

Why the SPS deal matters: What food businesses need to know

The proposed SPS agreement is fast moving up the agenda for UK food and drink businesses. While much of the focus has been on exporters, the reality is that the impact will be felt far more widely across the sector. The SPS deal has the potential to reshape supply chains, compliance obligations, labelling requirements, and cross-border trade processes. Businesses that prepare early will be best placed to maintain continuity and seize new opportunities.

Why acting early matters

Even if you are not currently exporting, the effects of SPS changes could still impact your operations.

Failing to prepare could lead to:

- Disruption to your supply chain due to new import/export requirements
- Delays at borders affecting product availability and shelf life
- Increased compliance risk, including potential fines or enforcement action
- Commercial risk, including loss of contracts or reduced competitiveness
- Operational inefficiencies caused by last-minute changes to processes or documentation

At Walker Morris, we can support you to:

- Assess how SPS developments may impact your business
- Carry out regulatory audits across your products, processes and packaging
- Identify practical changes needed to maintain compliance
- Review and strengthen your supply chain arrangements
- Provide clear, pragmatic guidance tailored to your operation

Key takeaway – the ABC plan

As a reminder, Walker Morris suggests you act now to develop your ABC plan:

A

AUDIT

Identify all food law which applies to you – perhaps through a regulatory audit.

B

BREXIT CHECK

Identify whether, for each regulatory provision which affects you, there has been divergence between the UK and EU since Brexit.

C

CHANGE

Implement necessary changes to your recipes, processes, wrapping and packaging to get ready for EU Food Law applying in the UK once again.

Next steps

If you would like to discuss how the SPS deal could affect your business – or sense check your current position – we would be very happy to help.

Get in touch with Chris to explore your requirements in more detail.

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