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Report Highlights:

This report is intended to supplement the European Food & Agricultural Import Regulations (FAIRS) Report with UK-specific information. The UK FAIRS provides contact information for the competent authorities that are responsible for the import of animal products, plant products, forestry products, fishery products and general food products into the United Kingdom. In addition, this report has handy links to guidance on health certificates, licenses, import duty, food labeling, additives and packaging. All sections of this report were updated.

DISCLAIMER: This report was prepared by the Office of Agricultural Affairs of the USDA/Foreign Agricultural Service in London, United Kingdom for U.S. exporters of domestic food and agricultural products. While every possible care was taken in the preparation of this report, 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 foreign customers, who are 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.

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The UK is arguably the largest market for U.S. consumer-oriented food and beverage exports within Europe at around \$1 billion per year. The Netherlands is a hub destination within Europe (averaging \$1.2 billion per year of U.S. exports). However, the majority of U.S. product arriving into Rotterdam port is distributed throughout mainland Europe. While U.S. fresh produce, dried fruit, nuts, and other lightly processed foods may be sold loose or incorporated as ingredients in the UK's significant food manufacturing sector - wine, craft beer, and the full array of grocery products are sold as finished packaged goods. Packaging stickers or label conversions are necessary to comply with local labeling law.

The UK's decision to leave the European Union caused British Pound Sterling (BPS) to fall sharply. Importers accustomed to sourcing U.S. products at a conversion factor of BPS 1:USD 1.5-1.7 have had to adjust to BPS 1:USD 1.2-1.3. This has increased the cost of U.S. product and January-to-October 2019 figures show U.S. consumer-oriented exports have decreased by seven percent compared to the same timeframe in the year before. However, with more clarity and certainty about the UK's departure from the European Union (EU) the pound has rallied slightly and the trading outlook for 2020 is more positive.

At the time of writing, and with the re-election of Prime Minister Boris Johnson's Conservative Party on December 13, 2019, the UK is expected to leave the EU by January 31, 2020. In this scenario, the UK will enter a transition period through until at least December 31, 2020. During this period, all existing trade and other arrangements under the UK's membership of the EU will continue unchanged. The UK and EU will use this transition period to negotiate their future trading relationship. If a UK/EU Free Trade Agreement (FTA) is not agreed by the end of 2020, and there is no extension made to the negotiating period, then on January 1, 2021 the UK will start to trade with the EU on WTO terms. During this transition period, the UK is free to negotiate FTAs with any third countries (external to the EU) but implementation can only occur at the end of the transition period. It is expected that U.S./UK negotiations could commence as soon as February 2020.

SECTION I. FOOD LAWS

This report is designed to be read in conjunction with the Food and Agricultural Import Regulations and Standards (FAIRS) report produced by the U.S. Mission to the EU in Brussels, Belgium. This is available at: [FAS GAIN Report Database](#)

The [European Union \(Withdrawal\) Act 2018](#) was enacted to provide legal and business continuity when the UK leaves the European Union, the Withdrawal Act 2018 enables the transposition of directly-applicable, pre-existing EU law into UK law. Around 800 statutory instruments are in the process of being laid down in British law in connection with EU withdrawal. This body of law will be referred to as “retained EU law”, and it will come into effect on “exit day” – currently set as January 31, 2020. All legislation in the area of imported food and agricultural products is encompassed in retained EU law and will therefore remain the same following exit day. The degree to which the UK may deviate from mirroring EU law in the future will depend on the terms of the trade agreement reached with the EU.

UK authorities enforce food regulations in a fair and consistent manner. Following several high-profile food 'scares' in the last three decades, the UK has a sophisticated and highly scrutinized food market. An ability to meet private standards, above those required by local food law, is a pre-requisite to supplying major food companies and retailers for many product sectors.

Port health officials are generally helpful in response to importer queries made in advance of shipping product, to ensure that all import conditions will be met. The onus is on the UK importer make sure that the product can legally be imported, and that the correct paperwork is organized to accompany the shipment. U.S. companies should endeavor to be flexible in responding to UK importer questions about ingredient origin and composition, and also be prepared to invest financially and with personnel resources to comply with the necessary steps for EU certification processes (red meat, dairy, poultry, honey, etc.).

UK Competent Authorities

1. Department for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs (Defra)
Seacole Building
2 Marsham Street
London SW1P 4DF
Tel: 011 44 20 7270 3000
Contact emails for all sections: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/contact-defra>
Web: [Defra](#)

The UK's Department for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs (Defra) has overall responsibility for international trade policy, including agricultural biotechnology (commercial planting) and organic standards.

When it comes to importing animal or plant (horticultural) products, an executive agency (under Defra's oversight) known as the Animal and Plant Health Agency provides the service and the detailed information:

Animal product import regulations including: eggs, dairy, red meat, poultry, gelatin, honey and pet food. See: [Trade in animals and animal products](#)

Horticultural product import regulations including: plants, cut flowers, planting seeds, fruit and vegetables. See: [Plant health controls on imports](#)

2. Food Standards Agency (FSA)
Floors 6 and 7, Clive House
70 Petty France
London SW1H 9EX
Telephone: 011 44 20 7276 8000
Email: helpline@food.gov.uk
Web: www.food.gov.uk

The Food Standards Agency (FSA) has responsibility for all aspects of food safety and standards on all packaged and loose food products sold direct to the consumer, including wine. It also takes the UK policy lead on the assessment of agricultural biotechnology products for human food and animal feed through its Novel Food/Genetic Modification policy team.

Food that is intended for human consumption must meet the general food safety requirements of retained European Union (EU) law.

UK food law is documented as "Statutory Instruments" and these can be found at:
[UK Legislation Archives](#)

A comprehensive guide to UK food law is available here:
[Food Standards Agency Food and Feed Law Guide](#)

Guides for importing bakery products, cereal and cereal products, confectionery, cooking oils, drinks, food or dietary supplements and health foods, fruits and vegetables, herbs and spices, nut, plant products and vegetarian products, salt or low sodium salt alternatives, sauces containing products of animal origin, sugar and sweeteners, table sauces, preserves, pickles and chutney: [Import information sheets](#)

Enforcement of UK Regulations

The UK enforcement system is based on the "Home Authority Principle". Every UK business (including importers) can call on their local Trading Standards office for advice, guidance and information on consumer protection, trading standards, food safety and composition and regulatory best practice. There are over 70 such regional Trading Standards offices located throughout the UK. Further information can be found at www.gov.uk/find-local-trading-standards-office

U.S. exporters are advised to encourage their UK importer to liaise with their local Trading Standards office when introducing U.S. products to the market. The "Home Authority Principle" aims to provide advice and support to UK businesses to "get it right first time". This local government provision is particularly useful in seeking to resolve composition and labeling issues on U.S. food products.

Under the EU Food Information Regulation for Consumers local UK authorities and port health authorities have powers to take action to ensure that food business operators (importers, retailers, foodservice, etc.) comply with the labeling and information provision law. Enforcement may be through written warnings, improvement notices, or more formal legal action depending on the nature and the public health implications of non-compliance.

Under the UK's Food Safety Act 1990, and The Food Safety and Hygiene Regulations 2013, if a UK importer is threatened with legal action because a U.S. product contravenes the requirements they must show that they took "all reasonable precautions" and exercised all "due diligence" to avoid committing an offence. As a result, UK buyers may ask U.S. suppliers for detailed information on the sources of individual ingredients that comprise the food product that they have made. This is a normal procedure to ensure product "traceability" and is helpful to identify ingredients that may be undesirable or illegal in the UK/EU.

SECTION II. LABELING REQUIREMENTS

The standard U.S. label does not comply with EU labeling requirements. The use of stick-on labels (that have the mandatory information and cannot easily be removed) may be permitted by some UK Trading Standards Departments, but label modification for the UK market is expected by major customers. Labels can be applied by the UK importer before the product is placed on the market.

In order to understand label conversion from U.S. to compliance with EU retained law, it is essential to read the labeling requirements detailed in the Food and Agricultural Import Regulations and Standards (FAIRS) report produced by the U.S. Mission to the EU, available at: [FAS GAIN Report Database](#)

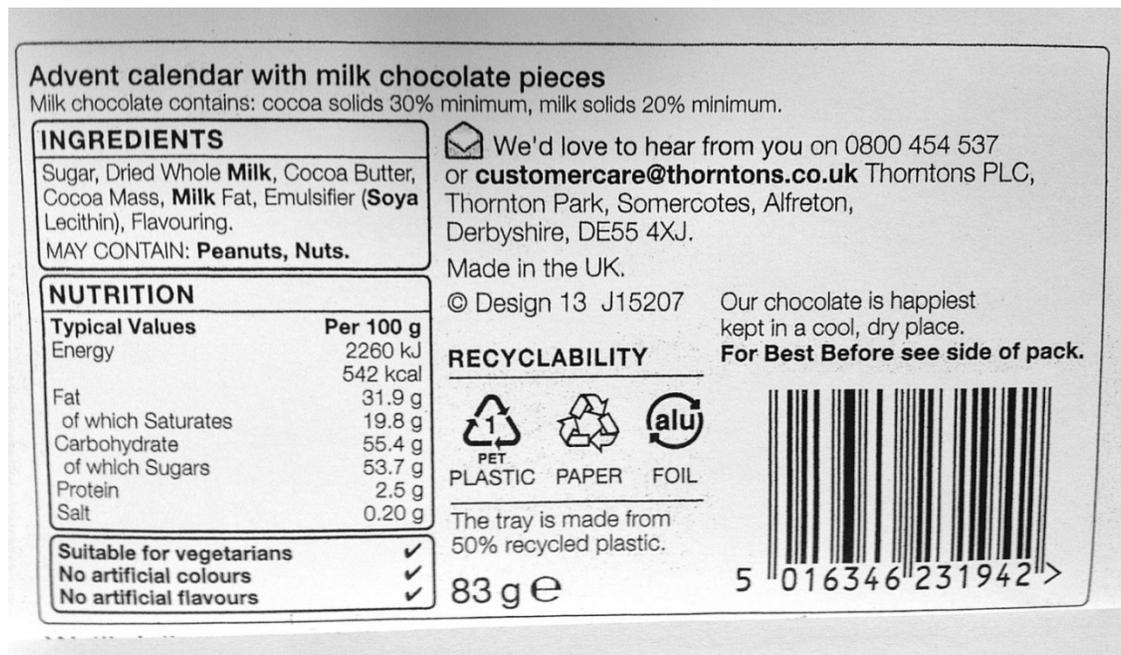
Depending on the product, label conversion can be complex. Your importer may be able to assist you, or it may be advantageous to hire a food law and labeling expert. A list of food law and labeling consultants in the UK is provided in Appendix II to this report.

The below links provide information on how to comply with the EU Food Information to Consumer Regulation (1169/2011) that came into force fully in December 2016:

In England, responsibility for food labeling legislation and policy is split across the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra), the Food Standards Agency (FSA) and Department of Health see: [Food Labelling and Packaging](#); [Labelling Durability and Composition](#); [FSA Packaging and Labeling](#); Scotland, Wales, and Northern Ireland follow the same labeling rules but there are local bodies overseeing various elements. The [Food Standards Agency Food and Feed Law Guide](#) details where devolved nations of the United Kingdom have legal jurisdiction.

For food labeling queries, please contact Defra helpline on: +44 20 7238 6951 or email the relevant department using: [Defra Contact Page](#)

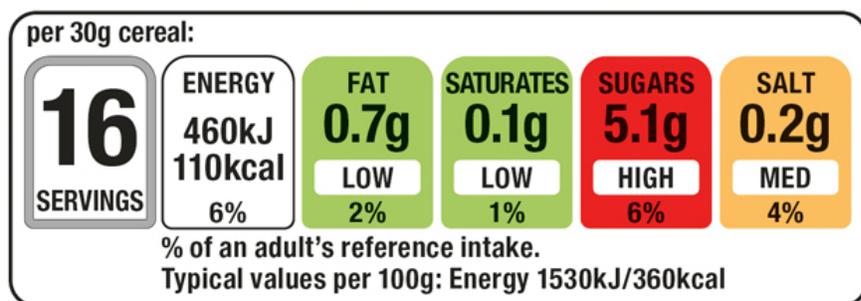
Example of UK food label – chocolate advent calendar



In the above label note that allergenic ingredients are indicated in **bold** in the ingredients list. Also note the format of the nutritional panel. This is the basic nutritional information panel for compliance with EU regulations. As explained in the EU FAIRS Report this can be added to with vitamins and minerals, and the panel can also show nutrients per serving in addition to per 100 grams or per 100 milliliters.

Color codes: Although they are not a legal requirement, many UK manufacturers and retailer private label products are displaying front-of-pack color-coded nutritional information using a voluntary “Traffic light labeling” system. Guidance on how to create front-of-pack nutritional information for pre-packed products sold through retail outlets is available here: [Front of Pack Nutritional Labeling Guidance Notes](#)

Example front-of-pack labeling for a breakfast cereal



Environmental messaging

The UK government and supply chain is focused on reducing greenhouse gases associated with food production. The British Standards Institute (BSI) has a range of guidance on international and British standards for Biodiversity (PAS 2010); Carbon Footprint Verification (ISO 14064-1); Carbon Neutrality (PAS 2060) and Water Footprint Management (ISO 14046). See: [British Standards Institute](#)

The recyclability of packaging is currently a hot topic, particularly for plastic. Note the format and prominence of recycling information in the chocolate advent calendar label example given above.

Given the significant difference in labeling law in the UK/EU, it may be helpful to pay to have your label modified by a specialist food labeling consultant. Please see Appendix II for contact details of several organizations known to USDA London (this list is provided for information only, and its provision does not constitute endorsement).

Other Specific Labeling Requirements

There are restrictions on making nutrition or health claims and claims on special use foods such as “gluten free”. There are additional labeling requirements for products derived from biotechnology (GMO), products to be marketed as organic, alcoholic drinks, meat and meat products, and frozen foods. Please see the EU FAIRS Report for detailed information: [FAS GAIN Report Database](#)

Genetically Modified Foods (GMOs)

UK competent authority (finished food products and animal feed): Food Standards Agency
<https://www.food.gov.uk/safety-hygiene/genetically-modified-foods>

Wine, Beer and Other Alcoholic Beverages

UK competent authority for wine and beer: Food Standards Agency
See the following for general wine law and a link to wine labeling: [Wine Law](#)

There are no specific regulations covering beer. However, all alcoholic beverages must comply with allergen labeling requirements e.g. declare sulphites if alcohol by volume is more than 1.2 percent.

UK competent authority for spirits: Department for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs (Defra)
The Spirit Drinks Regulations: <http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukxi/2008/3206/schedules/made>

Organic Foods

UK competent authority: Department for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs (Defra)
<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/organic-products-import-them-into-the-uk>

U.S. competent authority: Agricultural Marketing Service/USDA <https://www.ams.usda.gov/services/organic-certification/international-trade/european-union>

Frozen Foodstuffs

UK competent authority: Food Standards Agency
The Quick-frozen Foodstuffs (England) Regulations 2007 prohibit the placing on the market of a quick-frozen foodstuff unless certain conditions are satisfied. See: [Quick Frozen Regulations](#)

Vertical Legislation on Specific Products

UK competent authority: Department for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs (Defra)
Covering the manufacture and marketing of sugars, cocoa and chocolate products, honey, fruit juices and similar products, preserved milk, coffee extracts and chicory extracts, fruit jams and similar products:
<https://www.gov.uk/food-standards-labelling-durability-and-composition>

SECTION III. PACKAGING AND CONTAINER REGULATIONS

EU packaging requirements are detailed in the Food and Agricultural Import Regulations and Standards (FAIRS) report produced by the U.S. Mission to the EU in Brussels, Belgium. Available at [FAS GAIN Report Database](#)

Weights and measures

Legislation governing weights and measures comes under the jurisdiction of the UK's Department for Business, Innovation and Skills (BIS) and is administered by the National Measurement Office. At a local level, enforcement is through Trading Standards Departments of local councils. Further information is available at: [Packaged goods weights and measures](#)

Packaging Waste

The UK has implemented the European Directive on Packaging and Packaging Waste (94/62/EC) through two sets of regulations. Responsibility for these is split between the Department for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs (Defra) and the Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (BEIS).

BEIS leads on EU single market aspects of the EC Packaging and Packaging Waste Directive, EU negotiations, and has responsibility over the UK's domestic Packaging (Essential Requirements) Regulations 2003, as amended. At a local level, enforcement is through Trading Standards Departments of local councils.

Defra leads on UK waste policy and all other aspects of domestic implementation of the Packaging Directive- including the setting of recycling and recovery targets – through the Producer Responsibility Obligation (Packaging Waste) Regulations 2005.

Materials in Contact with Food

Please see the Food and Agricultural Import Regulations and Standards (FAIRS) report produced by the U.S. Mission to the EU in Brussels, Belgium for details of the EU legislation. Available at [FAS GAIN Report Database](#)

The UK's national approach is governed through the Food Standards Agency and The Materials and Articles in Contact with Food Regulations 2012. This consolidates relevant EU regulations and directives, and consolidates previous national legislation. It includes plastics, ceramics and epoxy derivatives. Further information is available at: [Food Contact Material Information](#)

SECTION IV. FOOD ADDITIVE REGULATIONS

The UK will continue to follow the EU positive list system with maximum amounts laid down for approved additives such as colors, sweeteners, emulsifiers, preservatives, etc. EU food additive regulations are detailed in the Food and Agricultural Import Regulations and Standards (FAIRS) report produced by the U.S. Mission to the EU in Brussels, Belgium - available at [FAS GAIN Report Database](#). Please see the EU FAIRS Report for more detailed information on additives (including colors and sweeteners), flavorings and enzymes. A rule aimed at reducing the presence of acrylamide in food was adopted in November 2017, see: [Regulation 2017/2158](#)

In the UK, food additives fall under the jurisdiction of the Food Standards Agency.

UK guidance notes on food additive regulations are available at: [Food Additives Guidance Notes](#)

One of the most notable food additive law differences between the U.S. and the EU is that foods containing any of the six food colors listed in the table below have to be labeled with the phrase, ‘may have an adverse effect on activity and attention in children’ (Annex V to EU Regulation 1333/200). This has had a notable effect on the UK market. Manufacturers have reformulated to avoid using these colors, and are using more natural colors such as beetroot. Food color Red 2G (E128) was removed from the EU’s positive list.

EU name/number	Other names
Quinoline Yellow (E104)	Food Yellow 13, FD&C Yellow No. 10, Acid yellow 3
Sunset Yellow (E110)	Orange Yellow S, FD&C Yellow 6
Ponceau 4R (E124)	Cochineal Red A, C.I. Acid Red 18, Brilliant Scarlet 3R, Brilliant Scarlet 4R,
Tartrazine (E102)	FD&C Yellow 5, Acid Yellow 23, Food Yellow 4
Azorubine/Carmoisine (E122)	Food Red 3, Azorubin S, Brilliantcarmoisin O, Acid Red 14
Allura Red AC (E129)	Food Red 17, FD&C Red 40

SECTION V. PESTICIDES AND OTHER CONTAMINANTS

EU pesticide legislation is detailed in the Food and Agricultural Import Regulations and Standards (FAIRS) report produced by the U.S. Mission to the EU in Brussels, Belgium. Available at [FAS GAIN Report Database](#)

The competent authority in the UK for pesticides is the Chemicals Regulation Directorate of the Health and Safety Executive:

Chemicals Regulation Directorate (CRD)
Mallard House, 3 Peasholme Green
York, YO1 7PX
Tel: 011 44 1904 640500
Email: CRD.Information.Management@hse.gov.uk
Web: <http://www.hse.gov.uk/pesticides/>

Information on maximum residue limits (MRLs) for permitted pesticides can be found at: [UK Pesticides Register Database](#)

Pesticide residues in food and drink in the UK are monitored through an official surveillance program conducted by the Chemicals Regulation Directorate (CRD) and overseen by the Defra Expert Committee on Pesticide Residues in Food (PRiF). The results of the surveillance are published quarterly and annually by PRiF. If the surveillance indicates a potential concern about intakes of pesticides by consumers, a risk assessment is carried out by CRD experts and any necessary follow-up action taken by CRD, overseen by PRiF.

Other contaminants

The Contaminants in Food (England) Regulations 2013 revoke The Contaminants in Food (England) Regulations 2010 and remake them with necessary amendments to provide for the enforcement of EU Commission Regulations 650/2012 and 1258/2011 as well as relevant parts of 1881/2006. Contaminants covered include: nitrates, mycotoxins, dioxins, heavy metals and tin. Food Standards Agency help and guidance: [Chemical contaminants](#)

SECTION VI. OTHER REQUIREMENTS, REGULATIONS, AND REGISTRATION MEASURES

This section provides links to UK information and is designed to complement the corresponding section of the Food and Agricultural Import Regulations and Standards (FAIRS) report produced by the U.S. Mission to the EU in Brussels, Belgium. Available at [FAS GAIN Report Database](#)

Guidance for British companies new to importing food, and useful background for U.S. exporters can be found here: [Food Standards Importing Advice](#)

A. Certification

An overview of legally required certificates in the EU and references to the U.S. authority issuing these certificates is available on the U.S. Mission to the EU website at <http://www.usda-eu.org/trade-with-the-eu/eu-import-rules/certification/>.

For Animal Products, (including red meat, poultry, dairy, honey and products containing these as ingredients, as well as hay and straw), the UK competent authority is the Department for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs (Defra), please see: [Animal and Plant Health Agency \(APHA\) of Defra](#) and [APHA Centre for International Trade: Carlisle](#)

U.S. competent authority for meat & meat products: USDA's Food Safety & Inspection Service (FSIS) [FSIS EU Export Requirements](#)

U.S. competent authority for dairy, dairy products, eggs, and honey: USDA's Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS) [AMS Export Certification](#)

U.S. competent authority for "Other Animal Products", including live animals, semen, embryos, hatching eggs, pet food, pig bristles, animal casings, apiculture products, dried bones & products, raw materials for pharmaceuticals, serum, dog chews:

USDA's Animal & Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS)
<http://www.aphis.usda.gov/wps/portal/aphis/ourfocus/importexport>

B. Inspections

Some products can only come into the European Union, including the UK, through specific ports. For example, animal products (such as meat, dairy foods and fish) can only enter through a port or airport that is a Designated Point of Entry (DPE). Some other foods that are not of animal origin have similar rules, see: [High risk food inspections and entry procedures](#) . Further information on UK border

inspection posts can be found at: [Point of Entry Information](#) and at: [Monitoring of Food Imports](#)

Explanation of recently introduced terminology such as Designated Point of Entry (DPE), Designated Point of Import (DPI) and First Point of Introduction (FPI), together with a list of UK entry points can be found here: <https://www.food.gov.uk/business-guidance/port-designations>

Upon entry, there are three levels of consignment check carried out - documentary, identity and physical.

In the documentary check, the health certificates and any accompanying laboratory test results are checked for authenticity and cross-matched with the details of the commercial documents to ensure that they relate to the consignment.

The identity check involves the inspection of the consignment, checking the container seals and often the packaging of the goods to ensure that the goods match the information on the certification. Labelling and health marking will also be checked.

The physical inspection of the goods involves the inspection of the product. The packaging will be opened and the product examined to ensure that it is safe to eat and that it is the same product as certified. Where appropriate, the inspector will make an organoleptic (sight, smell, taste) assessment of the product. Samples may also be taken for laboratory assessment.

All consignments of controlled goods are subject to at least a documentary check. Other inspections will be applied randomly in accordance with the inspection quotas set out in EU legislation.

[Commission Decision 94/360/EC](#) prescribes the level of physical checks for certain animal origin products. In general, the minimum number of consignments to be subjected to a physical check are 20 percent for red meat and meat products and fish, 50 percent for poultry meat, honey, dairy products and shellfish, and at between one percent and ten percent for most products of animal origin that are not intended for human consumption.

The frequency of identity and physical checks on certain other high-risk feed and food of non-animal origin under Regulation (EC) 669/2009 can be found in Annex I of [Regulation 669/2009](#). From time to time, mainly on food safety grounds, additional import conditions will be imposed on particular items. This may mean that Port Health Officers must undertake additional checks and sampling of specific products from a particular country.

From August 2019, [\(EU\) 2019/1249](#) came into force affecting U.S. peanuts in-shell, shelled, and processed peanut products, such as peanut butter. The measure increases the port health physical inspection level to ten percent of shipments.

Further information about current procedures regarding Port Health inspections can be found here: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/port-health-authorities-monitoring-of-food-imports>

C. Facility Registration

Please see: <http://www.usda-eu.org/trade-with-the-eu/eu-import-rules/certification/approved-u-s-establishments/>

The EU (and after the Brexit transition period, the UK - Defra) will approve establishments to ship products of animal origin based on submissions from U.S. government agencies. Only products processed in approved establishments may enter the EU. Detailed information on approved U.S. establishments is available on the US Mission to the EU website at <http://www.usda-eu.org/trade-with-the-eu/eu-import-rules/certification/>.

Third country lists per sector and per country are published on the European Commission's website https://webgate.ec.europa.eu/sanco/traces/output/non_eu_listsPerCountry_en.htm

D. Product Registration

After Brexit, certain regulated food and feed products will require authorization before they can be sold in the UK. This [authorization](#) will be required for the following regulated product types:

- extraction solvents
- feed additives
- feed for particular nutritional uses (PARNUTS)
- feed (detoxification processes)
- flavorings
- food contact materials (active/intelligent materials)
- food contact materials (plastic additives)
- food contact materials (recycled processes)
- food additives
- food enzymes
- genetically modified organisms as food and feed
- irradiated food
- novel foods (full application)
- novel foods (traditional food notification)
- smoke flavorings

Novel foods are deemed to be foods that have not been widely consumed by people in the EU before May 1997. The process for application and approval is outlined here: <https://www.food.gov.uk/business-guidance/novel-foods>

Exporters of vitamin-enriched foods or nutritional supplements are advised to check if their product is deemed to be a medicinal product that needs a license. The Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (MHRA) makes decisions on what is a medicine. MHRA has a 'borderline products' review team, see: <https://www.gov.uk/decide-if-your-product-is-a-medicine-or-a-medical-device>

SECTION VII. OTHER SPECIFIC STANDARDS

A. Novel Foods

UK competent authority: Food Standards Agency
<https://www.food.gov.uk/business-guidance/novel-foods>

B. Food from Animal Clones

UK competent authority: Food Standards Agency
<https://www.food.gov.uk/business-guidance/novel-foods>

C. Nanotechnology

UK competent authority: Food Standards Agency
<http://www.food.gov.uk>

D. Fortified Foods

UK competent authority: Department of Health (England), Welsh Assembly (Wales), Food Standards Agency (Scotland and Northern Ireland)
[Guidance on fortified foods](#)

E. Dietetic or Special Use Foods

Notification for new products is required.
UK competent authority: Department of Health (England), Welsh Assembly (Wales), Food Standards Agency (Scotland and Northern Ireland)
[Infant Formula and Foods for Particular Nutritional Uses](#)

F. Food Supplements

UK competent authority: Food Standards Agency and/or Medicines and Healthcare Regulatory Agency
<https://www.food.gov.uk/business-guidance/food-supplements>
<https://www.gov.uk/decide-if-your-product-is-a-medicine-or-a-medical-device>

G. Irradiated Foodstuffs

UK competent authority: Food Standards Agency
<https://www.food.gov.uk/safety-hygiene/irradiated-food>

H. Seafood

UK competent authority: Food Standards Agency

<http://www.food.gov.uk/business-industry/fish-shellfish/>

U.S. competent authority: National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA)

[NOAA Export Certification to the European Union](#)

I. Pet Food

UK competent authority: Food Standards Agency

[Pet Food Information](#)

J. Vegetarian and Vegan Foods

In July 2017, the European Court of Justice (ECJ) ruled that plant-based products cannot be labeled with dairy names such as “cheese,” “butter” or “milk”. The ECJ based [its ruling](#) on [Regulation 1308/2013](#) setting out definitions and designations that may only be used for the marketing of dairy products. A list of exceptions for non-dairy products that may be labeled with reserved dairy names was established by [Commission Decision 2010/791](#). For more information see [GAIN report E17046](#) on the ECJ ruling.

An amendment ([Amd 165](#)) to European Regulation (EU) 1169/2011 is currently going through the EU legislative process. A final decision is expected late 2020 or beginning of 2021. The amendment reserves names that have been historically used for meat products and meat preparations exclusively for products containing meat. These designations include: steak, sausage, escalope, burger, and hamburger.

SECTION VIII. COPYRIGHT/TRADE MARK LAWS

The UK’s Intellectual Property Office (IPO) is the official government body responsible for granting patents, designs, trademarks and copyright. Exporters wanting to register trademarks/brand names are advised to contact:

Intellectual Property Office
Concept House, Cardiff Road
Newport, Gwent NP10 8QQ
Tel: 011 44 1633 814000
Fax 011 44 1633 817777
Email: information@ipo.gov.uk
Website: [Intellectual Property Office](#)

The EU FAIRS Report provides information on EU Protected Geographical Indications (PGI), Protected Designation of Origin (PDO) and Traditional Specialties Guaranteed (TSG). These typically restrict the use of names of certain meats and cheeses as having to originate from that place, such as the PDO for Parma ham.

SECTION IX. IMPORT PROCEDURES

UK importers, or appointed agents, customarily handle all import procedures. The following information is provided to assist U.S. exporters in understanding the procedures, time-frames and costs that are involved in importing into the UK.

A simple overview of the steps involved in bringing products into the UK from outside the EU is provided here: <https://www.gov.uk/import-goods-outside-eu>

Advice is available at: <https://www.gov.uk/topic/business-tax/import-export>

More at: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/customs-declarations-for-goods-brought-into-the-eu>

The Customs Handling of Import and Export Freight (CHIEF) system has historically recorded the movement of goods by land, air and sea. It allows importers, exporters and freight forwarders to complete customs formalities electronically and automatically checks for entry errors. The UK's departure from the EU will see a move over to the "Customs Declaration Service (CDS)". This already being phased in, please see: <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/customs-handling-of-import-and-export-freight-chief-replacement-programme>.

In addition to the above paperwork, U.S. products may require import licenses or health certificates. This particularly applies to red meat, dairy, seafood and honey – see Defra's Animal and Plant Health Agency website for further information: [Live animal or animal product imports into the UK](#)

All imported goods can potentially be examined by Customs. In practice, if the product is not subject to special measures, less than 5 percent are physically inspected. If goods are selected for examination, the opening, unpacking and re-packing must normally be done by employees of the dock company or an agent of the importer. The examination of goods normally occurs at the place where they are being declared for importation.

Customs duties and other charges that are due must be paid, deferred or secured before the goods are cleared by Customs. It is advisable to show invoices with no freight costs incorporated, only the value of the imported goods, as import duty will be charged on the total amount presented for that shipment. Charges payable on imported goods may include:

- import duties
- 'additional duties' on flour and sugar
- 'countervailing charges' on fruit and vegetables

- ‘variable charges’ on processed goods
- ‘compensatory charges’ on oils and fats
- ‘extra charges’ on eggs, poultry or pig meat
- ‘sugar levies’ on processed goods with sugar in them
- Value Added Tax (VAT)
- excise duty on alcoholic beverages

The charges payable are linked to the Commodity Code (similar to an HS code, but usually to the ten digit level) for a particular product. U.S. exporters will need to help the UK importer find out what the Commodity Code is for traded product, and what the associated import duty is likely to be. This will be necessary to determine a pricing strategy for the product.

Obtaining a Commodity Code

To obtain the Commodity Code (and related import duty/VAT payable) for your product, consult the UK Trade Tariff online tool here: [Trade Tariff tool to find a commodity code](#), this code should be the same throughout the EU. It is also possible to obtain a written ruling on the product’s Commodity Code known as Binding Tariff Information (BTI). This service is advisable for more complex food products, as it involves closer consideration of the product’s composite ingredients and is legally binding. See information on Classifying Your Goods at: [About Binding Tariff Information](#)

Value Added Tax (VAT)

The UK standard rate of Value Added Tax (VAT) is 20 percent. While UK foodservice outlets must charge the standard rate of VAT on everything they serve, retail food products, in general, do not have VAT on them.

However, some exceptions that do incur VAT are:

- Ice Cream and similar products, and mixes for using them
- Confectionery
- Alcoholic beverages
- Other beverages, and preparations for making them
- Potato chips (crisps) roasted or salted nuts, and some other savory snack products
- Products for home brewing and wine making

VAT can also be a value located somewhere between the Standard (S = 20%) and the Zero (Z = 0%) rates. See more at: <https://www.gov.uk/topic/business-tax/vat>

Excise Duties

Alcohol

Product	Rate of Excise Duty
	Rate per liter of pure alcohol
Spirits	£28.74
	Rate per hectoliter per cent of alcohol in the beer
Beer – General Beer Duty	£19.08
	Rate per hectoliter of product
Still wine and made-wine Exceeding 5.5%, but not exceeding 15% abv	£297.57
Sparkling wine and made-wine Exceeding 8.5%, but less than 15% abv	£381.15

The above table is an excerpt from the February 2019 information given by H.M. Revenue & Customs at: [UK Excise Rates and Allowances](#) New alcohol duty rates are announced in February or March each year.

APPENDIX I. – Government Regulatory Agency Contacts

USDA/Foreign Agricultural Service
Embassy of the United States
Box 48, 33 Nine Elms L
London, SW11 7US
United Kingdom
Tel: 011 44 20 7891 3313
Email: AgLondon@fas.usda.gov
Web: [FAS USDA London](#)

Association of Port Health Authorities (APHA)
4th Floor, Walbrook Wharf
78-83 Upper Thames Street
London EC4R 3TD
Tel: 011 44 1792 653523
Email: apha@porthealthassociation.co.uk
Web: <http://www.porthealthassociation.co.uk/>

Department for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs (Defra)
Seacole Building
2 Marsham Street
London SW1P 4DF
Tel: 011 44 20 7270 3000
Contact emails for all sections: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/contact-defra>
Web: [Defra](#)

Department for Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy (BEIS)
1 Victoria Street
London, SW1H 0ET
Tel: 011 44 20 7215 5000
E-mail: enquiries@beis.gsi.gov.uk
Web: [BEIS](#) (For weights & measures legislation)

Food Standards Agency (FSA)
Floors 6 and 7, Clive House
70 Petty France
London SW1H 9EX
Telephone: 011 44 20 7276 8000
Email: helpline@food.gov.uk
Web: www.food.gov.uk

H.M. Customs and Revenue (HMRC)

CITEX Written Enquiry Team

International inquiries should use the online form here: [International Trade Enquiries](#)

The Stationery Office (TSO)

Tel orders: 011 44 870 242 2345 **(To buy copies of UK legislation)**

Website orders: <https://www.tsoshop.co.uk/>

The National Archives

Web: <http://www.legislation.gov.uk/>

(To view web copies of UK legislation)

Rural Payments Agency

PO Box 69

Reading

RG1 3YD

Email: ruralpayments@defra.gsi.gov.uk

Web: <https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/rural-payments-agency>

APPENDIX II. – Other Import Specialist Contacts

UK Trade Associations

Fresh Produce Consortium
Minerva House
Minerva Business Park
Lynch Wood
Peterborough PE2 6FT
Tel: 011 44 1733 237117
E-mail: info@freshproduce.org.uk
Web: www.freshproduce.org.uk

British Frozen Food Federation
Warwick House, Unit 7, Long Bennington Business Park,
Main Road, Long Bennington, Newark, NG23 5JR
Tel: 011 44 1400 283090
E-mail: generaladmin@bff.co.uk
Web: www.bfff.co.uk

Food and Drink Federation
6th Floor, 10 Bloomsbury Way
London, WC1A 2SL
Tel: 011 44 20 7836 2460
E-mail: generalenquiries@fdf.org.uk
Web: www.fdf.org.uk

Grain & Feed Trade Association
GAFTA House
9 Lincoln's Inn Fields
London WC2A 3BP
Tel: 011 44 20 7814 9666
Email: post@gafta.com
Web: www.gafta.com

Health Food Manufacturer's Association
1 Wolsey Road
East Molesey
Surrey KT8 9EL
Tel: 011 44 20 8481 7100
E-mail: hfma@hfma.co.uk
Web: www.hfma.co.uk

Institute of Grocery Distribution
Grange Lane
Letchmore Heath
Watford, Hertshire WD2 8DQ
Tel: 011 44 1923 857141
Email: igd@igd.com
Web: www.igd.com

National Association of British & Irish Millers
21 Arlington Street
London, SW1A 1RN
Tel: 011 44 207 493 2521
Email: info@nabim.org.uk
Web: www.nabim.org.uk

Food Law & Labeling Specialists

Berry Ottaway & Associates Ltd
Kivernoll Cottage
Much Dewchurch
Hereford HR2 8DS
Contact: Sam Jennings, Director
Tel: 011 44 1981 541238
Email: spj.berryottaway@gmail.com and boa@berryottaway.co.uk
Web: <http://www.berryottaway.co.uk/>

Campden BRI
Chipping Campden
Gloucestershire GL55 6LD
Tel: 011 44 1386 842000
Email: support@campdenbri.co.uk
Web: www.campdenbri.co.uk

DWF LLP
20 Fenchurch Street
London WC3M 3AG
Contact: Dominic Watkins, Partner, Head of Food
Tel: 011 44 20 7280 8888
Email: Dominic.Watkins@dwf.law
Web: www.dwf.law

Kenneth Mitchell
Euro Fine Foods

High Street
Uffington, Oxon SN7 7RP
United Kingdom
Tel: 011 44 1367 820771
Contact: Kenneth Mitchell
Email: kenneth@eff2000.com
Web: www.eurofinefoods2000.co.uk

Leatherhead Food International
Randalls Road
Leatherhead
Surrey KT22 7RY
Tel: 011 44 1372 376761
Email: help@leatherheadfood.com
Web: www.leatherheadfood.com

Shoosmiths Solicitors
The Lakes
Northampton
NN4 7SH
Tel: 011 44 3700 864217
Contact: Hayley Saunders, Partner, Food Department
Email: hayley.saunders@shoosmiths.co.uk
Web: www.shoosmiths.co.uk

Sun Branding Solutions
Albion Mills
Greengates
Bradford BD10 9TQ
Tel: +44 (0)1274 200 700
Contact: Phil Dalton
Email: pdalton@sunbrandingsolutions.com
Web: Sun Branding Solutions Legal Labelling

Testing Laboratories

ALS Food and Pharmaceutical
Bridge Street
Chatteris
Cambridgeshire PE16 6QZ
Tel: 011 44 1354 697028
Email: sales.uk@alsglobal.com
Website: www.als-testing.co.uk

Campden BRI
Chipping Campden
Gloucestershire GL55 6LD
Tel: 011 44 1386 842000
Email: information@campdenbri.co.uk
Web: <http://www.campdenbri.co.uk/>

Eurofins Food Testing
Valiant Way
WV9 5GB Wolverhampton
Tel: 011 44 845 604 6740
Email: sales@eurofins.co.uk
Web: www.eurofins.co.uk

Leatherhead Food International
Randalls Road
Leatherhead
Surrey KT22 7RY
Tel: 011 44 1372 376761
Email: help@leatherheadfood.com
Web: www.leatherheadfood.com

Reading Scientific Services (RSSL)
Readings Science Centre
Whiteknights Campus
Pepper Lane
Reading, Berkshire RG6 6LA
Tel: 011 44 118 918 4000
Email: enquiries@rssl.com
Web: www.rssl.com

RHM Technology (Premier Analytical Services)
The Lord Rank Centre
Lincoln Road
High Wycombe
Buckinghamshire HP12 3QR
Tel: 011 44 1494 809600
Email: <http://www.paslabs.co.uk/contact-us.html>
Web: <http://www.paslabs.co.uk/>

Attachments:

No Attachments