

Cooking oils

General information

Imports of cooking oils from countries outside the European Union (EU) must meet the same or equivalent food hygiene and compositional standards and procedures as food produced in the UK or other EU Member States. You do not normally need a health certificate to import cooking oils.

Import licences

You may not need a health or hygiene licence to import food, but many foods from countries outside the EU require licences for trading purposes and may be subject to quotas. For further information please contact the Rural Payments Agency on 0191 226 5050 or by email at: Trader@rpa.gsi.gov.uk

Food colourings, flavourings and sweeteners

Some oils may contain food colourings, flavourings or sweeteners. Although these may be approved by the food authority in the country of origin, some of them may not be approved in the EU. For information on food flavourings, sweeteners, colourings and preservatives, please contact the Food Standards Agency (FSA)'s Food Additives team on 020 7276 8570 or by email at foodadditives@foodstandards.gsi.gov.uk

Labelling

For advice on the labelling of specific products, please contact your local authority's Trading Standards Department or Environmental Health Department. You can find contact details for these via the following link on our website <http://food.gov.uk/enforcement/yourarea/>

Olive oil

For information on marketing standards for olive oil please contact DEFRA on 0845 933 5577 or by email at defra.helpline@defra.gsi.gov.uk

Organic information

If you are importing organic products (live or unprocessed agricultural products, processed agricultural for use as food or feed and vegetative propagating material and seeds for cultivation), from outside the EU, please contact the Organic Imports team at DEFRA at organic.imports@defra.gsi.gov.uk. For information on organic regulation and standards, (including labelling) within the UK please contact the Organic Strategy team at organic.standards@defra.gsi.gov.uk

Packaging

Food contact materials and articles, including those used for food packaging, are controlled by a comprehensive EU harmonised legislation that has been fully implemented in the UK. This legislation is particularly thorough in its control of plastic materials and articles intended for food use. For information on the safety of packaging please contact the Food Contact Materials Team on 020 7276 8570 or by email at:

FoodContactMaterial@foodstandards.gsi.gov.uk

Food hygiene

For general enquiries on food hygiene please contact the Food Hygiene Policy Team by email at foodhygiene.policy@foodstandards.gsi.gov.uk

Pesticides

For information on pesticides safety levels for imports please contact Health and Safety Executive's (HSE) Chemicals Regulation Directorate (CRD) by accessing the link:

<http://www.pesticides.gov.uk/>

Contaminants

A guidance note on the Contaminants in Food (England) Regulations 2013, which make provision for enactment and enforcement of Commission Regulations setting regulatory limits for contaminants in food (nitrate, mycotoxins, metals, 3-MCPD dioxins and PAHs), can be found at

<http://www.food.gov.uk/news-updates/news/2013/oct/regulations>

Import restrictions

There are some import restrictions/requirements that can apply to cooking oils of which importers need to be aware. These are as follows:

“Higher-risk” products

As of 25 January 2010 imports of certain feed and food of non-animal origin that are considered to be “higher-risk” can only enter the UK through specific ports and airports which are designated points of entry (DPEs) where official controls will be carried out. A “higher-risk” product is feed or food that is either known to be, or is, an emerging risk to public health. Further information for business operators can be found at

http://www.food.gov.uk/foodindustry/imports/banned_restricted/highrisknonpoao

For a complete list of foods (not of animal origin) with current EU restrictions, please see the following link on the FSA's website:

www.food.gov.uk/foodindustry/imports/banned_restricted/restricted_foodstuffs

Products of animal origin

The rules for importing animal-based cooking oils are dealt with by the Animal and Plant Health Agency (APHA) in Carlisle on 01228 403 600 (option 3) or by email at imports@apha.gsi.gov.uk . APHA is an Executive Agency of the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA).

Information on importing cooking oils that contain shellfish or fish, or their products, can be found on our website at http://www.food.gov.uk/business-industry/imports/want_to_import/fisheryproducts/

Imports of feed and food from Japan

As of 27 March 2011 imports of all feed and food originating in or consigned from Japan to the EU are subject to special conditions. This is following the accident at the Fukushima Daiichi nuclear power plant in Japan in March 2011. This will mean that consignments of feed and food can only enter the UK through specific ports and airports where official controls will be carried out. Further information for business operators can be found at:

http://www.food.gov.uk/foodindustry/imports/banned_restricted/japan

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Helpline: 020 7276 8018

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