



European
Commission

PROTOCOL ON IRELAND/NORTHERN IRELAND

SANITARY AND PHYTOSANITARY RULES (SPS)

21 February 2022

What has the European Commission suggested?

- ✓ clear, permanent solution
- ✓ genuine simplification
- ✓ wide scope
- ✓ big impact

The European Commission has suggested far-reaching permanent solutions to facilitate the movement of a wide range of retail goods from Great Britain to Northern Ireland. These facilitations must be accompanied by appropriate conditions and safeguards to protect the integrity of the EU's Single Market. These are further detailed in the Commission's non-paper of 13 October 2021¹.



Wide scope

Beneficiaries: the solution would cover any retailer in Northern Ireland (regardless of size) and their suppliers in Great Britain. The concept of retailer is very broad, including for example the hospitality sector, schools, canteens, etc.

Product scope: food products packed and labelled for end consumers in Northern Ireland, including items that are usually prohibited for import into the EU, such as chilled minced meat or chilled sausages.



Simplified Certification

Only a single simplified official certificate is required, which is signed by the competent UK authority, stating that all SPS goods of different type, class or description transported by the same lorry meet applicable EU SPS requirements and are for sale to end consumers in Northern Ireland. No need for voluminous documentation to accompany the certificate.

Example: a lorry transporting a mixed load of many different products (dairy, meat, fish, confectionary, fruit and vegetables, etc.) will need only one single SPS certificate for the entire load instead of individual certificates per each product type.

Products subject to prohibitions/restrictions for import into the EU (e.g. chilled sausages) could also move from Great Britain to Northern Ireland, subject to them carrying an individual official certificate, for which specific models will be provided.



Reduced checks and controls

Documentary checks may be performed electronically.

Identity and physical checks will be reduced by more than 80% compared to the applicable mandatory checks for animal-origin products under EU SPS legislation.

¹ Protocol on Ireland and Northern Ireland - Non-Paper - Sanitary and Phytosanitary (SPS) issues https://ec.europa.eu/info/publications/protocol-ireland-and-northern-ireland-non-paper-sanitary-and-phytosanitary-sps-issues_en