

NewsLetter



Movement of food to Northern Ireland New labelling rules from 1.7.25

As part of the “Windsor Agreement” which was created to prevent a customs barrier existing between Northern Ireland and Great Britain following the UK’s exit from the EU, businesses in GB may move some goods to Northern Ireland via the Northern Ireland Retail Movement Scheme (NIRMS).

The so called “green channel” allows free movement of goods normally requiring official controls at the port of entry, which meet GB standards, into Northern Ireland as long as they are labelled to prevent them from being placed on the EU market.

The requirements for NIRMS include:

- labelling some individual products
- labelling boxes where the products inside the boxes do not need to be individually labelled
- displaying signage in retail premises in Northern Ireland for products that do not need to be individually labelled

NIRMS has been introduced in phases and requires that some food products are labelled with the words ‘**Not for EU**’. The final “phase 3” will apply to relevant foods moved from 1st July 2025.

Which foods are included in NIRMS?

Phases 1 (October 2023) and 2 (October 2024) of NIRMS required that all meat products and dairy products moved to NI from GB must be individually labelled.

From 1 July 2025, individual labels are also needed for: some composite products (Composite products contain both products of plant origin and processed Products of Animal Origin (POAO) such as pizzas), some fruit and vegetables, all fresh, frozen and processed fish, eggs, honey, certain food supplements, infant formulae, baking ingredients, icing mixes, meal kits where they contain non-exempt POAO cheese, mayonnaise and pesto and High risk food of non-animal origin (HRFNAO), where it is controlled under Regulation 2019/1793.

What are the exemptions?

Some foods are exempt from individual labelling requirements. However, box and retail premises labelling requirements still apply for the majority of exempt products. [Revised Defra Guidance](#) states:

Products are exempt from individual labelling if they are:

- sold loose or by weight on the sales premises at the consumer’s request, such as loose fresh fruit, cheese and meat deli counters or refillable cereal containers
- processed and sold on the sales premises by a retailer, at the consumer’s request, for direct consumption.
- for sale in a factory canteen or other similar food service operator, and are intended for eating on the spot in Northern Ireland. These products are exempt from all labelling requirements, including at box level