

BREXIT HUB

FOOD LABELLING AND COMPOSITION: NATURAL MINERAL WATER

Introduction

The transition period between the UK and the EU will end on 31 December 2020. This means that the UK will no longer be a member of the EU's Single Market nor the Common Customs Union. These changes will result in a series of significant, and depending on the timing, abrupt changes to how rural businesses operate. The rules regarding the recognition of natural mineral producers in Great Britain will change.

This briefing note, and others on different subjects that can be found on the CLA Brexit Hub - <https://www.cla.org.uk/brexit> - provides rural business owners with a detailed framework for the steps which will need to be taken and where you can find more information relating to fruit and vegetables marketing standards after transition and has been independently compiled by CLA experts. It covers:

- Non-recognition of natural mineral water producers in Great Britain;
- Applying for recognition;
- EU natural mineral water imported to the UK.

Of course, the decision about what actions to take will be unique to every businesses' needs. This guidance is not intended to make a judgement on the specific activities you should be undertaking, or about the longer-term effects of the UK's exit from the EU.

What changes are being made?

Changes are being made that will affect natural mineral water producers in Great Britain from 1 January who either trade, or wish to trade in:

- The EU member states;
- Norway;
- Iceland;
- Liechtenstein.

As from 1 January, 2021 these countries will no longer recognise natural mineral water produced in Great Britain.

In order to be recognised in these countries, producers must meet both criteria:

- The business is a producer of natural mineral water and has received recognition as such from a responsible authority in GB;
- The business wants to retain access to the EU, Norway, Iceland and Liechtenstein markets after 1 January 2021.

In order to retain access to these markets, the business needs to apply for recognition as a non-EU country by writings to one of the following countries:

- an EU member state;
- Norway;
- Iceland;
- Liechtenstein.



The recognition process is underpinned by EU law (Directive 2009/54/EC) but differs slightly between countries. The application and supporting documentation must be presented in the official language of the country in which it is being made.

For more information, email bottled.water@defra.gov.uk on how to be recognised.

Businesses are advised to approach the country that is being applied to as soon as possible, so they can process your application shortly after 1 January 2021.

EU, Norway, Iceland and Liechtenstein natural mineral water will continue to be recognised in England and Wales until at least 1 July 2021.