



USDA Foreign Agricultural Service

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United Kingdom

Food and Agricultural Import Regulations and Standards

Certification Guide

2005

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Report Highlights:

This report supplements the EU Certification Guide (E35010) produced by the U.S. Mission to the EU in Brussels by providing UK contact information for ascertaining the certification requirements for non-harmonized food and agricultural products exported directly to the United Kingdom.

Includes PSD Changes: No
Includes Trade Matrix: No
Annual Report
London [UK1]
[UK]

Disclaimer: This report has been prepared by Foreign Agricultural Service (FAS) London, United Kingdom for U.S. exporters of domestic food and agricultural products to the United Kingdom. While every possible care was taken in the preparation of this report, the information provided may not be completely accurate either because policies have changed since its preparation, or because clear and consistent information about these policies was not available. It is highly recommended that U.S. exporters verify the full set of import requirements with their UK customer (importer), who is normally best equipped to research such matters with local authorities, before any goods are shipped. Final import approval of any product is subject to the importing country's rules and regulations as interpreted by border officials at the time of product entry.

Notes for using the Guide

The United Kingdom, as a member of the EU, conforms to all EU regulations and directives. We therefore recommend that this report be read in conjunction with the EU Certification Guide produced by the U.S. Mission to the EU in Brussels, Belgium: GAIN Report E35010 <http://www.fas.usda.gov/scripts/attacherep/default.asp>

Unfortunately for U.S. exporters, the EU's rules on certification for imports are complicated. Where the rules are harmonized, full details are available in E35010. However, where they are non-harmonized, the United Kingdom generally formulates specific import certificate requirements on an as-needed basis. Therefore, for food and agricultural products not covered by E35010, or if in doubt, it is strongly recommended that contact be made with the pertinent UK competent authority as listed below and then the corresponding U.S. competent authority as listed in E35010. Additional guidance is available from FAS London:

Foreign Agricultural Service - United States Department of Agriculture (USDA)
Embassy of the United States of America
24 Grosvenor Square
London W1A 1AE
Tel: +44 (0)20 7894 0464
Fax: +44 (0)20 7894 0031
E-mail: aglondon@usda.gov

United Kingdom Competent Authorities

Several agencies are involved in the control of imports to the UK of food and agricultural products from non-EU countries. All maintain excellent and detailed webpages for exporters to the UK in addition to being contactable by phone, fax or e-mail.

USDA's UK counterpart, the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra) is responsible for import certification relating to imports of animals, products of animal origin, plants and plant products. For animals and products of animal origin contact:

Imports Policy Branch
Defra
Area 406, 1A Page Street,
London SW1P 4PQ
Tel: +44 (0)20 7904 6000
Fax: +44 (0)20 7904 6508
E-mail: iah-imports@defra.gsi.gov.uk
Web: <http://www.defra.gov.uk/animalh/int-trde/default.htm>

For plants and plant products contact:

Plant Health Division
Defra
Foss House
King's Pool
1-2 Peasholme Green
York YO1 7PX
Tel: +44 (0) 19 0445 5174
Fax: +44 (0) 19 0445 5199
E-mail: planthealth.info@defra.gsi.gov.uk
Web: <http://www.defra.gov.uk/planth/ph.htm>

In addition, Defra's Global Wildlife Division is responsible for ensuring that imports of animals & plants listed under the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora, more commonly known as CITES, is properly implemented in the UK:

Global Wildlife Division
Defra
1/17 Temple Quay House
2 The Square
Temple Quay
Bristol
BS1 6EB
United Kingdom
Tel: +44 (0)117 372 8749
Fax: +44 (0)117 372 8206
E-Mail: wildlife.licensing@defra.gsi.gov.uk
Web: <http://www.defra.gov.uk/wildlife-countryside/gwd/cites/>

The Food Standards Agency (FSA) is responsible for public health aspects of food imported into the UK. The Agency has particular responsibility for policy issues for imports of fishery products, shellfish, and food which is not of animal origin:

Imported Food Division
FSA
Aviation House
125 Kingsway
London WC2B 6NH
Tel: +44 (0)20 7276 8018
Email: imported.food@foodstandards.gsi.gov.uk
Web: <http://www.food.gov.uk/enforcement/imports/>

Other reports:

Report Number	Title	Date Released
UK5015	Food and Agricultural Import Regulations and Standards, Country Report – United Kingdom	07/29/2005
E35162	Food and Agricultural Import Regulations and Standards – European Union Report	08/18/2005
E35010	EU Certification Guide - Update	01/20/2005
These reports can be accessed through the FAS website: http://www.fas.usda.gov/scriptsw/attacherep/default.asp		