



28 November 2018

EU Exit – Request For Information

UK National List of Exporting Food Businesses

Dear Food Business Operator

If your food business currently exports Products of Animal Origin (POAO) to the EU you need to contact Food Standards Scotland (FSS). This letter explains why.

Background Information

In the event that the United Kingdom (UK) leaves the European Union (EU) without a deal, the UK will need to make an application to the EU as a third country, seeking approval to continue exporting POAO, such as meat, fish, shellfish, eggs and dairy products to the EU.

This position has been set out by the [EU in its notice to stakeholders dated 1st February 2018](#).

In order for exports to the EU to continue certain requirements must be met, including:

- The United Kingdom is "listed" by the EU Commission for public and animal health purposes; and
- The establishment which the food is dispatched, and obtained or prepared in, is "listed" by the Commission for public health purposes.

The Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA), is currently undertaking the application process.

Food Standards Scotland will therefore coordinate the collection of approved food establishment-specific information in Scotland, in order to assist DEFRA with the UK's application to the EU.

Action you must now take

If you are an approved establishment that currently exports POAO into the EU, **or** you are considering exporting POAO post EU exit, **or** you supply POAO to other approved food businesses who subsequently export to the EU, you **must provide FSS with the information below**.

This will enable FSS to provisionally add you to the UK national list for approval by the EU.

Please provide:

- Confirmation that you would like to be included on the UK national list of approval by the EU to export POAO into the EU.
- The category of product(s) and quantity 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 quantity of material produced by your establishment in the last 12 months that is not exported. Please provide this information if you do not export to the EU currently but are currently approved and intend to in future.

Please send the completed spreadsheet to the following FSS email address:
adminteam@fss.scot

together with:

- your food businesses' approval number,
- address and
- contact details, (email address, telephone number and name).

Please respond to this letter by the 12 December 2018, providing the necessary information to **either**:

- enable your establishment added to the UK's application **or**
- confirm that you do not want to be added to the UK's application.

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

Please note that as the UK's application proceeds, and it becomes subject to EU review, FSS may need to contact you for additional information to support this process. Businesses should note therefore that providing the information requested is a necessary first step in securing continued access to existing markets but will not be considered in isolation in determining whether businesses meet the necessary conditions for exporting to the EU in the event of no deal.

It should also be understood by you that it is possible that, as part of the approval process, EU auditors may visit your food business, to verify compliance with its official controls. If this is the case, FSS will notify both you and your local authority environmental health service (if your food business is under local authority control) of such a request.

Guidance on how to complete the attached spreadsheet and the interpretation of products and volume is provided in Annex 1 at the end of this letter.

What happens if you don't respond to this letter?

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 UK list*** seeking approval to export POAO to the EU. You will need to contact DEFRA to ask for your establishment to be included in future revisions of the UK national list submitted to the EU for its' approval, but that may mean a delay in being able to export POAO.

The process for obtaining UK approved establishment status is not changing and approval applications will continue to be handled by Food Standards Scotland and local authorities.

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Patrick Smyth". The signature is written in a cursive style with a period at the end.

Patrick Smyth,

EU Exit Exports/Imports Lead, Food Standards Scotland

Annex 1

Key Facts

- When the UK ceases to be a member state of the EU, and unless other arrangements are agreed with the EU, 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 Post 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 for completion of the spreadsheet

- Estimate the quantity of product over a 12-month period.
- This can be by weight/volume or number of carcasses for each product.
- 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 adminteam@fss.scot