

Heads of Environmental Health Services  
Heads of Trading Standards Services  
Chief Port Health Officers

***By email***

December 2008

Reference:

ENF/E/08/080

Dear Colleague,

**EUROPEAN COMMISSION 'BETTER TRAINING FOR SAFER FOOD' STRATEGY - 2009/10 PROGRAMME**

The provisional programme of training courses for 2009/10 under the European Commission's 'Better Training for Safer Food' strategy is appended to this letter. We should be grateful if you would bring this to the attention of relevant officers within your authority and ask that any expressions of interest from those wishing to participate in relevant courses are sent to the Agency **by 15<sup>th</sup> February 2009**.

**Background**

The Commission established its 'Better Training for Safer Food' strategy following the adoption of Regulation 882/2004 on official controls in 2004. Programmes of courses under the strategy have taken place in 2006, 2007 and 2008. These covered a range of issues such as HACCP, import control at Border Inspection Posts, implementation and auditing of food safety management systems, zoonoses and microbiological criteria in food and avian influenza.

The courses are open to officers of the competent authorities and, in the UK, this includes, all food law enforcement officers employed by local authorities and involved in feed or food regulatory controls. The training programmes are delivered across the EU by public and private bodies and are designed to complement, rather than replace, training arrangements at a national level. All of the training programmes are funded centrally by the Commission including participants' travel and accommodation costs.

Further information on the 'Better Training for Safer Food' strategy can be found on the Commission's website at: [http://europa.eu.int/comm/food/training/index\\_en.htm](http://europa.eu.int/comm/food/training/index_en.htm).

**Training Programme for 2009/10**

The 2009/10 training programme is set out at Annex 1. It is expected that this will begin in April 2009 and conclude in December 2010. Further details of individual course content, dates and venues will be made available by the training providers shortly before the programme begins.



The Agency is responsible for verifying the course applications for potential UK participants and forwarding these to the training providers and to the Commission for their consideration. To assist us in managing applications for the 2009/10 programme, it would be helpful to receive any expressions of interest from officers who may wish to participate in this training so that we may provide full details and information on how to apply for individual courses as soon as this become available. **It is, however, important to note that only a small number of training places are allocated to the UK.**

Officers that are interested in receiving further details of these training courses are asked to provide their contact details and indicate the course(s) they may wish to attend. This information should be sent by **15<sup>th</sup> February 2009** to me at:  
[robert.pilling@foodstandards.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:robert.pilling@foodstandards.gsi.gov.uk)

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Bob Pilling', is written over a light blue circular stamp or watermark.

Bob Pilling  
National Contact Point for BTSE  
Enforcement Support Division

CC: David Lock - LACORS  
Jenny Morris - CIEH  
David Pickering - TSI

**ANNEX**

**'BETTER TRAINING FOR SAFER FOOD" - PROVISIONAL PROGRAMME FOR 2009/10**

*Training activities for staff of the competent authorities of Member States, Candidate Countries and invited third countries*

TRAINING ACTIVITY	DESCRIPTION	EXPECTED PARTICIPANTS
<b>Courses to be continued from 2008</b>		
<b>HACCP</b>	<p>19 five-day workshops including:            6 on setting-up, implementing and maintaining procedures based on HACCP (course 1);            13 on audits verifying implementation of HACCP systems (course 2).</p> <p>Theoretical sessions, site visits to facilitate practical work, discussion as appropriate.</p> <p>Training courses will have duration of 1-week (1 welcome-day + 4 working days).</p> <p>Languages: English and/or French and/or German depending on the language knowledge of participants with interpretation in the other two languages.</p>	20 participants on each course
<b>Veterinary and food Safety control checks at BIPS (seaports and road/rail)</b>	<p>5 three-day workshops on seaport BIPs.            2 three-day workshops on road/rail BIPs.</p> <p>Theoretical and practical sessions.</p> <p>Emphasis on practical exercises in border inspection posts.</p> <p>Discussion sessions organised as appropriate</p> <p>The objective of this course is the dissemination of best practices for veterinary control procedures at seaport and road and rail border inspection posts to improve knowledge and ensure consistent and high implementation standards across EU.</p> <p>Languages: English (assistance in other languages e.g. French/German may be provided, as appropriate).</p>	40 participants on each course

TRAINING ACTIVITY	DESCRIPTION	EXPECTED PARTICIPANTS
<p><b>Microbiological criteria and control of Zoonoses</b></p>	<p>5 four-day courses on implementation of microbiological criteria and investigation of foodborne outbreaks.</p> <p>5 four-day courses on control and eradication of Salmonella in poultry and pigs.</p> <p>Private sector representatives such as traders of poultry and eggs may attend.</p> <p>Theoretical and practical sessions with emphasis on study cases.</p> <p>Discussion sessions as appropriate.</p> <p>The objective of this course is to disseminate knowledge on EU legislation and harmonise the approach to monitoring zoonoses, zoonotic agents and related antimicrobial and food-borne outbreaks.</p>	<p>40 participants per workshop</p>
<p><b>Animal welfare</b></p>	<p>3 workshops on animal welfare concerning stunning and killing of animals at slaughter and for disease control.</p> <p>3 workshops on animal welfare during transport and related operations.</p> <p>The objective of this course is to develop best practices and compliance with the EU and international standards on animal welfare during transport and concerning the stunning and killing of animals at slaughterhouses and in a disease control situation.</p>	<p>No details available yet</p>
<p><b>Food Hygiene and Controls</b></p>	<p>3 five-day courses on:</p> <p>Meat and meat products ;</p> <p>Milk and dairy products ;</p> <p>Fishery products.</p> <p>Theoretical sessions, practical exercises, site visits, discussion as appropriate.</p> <p>The training is focussed on food hygiene and controls on meat and meat products, milk and dairy products and fishery products and live bivalve molluscs.</p> <p>Languages: English and /or French and /or German depending on the language knowledge of participants (with interpretation in the two other languages).</p>	<p>25 participants per workshop</p>

TRAINING ACTIVITY	DESCRIPTION	EXPECTED PARTICIPANTS
<b>Plant Health Controls</b>	<p>3 courses on EU plant quarantine regime for potatoes.</p> <p>3 courses on EU internal plant quarantine regime.</p> <p>3 courses on EU plant quarantine regime for imports.</p> <p>Theoretical and practical sessions with emphasis on case studies, discussion as appropriate.</p> <p>Languages: English and /or French and /or German depending on the language knowledge of participants (with interpretation in the two other languages).</p>	25 participants per workshop
<b>Prevention, control and eradication of Transmissible Spongiform Encephalopathies</b>	<p>5 three-day workshops.</p> <p>Theoretical and practical sessions.</p> <p>Exercises on implementing and verifying compliance with EU legislation.</p> <p>Discussion sessions organised as appropriate.</p> <p>The training will focus on the different risk reducing measures to combat and eradicate BSE and in particular the implementation and proper controls of those measures.</p> <p>Languages: English and /or French and /or German depending on the language knowledge of participants (with interpretation in the two other languages).</p>	30 participants per workshop
<b>New courses for 2009/10</b>		
<b>Plant protection</b>	<p>2 workshops in Vilnius: evaluation and registration of plant protection products (February 2009) control of use and marketing of plant protection products.</p> <p>2 workshops on evaluation and registration of plant protection products and 2 workshops on use and marketing of plant protection products</p> <p>This training is mainly addressed to EU12 Member States and Candidate Countries.</p> <p>The objective of this course is to develop a consistent approach to post - Annex I compliance checking and re-registration of plant protection products.</p>	No details available yet
<b>Feed law</b>	<p>10 five-day training courses covering relevant aspects of feed hygiene, marketing and control.</p> <p>Theoretical and practical sessions with emphasis on practical exercises.</p> <p>Discussion sessions as appropriate for exchange of views and participant feedback.</p>	30 participants per course

<b>TRAINING ACTIVITY</b>	<b>DESCRIPTION</b>	<b>EXPECTED PARTICIPANTS</b>
<b>Food contact materials (possible)</b>	4 three-day workshops for CA staff setting up control plans and inspectors of premises. 2 four-day workshops for laboratory staff responsible for chemical analysis. Balanced theoretical and practical sessions	40 participants per workshop