

Voluntary Report – Voluntary - Public Distribution

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Report Name: UK Draft Regulations for Comment on Fairer Food Labeling

Country: United Kingdom

Post: London

Report Category: FAIRS Subject Report, Trade Policy Monitoring, Livestock and Products

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Report Highlights:

On March 12, the United Kingdom (UK) government announced a public consultation on ‘Fairer Food Labeling.’ The consultation seeks feedback for two proposals on food labeling regulations: (1) on labeling pertaining to country of origin, and (2), on animal welfare labeling relating to methods of production. If implemented, these food labeling regulations will apply to imported and domestically produced products. The deadline for submission of comments is May 7, 2024.

Timelines

The consultation was launched on March 12 and is open until May 7, 2024. The UK is expecting a large number of responses from stakeholders. The government has indicated they will take into consideration consultation submissions in the development of the proposed regulations. The implementation of these final regulations is not expected to come into force until early 2026.

The [UK notified the WTO](#) through the committee on Technical Barriers to Trade on March 19, 2024.

Key factors

The UK government is still in the preliminary stages of assessing the parameters of these labeling policies and interested in stakeholder feedback on these proposals, especially views from producers, exporters and retailers.

The UK government, via these consultations, is seeking to understand other countries' methods of production and how these compare with UK standards. The UK government will still need to establish the details on where and how they will recognize other countries equivalencies to the proposed UK welfare categories. Clarification is also needed regarding a threshold for 'sufficient proof' to meet these standards.

Additionally, the current draft of the policy places the burden of compliance on the 'Food Business Operator' [as defined under [article 3 of Regulation \(EC\) No 178/2002](#)]. The Food Business Operator is responsible for ensuring that the labeling on products is correct at the point of sale.

Attachments:

No Attachments.