



FOOD
STANDARDS
AGENCY

SCOTLAND
Buidheann
Inbhe-Bidhe
an Alba



Food hygiene for farmers

– what you need to know

New food hygiene regulations will apply to
all food producers from January 2006
– this will affect **all farmers**.



New regulations

In January 2006, existing food hygiene legislation will be replaced by **new EC food hygiene regulations**.¹

These are intended to ensure that you and others involved in food production take all appropriate steps to control potential food hazards, at every stage.

What this means for you

The farm-to-fork approach of the legislation includes requirements for primary producers, in many cases for the first time. Farmers, as primary producers, will need to follow good practice and manage their operations as set out in the regulations.

In practical terms, the requirements for farmers amount, in the main, to fairly basic hygiene procedures. Farmers will have to ensure that hazards are appropriately controlled.

For example, under the new rules, you will need to take steps to:

- prevent contamination arising from water, soil, feed, veterinary products, pesticides, waste, etc;
- keep animals intended for slaughter for human consumption clean;
- prevent animals and pests from causing contamination;
- take account of results from tests relevant to animal and human health; and
- use medicines/plant products appropriately.

Food safety is everyone's responsibility

At the moment, certain types of farm that produce foods of animal origin (e.g. dairy farms) are covered by specific food hygiene legislation. But from January 2006, the general principles of food hygiene legislation will extend to **ALL** farms engaged in the primary production of food.^{2,3} This will include stock and arable farms where any food crops are grown.

Keeping accurate records

Under new legislation, you will be required to 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;
- the results of any analyses carried out; and
- the health status of the animals you submit for slaughter.

You will still need to keep records for other purposes, as required by other regulators.





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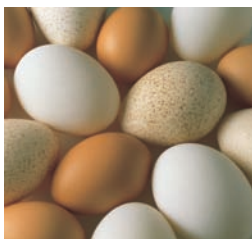
Contact us

For further information, please contact the Food Standards Agency Scotland at the address below, or visit our website at: www.food.gov.uk

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Food hygiene regulations and Quality Assurance

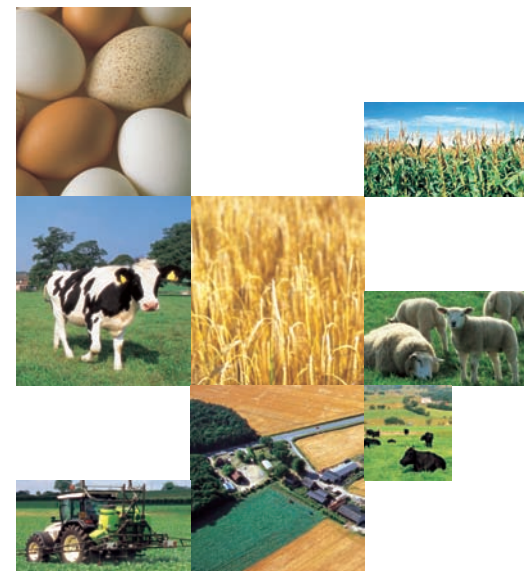
The regulations recognise the role that Quality Assurance (QA) schemes can play in maintaining standards, as does the Food Standards Agency. The Agency is working with stakeholders to discuss the role that assurance schemes might have in demonstrating compliance with the new regulations.



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1 EC Regulation 852/2004 of the European Parliament and of the Council on the hygiene of foodstuffs; EC Regulation 853/2004 laying down specific hygiene rules for products of animal origin; Regulation 178/2002 laying down the general principles and requirements of food law.

2 'food business' means any undertaking, whether for profit or not and whether public or private, carrying out any of the activities related to any stage of the production, processing and distribution of food. From: EC Regulation 178/2004.

3 'primary products' means products of primary production, including products of the soil, of stock farming, of hunting and of fishing. From: EC Regulation 852/2004.