

Importing composite products

A composite product is defined in legislation as a 'foodstuff intended for human consumption that contains both processed products of animal origin and products of plant origin.

The definition of composite products includes those products, where the processing of primary product is an integral part of the production of the final product'.

General Information

[Decision 2007/275/EC](#) and [Regulation No. 28/2012](#) set out import conditions for importing composite products from approved countries.

Import requirements apply to composite products containing any processed meat product, or half or more of their content of other processed products of animal origin such as

- milk products
- egg products
- fishery products

Requirements include that the composite product must come from a country listed in the legislation as approved for the product of animal origin contained in the composite product.

The meat product, milk product, egg product and fishery product content of the composite product must also have come from an approved country and where appropriate from an approved establishment.

The composite product must be accompanied by the relevant official certificate in [Regulation 2019/628](#) if they contain processed meat, milk, egg or fishery product.

Composite products containing any other animal product must be accompanied by the relevant certificate required for the particular animal content or in other cases by a commercial document.

Composite products where less than half their content is processed milk product are also subject to these requirements except where the conditions in Article 6 of Decision 2007/275/EC are met.

Composite products referred to above are subject to veterinary checks at Border Control Posts (BCPs).

A composite product that contains no processed meat product and less than half its substance of other processed product of animal origin is also subject to veterinary checks at BCPs except where they meet the requirements of Article 6 of Decision 2007/275/EC. The milk content must only come from a country approved for dairy products.

Products not subject to checks

Annex II of Decision 2007/275/EC lists some composite products and foodstuffs which are not subject to veterinary checks and these are

- confectionery (including sweets) and chocolate, containing less than 50% of processed dairy and egg products
- pasta and noodles not mixed or filled with processed meat product; containing less than 50% of processed dairy and egg products
- bread, cakes, biscuits, waffles and wafers, rusks, toasted bread and similar toasted products that contain less than 20% of processed dairy and egg products
- olives stuffed with fish
- soup stocks and flavourings packaged for the final consumer, that contain less than 50% of fish oils, fish powders or fish extracts
- food supplements packaged for the final consumer, that contain small amounts (in total less than 20%) of processed animal products other than meat products

Food business operators are reminded that it is their responsibility to ensure any foodstuffs they want to import comply with national rules in place to protect public and animal health. Importers should satisfy themselves that any composite products coming to GB comply with the import conditions as set out in Decision 2007/275/EC and Regulation 28/2012. It is worth remembering that where a safeguard control applies, for instance Indian aquaculture, to the processed products of animal origin, it would also apply to the finished composite product.

[View compositeflowchart as PDF](#) (307.08 KB)

[View Composite products Q&A as PDF](#) (281.25 KB)

IMPORTANT

EU references in FSA guidance documents

The FSA is updating all EU references, to accurately reflect the law now in force, in all new or amended guidance published since the Transition Period ended at the end of 2020. In some circumstances it may not always be practicable for us to have all EU references updated at the point we publish new or amended guidance.

Other than in Northern Ireland, any references to EU Regulations in this guidance should be read as meaning retained EU law. You can access retained EU law via HM Government's [EU Exit Web Archive](#). This should be read alongside any EU Exit legislation that was made to ensure retained EU law operates correctly in a UK context. EU Exit legislation is on [legislation.gov.uk](#). In Northern Ireland, EU law will continue to apply in respect to the majority of food and feed hygiene and safety law, as listed in the [Northern Ireland Protocol](#) and retained EU law will not apply to Northern Ireland in these circumstances.