



**Better Business for All**

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# UK Transition | Food Labelling

## Preparing for Brexit Food Labelling

The Food Standards Agency and Local Authorities that deliver Official Food Controls in the UK are committed to maintaining high standards of Food Safety in the UK. Ensuring food is safe and that it is what it says it is remains their top priority.

As a Food Business Operator there are a number of important changes to food labelling that you should be aware of. While the finer detail of these changes relies on whether a trade deal is reached at the end of the year, the following aspects of food labelling will be affected and this guidance is intended as a summary to assist you in preparing for these changes.

The official Government website [www.gov.uk](http://www.gov.uk) provides more detailed technical guidance on the proposed changes and the relevant section on Food Labelling after Brexit can be [found here](#).

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In summary the following aspects of Food Labelling will be affected by Brexit after 1st January 2021:

### **Food Sold in the UK -**

- If you sell food in the UK you must ensure that you include a UK address for the Food Business Operator. If the food originates from outside the UK then you must include a UK address for the Importer of the food.
- Products of animal origin (POAO) must be labelled with UK health marks from 1st January 2021. EU marks can continue to be used until this date.
- Further information is [available here](#).

### **Country of Origin labelling -**

- The United Kingdom will cease to be part of the EU and you must therefore change any labels to ensure the country of origin is accurate. You should not display the EU emblem or refer to the EU as country of origin unless authorised by the EU to do so.
- There are specific rules that relate to country or origin labelling for products like honey, beef and veal, eggs and meat. The basic principle is that references to EU or EC will need to be replaced with UK or Non-UK as appropriate.
- More in depth advice is [available here](#).

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## Food exports –

- In a nutshell if you export food to the EU and your products are placed on the market prior to 1st January 2021 they can continue to be distributed and sold without changes to labelling. Any products exported after this date will have to be labelled correctly.
- If you export food to the EU you will be required to include an EU address for either the Food Business Operator or the Food Importer in the EU on your labels.
- The EU has issued a guidance document on changes to food labelling and a copy can be [viewed here](#).

## Organic produce –

- After 1st January 2021 the UK will continue to accept and recognise organic imports from the EU. The EU has yet to decide whether it will accept and recognise UK organic produce.
- If you currently display a UK organic control body logo you can continue to do so after 1st January 2021.
- You must not use the EU organic logo after 1st January 2021 unless your UK control body is recognised within the EU and an equivalency deal is reached to recognise respective UK and EU standards.
- This also applies if you currently export organic produce to the EU and wish to do so after this date.
- Keep abreast of any changes in respect of [organic food exports here](#).

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## Protected Food Names –

- The UK will have its own scheme for protecting GI (Geographical Indication) products. The new UK scheme will continue to use the same 3 designations as the EU scheme – PDO, PGI and TSG but with UK protected status.
- Existing registrations under the EU GI scheme will continue to receive protection and producers have until 1st January 2021 to update packaging with the new UK GI logos. Until that date packaging displaying the existing GI logos can continue to be sold in the UK.
- New registrations from 1st January 2021 will need to be submitted to DEFRA Protected Food Names team ([protectedfoodnames@defra.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:protectedfoodnames@defra.gsi.gov.uk)) and packaging for these products will need to display the new UK scheme logo.
- Specific rules apply to producers in Northern Ireland and further details can be [found here](#).
- To find how to register for protected food and drinks names [click here](#).

Much of the fine detail has yet to be decided and will depend on whether the EU agrees to continue to recognise UK schemes and if a trade deal is reached. Whether the UK leaves the EU with or without a trade deal for the purposes of exports, the UK becomes a third country and will need to comply with full EU rules for exports from third countries. The Government website will continue to be updated by Central Government with any important changes.

For further support and regulatory advice please contact our Trading Standards team by [clicking here](#).

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## Acronyms:

FSA	Food Standards Agency
UK	United Kingdom
EU	European Union
POAO	Products of animal origin
GI	Geographical indication
PDO	Protected designation of origin
PGI	Protected geographical indication
TSG	Traditional specialities guaranteed

## Links:

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/food-labelling-changes-after-brexit>

<https://www.food.gov.uk/business-guidance/the-uk-transition>

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/food-labelling-changes-after-brexit>

[https://ec.europa.eu/info/sites/info/files/brexit\\_files/info\\_site/notice\\_for\\_stakeholders\\_food\\_law.pdf](https://ec.europa.eu/info/sites/info/files/brexit_files/info_site/notice_for_stakeholders_food_law.pdf)

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/trading-and-labelling-organic-food-if-theres-no-brexit-deal>

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/protecting-food-and-drink-names-if-theres-no-brexit-deal>

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/eu-protected-food-names-how-to-register-food-or-drink-products>



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