

COLD CHAIN POLICY PRIORITIES /

The cold chain is a network of specialist facilities and vehicles that store perishable goods in a secure temperature-controlled environment. Businesses in the cold chain have unique operational challenges. Effective government policy is crucial to enable the industry to thrive in post-Brexit UK and to enable a timely transition to a net zero economy.



THE COLD CHAIN....



SAFEGUARDS the nation's chilled and frozen supply chain maintaining the security, quality and availability of food, pharmaceuticals, and other produce. The UK frozen food industry is worth in excess of £7 billion and the chilled food industry in excess of £12 billion.



EMPLOYS more than 100,000 people in the UK, from warehouse operatives and drivers to systems analysts and robotics engineers.



CONNECTS the UK to the world, it makes significant trade in perishable goods possible and is at the foundation of global food and pharmaceutical security.

POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS /

Overcoming energy costs to prepare for a net zero economy

- Agreeing expectations for energy efficiency improvement in intensive industries to 2050 through a long term commitment to the Climate Change Agreement scheme.
- Extending and expanding the scope of existing support mechanisms for high energy users, such as the Energy Intensive Industries exemption scheme and Industrial Energy Transformation Fund as well as supplementing this with additional targeted financial support for large capital energy efficiency investments, particularly for SMEs.
- Production of a clear strategy for overcoming grid capacity restrictions at logistics sites which are severely inhibiting sustainable investments and for how large industrial processes such as cold storage will contribute to the future UK energy system to the future UK energy system.

Driving sustainable transport refrigeration

- Ensure the unique requirements of temperature-controlled operators are recognised and considered when developing the UK future freight system.
- A strategy for establishing the network of electric charging and hydrogen refuelling for temperature-controlled trailers at depots and rest areas along the road network.
- Grant based support for the investment in trials, or adoption of lower emission Transport Refrigeration Unit technologies to enable operators to bridge the enhanced capital cost of emerging technology.

Shaping the future of UK cold chain

- Developing the future EU import model and global trade agreements to ensure smooth flows of temperature-controlled products into the UK.
- Designing apprenticeships and skill programmes to reflect the specific future requirements of the cold chain.
- Evaluating the potential for reviewing commonly held temperature setpoints for frozen food storage and distribution to significantly save energy without compromising on product safety or quality.

Contact Executive Director Tom Southall (tom@coldchainfed.org.uk) for more information and to pledge your support for businesses in the cold chain.

HOW THE COLD CHAIN WORKS /

