



SECURING THE FUTURE UK COLD CHAIN

CCF Policy Strategy 2026

Strengthening national resilience, food security, and the transition to net zero

SECURING THE FUTURE UK COLD CHAIN: CCF POLICY STRATEGY 2026

Our Refreshed Policy Priorities

As we enter 2026, the Cold Chain Federation (CCF) is setting out the policy priorities that will guide our engagement with government and stakeholders over the coming year. This document outlines the specific outcomes we are working to achieve, and the Key Policy Asks (KPAs) that will underpin our advocacy work throughout the year ahead.

Building on the foundations of our 2024 manifesto, this policy focus does not represent a change in CCF's mission or direction. Instead, it is a refinement of our existing approach, providing greater clarity on where we will concentrate our efforts and how we will work with policymakers to ensure the UK's cold chain is recognised, protected, and enabled to support national resilience, food security, public health, and the transition to net zero.

Throughout 2026, the CCF will use this policy focus to shape our positions, inform engagement with government departments and regulators, and represent the collective interests of our members and the wider sector. These priorities set out what we will be working towards this year and provide a clear framework for our advocacy to deliver tangible outcomes for the cold chain.

Recognising the Critical Value of the Cold Chain

We want to work with the UK government to strengthen national resilience by securing clearer leadership and greater protection for the cold chain. This means establishing dedicated cross-departmental ministerial responsibility and recognising the cold chain as part of the UK's Critical National Infrastructure (CNI).

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| Key Policy Asks (KPA) | KPA 1.1 | Designate Ministerial Responsibility for the Cold Chain Sector Assign clear cross-departmental responsibility for the UK cold chain to a dedicated Cabinet Office ministerial portfolio. A dedicated portfolio establishes the leadership required to designate the cold chain as CNI and drive cross-government coordination to protect perishable supply chains. |
| | KPA 1.2 | Secure CNI Status for the UK Cold Chain Formally recognise the UK cold chain as part of the nation's Critical National Infrastructure (CNI). This provides the framework to prioritise policy support, secure essential investment, and protect national food and health security. |
| | KPA 1.3 | Strengthen National Preparedness for Cold Chain Disruption Integrate the cold chain into the National Risk Register and contingency planning. Secure food security and public health by establishing early-warning systems and prioritizing emergency power and energy supply for critical sites during crises. |

Promoting Sustainability and Energy Resilience & Security

We aim to work with the government and operators to advocate for cold chain infrastructure to be utilised as a strategic energy resource. Our goal is to drive maximum efficiency and grid flexibility, supporting the UK's 2030 clean energy targets while securing the resilience of temperature-controlled logistics.

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| Key Policy Asks (KPA) | KPA 2.1 | Government Recognition of CCF's Cold Chain Microgrid Vision Government recognition for the CCF's vision for cold chain microgrids as the industry's commitment to net zero and energy security and a further commitment to work with us to overcome barriers to this vision such as grid connections, investment and confidence in novel technologies. |
| | KPA 2.2 | Clear Plan to Secure Energy Supplies in Crisis Implementation of a clear plan to ensure continuity of energy to critical cold chain sites during crises, addressing cybersecurity risks and other potential causes of disruption or interruption, beyond issues of supply availability. |
| | KPA 2.3 | Cold Storage Sector as a Key Partner in Clean Flexibility Roadmap Position the cold storage sector as a key delivery partner for the governments' Clean Flexibility Roadmap, reversing the historic fall in short duration non-domestic consumer led flexibility by harnessing the power of thermal storage in demand balancing. |
| | KPA 2.4 | Clear Energy Efficiency Expectations Beyond Current Schemes Clarity on what the energy efficiency expectations will be from cold storage beyond the current Climate Change Agreement Scheme under the government's commitment for a net zero economy by 2050. |

Leading The Transition to Zero-Emission Refrigerated Transport

We want to work with the UK government to accelerate the decarbonisation of diesel Transport Refrigeration Units (TRUs) through collaborative, industry-led initiatives that deliver clear environmental and economic benefits. By empowering the sector to lead this transition through cost-effective alternatives to regulation, we can drive impactful emissions reductions and support the government's clean transport goals.

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| Key Policy Asks (KPA) | KPA 3.1 | Government-Industry Phase-Out Agreement Establish a collaborative government-endorsed phase-out timeline for diesel Transport Refrigeration Units (TRUs), with mutually agreed target dates and government recognition for industry-led decarbonisation efforts. |
| | KPA 3.2 | Voluntary TRU Registration and Incentive Scheme Develop an industry-led voluntary TRU registration scheme and provide tax incentives or recognition to early adopters of emission free TRUs. This enables tracking of emissions and decarbonisation progress and supports the government's clean transportation objectives. |

Other Policy Priorities

Alongside our key policy areas, we actively prioritise interconnected policy areas fundamental to the sector's resilience. By addressing these emerging areas and challenges, we support our members' diverse needs and drive forward-looking industry development.

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| SUPPORT FOR TEMPERATURE SETPOINT OPTIMISATION | We support the Move to -15°C campaign to review temperature set points in the frozen food supply chain, provided peer-reviewed research shows this to not impact product safety and quality. We will support and promote relevant research as it emerges, whilst also engaging with policy makers and members to encourage optimisation of temperatures within the currently accepted temperature boundaries. |
| REMOVING BARRIERS TO TRADE | We advocate for barrier-free trade and a level playing field for temperature-sensitive products. We will campaign to ensure any reset in relations with the EU reduces friction and bureaucracy for imports and exports, whilst championing the critical role of UK ports in handling and facilitating the UK's global trade in perishable products. |
| REFORM OF REGULATIONS GOVERNING F-GAS REFRIGERANTS | We seek confirmation on the proposed changes to the F-Gas Regulations and whether there has been an assessment of the impact a faster phase-down could cause to cold chain resilience. We also seek assurances that mandatory training standards will be improved to reduce new safety risks introduced from replacement refrigerants. |

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION OR QUERIES, PLEASE CONTACT MADDY COUPE, POLICY MANAGER, ON MADDY@COLDCHAINFED.ORG.UK