

The impact of leaving the EU

on food supplements

When the UK leaves the EU there should be no fewer food supplements available in the UK and those supplements should be no less safe.

The UK consumer healthcare market is worth
£2.6bn¹

We estimate it will cost the consumer healthcare industry

£7.26m

to prepare for EU Exit, not including the ongoing costs once the UK leaves³

Over the last year vitamins and minerals had sales of more than

£427m

in the UK²

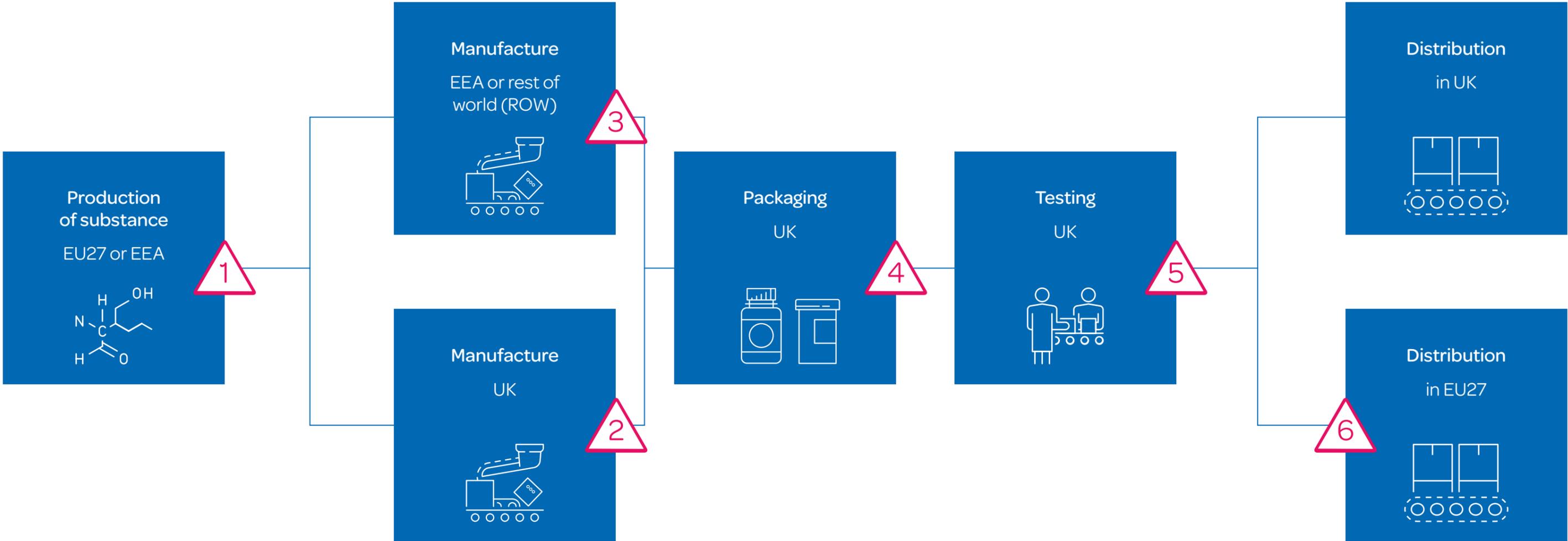
In order to ensure this, PAGB is calling for mutual recognition agreements (MRAs) to be put in place as a priority between the UK and Europe.

If these agreements are not in place the supply of food supplements distributed throughout the EU would face costly disruptions and potentially significant delays. To demonstrate this, we have mapped an example supply chain.

For distribution in the EU, premises involved in the manufacturing of some food supplements need to be inspected and certified by EU veterinarians. Certain supplements also need to be batch tested by EU certified inspectors.

Without MRAs these processes will need to be duplicated in the EU and UK, leading to delays.

Impact of leaving the EU on the supply of food supplements



Potential points of duplication and delay

- 1 Without MRAs in place, the importing of substances produced in the EU27 or EEA could face tariffs, customs checks and possible delays at the border
- 2 Premises such as plants and abattoirs, which deal with Products of Animal Origin (POAO) need to be inspected and certified by approved veterinarians. Without MRAs in place, premises would need to be inspected and certified by both an EU and UK veterinarian
- 3 Supplements manufactured in the EU, EEA or rest of the world and imported to the UK for packaging, could face tariffs, customs checks, and possible delays at the border which could lead to challenges with storage and a loss of shelf life
- 4 Food supplements destined for the EU market require the name and address of an EU responsible food business operator. Without MRAs, UK companies will therefore need to secure a new responsible food business operator within the EU and update all labelling
- 5 Certain substances, particularly botanicals and fish oils need to be batch tested to ensure toxins/contaminants are below acceptable levels to meet EU regulations. UK testing will not be accepted by EU unless an MRA is in place
- 6 Without MRAs, POAO supplements packaged in the UK will require additional certification to be distributed in the EU. Additionally, through the export process, supplements could face tariffs, customs checks, and possible delays at the border which could lead to challenges with storage and a loss of shelf life

How to prevent duplication and delays

✓ Ensure appropriate mutual recognition agreements are in place to allow food supplements manufactured, packaged and tested in the UK to continue to be exported to the EU and vice versa

✓ Secure a simple transition process to any new arrangements, which is at least two years but ideally five years, and during which there is no divergence from EU regulations

Mutual recognition agreements will:

1

Allow premises involved in the manufacturing of POAO products destined for the EU market to be inspected and certified by UK veterinarians

2

Ensure UK batch testing for certain substances that are excepted in the EU and vice versa

3

Prevent additional certifications being needed for supplements containing POAO



1 PAGB. About our industry. July 2018. Available at: <https://www.pagb.co.uk/about-us/about-our-industry/>

2 Nielsen Scantrack service using data to WE 01.07.18

3 PAGB estimate based on members' anticipated one off and ongoing running costs