

## **Advance notification of the proposed consultation to amend the [Jam and similar products \(England\) Regulations 2003](#)**

A consultation on revising the Jam and Similar Products Regulations is planned for the end of 2012 to update UK domestic legislation. The Government is considering revising the Regulations to lower the existing permitted soluble solids (sugar) level for jams. Flexibility provided within the current European rules on jams allows Member States, in certain particular cases, to set lower soluble solids levels for jams. Technological developments and the new use of fruits for jam making have allowed jams to be produced which meet the criteria for jam in all other aspects but which have a lower sugar content. Other Members States have recently lowered their soluble solids level to 55% and the UK is seeking to take a similar approach. The Consultation will provide an opportunity for those who may be affected by the proposals with a chance to assess the options, and provide a response to inform the decision making process.

The planned consultation will include at least the following options:

1. Reducing the permitted % sugar levels for jams to 50%
2. Reducing the permitted % sugar levels for jams to 55% with an exemption for Bramley apple jams which permits % sugar levels down to 50%

The consultation will also consider removing the current soluble solids requirements set for “reduced sugar” jams which are set between 25-50%. This would mean the general requirements for “reduced sugar” products as set out in health claim regulations would then apply i.e. a 30% energy reduction.

The current jam regulations also include purely national provisions for fruit curds and mincemeat, since these are national requirements views on whether these are still required will also be welcomed.

To be informed when the Consultation opens, please email your contact details to [foodpolicyunit@defra.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:foodpolicyunit@defra.gsi.gov.uk)