

Unilateral declarations by the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the European Union in the Withdrawal Agreement Joint Committee on official certifications

17 December 2020

UNILATERAL DECLARATION BY THE UNITED KINGDOM IN THE JOINT COMMITTEE

The United Kingdom will apply, during a maximum time period of three months after the end of the transition period, the following approach to the implementation of the Protocol as regards products of animal origin, composite products, food and feed of non-animal origin and plant and plant products (except the meat products referred to in the unilateral declaration by the United Kingdom in the Joint Committee on meat products) brought into Northern Ireland and for which official certification is required for their importation into the EU. During this period of time, the UK shall maintain its current EU SPS legislation for the products concerned.

The scope is limited to a restricted number of food suppliers for supermarkets which are approved by the UK authorities after demonstrating that they meet a range of trust criteria. This list of members will be established by the United Kingdom in cooperation with the European Commission before 31 December 2020 and cannot be extended after that date.

The above mentioned products are brought into Northern Ireland through the following steps:

- They are packaged for end consumers and they bear a label reading *“These products from the United Kingdom may not be marketed outside Northern Ireland”*,
- They are destined solely for sale to end consumers in supermarkets located in Northern Ireland, and they cannot be sold to other operators of the food chain,
- They are accompanied by a simplified official certificate globally stating the products meet all the import requirements of EU legislation,
- They enter Northern Ireland through a designated place as defined in point (38) of Article 3 of Regulation (EU) 2017/625 of the European Parliament and of the Council, where they are submitted to a systematic documentary check and to a risk-based identity check on a selection of items in the means of transport, and
- They are monitored through a channelling procedure applicable from the designated place as defined in point (38) of Article 3 of Regulation (EU) 2017/625 of the European Parliament and of the Council to the destination supermarket in Northern Ireland.

During the above-mentioned period of time, the UK authorities will take all necessary measures to ensure compliance with the Protocol and relevant Union law as of 1 April 2021. The UK accepts this solution is not renewable.

UNILATERAL DECLARATION BY THE EUROPEAN UNION IN THE JOINT COMMITTEE

The European Union takes note of the United Kingdom's declaration setting out the practice it intends to put in place as regards imports of products of animal origin, composite products, food and feed of non-animal origin and plant and plant products, into Northern Ireland during the first three months after the end of the transition period. This approach will inform the position of the Union as regards recourse to the exercise of the powers referred to in Article 12(4) of the Protocol.