9th October 2019

Dear Sir/Madam

**RE: PREPARING FOR A POTENTIAL NO DEAL EU EXIT**

To assist food businesses prepare for the potential of a No Deal Exit on 31st October 2019 the Council would like to draw your attention to a number of key messages from the UK government, Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs (DAERA) and the Food Standards Agency (FSA).

**EU LISTING**

All approved premises that wish to continue exporting products of animal origin (POAO) to the EU must be listed with the European Commission. **If you are not listed, you will not be able to export POAO to the EU, including Republic of Ireland.** If you produce a product of animal origin you will need to be listed if you export directly to the EU **and or** supply others that export your product to the EU.

If you currently or intend to export POAO to the EU, you need to contact the FSA through the following email address eulistings@food.gov.uk providing the following information: UK Approval number, contact name, establishment address, email address, telephone number, type and quantity of POAO you wish to export to the EU. The deadline for being listed with Europe for export is 17th October 2019.

Businesses manufacturing composite products from registered premises that have a POAO as an ingredient such as pizzas or sandwiches do not need to be listed. However, they will need an Export Health Certificate (EHC) to demonstrate that the POAO they used in their product originated from an approved establishment listed with the EU.

**HEALTH CERTIFICATES**

You will need an export health certificate to export POAO to the EU in the event of a no-deal EU exit. An EHC is an official document that confirms your export meets the health requirements of the destination country and must be signed by an authorised officer. DAERA are the competent authority for issuing health certificates for POAO, although councils can issue health certificates on their behalf, for fish.

Health certificates are obtained via the online DAERA DECOL system (DAERA export health certification online). Information on how to apply for health certificates is available on the DAERA website. <https://www.daera-ni.gov.uk/brexit>

For enquiries on the provision of Export Health Certificates, please submit your enquiry to daera.helpline@daera-ni.gov.uk or phone 0300 200 7846

**HEALTH AND IDENTIFICATION MARKS**

You must replace the EU oval health and identification marks with [new UK health and identification marks](https://www.food.gov.uk/business-guidance/eu-exit-changes-to-health-and-identification-marks) on POAO. The FSA has produced guidance that explains what you need to know in relation to health and identification marks:

* during the current extension to Article 50
* if the UK agrees a deal with the EU
* if the UK exits the EU without a deal

The guidance on health and identification marks is currently being updated and updates will be posted on the FSA website soon. <https://www.food.gov.uk/business-guidance/brexit-changes-to-health-and-identification-marks>

**LABELLING**

The EU has issued [guidance on labelling changes](https://ec.europa.eu/info/sites/info/files/eu_food_law_en.pdf) required from when the UK leaves the EU. <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/food-labelling-changes-after-brexit>

Pre-packaged food must have an EU address for the food business operator or EU importer on the packaging or food label. A UK address on its own will not be enough.

Food products placed on the EU market before EU exit can continue to be sold, distributed or transferred in the EU without labelling changes if they’re:

* held in the EU for the purpose of sale, including offering for sale or any other form of transfer, whether free of charge or not
* sold, distributed or transferred by other forms to the EU

**EU organic logo**

You must not use the EU organics logo after EU Exit unless:

* your UK control body is authorised by the EU to certify UK goods for export to the EU
* the UK and the EU agree to recognise each other’s standards (called equivalency)

If the UK does not reach an equivalency deal with the EU, you cannot export organic food or feed from the UK to the EU.

You can continue to use your UK organic control body logo.

**Country of origin labels**

UK food must not be labelled as origin ‘EU’ after EU exit. From April 2020, the label must state where the primary ingredient is from (called the country of origin or place of provenance).

**Goods sold in the UK**

The UK will have a 21-month transition period for labelling changes after EU exit. You will have 21 months to make any labelling changes for goods sold in the UK.

Should you have any queries in relation to the above information please find contact details and links to online guidance below.

**FSA**

FSA query contact: eulistings@food.gov.uk - provide a contact name, telephone number and the nature of the enquiry

**DAERA**

DAERA communications team: daerabrexitcommunications@daera-ni.gov.uk

**Web links**

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/partnership-pack-preparing-for-a-no-deal-eu-exit>

<https://www.food.gov.uk/business-guidance/prepare-your-business-for-the-uk-leaving-the-eu>

If you have queries which you would like to specifically discuss with the Council, please contact Alexis Bloomfield, Senior Environmental Health Officer (Food) or Sharon Bateson, Food, Health & Safety and Consumer Protection Manager on 028 2766 0257 or email the food team on food@causewaycoastandglens.gov.uk.

Yours faithfully



Aidan McPeake

**Director of Environmental Services**

Riada House, 14 Charles Street, Ballymoney BT53 6DZ