

## Explanation of upcoming change to import controls of Tea from China, effective 18 December 2024

To ensure that food imported into the UK is safe for consumers, the Food Standards Agency (FSA) and Food Standards Scotland (FSS) have undertaken a science and evidence-based review of the imported food and feed commodities contained within the Annexes to assimilated Regulation 2019/1793 (Regulation 2019/1793).

The Statutory Instrument was laid in November across Governments in England, Wales and Scotland, and the updated controls will come into force on 18 December 2024.

Recognising the complex supply chain of Tea from China, the following explanation of enhanced controls for consignments entering GB is relevant to Competent Authorities in the EU.

### Amendment

Commodity	Hazard	Amendment
Tea, whether or not flavoured	Pesticide residues	Move from Annex I to Annex II with 5% physical and identity checks.

As a commodity listed in Annex II, consignments of tea from China must be accompanied by an official certificate as well as results of pre-export sampling and analysis.

The Export Health Certificate should be produced using the model certificate as a guide.

We are looking for confirmation that analysis on pesticide residues has been undertaken and the consignment found to be compliant.

A World Trade Notification [G/SPS/N/GBR/63](#) published on 24 June 2024 details the full list of amendments.

### Background

Regulation 2019/1793 deals with temporary increases of official controls and emergency measures governing the entry into Great Britain (GB) of food and feed from certain countries. The Regulation deals with imported high-risk food and feed not of animal origin, ensuring that such commodities when imported into GB undergo risk-based checks.

The FSA, which has responsibility for imported food safety in England, Wales, and Northern Ireland, in conjunction with FSS who have similar responsibilities in Scotland have established a four-country working group to review imported food legislation. The purpose of the review is to ensure that the legislation remains focussed on those imported food and feed commodities which pose the

greatest risk to consumers. This working group determines whether existing controls are effective, should be reduced or applied to new commodities that present a risk to health.

Detailed risk assessments for commodities and countries have been considered by a team of experts from the FSA and FSS. The expert group has concluded that the existing Annex I and II lists will be amended to reflect the changes to risk to consumers' health. Certain commodities that no longer pose a risk to public health will be removed from the lists while others will increase or decrease in their checking frequency.

Amendments to the legislation apply in England, Scotland, and Wales.

The identification of the food and feed products listed in Annexes I, II and IIa are made based on the codes from the Combined Nomenclature and TARIC sub-division indicated in the Annexes. Identity and physical checks, including sampling and laboratory analysis of food and feed listed in the Annexes are at a frequency set out in Annexes.

Consignments of food and feed listed in Annex I to Regulation 2019/1793 are subject to temporary increase of official controls at Border Control Posts at entry into Great Britain and at control points. Annex II to Regulation 2019/1793 sets out the list of consignments of food and feed from certain third countries subject to special conditions for the entry into Great Britain due to contamination risk by mycotoxins, including aflatoxins, pesticide residues, and due to microbiological contamination. Food and feed listed in Annex IIa is suspended from entry into Great Britain.