

## Food hygiene for farmers and growers

The EC Food Hygiene Regulation (852/2004) (<http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=OJ:L:2004:139:0001:0054:en:PDF>) is aimed at ensuring that controls throughout the food chain are strengthened. In particular, the legislation is intended to modernise, consolidate and simplify EU food hygiene legislation, to apply effective and proportionate controls throughout the food chain from primary production to sale or supply to the final consumer.

### Who is covered?

Food businesses and food business operators, as defined.

- 'food business' means any undertaking, whether for profit or not and whether public or private, carrying out any stage of production, processing and distribution of food
- 'food business operator' means the natural or legal persons responsible for ensuring that the requirements for food law are met within the food business under their control

So, for example, any livestock farms, fish farms, arable farms, PYO, market gardens or bee keepers producing food for human consumption.

One of the requirements of the EC Regulation is that, with few exceptions, all food businesses must now be approved or registered with their local authority.

### Conditions

The farm-to-fork approach of the legislation includes requirements for primary producers. The Regulation contains various conditions and good practice which food businesses, including farmers and growers, will have to comply with, as appropriate. The requirements for farmers and growers are fairly basic hygiene procedures. As food businesses, they will have to ensure that hazards are controlled appropriately.

Under food hygiene rules, you will need to take steps to:

- prevent contamination arising from water, soil, feed, veterinary products, muck spreading, pesticides, waste and so on
- keep animals intended for slaughter for human consumption clean (at least immediately prior to slaughter)
- prevent animals and pests from causing contamination
- take account of results from tests relevant to animal and human health
- use medicines/plant protection products appropriately

The legislation requires that you keep records relevant to food safety, including:

- the nature and origin of your animal feed
- your use of plant protection products and biocides
- any veterinary products administered and their withdrawal dates
- any occurrence of disease or pests that may affect food safety information required for traceability
- the results of any analyses carried out
- the health status of the animals you send for slaughter

Good records help protect you and your business in the event of an animal feed or related human food safety incident and are essential in order to quickly trace the origins of any problem.

Most of the information you need to keep will already be available as invoices, receipts, spray records etc., or as part of the requirements of farm or crop assurance schemes and you should not need to create many new records.

If you do need to record additional information, you may find it useful to complete a farm diary or notebook.

## **Relevant legislation**

### **EC Food Hygiene Regulation (852/2004)**

(<http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=OJ:L:2004:139:0001:0054:en:PDF>)

### **Food Hygiene (England) Regulations 2006**

(<http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukxi/2006/14/contents/made>)

### ***Where can I get further help?***

This leaflet is not an authoritative document on the law and is only intended for guidance. For further details or clarification contact Derbyshire Trading Standards at:

Chatsworth Hall  
Chesterfield Road  
Matlock  
Derbyshire  
DE4 3FW

Telephone:

**Businesses:** Call Derbyshire 08 456 058 058  
**Consumers:** Citizens Advice consumer helpline 08454 040506

Fax: 01629 536197

Website: [www.derbyshire.gov.uk/tradingstandards](http://www.derbyshire.gov.uk/tradingstandards)

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