



Defra updates rules on organic food and feed trade after transition

Defra has provided an update on the rules that will apply to organic food and feed exports and imports with the EU. However, at the present time there is still no agreement that the EU will accept GB products as organic.

The problem focuses on the principle of equivalence. Although the UK has agreed that food and feed registered as organic in the EU will continue to be accepted as organic in the UK until 31 December 2021, there is, as yet, no equivalent decision from the EU that would allow GB organic food and feed to be marketed as “organic”.

If there is no equivalent agreement, and it is hoped the EU will make a decision before the end of transition on 31 December 2020, it will put organic exporters at a significant disadvantage and could lead to a substantial reduction in the volumes of British organic produce that is exported to the EU.

Further details on the updated rules can be found at:

www.gov.uk/guidance/trading-and-labelling-organic-food-from-1-january-2021

The CLA will also be posting a briefing note on the CLA Brexit Hub that will set out the latest rule changes and what this means for the organics sector.