

Food and Drink

Key Facts

1

Food and drink trade with the EU will be subject to new rules from next year

2

Future access to the UK and EU markets and checks on food products, is being negotiated

Examples include: Supermarkets, convenience stores, restaurants, market traders, hotels, wholesalers, canteens

How we buy and sell products from and to the EU will be different from next year. Hiring people from EU countries will also change. Businesses are advised to consider their route to market and look at what trading as a business from a country outside the EU would mean for their margins.

People

- EU nationals currently in the UK can apply for (pre-)settled status under the Settlement Scheme
- From 2021, future EU staff will need to apply under a points-based immigration system if they want to work here

Trade

- Import and export of goods will be subject to customs controls and may attract tariffs
- Rules around importing and exporting food products will be different

Regulation

- Export of live animals, fresh or processed animal products such as honey, gelatine, lard, blood, meat, poultry, fish, crustaceans and dairy will require an Export Health Certificate (EHC) and will need to pass through checks at dedicated Border Inspection Posts (BIPs). However, this is not the case for small consignments sent by post to individual consumers
- Import and export of fresh or processed non-animal products such as fruit, vegetables, and plants used as food may also experience additional legislation and sometimes checks
- Organic food and drink products will not be able to enter the EU without a recognition of UK certificates

To do

People

- Support and encourage current EU staff to apply for (pre-)settled status. Check out the [Settlement Scheme Employer Toolkit](#)
- Follow the development of a new points-based immigration policy

Trade

- Read the [general guidance for the food and drink sector](#)
- Find out what [selling goods to EU countries](#) will mean
- Find out what [buying goods from EU countries](#) will mean
- Call the UK Export/Import helpline for support: 0300 3301 331

Regulation

- Try to understand changes to your [VAT obligations](#) and what it means to [trade as a business from a non-EU country with regard to VAT](#)
- You may also want to read the EU preparedness notice on EU [food law](#)

Go to the [Government's checker tool](#) and the [EU Notices](#) for all other questions on EU exit and your sector.

What's next

Trade under EU rules will continue as normal until December 2020 during a “transition” period. A new trade agreement will lay down the final conditions for UK-EU trade in food and drink from 2021, possibly including EU recognition of UK certificates.

For more information on the changes next year:

Visit [London Growth Hub](#) or [sign up](#) for free business resilience training

London Growth Hub

growthhub@london.gov.uk