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Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Welsh Government
Consultation Document

Updating the Beef and Veal Labelling (Wales) Regulations 2011

Date of issue: 28 August 2018
Action required: Responses by 25 September 2018

Mae'r ddogfen yma hefyd ar gael yn Gymraeg.
This document is also available in Welsh.

Overview This consultation paper informs and seeks views on the amendments due to be made to the Beef and Veal Labelling (Wales) Regulations 2011.

How to respond Please use the consultation response form.

Further information and related documents Large print, Braille and alternative language versions of this document are available on request.

Contact details For further information:

Address:
Food Division
Welsh Government
Rhodfa Padarn, Llanbadarn Fawr, Aberystwyth,
Ceredigion, SY23 3UR

email: FoodDivisionalBusiness@gov.wales

General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR)

The Welsh Government will be data controller for any personal data you provide as part of your response to the consultation. Welsh Ministers have statutory powers they will rely on to process this personal data which will enable them to make informed decisions about how they exercise their public functions. Any response you send us will be seen in full by Welsh Government staff dealing with the issues which this consultation is about or planning future consultations. Where the Welsh Government undertakes further analysis of consultation responses then this work may be commissioned to be carried out by an accredited third party (e.g. a research organisation or a consultancy company). Any such work will only be undertaken under contract. Welsh Government's standard terms and conditions for such contracts set out strict requirements for the processing and safekeeping of personal data.

In order to show that the consultation was carried out properly, the Welsh Government intends to publish a summary of the responses to this document. We may also publish responses in full. Normally, the name and address (or part of the address) of the person or organisation who sent the response are published with the response. If you do not want your name or address published, please tell us this in writing when you send your response. We will then redact them before publishing.

You should also be aware of our responsibilities under Freedom of Information legislation. If your details are published as part of the consultation response then these published reports will be retained indefinitely. Any of your data held otherwise by Welsh Government will be kept for no more than three years.

Your rights

Under the data protection legislation, you have the right:

- to be informed of the personal data holds about you and to access it
- to require us to rectify inaccuracies in that data
- to (in certain circumstances) object to or restrict processing
- for (in certain circumstances) your data to be 'erased'
- to (in certain circumstances) data portability
- to lodge a complaint with the Information Commissioner's Office (ICO) who is our independent regulator for data protection.

For further details about the information the Welsh Government holds and its use, or if you want to exercise your rights under the GDPR, please see contact details below:

Data Protection Officer:
Welsh Government
Cathays Park
CARDIFF
CF10 3NQ

e-mail:

Data.ProtectionOfficer@gov.wales

The contact details for the Information Commissioner's Office are:

Wycliffe House
Water Lane
Wilmslow
Cheshire
SK9 5AF

Tel: 01625 545 745 or
0303 123 1113

Website: <https://ico.org.uk/>

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Document 1 – Consultation Response Template

1. Introduction

- 1.1** Regulation (EC) No 1760/2000 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 17 July 2000 sets out the European Union (EU) system for the identification and registration of bovine animals as well as the requirements in respect of labelling beef and beef products, including the labelling of meat (including offal) of bovine animals aged 12 months or less and the labelling of pre-packed and non pre-packed beef products.
- 1.2** The aim of the legislation was to strengthen traceability controls against the risk of contaminated products entering the food chain and causing a human health risk.
- 1.3** This legislation is currently implemented in Wales *via* the Beef and Veal Labelling (Wales) Regulations 2011 which provide enforcement powers in relation to the voluntary European beef labelling obligations set by Regulation (EC) 1760/2000.
- 1.4** The above European legislation has now been updated by Regulation (EU) No. 653/2014 which amends Regulation (EC) No 1760/2000 as regards the labelling of beef. The amendments remove the voluntary labelling scheme to reflect the general labelling principles set by Regulation (EU) No 1169/2011 of the European Parliament and of the Council on the provision of food information to consumers. As a result the Beef and Veal Labelling (Wales) Regulations 2011 also need amending.

2. Purpose of the consultation

2.1 The main purpose of this consultation is to inform you of, and seek your views on, the removal of the voluntary labelling scheme and the updating of our domestic regulations to reflect the general labelling principles in respect of the provision of food information to consumers.

Who will be affected by the proposal?

2.2 This consultation is directed at individuals who are involved in the meat processing industry in Wales and principally anyone with an interest in the regulation of Beef and Veal labelling and the labelling of food products. It will be of particular interest to you if you are:

- Engaged in activities associated with meat processing
- Engaged in activities for the benefit of the Beef and Veal Labelling industry

Timing of the consultation

2.3 This consultation will run for 4 weeks from 28/08/2018 and close on 25/09/2018. We will not consider responses received after that date.

2.4 We have been engaging with industry stakeholders and have made them aware of both the purpose and schedule of this consultation.

Responding to this consultation

2.5 Please respond to this consultation using the formal template provided at Document 1.

You can return the completed documentation by email to:

FoodDivisionalBusiness@gov.wales

Or by writing to;

Welsh Government
Food Division
Rhodfa Padarn
Llanbadarn Fawr
Aberystwyth
Ceredigion, SY23 3UR

Following the consultation

2.6 After the consultation process is completed, a summary of the responses will be published and placed on the Welsh Government website at:

<https://beta.gov.wales/consultations>

2.7 The summary will include a list of names and organisations who responded but not personal names, addresses or other contact details. However, information provided in response to this consultation document, including personal information, may be subject to publication or release to other parties or to disclosure in accordance with the access to information regimes e.g. Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA) and the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR).

2.8 If you want information, including personal data that you provide to be treated as confidential, please state clearly in writing, when you submit your response to the consultation, why you need to keep these details confidential. If we receive a request for disclosure under the FOIA, we will take full account of your explanation, but we cannot provide an assurance that confidentiality can be maintained in all circumstances. An automatic confidentiality disclaimer generated by your IT system will not, of itself, be regarded as a confidentiality request.

2.10 This consultation is being conducted in line with the “Consultation Principles” as set out in the Better Regulation Executive guidance which can be found at <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/consultation-principles-guidance> and coherent to the ‘National Principles for Public Engagement’ which can be found at <https://participation.cymru/en/rprinciples/>

3. Proposal

Beef and Veal Labelling (Wales) – what is this consultation about?

3.1 What the present voluntary labelling regime requires

The Beef and Veal Labelling (Wales) Regulations 2011 provide enforcement powers for the Welsh Ministers to ensure compliance with the EU beef labelling regulations as set out in EC Regulation 1760/2000.

These require beef and veal (but not mince or trimmings) to be labelled with a unique number allowing meat to be traced back to an identifiable animal or group of animals; the country of birth of the animal (s) in question; the country/ies of rearing of those animals; the country of slaughter of those animals; and details of the slaughterhouse and cutting plant (where applicable).

In addition to the above statutory labelling requirements, voluntary claims concerning where the animal or animals from which the beef was derived were born, fattened and slaughtered may be provided under the voluntary beef labelling system. Prior to including such information on a label however, any voluntary claim had to have been submitted for approval via the EU.

3.2 What the new mandatory regime will require

The main effect has been to remove the voluntary claims aspect of the labelling scheme which are now included in the general labelling principles set by the Food Information to Consumer Regulations (Regulation (EU) 1169/2011).

The general labelling principles now prescribe how such claims regarding derivation or slaughter etc. should be included on any label. This makes it easier to place the claims outlined above when labelling beef and veal as they do not have to be submitted for approval in advance. This will simplify the process for making such claims on beef and veal labels.

Whilst the UK remains a member State of the EU, our domestic regulations need to reflect the position in EU law and also require insertion of updated references to other EU regulations which have been overhauled. As amendments were made to the Regulation (EC) 1760/2000 by Regulation (EU) 653/2014, those amendments now need to be reflected in our domestic legislation.

Welsh Government has been advised that England will be bringing amending regulations (and a number of other regulatory changes) into force using a similar Statutory Instrument. It is advisable for the Welsh regulations to remain parallel because the nature of trade in meat and animal products requires a seamless approach across England and Wales. As the inspection agencies and enforcement authorities work on an England and Wales basis and to the same specifications parallel regulations will ensure that there is no market distortion and less risk of failures occurring within the supply chain.

Document 1

Consultation Response Form

Your name:

Organisation (if applicable):

email / telephone number:

Your address:

General Questions

Please choose which of these best represent you:

- I. A meat processing plant
- II. Other (please specify)

Question 1: What are your thoughts on the Beef and Veal Labelling (Wales) Regulations 2011 being updated to reflect the proposed mandatory and technical changes in the parent EU regulation?

- I. Provide your comments in the box below.

Question 2: If you have any related issues which we have not specifically addressed, please use this space to report them:

Please enter here:

Responses to consultations are likely to be made public, on the internet or in a report. If you would prefer your response to remain anonymous, please tick here: