

The Hemp (Amendment) Regulations 2026 - Regulatory Impact Assessment - SCREEN

Regulat	Screening Questions	Response to Screening Questions		Full Impact Assessment Required		Justification / Key issues and groups to focus on
		Yes	No	Yes	No	

	Is the policy or amendment to the policy likely to have a direct or indirect impact on businesses?		X		X	<p>EU hemp third country imports rules are directly applicable in Northern Ireland under Annex 2 of the Windsor Framework. Prior to January 2023, imports of hemp, including acceptable levels of THC content, into the European Union were set by Regulation (EU) No 1307/2013, establishing rules for direct payments to farmers under support schemes within the framework of the common agricultural policy. Regulation (EU) No 1307/2013 lays out that true hemp/hemp seeds must not have a THC content greater than 0.2%. Article 189 of 1308/2013 refers to 1307/2013 to set the maximum acceptable THC level that may be imported into the Union. Regulation (EU) No 1307/2013 was repealed and replaced by Regulation 2021/2115, which took effect from 01 January 2023. These new regulations raised the THC level of eligibility for direct payments from 0.2% to 0.3%. As such, the UK's domestic regulations, The Hemp (Third Country Imports) Regulations 2002 are out of date and require amendments.</p> <p>The Hemp (Amendment) Regulations 2026 will be used to increase the maximum THC level for imports of hemp and hemp seeds from 0.2% to 0.3%. The amending regulations will also update legislative references, remove sections covered by updated EU regulations, adding CN codes to products and making grammatical changes. Amendment Regulations will ensure that the hemp industry will have access to the variety of hemp plant that they're entitled to in line with EU and GB regulations. However, it is not expected to make any significant impact on industry or how policy currently operates. Hemp that is being moved into NI (currently with a THC content of up to 0.2%) will continue to be able to moved as it currently is, with no required changes to how businesses currently operate. As this is a relaxation of the rules, once the regulatory updates are made, businesses will be allowed to move hemp with a THC content of up to 0.3% if they chose to do so. To note, it is our understanding that that since EU exit there haven't been any hemp movement notified to Plant Health from GB, EU or outside the EU, outside of the Northern Ireland Retail Movement Scheme (NIRMS) which will continue after the regulations are in place (subject to any SPS agreement).</p>
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	Is the policy or amendment to the policy likely to have a direct or indirect impact on the voluntary / community sector? ¹		✘		✘	No impacts envisaged for community or voluntary sector.
CONCLUSION					NO	RIA not required

¹ **NOTES:**

This Includes charities and the social economy sector.