

**COMMISSION IMPLEMENTING REGULATION (EU) 2020/2102****of 15 December 2020**

**approving the checks on conformity to marketing standards for fruit and vegetables carried out by the United Kingdom and amending Implementing Regulation (EU) No 543/2011 laying down detailed rules for the application of Council Regulation (EC) No 1234/2007 in respect of the fruit and vegetables and processed fruit and vegetables sectors**

THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION,

Having regard to the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union,

Having regard to Regulation (EU) No 1308/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 17 December 2013 establishing a common organisation of the markets in agricultural products and repealing Council Regulations (EEC) No 922/72, (EEC) No 234/79, (EC) No 1037/2001 and (EC) No 1234/2007 <sup>(1)</sup>, and in particular point (f) of Article 91 thereof,

Whereas:

- (1) According to Article 15(1) of Implementing Regulation (EU) No 543/2011 <sup>(2)</sup>, the Commission may, at the request of a third country, approve checks on conformity to marketing standards carried out by that third country prior to import into the Union.
- (2) Following the withdrawal of the United Kingdom from the Union on 1 February 2020 and in view of the end of the transition period provided for in the Agreement on the withdrawal of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland from the European Union and the European Atomic Energy Community (Withdrawal Agreement) on 31 December 2020, the United Kingdom sent the Commission a request to approve checks on conformity to specific marketing standards carried out by the United Kingdom prior to import into the Union. In particular, the United Kingdom has undertaken to comply with the requirements set for the marketing of fruit and vegetables after the end of the transition period and has indicated the official authority and the inspection bodies referred to in the second subparagraph of Article 15(2) of Implementing Regulation (EU) No 543/2011.
- (3) The Commission considers that it may grant such an approval because the relevant legislation in the United Kingdom applicable on 1 January 2021 for fruit and vegetables will maintain marketing standards that are equivalent to those applicable in the Union.
- (4) The checks on conformity to marketing standards for fruit and vegetables carried out by the United Kingdom should therefore be approved. In accordance with the second subparagraph of Article 15(2) of Implementing Regulation (EU) No 543/2011, this Regulation should specify the official authority in the third country under the responsibility of which those checks are carried out, as well as the inspection bodies in charge of the proper checks. As a result of this approval, the United Kingdom should be listed in Annex IV to Implementing Regulation (EU) No 543/2011, without prejudice to the application of Union law to and in the United Kingdom in respect of Northern Ireland in accordance with Article 5(4) of the Protocol on Ireland/Northern Ireland to the Withdrawal Agreement in conjunction with Annex 2 to that Protocol.
- (5) As Implementing Regulation (EU) No 543/2011 applies to and in the United Kingdom in respect of Northern Ireland, checks on conformity to marketing standards carried out by the United Kingdom have to be understood as referring only to Great Britain.
- (6) Implementing Regulation (EU) No 543/2011 should therefore be amended accordingly.

<sup>(1)</sup> OJ L 347, 20.12.2013, p. 671.

<sup>(2)</sup> Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) No 543/2011 of 7 June 2011 laying down detailed rules for the application of Council Regulation (EC) No 1234/2007 in respect of the fruit and vegetables and processed fruit and vegetables sectors (OJ L 157 15.6.2011, p. 1).

- (7) To ensure legal certainty and in order to guarantee a smooth transition of trade flows in the sectors concerned, this Regulation should enter into force as a matter of urgency on the day following that of its publication in the *Official Journal of the European Union* and apply from 1 January 2021.
- (8) The measures provided for in this Regulation are in accordance with the opinion of the Committee for the Common Organisation of the Agricultural Markets,

HAS ADOPTED THIS REGULATION:

*Article 1*

**Approval of conformity checks**

The checks on conformity to marketing standards for fruit and vegetables carried out by the United Kingdom prior to import into the Union are approved.

*Article 2*

**Official authority and inspection bodies**

1. The Secretary of State for the Department for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs is the official authority of the United Kingdom referred to in the second subparagraph of Article 15(2) of Implementing Regulation (EU) No 543/2011 under the responsibility of which the checks referred to in Article 1 of this Regulation are carried out.
2. The Horticulture Marketing Inspectorate (HMI) for England and Wales and the Scottish Government's Horticulture and Marketing Unit (HMU) for Scotland are the inspection bodies of the United Kingdom in charge of the proper checks within the meaning of the second subparagraph of Article 15(2).

*Article 3*

**Amendment of Implementing Regulation (EU) No 543/2011**

Annex IV to Implementing Regulation (EU) No 543/2011 is replaced by the text in the Annex to this Regulation.

*Article 4*

**Entry into force and application**

This Regulation shall enter into force on the day following that of its publication in the *Official Journal of the European Union*.

It shall apply from 1 January 2021.

This Regulation shall be binding in its entirety and directly applicable in all Member States.

Done at Brussels, 15 December 2020.

*For the Commission*  
*The President*  
Ursula VON DER LEYEN

## ANNEX

## ‘ANNEX IV

**Third countries where the conformity checks have been approved under Article 15 and the products concerned**

Country	Products
Switzerland	Fresh fruit and vegetables
Morocco	Fresh fruit and vegetables
South Africa	Fresh fruit and vegetables
Israel <sup>(1)</sup>	Fresh fruit and vegetables
India	Fresh fruit and vegetables
New Zealand	Apples, pears and kiwi fruit
Senegal	Fresh fruit and vegetables
Kenya	Fresh fruit and vegetables
Turkey	Fresh fruit and vegetables
United Kingdom <sup>(2)</sup>	Fresh fruit and vegetables’

<sup>(1)</sup> The Commission’s approval under Article 15 is given to fruit and vegetables originating within the State of Israel, excluding the territories under Israeli administration since June 1967, namely the Golan Heights, the Gaza Strip, East Jerusalem and the rest of the West Bank.

<sup>(2)</sup> In accordance with the Agreement on the withdrawal of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland from the European Union and the European Atomic Energy Community, and in particular Article 5(4) of the Protocol on Ireland/Northern Ireland in conjunction with Annex 2 to that Protocol, for the purposes of this Annex references to the United Kingdom do not include Northern Ireland.