

Required Report: Required - Public Distribution

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Report Name: Food and Agricultural Import Regulations and Standards
Export Certificate Report

Country: United Kingdom

Post: London

Report Category: FAIRS Export Certificate Report

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Report Highlights:

The United Kingdom (UK) left the European Union (EU) on January 31, 2020. The UK will continue to accept product health certificates in the existing EU formats from the relevant U.S. authorities until further notice. However, as the situation is subject to change throughout 2021, U.S. exporters are strongly advised to request that their UK importers check the latest information and import requirements from UK authorities before shipping product and completing export health certificate applications.

DISCLAIMER: This report was prepared by FAS/USDA London, for U.S. exporters of domestic food and agricultural products. While every possible care has been 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 PRODUCTS IS SUBJECT TO THE IMPORTING COUNTRY'S RULES AND REGULATIONS AS INTERPRETED BY BORDER OFFICIALS AT THE TIME OF PRODUCT ENTRY."

Summary of UK Status at December 31, 2020

On January 1, 2021, Great Britain (GB = England, Wales and Scotland) will depart the single market and European customs union. Under the Northern Ireland (NI) Protocol, NI will remain part of the EU single market and customs union for goods to maintain the integrity of the EU border, and minimize disruption to trade to NI and the Republic of Ireland.

The UK will remain aligned with EU food safety and animal health rules during the first half of 2021 (three months for general agri-food products and six months for certain chilled meat products).

In general, we expect minimal disruption to longstanding trade, although there may be additional administrative burdens and costs for inspection depending upon the product. Since regulatory onus is on the UK importer to ensure that product is placed on the market having met the correct import requirements, U.S. exporters should ensure that UK importers check the latest information available from the authorities and/or port health inspectors prior to shipping or applying for export certificates.

Certification Requirements for Shipments to United Kingdom

Please read this report in conjunction with the UK Food and Agricultural Import Regulations (FAIRS) Country Report and the EU FAIRS Certificate Report available in the [FAS GAIN Report Database](#).

New requirements for health certificates for imports of animals and animal products into GB will be phased in between January to July 2021. It is possible, that this transition period may be extended. As new certificates are introduced, this report will be updated to reflect any changes.

Health certificates for imports to Great Britain will be substantially the same as existing EU certificates for imports from the rest of the world. Existing guidance on EU certificate completion is expected to remain relevant. In the meantime, before the UK brings in its own certificates, please see the EU FAIRS Certificate Report available in the [FAS GAIN Report Database for detailed coverage of the required EU compliant certificates](#).

GB importers will need to use the UK's new Import of Products, Animals, Food and Feed System (IPAFFS) for imports requiring pre-notification including animal products and nuts. There will be no changes to the way live animals, animal products, and high-risk food and feed not of animal origin are imported into Northern Ireland. Importers in GB will no longer have access to the EU's import system TRACES from January 1, 2021. Northern Ireland importers of goods from non-EU countries will continue to use TRACES. For all UK regions, these types of products must continue to be imported through Border Control Posts as before.

The introduction of [IPAFFS](#) (the UK's version of TRACES – the EU electronic pre-notification portal) may cause some disruption. U.S. exports of Products of Animal Origin (POAO) to GB will require a GB export health certificate to move on to the EU after January 1, 2021.

From April 1, 2021, consignments of POAO of non-EU origin from the EU to GB must be pre-notified through IPAFFS and be accompanied by a transit health certificate for non-EU origin products.

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/importing-live-animals-or-animal-products-from-non-eu-countries>

From July 1, 2021, pre-notification, health certificates, entry through a Border Control Point (BCP) and checks at the border will be fully implemented on these products.

Please see guidance on importing animal products and high-risk food and feed not of animal origin from January 1, 2021:

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/importing-animals-animal-products-and-high-risk-food-and-feed-not-of-animal-origin-from-1-january-2021>

When there is any uncertainty if U.S. products must meet certification criteria for animal- or plant-derived material, or whether the UK may interpret import requirements differently, please have your UK importer contact the following:

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

Department for Food & Rural Affairs (Defra)
Animal and Plant Health Agency (APHA) - Carlisle
Telephone: 011 44 3000 200 301
Email: Imports@apha.gsi.gov.uk

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

Defra/APHA – York
Telephone: 011 44 1904 405 138
Email: planthealth.info@apha.gsi.gov.uk

If certification is required, please ensure that the shipment enters the UK market through a [Border Control Post](#). For further detail on this see the relevant section (VI. Other Requirements, Regulations, and Registration Measures of the UK Food and Agricultural Import Regulations (FAIRS) Country Report available in the [FAS GAIN Report Database](#).

Alternatively, contact FAS USDA London using the details below:

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

Attachments:

No Attachments