



Foreign, Commonwealth
& Development Office



Department for
Business & Trade

Guidance DOCUMENT

Standards and regulatory import requirements

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Purpose and contents

This guidance provides an introductory guide to the standards and regulatory requirements that businesses may need to meet to import and sell goods in the UK.

The guidance is in 3 sections

01



Standards that apply to goods imported into the UK

02



Import requirements for specific products

03



Import controls on specific products and countries

Standards that apply to goods imported into the UK

01

Goods imported into the UK must comply with 3 types of standards. These standards apply to plant seeds, food, and manufactured goods.

1. Product marking standards
2. Labelling standards
3. Marketing standards

Product marking standards

Before you can sell a product that you have imported to the UK, you must comply with the relevant marking standards. The UK's CE marking standards will apply until the end of 2024. After that, you must comply with the UK Conformity Assessment (UKCA) marking, the new UK product marking guide.

You can read the detailed [Guidance on product marking standards in the UK](#)

Labelling standards

There are 5 food labelling standards that you must comply with to import and sell products in the UK.

1. [Food labelling: giving Food Information to Consumers](#)
Manufacturers must comply with standards on how to give customers information on food products.
2. [Food Standards: labelling and Composition](#)
Comply with these legal standards and composition requirements for food products like bottled water, milk, and meat.
3. [Food labelling and packaging](#)
Comply with the general requirements for labelling and packaging products for sale in the UK.
4. [Organic Food: Labelling Rules](#)
Comply with the standards and requirements for labelling products as organic or using organic production terms if you produce, prepare, store, import or sell organic products.
5. [Textile labelling](#)
Manufacturers and retailers of textiles are required to follow special labeling rules.



Import Requirements

02

The product's label must show the fibre content, including fur and other animal parts. If a product consists of 2 or more components with different contents, the label must show all content.

Find out more about textile labeling requirements on the [Business Companion website](#).

Marketing standards

There are marketing standards for specific products like wine, poultry meat, hatching eggs and chicks, beef and veal. You should check in the detailed [Guide on marketing standards](#) for more information.



Import Requirements

Certain products are subject to special rules requiring businesses to acquire licences and certificates before being imported into the UK. In law it is a requirement that a country seeks approval for market access to export high risk Sanitary and Phytosanitary (SPS) commodities. Unless the country has been approved for these products it will not be possible for a business to export them to GB.



Products requiring licenses and certifications, include:

- [Animals and animal products](#)
- [Plants and plant products](#)
- [High risk food](#)
- [Veterinary medicines](#)
- [Human medicine](#)
- [Controlled drugs](#)
- [Waste](#)
- [Products containing F Gas](#)
- [Precursor chemicals](#)
- [Hazardous chemicals](#)
- [Nuclear materials](#)
- [Guns, knives, swords and other weapons](#)
- [Weapons and goods that could be used for torture or capital punishment](#)

Import Controls

03

Import Controls



Import controls are restrictions on high-risk products to ensure any risks to human health and animal health have been mitigated. Import controls ensure sustainable production and that consumers and UK businesses are buying products that are what they claim to be.

Currently, there are import controls on:

- [Organic Products](#)
- [Plants and seeds](#)
- [Illegal, unreported, and unregulated fishing](#)
- [Veterinary products.](#)
- [Some sanitary and phytosanitary products](#)

There are also import restrictions on goods from North Korea and Ukraine. Emergency import control measures may be introduced when responding to a specific incident which affects standards.

You should check all applicable import controls in the UK to ensure you can import and sell your product in the UK.