

## CONSULTATION

**Title:** Extension of Origin labelling rules to cover 'loose'/non-prepacked unprocessed meat from pigs, poultry, sheep and goats

**Start date of consultation:** Monday, 13<sup>th</sup> July 2015    **Closing date:** Monday 31<sup>st</sup> August 2015

### **Background**

New mandatory origin labelling rules for **prepacked, unprocessed, raw meat** from pigs, poultry, sheep and goats were introduced in Ireland with effect from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2015. These new rules require that the packaging applied to the above meats is labelled with details as to the EU Member State or third country of **rearing** and the Member State or third country of **slaughter**. In addition, the term '**Origin**' can also be used but only where the country/member state of birth is the same as the country of rearing and slaughter. The batch code is also included.

The Regulation covers pre-packed non-processed meat. This means fresh, chilled or frozen carcasses, whole birds and cuts of these meats (e.g. chicken breasts, pork chops, lamb cutlets). The rules apply to all poultry which includes chicken, ducks, geese, turkeys and guinea fowl. They do **not cover** 'cured meats' (bacon/rashers/sausages/salami/deli ham) or meat products that have been further processed (for example, chicken kiev/ stuffed pork fillet, or products such as Lasagne that contain meat as an ingredient).

For further details on these rules, please see Regulation (EU) No. 1337/2013 and SI No. 113/2015 available at the following link: <http://www.agriculture.gov.ie/agri-foodindustry/foodlabelling/meatlabelling/>

### **Proposal**

In light of consumer interest in this origin information, consideration is now being given by the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine, in consultation with the Department of Health, to **extend these mandatory origin labelling rules to also cover the 'loose' or non-prepacked versions of the same meat** from pigs, poultry, sheep and goats. Non-prepacked raw meat is predominantly sold through refrigerated counters in retail outlets (including butcher shops).

The proposed origin labelling requirements would be the same as those applying to prepacked meat (including provision of the batch code) and would be provided in the same format as outlined above e.g.

'Reared in: Ireland' (*Note: may include more than one member state or third country*)

'Slaughtered in: Ireland'

OR

'Origin: Ireland'

As a result, the identification and registration systems already in place in food business operators for prepacked meat could be utilised to provide the **same information for non-prepacked meat**.

The proposed rules **do not include prepared or cooked meat** so restaurants, hotels, pubs etc are not affected by the proposal.

Submissions are requested from interested individuals and organisations that may have views as to the proposed extension of the existing rules to cover non-prepacked unprocessed meat from pigs, poultry, sheep and goats.

### **Submissions to the consultation**

If you are making a submission, please state whether the views expressed are personal or are being made on behalf of an organisation. If the views of an organisation are being submitted, it should be made clear as to the organisation being represented.

Submissions should be sent by close of business on Monday, 31st August 2015 to the Food Safety Authority of Ireland who are carrying out this consultation on behalf of the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine.

Email Submissions should be sent to: [consultations@fsai.ie](mailto:consultations@fsai.ie)

Postal submissions to: Consultations, Food Safety Authority of Ireland, Abbey Court, Lwr Abbey Street, Dublin 1

Please note that all submissions and comments submitted for this purpose may be subject to release under the Freedom of Information Act 2014.