

## Table sauces, preserves, pickles and chutney

### General Information

Imports of table sauces which do not contain products of animal origin, preserves (but not honey), pickles and chutneys from countries outside the European Union (EU) must meet the same or equivalent food hygiene and compositional standards and procedures as food produced in the UK or other EU Member States. You do not normally need a health certificate to import these products.

### Import Licences

You may not need a health or hygiene licence to import food, but many foods from countries outside the EU require licences for trading purposes and may be subject to quotas. For further information please contact the Rural Payments Agency on 0191 226 5050 or by email at: [tsmu@rpa.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:tsmu@rpa.gsi.gov.uk)

### Food colourings, flavourings and sweeteners

Some sauces, preserves, pickles and chutney may contain food colourings, flavourings or sweeteners. Although these may be approved by the food authority in the country of origin, some of them may not be approved in the EU. For information on food flavourings, sweeteners, colourings and preservatives, please contact the Agency's Food Additives team on 020 7276 8570 or by email at [foodadditives@foodstandards.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:foodadditives@foodstandards.gsi.gov.uk)

### Labelling

For general information on labelling requirements for food, please contact the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA) Helpline on 0845 933 5577 or by email at [defra.helpline@defra.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:defra.helpline@defra.gsi.gov.uk). You will need to specify that you wish to be put through to the labelling department.

For advice on the labelling of specific products, please contact your local authority's Trading Standards Department or Environmental Health Department, or that of your UK distributor. You can find the contact details of your local Trading Standards Office by either visiting [www.tradingstandards.gov.uk/advice/consumer-advice.cfm](http://www.tradingstandards.gov.uk/advice/consumer-advice.cfm) and typing in your postcode or contacting your local authority directly.

### Organics

If you are importing organic products (live or unprocessed agricultural products, processed agricultural for use as food or feed and vegetative propagating material and seeds for cultivation), from outside the EU, please contact the Organic Imports team at DEFRA at [organic.imports@defra.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:organic.imports@defra.gsi.gov.uk). For information on organic regulation and standards, (including labelling) within the UK please contact the Organic Strategy team at [organic.standards@defra.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:organic.standards@defra.gsi.gov.uk)

## Packaging

Food contact materials and articles, including those used for food packaging, are controlled by a comprehensive EU harmonised legislation that has been fully implemented in the UK. This legislation is particularly thorough in its control of plastic materials and articles intended for food use. For information on the safety of packaging please contact Vincent Greenwood on 020 7276 8548 or by email at [Vincent.greenwood@foodstandards.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:Vincent.greenwood@foodstandards.gsi.gov.uk)

## Food hygiene

For general enquiries on food hygiene please contact David Gray on 020 7276 8940 or by email at [david.gray@foodstandards.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:david.gray@foodstandards.gsi.gov.uk)

## Contaminants

A guidance note on the Contaminants in Food (England) Regulations 2009, which make provision for enactment and enforcement of Commission Regulations setting regulatory limits for contaminants in food (nitrate, mycotoxins, metals, 3-MCPD dioxins and PAHs), can be found at <http://www.food.gov.uk/foodindustry/guidancenotes/foodguid/guidancefoodcontams09>

Food imported into the UK also has to meet the requirements of The Arsenic in Food Regulations 1959. For more information on these regulations please contact Gavin Shears on 020 7276 8713 or by email [gavin.shears@foodstandards.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:gavin.shears@foodstandards.gsi.gov.uk)

## **Import Restrictions\***

There are some import restrictions/requirements that can apply to sauces, preserves, pickles and chutneys of which importers need to be aware. These are as follows:

### **“Higher-Risk” Products**

As of 25 January 2010 imports of certain feed and food of non-animal origin that are considered to be “higher-risk” can only enter the UK through specific ports and airports which are designated points of entry (DPEs) where official controls will be carried out. A “higher-risk” product is feed or food that is either known to be, or is an emerging risk, to public health. Further information for business operators can be found at [http://www.food.gov.uk/foodindustry/imports/banned\\_restricted/highrisknonpoao](http://www.food.gov.uk/foodindustry/imports/banned_restricted/highrisknonpoao)

### **Aflatoxins**

As of 1 January 2010 imports of certain foodstuffs from certain non-EU countries such as sauces, preserves, pickles and chutneys contain any dried fruit, spices or nuts, are subject to special conditions due to contamination risk by aflatoxins. This will mean that consignments can only enter the EU through specific ports or airports which are designated points of imports (DPIs) where official controls will be carried out. Further information for business operators can be found at [http://www.food.gov.uk/foodindustry/imports/banned\\_restricted/aflatoxinreg11522009](http://www.food.gov.uk/foodindustry/imports/banned_restricted/aflatoxinreg11522009) as well as the Agency’s website on Mycotoxins at: <http://www.food.gov.uk/safereating/chemsafe/mycotoxins/>

### **Soy Sauce and HVP (hydrolysed vegetable protein)**

The above contaminants legislation sets limits for 3-MCPD in soy sauce and similar sauces and HVP. For information about these limits and the testing procedures please contact Gavin Shears in the Agency’s Chemical Safety Division on 020 7276 8713 or by email at [gavin.shears@foodstandards.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:gavin.shears@foodstandards.gsi.gov.uk)

### **Imports of feed and food from Japan**

As of 27 March 2011 imports of all feed and food originating in or consigned from Japan to the EU are subject to special conditions. This is following the accident at the Fukushima Daiichi nuclear power plant in Japan in March 2011. This will mean that consignments of feed and food can only enter the UK through specific ports and airports where official controls will be carried out. Further information for business operators can be found at: [http://www.food.gov.uk/foodindustry/imports/banned\\_restricted/japan](http://www.food.gov.uk/foodindustry/imports/banned_restricted/japan)

\* For a complete list of foods (not of animal origin) with current EU restrictions, please see the following link on the Agency’s website: [www.food.gov.uk/foodindustry/imports/banned\\_restricted/restricted\\_foodstuffs](http://www.food.gov.uk/foodindustry/imports/banned_restricted/restricted_foodstuffs)

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Imported Food Team, Food Standards Agency, 1<sup>st</sup> Floor Zone B, Aviation House, 125 Kingsway, London, WC2B 6NH  
Email: [imported.food@foodstandards.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:imported.food@foodstandards.gsi.gov.uk)  
Helpline: 020 7276 8018

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