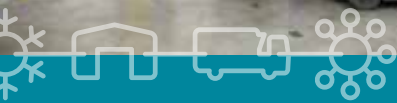


→
supply chain **food** →
temperature-controlled
vaccines logistics
horticulture
→



COLD CHAIN: THE VITAL LINK IN TURBOCHARGING UK GROWTH & SECURITY

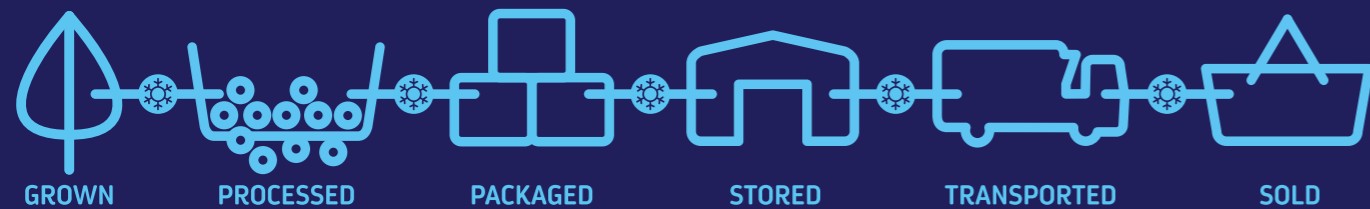
A manifesto for success in partnership with Government



FROZEN & CHILLED > STORAGE >
DISTRIBUTION > NETWORK



FROM PRODUCER TO CONSUMER



1 / FOREWORD /

Through the safe storage and distribution of perishable products such as food, pharmaceuticals and horticultural products, the nation relies on the cold chain's service every day of the year. A thriving cold chain industry will help spur economic growth, improve food and pharmaceutical resilience to future economic shocks, and help the UK to make huge strides towards becoming net zero. The UK cold chain industry is estimated to be worth over £8.5 billion and will grow to £12.5 billion by 2028. We can only unlock this potential growth by investing in our national infrastructure through collaboration between Government and industry.

The drive to net zero is an area of work the Federation and its members have led with our groundbreaking Net Zero Project, which focuses on the significant barriers to net zero cold storage and refrigerated transport. Still, we can't do this alone, and by building partnerships between industry and Government, we can achieve our bold targets to slash emissions across our industry. However, despite these well-recognised strengths, the cold chain is at a crossroads. Our members continue to grapple with the consequences of recent disruptions – most notably the COVID-19 pandemic and the war in Ukraine – and adapting to new trading conditions arising from Brexit.

This Cold Chain manifesto outlines a comprehensive vision and actionable policies to help transform the cold chain into a sustainable sector. To help achieve this, we are calling for an existing single Government Minister to become responsible for the industry. Sitting within the Cabinet Office, they would provide a single point of focus for the cold chain's cross-departmental work. A dedicated minister could champion the cold chain's needs and ensure its resilient and smooth operation during times of supply chain crisis.

The sector is critically important in a complex global environment, and a single ministerial lead is necessary to address critical issues like infrastructure investment, skills development, energy efficiency, and regulatory streamlining.

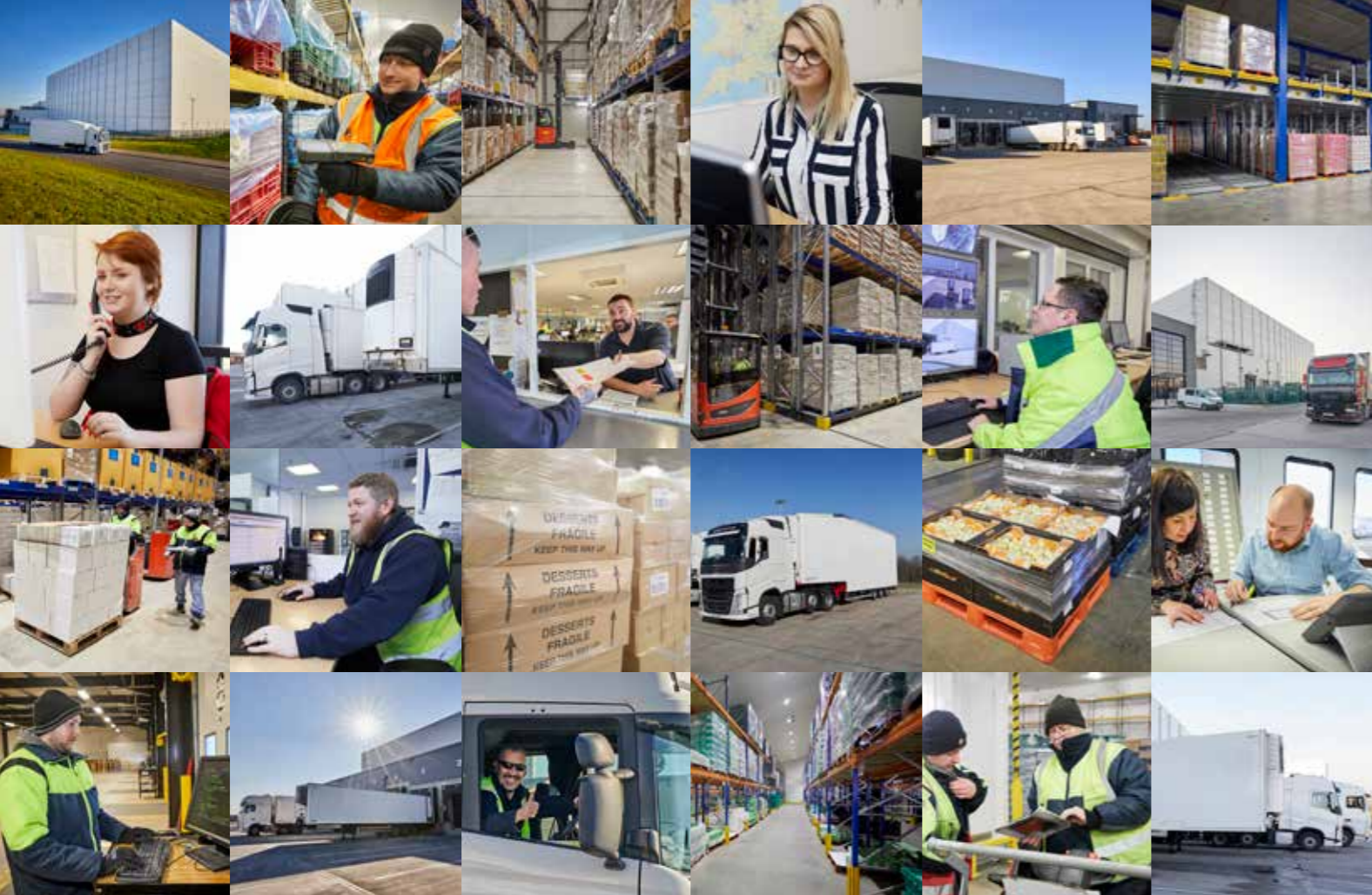
We envisage a future in which renewable energy sources power highly energy-efficient cold chain infrastructure, providing safe, high-quality products while wasting even less valuable resources. This continued transformation will require a collaborative effort from all stakeholders, including food producers, retailers, logistics providers, policymakers, and technology innovators.

The manifesto is a call to action to embrace innovation, optimise resource utilisation, and adopt sustainable practices throughout the cold chain. We must seize the opportunity to modernise our cold chain infrastructure, investing in energy-efficient equipment, intelligent temperature management systems, and sustainable refrigerants.

Our industry has already achieved so much, but there is much more we can do. With the proper support from policymakers, we can kick start a golden period of sustainable growth across the cold chain and the sectors we support.

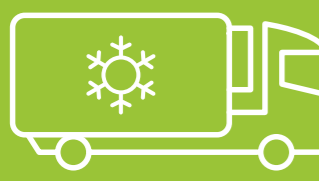




PHIL PLUCK
Chief Executive,
Cold Chain Federation



2 / WHY THE COLD CHAIN? /

The cold chain is the network of specialist facilities and vehicles which store perishable goods in a secure, temperature-controlled environment. The cold chain is a crucial part of Britain, a vital cog that keeps Britain fed, life-changing medicine on the move, and over 100,000 people in employment. However, it has not been unscathed from the impacts of inflation, high energy costs, and changes in the workforce.

 <p>51% of food in the UK passes through the cold chain, making it a vital part of our food system.</p>	 <p>Life-saving medicine, such as the COVID-19 vaccine, was transported nationwide through the cold chain.</p>	 <p>With over 100,000 people employed in the sector, cold chain touches all four corners of the country.</p>
--	---	---

The Cold Chain Federation is the UK's temperature-controlled supply chain industry trade association. We represent over 250 businesses that store, distribute, and transport temperature-sensitive products, including food, pharmaceuticals, and horticulture.

This manifesto sets out our key priorities for the next General Election. We believe a solid and vibrant cold chain industry is essential for the UK's economy, environment, and health.

Policy recommendations for safeguarding the sustainable growth of the UK's cold chain.

- 
Recognising the value of the cold chain.
- 
Promoting sustainability and enhancing energy efficiency and security.
- 
Leading the revolution in emission-free transport refrigeration.
- 
Developing the next generation of cold chain talent.
- 
Removing barriers to trade.





4 / PROMOTING SUSTAINABILITY AND ENHANCING ENERGY EFFICIENCY & SECURITY /

As a high energy using industry, we want to work with the UK government to create truly net zero cold chains which use energy as efficiently as possible and harness the potential of cold chain infrastructure to generate and manage energy differently. To support our net zero objectives we need:



A clear strategy for overcoming grid capacity restrictions at logistics sites, which are inhibiting sustainable investments, and clarification on how large industrial processes such as cold storage will contribute to the future UK energy system.



Government support for the cross-industry initiative to assess the potential for reviewing commonly held temperature setpoints for frozen food storage and distribution, which could significantly save energy without compromising product safety or quality.



Clarity on what the energy efficiency expectations will be on energy intensive industries under the government's commitment for a net zero economy by 2050.



Expansion of the scope of existing support mechanisms for high energy users, such as the Energy Intensive Industries exemption scheme and Industrial Energy Transformation Fund, to better reflect needs of cold store operators. Additional targeted financial support, such as tax relief for significant capital energy efficiency investments, particularly for SMEs.



Clarity on whether the UK government intends to reform the F-Gas Regulations which sets out the timeline for the phasing out and banning of climate impacting refrigerants.



3 / RECOGNISING THE VALUE OF THE COLD CHAIN /

The cold chain is fundamental to ensuring the UK has a safe and uninterrupted supply of perishable products such as food, pharmaceuticals and horticultural products but this criticality is not adequately recognised by UK policy makers. To protect UK cold chain, we urge the government to:



Designate the cross-departmental cold chain sector to a Cabinet Office Ministerial portfolio to enable rapid response to any threats to the integrity of perishable supply chains.



Invest in measures to make the cold chain more resilient to the cyber attacks which increasingly threaten the security of our food and pharmaceutical supply chains.



Reform the planning system to specifically recognise the need for cold chain infrastructure to support the growth of our urban centres.



6 / DEVELOPING THE NEXT GENERATION OF COLD CHAIN TALENT /

As we slowly emerge from the recruitment crisis which affected the whole logistics sector, we need support to prevent an occurrence through an ongoing commitment from the government to support careers in the cold chain. We need:



Reform of apprenticeships and other training programmes to better attract the future workforce to cold chain logistics, especially in engineering and management roles.



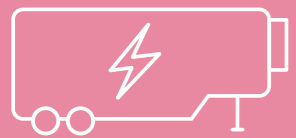
A new approach for our labour market built on a skilled, productive and healthy national workforce that underpins economic growth through a cohesive plan to ease shortages, including barriers to work, a skills revolution, and immigration reform.



A long term commitment to supporting the Generation Logistics initiative between government and the wider logistics industry, which the Cold Chain Federation is a proud partner of.

5 / LEADING THE REVOLUTION IN EMISSION FREE TRANSPORT REFRIGERATION /

We are on the cusp of a revolution in transport refrigeration which could see diesel replaced by emission free power sources in the next 15 years, kickstarting the decarbonisation of the UK's transport sector. To help the industry reach this goal, we ask for:



Formal adoption by the Department for Transport of oversight for decarbonising transport refrigeration units. Currently, the challenges facing operators of this crucial infrastructure are not adequately recognised or supported by any single government department.



The introduction of grant based support for the mass adoption of emission free transport refrigeration units to enable operators to bridge the enhanced capital cost of emerging technologies. This approach has been proven to increase adoption in other global markets.



Guidance from government on how refrigerated hauliers can overcome grid connection challenges, particularly in rural areas, to enable the installation of charging infrastructure for the next generation of electric refrigerated trailers.





7 / REMOVING BARRIERS TO TRADE /

Supporting the UK's trade in temperature sensitive products is crucial to our future prosperity. We want to work with the Government to open up new markets for UK businesses and ensure our products can compete on a level playing field in the global market. To secure our future trade growth, we need the government to:



Negotiate trade deals that support the cold chain sector and remove trade barriers. Work with the CCF to understand and implement cold chain-specific measures to reduce friction around trade.



Develop the future EU import model and global trade agreements to ensure smooth flows of temperature-controlled products into the UK.



8 / ABOUT THE COLD CHAIN FEDERATION /

We are the voice of the UK cold chain. Our 278 members operate more than 450 specialist storage facilities and run more than 40,000 vehicles and refrigerated trailers across England, Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland. CCF members operate within the UK and internationally.

The organisation can trace its history back to original formation in 1911. Formerly FSDF (Food Storage and Distribution Federation), we became Cold Chain Federation in 2019. Find out more www.coldchainfederation.org.uk



Victoria Prentis MP, Banbury



Paul Martin, Group Managing Director, The Ice Co Storage and Logistics and Sir Robert Goodwill MP, Scarborough and Whitby



Chris Clarkson MP, Heywood and Middleton



Deidre Brock MP, Edinburgh and Leith and Alistair Stalker, Owner, Norfolk Logistics Limited

FROZEN & CHILLED > STORAGE >
DISTRIBUTION > NETWORK



CONTACT

For further information on
this document please contact:

Phil Pluck, Chief Executive

Cold Chain Federation
7 Diddenham Court, Lambwood Hill,
Grazeley, Reading, Berkshire RG7 1JQ

T 0118 988 4468

E info@coldchainfed.org.uk