

## **An update on health and identification marks (26 February 2019)**

We are updating businesses about changes that will need to be made to the health and identification (ID) marks on certain food products after the UK leaves the EU. Health and ID marks are the oval marks that must be applied to certain food products of animal origin (POAO) to confirm they have been produced in a UK approved establishment, inspected by the competent authority where necessary, and are fit for human consumption.

Following a consultation exercise with the food industry, discussions with the European Commission, and agreement with Defra the final design for the new health and ID marks has been agreed. This will ensure the UK continues to have the ability to export POAO to the EU.

The FSA is taking steps to ensure that operational staff in establishments that we are responsible for are equipped with appropriate health marks from the 29 March 2019, when the UK ceases to be a Member State of the EU.

### **1. Exporting POAO to the EU**

For businesses who export POAO to the EU, the health and ID marks must carry either:

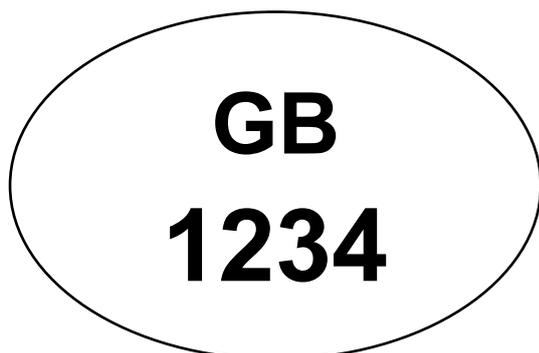
- the official two-digit ISO Code GB  
or
- the full country name in capital letters UNITED KINGDOM.

Examples of the marks appear below:

#### **Identification marks**



#### **Health marks**



Businesses will have the choice of using either the GB abbreviation or the full country name on the health and ID mark.

## **2. Exporting POAO to a Non-EU Country**

For businesses who export POAO to a non-EU country, the revised GB or UNITED KINGDOM marks may be used. In addition, health and ID marks with the UK abbreviation (as below) may also be acceptable for exports to non-EU countries from the 29 March 2019.

Business will be updated on the outcome of bilateral discussions on this matter between the UK and the authorities of non-EU countries, if necessary.

### **Identification mark**



### **Health mark**



## **3. POAO placed on the UK domestic market**

For POAO placed on the UK domestic market, food businesses may choose to apply either

- the UK abbreviation
  - the GB abbreviation
- or
- the full country name 'United Kingdom' on the ID mark.

In discussion with the competent authority, businesses may agree which health mark is applied directly to certain POAO, this being the UK or GB abbreviations or full country name 'United Kingdom'.

## **Size and dimension of the health and identification marks**

The identification mark must be legible, indelible, and the characters easily decipherable. It must be clearly displayed for the competent authorities and contain the full country name UNITED KINGDOM in capital letters, or GB or UK depending upon which market the product is destined for, followed by the approval number of the establishment. There is no minimum or maximum size for the identification mark.

The health mark must be an oval mark at least 6.5 cm wide by 4.5 cm high bearing one of the following country identifiers, in perfectly legible characters: GB, UK or UNITED KINGDOM, followed by the approval number of the establishment.

Letters must be at least 0.8 cm high and figures at least 1 cm high. The dimensions and characters of the mark may be reduced for health marking of lamb, kids and piglets.

## **No deal planning**

In a 'no deal' scenario, the revised form of the health and ID marks must be used from the 29 March 2019, when the UK ceases to be a Member State of the EU, for products that are exported to the EU or Non-EU countries.

For products placed on the UK domestic market, the FSA has introduced a statutory instrument that will allow the continued use of the EC identification mark applied to POAO for 21 months after the UK leaves the EU. This period would start on the 29 March 2019 and finish on the 31 December 2020.