

Food and Drink

Key facts

- 1 Food and drink trade with the EU will be subject to new rules after the transition period ends
- 2 The new terms of access to the UK and EU markets, including checks on food products are being negotiated
- 3 UK certificates may not be valid automatically in the EU

Examples include:

Supermarkets, convenience stores, restaurants, market traders, hotels, wholesalers, canteens

How we buy and sell products, and hire staff from the EU, will change after the transition period ends. Businesses are advised to consider their route to market and look at what it means for their margins when they export and import to and from European countries on different terms, and when costs of recruitment will rise.

People

- EU nationals currently in the UK can apply for (pre-)settled status under the Settlement Scheme
- After the transition period ends, EU staff that come to the UK to work, will need to apply under the points-based immigration system, and businesses have to sponsor applicants they want to recruit

Trade

- Import and export of food products will be subject to customs controls and may attract tariffs
- Importers and exporters have to demonstrate compliance with food safety rules at the border

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). These products 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 as long as UK certificates are not valid in the EU

To do

People

- Support and encourage current EU staff to apply for (pre-)settled status. Check out the [Settlement Scheme Employer Toolkit](#)
- Read about the [details of the new points-based immigration system](#)

Trade

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

Regulation

- Understand changes to your [VAT obligations](#) and read specific guidance on [VAT on goods](#)
- You may also want to read the Readiness Notices on [EU food law](#), [organic food](#), [mineral waters](#), [GMOs](#), [animal feed](#) and [plant products](#)
- Check the [ICO website on complying with GDPR](#)

Go to the [Government's checker tool](#) and the [EU Readiness Notices](#) for more information on EU exit and the food and drink sector.

What's next?

Trade under EU rules will continue as normal until the transition period ends. A new trade agreement will lay down the final conditions for UK-EU trade in food and drink. This may include the validity of UK certificates.

For more information visit [London Growth Hub](#), [check out other fact sheets](#) or email growthhub@london.gov.uk

Disclaimer

At the time of writing, the transition period ends on 31 December 2020, and the changes outlined in this fact sheet will occur from 1 January 2021. If that date slips, the changes will still happen, but at a later date. For latest updates go to www.gov.uk/transition

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