

## Flour from Great Britain with added vitamins and minerals

### Flour

- Since the end of the transition period, flour from the UK (excluding Northern Ireland) that is fortified in line with a mandatory requirement under UK national legislation no longer complies with EU food fortification (addition of vitamins and minerals to foods) legislation<sup>1</sup>.
- Up to 1<sup>st</sup> January 2021, this flour from Great Britain (GB) was permitted on the EU market through a derogation available to Member States that does not apply to the UK (excluding Northern Ireland) as a third country. GB flour that is on the market prior to 1st January 2021 can continue to be traded on the EU market until the end of its shelf life.
- Since the 1<sup>st</sup> January, when placing flour from the UK (excluding Northern Ireland) on the EU market, the levels of any added vitamin or mineral must be at least at the minimum levels set out in EU legislation<sup>1</sup>
- Unfortified flour can be placed on the EU market.

While Ireland receives most of its flour from the UK, industry has been liaising with its UK suppliers to ensure that flour imports comply with the relevant EU legislation.

### Products made using flour from GB which does not meet EU fortification levels

Clarification was sought from the European Commission regarding food products made using flour that does not comply with EU legislation.

The European Commission has confirmed that:

- products made in the UK (excluding Northern Ireland) using flour fortified under UK national rules, cannot be placed on the EU market as the flour in question does not meet the minimum amounts set by the EU rules for levels of vitamins and minerals added to food.
- where products that use a fortified flour are offered to a consumer, the final food product must be fortified at least to the minimum levels set in EU legislation.
- The UK flour and products made using it as an ingredient may continue to be placed on the market in Northern Ireland.

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<sup>1</sup> [Regulation \(EC\) No 1925/2006](#) of the European Parliament and of the Council of 20 December 2006 on the addition of vitamins and minerals and of certain other substances to foods

It is recognised that:

- Partially fortified flour produced under UK/GB national measures and products made therefrom which are on the EU market prior to 1 January 2021 can continue to be traded on the EU market until the end of their shelf life.
- The use of GB flour fortified under UK national rules does not pose a food safety risk.

The FSAI is engaging with food businesses on this issue from a technical and food legislation perspective to work towards compliance.

Affected businesses are encouraged to engage with their suppliers to ensure that products are compliant with EU legislation.

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