

To: Heads of Environmental Health Services (England)

9 February 2012

Reference: ENF/E/12/004

Dear Colleague,

Food Law Practice Guidance (England)

I am writing to inform you that a revised Food Law Practice Guidance (England) is being published by the Agency today - see link below. I should be grateful if you would bring this to the attention of relevant colleagues and also ensure that copies of the Guidance issued in 2011 are replaced.

<http://www.food.gov.uk/multimedia/pdfs/practiceguidanceeng.pdf>

The Practice Guidance has been revised following consultation with the Food Hygiene Focus group and of specialist liaison groups which took place late last year. I would like to take this opportunity to thank those authorities who provided feedback on the agency proposals. We have, where appropriate, reflected the comments that we received in the revised Practice Guidance.

One of the main additions to the Practice Guidance is the introduction of a standalone guidance on the approval of establishments. This guidance replaces Annexes 3 and 4 of the Practice Guidance. This is a working document and the intention is to amend the guidance as and when new policies are developed and existing ones revised or replaced. As you will notice, there are some areas (e.g. cold stores, satellite operations) that are incomplete, as the Agency is currently considering those policy areas. The guidance can be found at:

<http://www.food.gov.uk/enforcement/sectorrules/approvedestabsuk/approvalsguidance>

The Appendix to this letter outlines the main changes that have been made to the Practice Guidance.

Should you have any comments on the revised guidance or suggestions for further areas of revision, please contact me at:

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Yours faithfully,

Nathan Philippo

APPENDIX - SUMMARY OF PROPOSED CHANGES BETWEEN 2011 FOOD LAW PRACTICE GUIDANCE AND 2012 FOOD LAW PRACTICE GUIDANCE.

The table below outlines the main changes that have been made to the guidance.

Section/Chapter/Annex	Issue
1.5.1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> New guidance on the registration of mobile food establishments
1.6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reordering on the advice on Crown and police premises
3.3.19	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Revised guidance on the unauthorised removal or defacement of notices or orders
3.8.4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> New guidance on the agency resources available to assist food authority Investigations into food fraud
4.4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Revised guidance on Ships and Aircraft
4.5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> New guidance on action following an intervention
5.1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Link to the new guidance on Approvals
Annex 3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Removed
Annex 4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Removed
Annex 5.7	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Revised guidance on home slaughter of livestock: A guide to the law in England
Annex 5, Appendix 2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Removed
Annex 6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Revised guidance on live bivalve molluscs
Annex 7	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Revised guidance on Fishery products including vessel checklists
Annex 8	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Revised guidance on Raw milk and dairy products
Annex 14	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Revised guidance for food authorities on import of food from third countries