



12 March 2026

By email

Dear Cefyn Jones,

**Re: UK-EU SPS Agreement announcement**

We are writing to update you regarding your market authorisation application, CRN 9272-4039-8020-7888. This letter contains important information about the impact of the planned UK-EU Sanitary and Phytosanitary Agreement (the 'SPS' Agreement), and how the Food Standards Agency (FSA) and Food Standards Scotland (FSS) are planning and preparing for future implementation. We will be providing further updates as negotiations progress, and you can find more information at [www.food.gov.uk](http://www.food.gov.uk)

**The SPS Agreement**

The UK Government has set out its ambition to improve the UK's trade and investment relationship with the European Union (EU). This includes seeking an SPS Agreement with the aim of helping to boost trade and deliver benefits to businesses and consumers in the UK and the EU. This is an international negotiation led by UK Government, not the FSA and FSS. The UK Government is aiming for an Agreement to be implemented by mid-2027.

Following the UK – EU Leaders' Summit on 19 May 2025, the UK and EU published a common understanding document, confirming that future negotiations on an SPS Agreement with the EU will follow a model of dynamic alignment with EU law in SPS policy areas. This includes the law on regulated food and feed products in Great Britain (GB).

## **Potential future impact of an SPS Agreement on GB Market Authorisations of Regulated Products**

The proposal for dynamic alignment means that the UK would align with all EU legislation [within the scope of the Agreement](#) and, once the Agreement enters into force, rules applying in the UK would be updated in line with EU rules as they change over time.

Dynamic alignment would mean that, once an SPS Agreement is in place, an EU market authorisation would be required to market a regulated product in GB (subject to any exceptions being agreed during the negotiations with the EU). EU authorisations already apply in Northern Ireland. Businesses would no longer apply to the FSA/FSS for authorisations and would have to apply under EU legislation instead, and EU authorisations would in future cover the whole of the UK. This means that products already authorised by the EU - and the conditions attached to those authorisations - along with any post-authorisation requirements laid down in EU legislation (e.g. periodic renewal applications for certain types of products) would also apply in GB once the Agreement enters into force. Existing GB authorisations would cease to apply. Details of any potential transition arrangements for any in-scope legislation are subject to negotiation and not yet confirmed.

Detailed negotiations with the EU have begun and the UK and the EU are aiming to reach an agreement before the next summit, which is likely to be this Summer. It is currently expected that the UK will continue to apply existing domestic/GB rules until an Agreement is implemented. We will provide further detail on our approach to the proposed transition as soon as we can.

### **Market authorisation applications currently in the GB system**

The UK Government is aiming for an Agreement to be implemented by mid-2027. This means a substantial number of applications in the FSA/FSS Market Authorisation Service are unlikely to reach the point of ministerial decision before the Agreement is in place.

In order to ensure we prepare for a smooth transition to the proposed new system under an SPS Agreement we have adopted principles for prioritisation of applications currently in the system. These were discussed by the FSA and FSS Boards in December 2025 and will be kept under review as negotiations progress. In summary:

- We will continue to put consumer safety first, prioritising work where there is a potential food or feed safety risk which needs to be addressed through our authorisation process.
- We will prioritise applications which are within government priority sectors for innovation and growth.
- We will prioritise applications currently very near the end of the process.

**We currently consider that your application meets one or more of these prioritisation principles.** We would therefore encourage you to respond to any requests for further information promptly during this period of uncertainty before the outcome of the SPS negotiations are known, as this will enable us to continue the assessment of your product. We will update you as soon as possible if this changes.

### **Preparing for an SPS Agreement**

As the UK Government is advising that businesses should start to prepare now on the assumption that the UK will dynamically align with EU legislation on market authorisations, you may wish to consider the regulatory strategy for your product. For example, you may decide to consider also applying to the EU, if you have not already done so. When applying, you will need to understand whether there are any additional or alternative requirements in respect of EU applications which apply at the time you make your application. This includes considering any requirements to pre-notify studies, introduced by [Regulation \(EU\) 2019/1381](#) (the ‘Transparency Regulation’) or whether the criteria for submitting post-completion notifications are satisfied. You should carefully consider the [EFSA Practical Arrangements guidance](#), and any other relevant application guidance which the EU has published, in order to ensure the necessary requirements are satisfied. If you have already received authorisation in the EU, you may wish to consider how the EU terms of authorisation may differ to those in any GB authorisation, and whether your EU authorisation is time limited and subject to a renewal requirement.

If, through negotiations, any alternative arrangements are formally agreed, we will update you when we are able. We understand that changes to the regulatory landscape may be challenging to navigate but, as negotiations are ongoing, we do not have any further information to share at present. The FSA and FSS are committed to keeping stakeholders informed and engaged as plans for an SPS Agreement take shape and will update you when we are able.

We will continue to have regular meetings with industry representative bodies, and we will provide updates in our regular communications about market authorisations, which

you can sign up to [on the FSA's website](#). For updates on wider issues affecting the food and feed industries, you can sign up to [Defra's email alerts](#). For further details, including the public announcement, please visit the dedicated [Defra webpage](#).

We are planning a drop-in session for applicants, to take place shortly. If you would like to register your interest in attending, please [complete this form](#) by 17:00 on 16 March.

Yours sincerely,



Rebecca Sudworth  
Director of Policy, FSA



Garry Mournian  
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