

13<sup>th</sup> July 2020

## Dear Food Business Owner

**As part of preparations for the end of the EU transition period on the 31 December 2020, the Food Standards Agency (FSA) is writing to approved food businesses with important information about future exports to both the EU and Northern Ireland (NI).**

In 2019, the FSA wrote to approved food businesses in England, Wales and Northern Ireland. Food Standards Scotland (FSS) undertook a similar exercise in Scotland setting out the need to be listed with the EU to continue exporting products of animal origin to the EU, once the UK ceased to be a Member State.

The UK left the EU in January and entered into a transition period, which is due to end on the 31 December 2020. As part of preparations for this, and to meet the terms of the Northern Ireland Protocol, whereby UK authorities will apply EU customs rules to goods entering NI, we are now writing to all UK approved food businesses to remind you that you need to be listed with the EU to export products of animal origin (POAO) to the EU and/or NI or supply others that use your products in commodities that are exported to the EU and or NI.

If you don't export POAO to either the EU and or NI, and you don't supply others that use your products in other commodities that are exported to the EU and or NI, then you don't need to be listed with the EU.

## What do I need to do now?

- If you export POAO to either the EU and or NI or supply others that export your products in other commodities to the EU and or NI, the FSA will automatically put you forward for listing with the EU.
- If you don't export POAO to the EU and or NI and you don't supply others that use your products in commodities that are exported to the EU and or NI, then you must contact the FSA and ask for your business to be removed from the EU list.

## What happens if I change my mind after I have indicated that I do not want to be on the EU list.

- You must notify the FSA now and your business will be added to the EU list. **You must make contact by the beginning of December 2020 at the latest.**
- If you notify the FSA after the 1 January 2021, you will have to make an application to the European Commission for your establishment to be listed under the Official Controls regulation (EU) 2017/1793. You can make this application via the Animal Plant Health Agency (APHA). The Commission will then review your application, which can take up to 20 working days before making a decision. You will not be able to export POAO to the EU until the EU has come to a decision to accept your application.

**If having read this letter you do not wish to be listed by the EU please contact [eulistings@food.gov.uk](mailto:eulistings@food.gov.uk) clearly indicating that you don't wish to be listed, your business name, address and approval number. We will send you a confirmation email confirming your removal from the EU list.**

For additional information on the process of exporting animal products to the EU from January 1<sup>st</sup> 2021, please visit the Gov.uk website below for the latest Defra/APHA guidance:

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/exporting-animals-animal-products-fish-and-fishery-products-if-the-uk-leaves-the-eu-with-no-deal>