

FSA note to stakeholders

Decision on changes to health and identification marks

Health and identification marks are the oval stamps that must be applied to certain food products of animal origin (POAO) and confirm that such products have been produced in a UK approved establishment. The mark also indicates that the product has been inspected and is fit for human consumption.

Between the 27th July and the 8th October the Food Standards Agency (FSA) consulted in England, Wales and Northern Ireland on proposed changes to the UK's health and identification marks as a result of the UK leaving the EU. Food Standards Scotland (FSS) undertook a similar exercise in Scotland.

We are grateful to those stakeholders who responded to the consultations and having evaluated this information it is clear that respondents would prefer to:

- retain the existing oval form and dimensions of the marks, and
- retain the abbreviated UK prefix that represents England, Scotland Wales and Northern Ireland,

The only change proposed to the marks is the removal of the EC abbreviation.

The UK health and identification marks to be applied when the UK is no longer a Member State of the EU are:

The UK health mark



The UK identification mark



In a 'no deal' scenario, the revised form of the health and identification marks would have to be applied to certain POAO intended for export on 'Day 1' onwards.

Under a negotiated exit with an implementation period, depending upon the precise terms agreed with the EU, the EC health and identification marks would be retained for all POAO produced in the UK during the implementation period. The new form of the marks would be introduced on Day 1 following the expiry of the implementation period.

Changes that will finalise the UKs health and identification marks have been incorporated in a draft Statutory Instrument, The Specific Food Hygiene (EU Exit) Regulations 2018, which will shortly be laid before Parliament and we will notify stakeholders when the SI has been approved.