

Food and Drink

Example include:

Supermarkets convenience stores, restaurants, market traders, hotels, wholesalers, canteens

Key facts

1 Food and drink trade with the EU may be subject to new rules when the UK's relationship with the EU changes

2 Future access to the UK and EU markets, including a customs arrangement, will need to be negotiated

How you buy and sell products from and to the EU may be different in the future. Hiring people from EU countries will also change. For a period of time we will not know the details of our new relationship with the EU. Therefore, businesses are advised to consider their route to market and look at what trading under a base-line scenario of World Trade Organization rules would potentially mean for their margins.

People

- EU nationals currently in the UK can apply for (pre-)settled status under the Settlement Scheme
- From 2021, future EU staff will need to apply under a points-based immigration system if they want to work here

Trade

- **Import and export of goods** may attract tariffs and will be subject to customs controls
- Rules around importing and exporting **food products** will be different

Regulation

- Export of **live animals**, fresh or processed **animal products** such as honey, gelatine, lard, blood, meat, poultry, fish, crustaceans and dairy will require an Export Health Certificate (EHC) and will need to pass through checks at dedicated Border Inspection Posts (BIPs). However, this is not the case for small consignments sent by post to individual consumers
- Import and export of fresh or processed **non-animal products** such as fruit, vegetables, and plants used as food may also experience additional legislation and sometimes checks
- **Organic** food and drink products will not be able to enter the EU without a recognition of UK certificates

To do

People

- Support and encourage current EU staff to apply for (pre-)settled status. Check out the [Settlement Scheme Employer Toolkit](#)
- Read the information on future recruitment of EU staff: [European Temporary Leave to Remain](#) and a [new immigration policy](#)

Trade

- Read the general guidance for the [food and drink sector](#)
- Find out what [selling goods to EU countries will mean](#)
- Find out what [buying goods from EU countries will mean](#)
- Register for [transitional simplified procedures](#) for imports from the EU
- Check out [temporary changes to tariffs on import](#)
- Call the UK Export/Import helpline for support: 0300 3301 331

Regulation

- Try to understand changes to your [VAT obligations and what it means to trade as a business from a non-EU country with regard to VAT](#)

- You may also want to read the EU preparedness notice on [EU food law](#)

Check the [get ready for Brexit business tool](#) and the [EU Preparedness Notices](#) for all other questions on EU exit and your sector.

What's next?

If an exit agreement is ratified, food and drink trade under EU rules will continue as normal for at least a year during an 'implementation period'. In the event that there is no implementation period, the commercial environment will change faster and we will trade with the EU under WTO rules. If this happens, the Government will endeavour to quickly apply for EU recognition of UK certificates. In the longer term, a new trade agreement will lay down the final conditions for UK-EU trade in food and drink.

For more information on trading with the EU, contact:

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