Camden



SPS Certification WG

Food or feed business?

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UK-EU SPS Agreement Information

What's happening?

The UK Government and the European Union are negotiating a Sanitary and Phytosanitary (SPS) Agreement.

If implemented, the Agreement is expected to influence how some food, feed, animal health and plant health legislation develops in the future.

Although many details are still being negotiated, now is a good time to understand what the proposed Agreement is and whether it could affect your business.

Why is this happening?

Since the UK left the European Union on 31 December 2020, the legislation for food and related matters has continued to change:

- Existing EU legislation was retained within UK law
- Much of that legislation became assimilated law
- UK and EU legislation has continued to change
- Once the SPS Agreement is finalised and implemented EU law will apply in the UK
- EU law will also apply to products only sold on the GB market

The proposed SPS Agreement will bring further changes



Could this affect my business?

It might. Many businesses believe the SPS Agreement only concerns importers and exporters. It will also affect businesses that:

	Manufacture food or feed products
	Prepare or process food
	Repackage or relabel products
	Use ingredients sourced from the EU
	Buy products from UK wholesalers importing from overseas
	Produce labels or packaging
	Supply retailers, caterers or other food businesses
	Trade with Northern Ireland

Even if your business operates entirely within Great Britain, future changes to UK legislation within the scope of the agreement will affect the rules you follow.

Where will updates come from?

- www.gov.uk
- Department for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs (Defra)
- Food Standards Agency (FSA)
- Food Standards Scotland (FSS)
- Animal and Plant Health Agency (APHA)
- Your Trade Association
- Your Local Authority Environmental Health

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What do I need to do NOW?

Awareness today may help prevent unnecessary disruptions and costs to your business tomorrow.

Negotiations are continuing, however, businesses should begin to:

- Understand where products and ingredients originate
- Know which legislation affects your business
- Review suppliers and supply chains
- Keep product specifications under review
- Monitor future Government guidance
- Seek advice if unsure

Food law has not stood still

Many businesses assume food legislation has remained unchanged since Brexit. It hasn't.

Since 2020, UK legislation has continued to develop. Examples include changes affecting:



What will change?

- Inspection regimes and border processes may change, including arrangements affecting attendance at Border Control Posts or Inland Border Facilities.
- Some aspects of cross-border trade may become easier within the agreed scope.
- New or updated requirements will also emerge as a result of alignment in agreed areas.

Scan for www.gov.uk guidance

https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/sps-agreement-preparing-your-business/sps-agreement-preparing-your-business