also be given to local tax rules.

In this instance, there is a risk of a substantial inheritance tax charge. This is because French

inheritance tax is paid by the particular beneficiary, and the rates of tax (as well as the size of the personal allowance) vary depending on the proximity between the deceased and the beneficiary. A surviving spouse will enjoy the exemption to inheritance tax on French assets, as they would when inheriting assets in a UK estate. However, a difference is made between children and stepchildren. The tax applied