

26 November 2018

Dear Producer

If you currently export animal products to the EU you need to contact the Food Standards Agency (FSA). This letter explains why.

We firmly believe it is in the interests of both the EU and the UK to secure a deal before the UK leaves the EU in March 2019. We remain confident that this will happen.

In the unlikely event that the UK leaves the EU without a deal, we will need to be listed by the EU as a third country, gaining approval to continue exporting products of animal origin (POAO), such as meat, fish, shellfish, eggs and dairy products to the EU. However, we cannot be certain of the EU response or its timing.

As a result, the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra), which has policy responsibility for international trade and market access for food and feed products, is taking steps to be gain listed third country status for the UK. As the FSA administers the UK's central approved establishment database, the FSA will coordinate the collection of establishment-specific information for the UK application on behalf of Defra.

To enable us to prepare for the approval process, UK-approved establishments that either directly export POAO to the EU or supply other UK establishments that export POAO to the EU must provide additional information on the nature of these exports. This will enable Defra to add the establishment to the list to be submitted to the EU for approval. To be clear, this is a contingency measure to ensure that we are prepared in the unlikely event of a no deal Brexit scenario.

What do you need to do now?

If you are a UK-approved establishment that currently exports POAO into the EU, if you are considering doing so in the near future, or if you supply products to others that export to the EU, you must provide the information below. This will enable the FSA to provisionally add you to the UK list for approval by the EU.

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- Confirmation that you would like to be included on the list of approval by the EU to export POAO into the EU.
- The product(s) and volume of material exported to the EU by your establishment over the last 12 months and the number of consignments dispatched to the EU.
- All product(s) and volume of material produced by your establishment in the last 12 months that is not exported.

Please send this information to the following FSA email address, together with your approval number, address and contact details, (email address, telephone number and name).

Please could you respond to this letter by 12th December 2018 at the very latest, providing either the necessary information to enable your establishment to be added to the application or confirmation that you do not want to be added to the application.

In sending this information to the FSA, you consent to the FSA providing this information to Defra for them to share with the EU as part of the application process.

Please note that as we prepare the application and it becomes subject to EU review, we may need to contact you for additional information to support this process. Guidance on the interpretation of products and volume is provided at the end of this letter.

What happens if you don't respond?

If you are a UK-approved establishment that exports POAO to the EU and you fail to provide the above information, you will not be added to the Defra application seeking approval to export POAO to the EU. This means that you will have to stop exporting POAO to the EU until such time that your establishment is approved.

The process for obtaining UK approved establishment status is not changing and approval applications will continue to be handled by the FSA, Food Standards Scotland, Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs (DAERA) and local authorities. The only difference is that, should you wish to export POAO into the EU, you will need to contact Defra to ask for your establishment to be included in future revisions of the list submitted to the EU for approval.

Yours sincerely



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EU Listings Project Officer

Email: eulistings@food.gov.uk

Key facts to support this letter

- When the UK ceases to be a member state of the EU, and in the unlikely event of a no deal scenario, UK-approved establishments will lose the right to freely export POAO into the EU. Under such circumstances the UK will have to apply as a third country and be approved by the EU to export POAO into the union. If the application is successful POAO will need to enter the EU via a Border Inspection Point and must be accompanied by an Export Health Certificate.
- Under Regulation (EC) 854/ 2004 Article 11 and 12, POAO can only be imported from a country outside the EU once that country and the list of establishments wishing to export POAO have been approved by the EU.
- In the case of fresh meat, minced meat, meat preparations, meat products and mechanically separated meat (MSM), such products can only be imported into the EU if they have been manufactured from meat obtained from a slaughterhouse and cutting plant appearing on the list of establishments approved by the EU.

Supporting Information

- Estimate the volume of product over a 12-month period
- Volume is required per product, i.e. weight
- Please fully describe each product e.g. boxed cut beef, live shellfish, hard cheese, frozen cut lamb, etc.
- Consignment, the number of individual loads despatched to the EU over a 12-month period.

Should you need to discuss this matter please contact eulistings@food.gov.uk

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