

# **E. coli O157 cross-contamination guidance for food business operators and local authorities**

Status: Closed

Date launched: 12 November 2018

Closing date: 21 December 2018

## **About this consultation**

This consultation will be of interest to:

- food businesses where ready-to-eat and raw foods are handled
- local authority enforcement officers
- trade bodies, such as The British Hospitality Association and the British Retail Consortium

## **Consultation subject**

The subject of this consultation is guidance which assists local authorities and all types of businesses that handle both raw foods (that can be a source of pathogens including E. coli O157) and ready to eat foods. This includes best practice around hygiene, separation and safety measures to be taken to avoid cross-contamination.

## **Consultation purpose**

Following a routine review of the E.coli O157 guidance, the guide has been moved to a new format to increase understanding and accessibility. There have been no changes to the policy, science or law.

The main changes to the guidance have been:

- updates to the format to improve accessibility and simplify language (particularly aiding those whose first language is not English)
- an increased number of diagrams to aid understanding
- new 'information' pop outs
- clarification of separation section
- clarification of chemical disinfection section
- legal references moved into 'The law' boxes

The changes to this guidance have been developed with input from business and local authority representatives, who have been consulted extensively throughout the process. We have

determined that a 6-week consultation is proportionate to seek wider stakeholder views.

We would welcome views from stakeholders on the changes to the guidance. In particular, whether you agree that the revised guidance is an improvement on the current published version of the guidance and whether the revised guidance delivers the improvements outlined above.

## **Impact of the revised guidance**

The changes to the guidance have been designed to provide greater clarity and to enhance readability through simplification, it is difficult to quantify these benefits. The revised guidance has a slightly higher word count which can be quite easily quantified.

However, the FSA considers that the impact from the higher word count is negligible and does not present a significant burden. For this reason, we have not attempted to quantify the benefits of the guidance as we believe this would require a disproportionate level of effort.

We would welcome stakeholders' views on the impact of the guidance and our assessment of this. It would be helpful, where possible, for stakeholders to provide evidence to support their views.

## **Consultation document**



## **Comments and views**

Responses to this consultation should be sent to [FoodlawCOP@food.gov.uk](mailto:FoodlawCOP@food.gov.uk) by 21 December 2018.

## **Publication of response summary**

Within three months of a consultation ending we aim to publish a summary of responses received and provide a link to it from this page.

You can find information on how we handle data provided in response to consultations in our [Consultations privacy notice](#).

## **Further information**

This consultation has been prepared in accordance with [HM Government Consultation Principles](#). If an Impact Assessment has been produced, this is included in the consultation documents. If no

Impact Assessment has been provided, the reason will be given in the consultation document.