

We're seeking your views on allergen labelling

The consultation which launches today is open from 25 January for nine weeks. The main issue is the rule concerning foods prepacked for direct sale which are currently not required to carry allergen information. Consumers could assume the absence of allergen information on food packaging means the food does not contain allergens, which may not be the case. The FSA in England, Northern Ireland and Wales is working with Defra, Food Standards Scotland and the Department for Health and Social Care in this review.

FSA Chairman, Heather Hancock said:

'It's really important that people take this opportunity to have their say, especially those living with a food allergy or intolerance. Clear, accurate and visible allergen labelling is vital to protect the thousands of people at risk of allergic reactions, when buying their daily sandwich, salad or snack to eat on the go. Food businesses have a duty to protect people with food allergies and we welcome the real progress that many have made.'

This review is looking at whether businesses should do more to keep their customers safe. We all deserve food we can trust, and I encourage everyone to let their voices be heard.'

Stakeholder workshops will be held in England, Northern Ireland and Wales, during the consultation periods, to gather additional insight to feed into the final report.

View the [consultation page](#).

FSA EXPLAINS

'Prepacked foods for direct sale' are foods that have been packed on the same premises from which they are being sold, for example a packaged sandwich or salad made by staff earlier in the day and placed on a shelf for purchase. Currently, these foods are not required to carry labels and information on allergens, as it is expected that the customer can speak with the person who made or packed the product for this information.