

Windsor Framework SPS Compliance Protocol NI

Northern Ireland Retail Movement Scheme (NIRMS) Compliance - Updated September 2024



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Section 1: Introduction

Background

The Protocol on Ireland/Northern Ireland was agreed as part of the UK - EU Withdrawal Agreement that formally took the UK out of the EU. Under the terms of the Protocol, Northern Ireland (NI) is required to apply Sanitary & Phyto-Sanitary (SPS) checks at NI SPS Inspection Facilities on all agri-food goods entering the EU regulatory zone from Great Britain (GB), in line with those checks prescribed for goods arriving from Third Countries. To minimise difficulties associated with implementation of the Protocol, and particularly in relation to the movement of retail goods, the UK Government introduced a number of easements and standstill arrangements until an agreed permanent solution could be reached with the EU.

On 27 February 2023 the UK and EU announced the 'Windsor Framework' (WF) to make changes to the Protocol. The WF constitutes a comprehensive set of joint solutions aimed at addressing, in a definitive way, the practical challenges and everyday issues of all communities and businesses in NI in relation to operation of the Protocol, whilst protecting the integrity of both the EU and UK's Internal Markets.

The WF differentiates between goods that are at risk of moving to the EU Single Market, and goods that are destined for final consumption in Northern Ireland. Building upon this distinction, it establishes two ways for goods to move from GB to NI. From this perspective, goods at risk of entering the EU Single Market will remain subject to full EU customs and Sanitary and Phyto-sanitary (SPS) procedures [Official Controls Regulation \(EU\) 2017/625](#).

Alternatively, for goods staying in the UK, trusted traders will be able to use new arrangements to move goods from GB to NI (e.g., 'NI Retail Movement Scheme'). [Regulation \(EU\) 2023/1231](#), reflecting the WF political agreement on solutions reached describes these arrangements and lays down specific rules relating to the entry into NI from other parts of the UK of certain consignments of retail goods for placing on the NI market for the final consumer, and certain consignments of plants for planting, seed potatoes, used machinery and certain vehicles operated for agricultural or forestry purposes for placing on the NI market. Similarly, it also lays down specific rules for the non-commercial movement of pets into NI from other parts of the UK.

The supply chains for the daily movement of animals, plants, and goods from GB to NI are sophisticated and complex, serving multiple suppliers and customers of every conceivable size and business model. In broad terms, it involves approx. 18 sailings each day from GB to NI, carrying some 450 containers, 175 of which are accompanied and 275 unaccompanied. A large proportion of these contain mixed goods and multiple consignments.

SPS and other regulated goods must enter Northern Ireland through approved NI SPS Inspection Facilities, each of which has been designated by the EU to carry out checks on specific categories of goods.

DAERA, in partnership with FSA NI, Belfast City Council, Mid and East Antrim Borough Council and Newry, Mourne and Down District Council, has put in place a significant programme of work

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that has ensured NI SPS Inspection Facilities are operationally ready to apply the required SPS and marketing standards measures on Third Country imports entering Northern Ireland.

Following the end of the EU exit transition period, the significant increase in the volume of checks required for goods moving from GB made it necessary to develop temporary and then permanent infrastructure that could facilitate the required level of identity and physical checks, with Defra now having responsibility for the construction of both. Windsor Framework arrangements, through implementation of the trusted trader ('green lane') schemes will considerably reduce the level of checks required whilst maintaining the requisite level of controls for goods moving to, or at risk of moving to the EU. DAERA have recruited and trained additional staff, and developed administrative processes, procedures and supporting IT functionality to facilitate all of the required identity and documentary checks. Enhancements to both structural and human resourcing have continued with WF preparedness activities; procedures which will continue through to July 2025, at which stage, full operational delivery of the WF simplified procedures and streamlined arrangements is anticipated, and full benefits of the framework are realised.

Aims & Objectives

This document forms the basis of the Windsor Framework SPS Compliance Protocol NI, the purpose of which is to protect the integrity of the UK and EU Internal Market through the prevention of harm to public health, animal health & welfare, plant health, and IUU fishing, caused by non-compliance with statutory requirements.

Furthermore, it aims to support and safeguard NI as an integral part of the UK internal market, ensuring continuity of the movement of agri-food goods between GB and NI and unfettered access to the GB market, whilst retaining dual market access for the NI agri-food sector.

The compliance protocol sets out the procedures for dealing with all SPS consignments entering NI from a third country. It explains how traders will be expected to comply with the requirements of [EU Regulation 2023/1231](#) for goods staying in NI, and how those goods destined for, or at risk of entering, the EU Single Market will be subject to full compliance with OCR. It details the measures for dealing with non-compliant consignments and the phased approach to compliance and enforcement from 01 October 2023 in relation to implementation of WF arrangements.

It is ultimately the responsibility of individuals and businesses to comply with statutory requirements and the Department, FSA NI and local authorities expect full compliance. However, where compliance is not forthcoming, enforcement activities and resource will be initially directed at those non-compliances which are considered to have the most potential to adversely impact public health, animal health & welfare, plant health, Illegal, Unreported & Unregulated (IUU) fishing and the integrity of the EU Internal market.

In most cases, providing the appropriate advice, guidance and education to traders should lead to compliance with the legislation; however, where there are breaches of the legislation, enforcement action appropriate to the level of risk to the integrity of the EU internal market and the impact on public health, animal health & welfare and plant health will be taken.

The compliance protocol also acknowledges that many traders of SPS regulated goods are not yet ready for the transition and additional processes and procedures required by the WF from 01 October 2023, and in doing so, endeavours to set out a roadmap to full compliance.

Section 2: Roles & Responsibilities

Roles & Responsibilities

The Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs (DAERA) and the Food Standards Agency in Northern Ireland (FSA NI) are the Central Competent Authorities (CCAs) for the regulation of imports that are subject to SPS and Marketing Standards checks in Northern Ireland under the relevant EU legislation and, as such, fulfil a legislative and policy making role. Both CCAs are responsible for designating competent authorities to perform official controls that verify that imports entering Northern Ireland comply with the requirements of EU law.

DAERA is responsible for undertaking official controls on imports into Northern Ireland from non-EU countries (Third Countries) and to ensure compliance with EU law relating to the areas of animal and plant health, and aspects of public health. It is also responsible for conducting checks to ensure that poultry-meat and eggs comply with EU Marketing Standards.

DAERA, as competent authority for plant health, is responsible for the delivery of official controls on plants and plant products entering Northern Ireland from Third Countries. Checks to ensure that fruit and vegetables comply with EU Marketing Standards are also conducted on a risk-based approach.

Under the provisions of the [Official Feed and Food Control Regulations \(NI\) 2009 \(as amended\)](#) and the [Trade in Animals and Related Products Regulations \(NI\) 2011 \(as amended\)](#) and the [Sea Fishing \(Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated Fishing\) Order \(NI\) 2018](#) and the [Official Controls \(Animals, Feed and Food, Plant Health Fees etc.\) Regulations 2019](#) local authorities have been designated as the relevant competent authority for official controls at NI SPS Inspection Facilities for checks relating to high-risk food not of animal origin (HRFNAO), fishery products (including checks on Illegal Unreported Unregulated (IUU) Catch Certificates), Organics and plastic kitchenware originating in or consigned from China and Hong Kong. As such, local authorities authorise their own officers to perform these checks.

Since the end of the transition period on 31 December 2020, Northern Ireland has applied SPS and other EU measures such as Marketing Standards and IUU Catch Certificates as per the requirements set out in the Protocol. Application and administration of these combined measures ensures the continued safety of the Northern Ireland food chain whilst maximising opportunities for future trade in live animals, products of animal origin, food not of animal origin that is considered to be high risk, animal by-products, feedstuffs, plants, and plant products.

Windsor Framework Arrangements

[Regulation \(EU\) 2023/1231](#) lays out the specific Sanitary and Phytosanitary (SPS) measures for implementing the joint solutions agreed within the WF regarding public, animal, and plant health issues, and specifically covering the movement of retail agri-food goods, plants for planting, seed potatoes, used agricultural machinery and non-commercial pets from GB to NI.

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UK public health, organic and marketing standards will apply for those retail agri-food goods for end consumption in NI, whilst EU plant and animal health rules remain applicable for protection of the EU Single Market. These new arrangements are underpinned by the following Statutory Instruments and through the implementation of a commensurate set of existing and new safeguards, including construction of SPS inspection facilities, identity inspections and labelling.

- [The Windsor Framework \(Enforcement etc.\) Regulations 2023](#)
- [The Windsor Framework \(Retail Movement Scheme; Public Health, Marketing and Organics Standards\) Regulations 2023](#)
- [The Windsor Framework \(Retail Movement Scheme\) Regulations 2023](#)
- [The Windsor Framework \(Plant Health\) Regulations 2023](#)
- [The Windsor Framework \(Sanitary and Phytosanitary Grant Scheme\) Regulations 2023](#)

The Windsor Framework (Retail Movement Scheme) Regulations 2023 provides the legislative basis for the Northern Ireland Retail Movement Scheme (NIRMS) and is intended to regulate the movement of certain consignments of retail agri-food goods from GB into NI and what checks are to be made in respect of those goods. These regulations designate DAERA as the NI competent authority for the Scheme.

Section 3: SPS Checks

SPS Checking Principles

Goods that are at risk of entering the EU Internal Market, or do not qualify for Windsor Framework trusted trader schemes, will remain subject to full EU customs and Sanitary and Phyto-sanitary (SPS) procedures, and must adhere to [Official Controls Regulation \(EU\) 2017/625](#). Goods that are moving under Windsor Framework arrangements must comply with the specific rules laid out in [Regulation \(EU\) 2023/1231](#).

To ascertain that the animals, plants, and other eligible goods entering NI comply with either [OCR](#) or [Regulation \(EU\) 2023/1231](#), the various competent authorities in Northern Ireland will perform official controls, at the SPS Inspection Facilities on first arrival into NI, on each consignment. Inspection frequency rates are governed by the nature of the goods and under the regulations in which the goods enter NI.

There are three types of checks that must be performed, dependent on the nature of the consignment:

- > **Documentary Check:** This is an examination of prenotification documents, supporting certifications, attestations and other commercial documents that are required to accompany a consignment.
- > **Identity Check:** This is a visual inspection of a consignment seal and of individual goods in order to verify the content and labelling corresponds to the information provided in the accompanying documentation and ensure it complies with Scheme conditions.
- > **Physical Check:** This entails a check on the goods to verify that they are compliant with the sanitary and phytosanitary import requirements contained within OCR. This includes, as appropriate, checks on the health of the animals, the consignment's packaging, means of transport and labelling; temperature sampling, laboratory testing or diagnosis may also be required to verify the nature and extent of any relevant potential risk.

The underpinning principles for delivering these checks at NI SPS Inspection Facilities are set out in the table below.

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|--------------------|--|
| Documentary | <p>All consignments of animals, plants, and goods subject to official controls must be accompanied by appropriate documentation. The type of documentation will depend on the nature of the commodity and the regulations under which it is entering, and will include Export Health Certificates (EHCs), Official Certificates, General Certificates, Phytosanitary Certificates, Common Health Entry Documents (CHEDs), IUU Catch Certificates, Organic Certificate of Inspection (Col) and poultry-meat optional indication certificates.</p> <p>Retail goods moving under the NI Retail Movement Scheme are required to be accompanied by a General Certificate (GC) and Packing List (PL).</p> <p>This documentation will be completed electronically in GB and loaded by the importer onto the EU TRACES NT system, either directly or through the GB Export Health Certification Online (EHCO) system.</p> <p>Once online, the document will be available electronically for DAERA to complete 100% documentary verification using the CHED Inspection Platform (CHIP).</p> <p>Consignments that arrive at NI SPS Inspection Facilities without the necessary documentation are considered to be non-compliant.</p> |
| Identity | <p>The majority of identity checks are undertaken using a seal checking process i.e., freight units with consignments of goods will be officially sealed in GB.</p> <p>For goods qualifying under the NI Retail Movement Scheme, all consignments must be sealed with a uniquely numbered seal compliant with UK official standards at the point of departure.</p> <p>Seal checks for all commodity types (with the exception of HRFNAO) are carried out by DAERA authorised officers located at the GB ports of Cairnryan, Liverpool and Heysham on direct ferry connections to NI. This check will confirm the seal on the freight unit is intact and corresponds with the information recorded in the official documentation.</p> |

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| Check Type | SPS Checking Principles |
|-----------------|---|
| Identity | <p>Identity checks for high-risk food not of animal origin (HRFNAO) are carried out at the same frequency as the physical inspection set out in EU Regulation 2019/1793. Local authority officers will carry out identity checks for HRFNAO at the same time the physical inspection is conducted.</p> <p>Where the freight unit fails to have a correctly placed seal, or the seal number does not correspond to that recorded on the documentation, the consignment will be considered non-compliant and consequently subject to further checks.</p> <p>From 01 October 2023, all consignments moving under the NI Retail Movement Scheme will be subject to full identity checks at the NI SPS Inspection Facilities at a set frequency of 10%, initially reducing to 8% in October 2024, and further to 5% in July 2025, in accordance with conditions set out in the Windsor Framework.</p> <p>An identity check for organic products is not normally carried out unless there is any question over the link between the documentation and the consignment.</p> |
| Physical | <p>Physical checks require the opening of the freight unit on arrival at the NI SPS Inspection Facilities and either partial or full unloading.</p> <p>Most live animal consignments will need to be unloaded for both identity, physical and other checks which require specialist facilities.</p> <p>For consignments of plants and plant products, DAERA will perform physical checks on a risk-based frequency as described in Annex XI of EU Regulations 2019/2072 and 1756/2004.</p> <p>For all other consignment types, DAERA will perform physical checks on a risk-based frequency as described in Annex I of EU Regulation 2019/2129 and local authority officers will perform physical checks on a risk-based frequency as described in the Annexes of EU Regulations 2019/1793 & 284/2011, and Commission Implementing Decision (2011/884/EU).</p> <p>Where consignments of poultry-meat and eggs undergo a physical SPS check, those consignments will also undergo a physical, non-technical, marketing standards inspection. Some consignments will also undergo a technical check (e.g.</p> |

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| Check Type | SPS Checking Principles |
|-----------------|--|
| Physical | <p>poultry-meat water content testing). A small number of fruit and vegetable consignments will also undergo a physical marketing standards check alongside a physical SPS check, initially at a reduced rate in light of a risk assessment.</p> <p>The EU TRACES NT system, in conjunction with DAERA's CHIP system, determines physical inspection rates and identify consignments that require physical inspections.</p> <p>Physical checks on NI Retail Movement Scheme goods will be carried out on a risk basis and intelligence-led approach.</p> |

Windsor Framework Trusted Trader Schemes

NI Retail Movement Scheme (NIRMS)

The Windsor Framework establishes a new Scheme to move prepacked agri-food retail goods from Great Britain (England, Scotland and Wales) into Northern Ireland - the 'Northern Ireland Retail Movement Scheme' (NIRMS).

The NIRMS replaces the existing Scheme for Temporary Agri-food Movements into Northern Ireland (STAMNI) from the 01 October 2023.

The fundamental principles of the new Scheme are:

- Only pre-packaged retail goods intended for the NI market are eligible and these goods must not enter the EU;
- Traders and premises wishing to move goods under the Scheme must be registered Scheme members and establishments respectively;
- Businesses will move goods on the basis of a single General Certificate for eligible consignments, supported by a packing list, and pre-notification on TRACES NT prior to entering NI;
- Consignments must be accompanied by a General Certificate, packing list and pre-notified on the TRACES NT system prior to entering NI through an approved SPS Inspection Facility;
- There will be no requirement for an Official Veterinarian or Plant Health inspector to approve the documentation;
- Documentary checks, Identity checks, labelling checks, channelling returns and post movement (in market) assurance checks are all integral parts of the Scheme;
- Physical checks will be carried out on a risk and intelligence led approach;
- Application of GB public health standards and consumer protection standards, including organic standards applies to all retail goods moving through the Scheme for end consumption in NI (where relevant, EU Standards are applicable in relation to animal and plant health);
- Possibility to move goods originating in the rest of the world (RoW) to NI through GB when UK conditions are identical to EU conditions.

Channelling

It is a requirement of the NIRMS that all consignments are channelled. Channelling refers to the process whereby the person receiving the consignment of retail agri-food goods confirms to DAERA arrival of the consignment at the NI destination within 48 hours. Further details can be found [here](#).

Post Movement (In Market) Checks

DAERA will complete random and risk-based inspections of listed establishments in receipt of NIRMS goods to verify compliance with Scheme requirements.

Movements which do not qualify under the Scheme will be subjected to full Official Controls. The UK Government will continue to provide support for such movements through the [Digital Assistance Scheme](#), and should goods remain in Northern Ireland, the [Movement Assistance Scheme](#).

Further detailed guidance on the NI Retail Movement Scheme can be found [here](#).

Section 4: NIRMS Compliance Procedures

NIRMS Compliance Procedures

Recognising the transition and level of transformational change required across all actors in the retail supply chain, from 01 October 2023, DAERA are committed to working collaboratively with all stakeholders providing the guidance and support necessary to ensure the compliant movement of retail goods.

Traders will be expected to demonstrate a continuous improvement in their compliance performance and will be required to move towards full compliance by 01 January 2024, in accordance with the Terms & Conditions of the NI Retail Movement Scheme.

On that theme, DAERA will apply a stepped and pragmatic approach to compliance and enforcement through all components of the Scheme, from registration through to channelling of goods as outlined in the tables 1-5 below. Compliance will continue to be expected as the Scheme's requirements develop in line with the agreed timelines.

Incidents of non-compliance will be recorded by DAERA and the local authorities and, where incidents of failure to meet the milestones on the pathway to full compliance or repeated transgressions are identified, traders will be subjected to a higher frequency of inspections at SPS Inspection facilities and destination establishments (*Intensified & Reinforced Retail checks). In addition, evidence of non-compliance will be shared with relevant UK Government competent authorities including Defra and the Animal & Plant Health Agency (APHA).

It should be noted that DAERA are committed to delivering the Windsor Framework arrangements as outlined in [Regulation \(EU\) 2023/1231](#), and where there is any manifest abuse of, or flagrant disregard for the Scheme rules, appropriate compliance and enforcement sanctions will be applied, including potential suspension from the Scheme..

*Intensified & Reinforced Retail Checks (IRC & RRC).

In those instances, whereby there are repeated infringements of Scheme rules or failure to comply with compliance milestones, future consignments will be subjected to an increased frequency of identity inspections on entry and establishment of destination inspections. This will commence with the next three consignments from the non-compliant Scheme member all being subjected to identity inspection at SPS inspection facilities. Should further non-compliances be detected during the IRC, this will lead to the initiation of Reinforced Retail Checks (RRC), whereby the next five consignments will be subjected to identity checks.

Decisions regarding entry of the goods will be dependent on the non-compliance identified during the identity check and whether all relevant risks can be mitigated. Suspension from the Scheme will also be considered where appropriate.

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Table 1 - NIRMS Compliance Procedures for Documentary Checks

| Documentary Checks | NIRMS Compliance and Enforcement Procedures | | | | |
|--|--|--|------------------|---|-----------------|
| | Non-Compliance | 01 October 2023 | 01 November 2023 | 01 December 2023 | 01 January 2024 |
| PRE-NOTIFICATION <i>Submission of CHED-P on TRACES NT at least 4 hours prior to arrival.</i> | <i>Consignments not pre-notified via the TRACES NT.</i> | Consignment will not be permitted entry into NI until the matter is resolved. | | | |
| SCHEME MEMBERSHIP <i>Consignor & Consignee confirmed as Scheme Members.</i> | <i>Consignor, Consignee or establishment or origin/destination not listed as Scheme members.</i> | Completion of Identity check and assessment of relevant risks*. If unresolved on entry, consideration given to trader mitigations post entry to mitigate relevant risks*. | | Completion of Identity Check. Entry will not be permitted until Scheme registration completed. | |
| LISTED ESTABLISHMENT <i>Listing of establishments of Origin and Destination.</i> | | Guidance Issued. <i>If this is a <u>repeat offence</u>, entry will be refused.</i> | | | |
| GENERAL CERTIFICATE <i>Signed by Competent Authority & Completed Satisfactorily.</i> | <i>Incomplete, Inaccurate or Absent.</i> | Completion of Identity check and assessment of relevant risks. If unresolved on entry, consideration given to trader mitigations post entry to mitigate relevant risks. Guidance Issued. | | Completion of Identity Check. Entry will not be permitted until non-compliances rectified. | |

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| Documentary Checks | NIRMS Compliance and Enforcement Procedures | | | | |
|---|---|--|------------------|---|-----------------|
| Requirements | Non-Compliance | 01 October 2023 | 01 November 2023 | 01 December 2023 | 01 January 2024 |
| PACKING LIST <i>Legible & Completed Satisfactorily.</i> | <i>Incomplete, Inaccurate or Absent.</i> | Completion of Identity check and assessment of relevant risks. If unresolved on entry, consideration given to trader mitigations post entry to mitigate relevant risks. Guidance Issued. | | Completion of Identity Check. Entry will not be permitted until non-compliances rectified. | |

*Relevant Risks are defined as:

- Increased risk to public, animal or plant health in the EU Internal Market
- Increased risk that fishery products originating from Illegal, Unreported or Unregulated (IUU) fishing are placed on the EU Internal Market
- Adverse impact on level of consumer protection in the EU Internal Market or its integrity.

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Table 2 - NIRMS Compliance Procedures for Identity Checks

| Identity Checks | NIRMS Compliance and Enforcement Procedures | | | | |
|---|--|---|---|---------------|---------------|
| Requirements | Outcome of Checks | 01 October 2023 - 31 January 2024 | 01 February 2024 | 01 March 2024 | 01 April 2024 |
| SEAL NUMBER <i>Verification of intact uniquely numbered seal that corresponds with details on CHED- P & GC.</i> | <i>Errors/Seal Number Not Present.</i> | Assessment of relevant risks post completion of full identity check prior to entry. Consideration given to trader mitigations post entry to mitigate relevant risks. Consider suspension from Scheme. | | | |
| PREPACKAGED RETAIL GOODS <i>Prepackaged retail goods destined for NI Retail Market.</i> | <i>Goods not pre-packaged nor destined for NI Retail Market.</i> | Goods are ineligible for entry into NI. Introduction of 'Intensified Retail Checks' (IRC) Regimen. Consider suspension from Scheme. | | | |
| ROW ELIGIBILITY | <i>Ineligible RoW Goods Detected.</i> | No RoW eligibility checks. | RoW goods, not on the extended exempted list, are ineligible for entry into NI. The exempted list can be found here . Introduction of 'Intensified Retail Checks' (IRC) Regimen. Consider suspension from Scheme. | | |

NB. Non compliances detected during seal integrity check at GB port of departure will automatically trigger identity check at NI SPS Inspection facility on arrival in NI.

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| Identity Checks | NIRMS Compliance and Enforcement Procedures | | | |
|--|---|---|--|--|
| Requirements | Outcome of Checks | 01 October 2023 - 01 February 2024 | 01 March 2024 | 01 April 2024 |
| PHASE 1 LABELLING <i>Goods are marked in accordance with Scheme rules.</i> | <i>Absent/Incomplete labelling - individual package or box level.</i> | <p>Assessment of relevant risks prior to entry - individual package level only.</p> <p>Consideration given to trader mitigations post entry to mitigate relevant risks for non-compliances with individual package level labelling.</p> <p>Introduction of ‘Intensified Retail Checks’ Regimen.</p> <p>Introduction of Post Movement (In Market) Checks.</p> <p>From 01 December 2023, those goods noncompliant with box level labelling requirements will be refused entry, non-compliant traders will be considered for suspension from Scheme.</p> | <p>From 01 March 2024, Phase 1 goods without individual package level labelling will be refused entry.</p> <p>Only frozen goods non-compliant with package level labelling requirements and with a production date prior to 01 October 2023 will be permitted entry on the receipt of satisfactory remedial action plan to address relevant risks.</p> <p>Consider suspension from Scheme.</p> | <p>From 01 April 2024, all Phase 1 goods without individual package level labelling will be refused entry.</p> <p>Consider suspension from Scheme.</p> |

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| Identity Checks | NIRMS Compliance and Enforcement Procedures | | | |
|--|--|--|---|--|
| Requirements | Outcome of Checks | 01 October 2024 - 30 October 2024 | 01 November 2024 | 01 January 2025 |
| PHASE 2 LABELLING <i>Goods are marked in accordance with Scheme rules.</i> | <i>Absent/Incomplete labelling - individual product level.</i> | <p>From 01 October 2024, all milk and dairy products (Phase 2) moving to NI under NIRMS need to be individually labelled.</p> <p>Consideration will be given to those situations where a low-level of non-compliance is identified with Phase 2 labelling requirements and appropriate risk mitigations are put in place.</p> | <p>From 01 November 2024, all chilled and ambient milk and dairy products (Phase 2) without individual package level labelling will be refused entry.</p> <p>Only frozen goods non-compliant with package level Phase 2 labelling requirements and with a production date prior to 1st October 2024 will be permitted entry.</p> <p>Consider suspension from Scheme.</p> | <p>From 01 January 2025, all Phase 2 goods without individual package level labelling will be refused entry.</p> <p>Consider suspension from Scheme.</p> |

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| Identity Checks | NIRMS Compliance and Enforcement Procedures | | | | |
|--|---|---|--|--|--|
| Requirements | Outcome of Checks | 01 July 2025 | | | |
| PHASE 3 LABELLING <i>Goods are marked in accordance with Scheme rules.</i> | <i>Absent/Incomplete labelling - individual product level</i> | From 01 July 2025, additional food products that move through NIRMS must be individually labelled. This includes pet food, unprocessed fruit and vegetables, fish, eggs, honey and composite products. There are some exceptions, please click the link here for a list of food products that will only require box labelling. | | | |

NB: Further detailed Guidance on Labelling is available on both the DAERA website ([Northern Ireland Retail Movement Scheme \(DAERA\)](#)) and on the Defra website ([Labelling Requirements \(Defra\)](#))

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Table 3 - NIRMS Compliance Procedures for Physical Checks

| Physical Checks | NIRMS Compliance And Enforcement Procedures | | | | |
|--------------------------------------|---|--|------------------|------------------|-----------------|
| | Non-Compliance | 01 October 2023 | 01 November 2023 | 01 December 2023 | 01 January 2024 |
| PACKING | <i>Damaged Packaging</i> | Guidance will be issued. Evidence of a satisfactory remedial action plan to address relevant risks should be provided prior to entry into NI. | | | |
| DISPLAYED TRAILER TEMPERATURE | <i>Cold Chain Broken</i> | The consignment will be refused entry into NI and disposed of. | | | |
| ACTUAL TRAILER TEMPERATURE | | | | | |
| PRODUCT TEMPERATURE | | | | | |
| ORGANOLEPTIC TESTING | <i>Unfit Goods Detected</i> | The consignment will be refused entry into NI and disposed of. | | | |

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Table 4 - NIRMS Compliance Procedures for Channelling

| Channelling | NIRMS Compliance And Enforcement Procedures | | | | |
|---|--|---|--|--|---|
| Requirements | Non-Compliance | 01 October 2023 | 01 November 2023 | 01 December 2023 | 01 January 2024 |
| <p>CHANNELLING RETURN SUBMITTED <i>Date stamped photograph of the consignment seal before it is broken uploaded onto CHOP within 48 hours of arrival. Proof of Delivery documentation will be acceptable for certain groupage consignments -Further details can be found here and here.</i></p> | <p><i>Channelling not completed within 48 hours.</i></p> <p><i>No photo uploaded.</i></p> <p><i>Illegible Photo.</i></p> <p><i>Seal No not matching.</i></p> | <p>Email issued at 24 hrs & 15 days post arrival advising channelling has not been completed.</p> | <p>Email issued at 24hrs & 15 days post arrival advising channelling has not been completed.</p> <p>Channelling Spot Checks on subsequent consignments.</p> <p>Post Movement (In Market) Checks.</p> | <p>Email issued at 24hrs & 15 days post arrival advising channelling has not been completed.</p> <p>Channelling Spot Checks on subsequent consignments.</p> <p>Post Movement (In Market) Checks.</p> <p>Introduction of 'Intensified Retail Checks' Regimen.</p> | <p>Persistent Non-Compliance will result in suspension from the Scheme.</p> |

NB. Channelling Spot Check will entail verification activities to confirm arrival of consignment at proposed destination.

Windsor Framework SPS Compliance Protocol NI

Northern Ireland Retail Movement Scheme (NIRMS) Compliance - Last updated September 2024

Table 5 - NIRMS Compliance Procedures for Post Movement/In Market Assurance Checks

| Post Movement Assurance/In Market Assurance Checks | NIRMS Compliance And Enforcement Procedures | | | | | |
|--|--|--|------------------|---|--|--|
| Requirements <i>Goods comply with the NIRMS Terms & Conditions.</i> | Non-Compliance | 01 October 2023 | 01 November 2023 | 01 December 2023 | 01 January 2024 | |
| INDIVIDUAL PACKAGE LEVEL MARKING REQUIREMENTS | <i>Labelling/Marking not in accordance with Scheme requirements.</i> | Assessment of relevant risk and consideration given to trader mitigations for marking/labelling of goods at individual package and box level | | Assessment of relevant risk and consideration given to trader mitigations for marking/labelling of goods at individual package and box level. | Only frozen goods non-compliant with labelling requirements and with a production date prior to 01 October 2023 will be tolerated. | |
| BOX LEVEL MARKING | | Assessment of relevant risk and consideration given to trader mitigations for shelf level labelling and poster requirements | | | | |
| SHELF LEVEL LABELLING | | Rectification Plan based on guidance issued. | | | | Assessment of relevant risk and consideration given to trader mitigations for shelf level labelling and poster requirements. |
| POSTER REQUIREMENTS | | Rectification Plan based on guidance issued. | | | | Rectification Plan based on guidance issued. Introduction of 'Intensified Retail Checks' Regimen. |

Windsor Framework SPS Compliance Protocol NI

Northern Ireland Retail Movement Scheme (NIRMS) Compliance - Last updated September 2024

| Post Movement Assurance/In Market Assurance Checks | NIRMS Compliance And Enforcement Procedures | | | | |
|--|---|--|-------------------------|-------------------------|------------------------|
| Requirements <i>Goods comply with the NIRMS Terms & Conditions.</i> | Non-Compliance | 01 October 2023 | 01 November 2023 | 01 December 2023 | 01 January 2024 |
| EVIDENCE OF RECEIPT OR ONWARD MOVEMENT OF GOODS <i>To verify goods have been sold in NI.</i> | <i>Evidence of onward movement of goods outside the UK.</i> | Assessment of relevant risk. Requirement for immediate rectification plan to mitigate future risks. Introduction of 'Intensified Retail Checks' Regimen. Consider suspension from Scheme. | | | |

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**Agriculture, Environment
and Rural Affairs**

An Roinn

**Talmhaíochta, Comhshaoil
agus Gnóthaí Tuaithe**

Department o'

**Fairmin, Environment
an' Kintra Matthers**

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