

Applying for approval of a meat or food establishment by the FSA

How to apply for approval by the Food Standards Agency, approval assessment and right of appeal.

[List of establishments approved by the Food Standards Agency \(FSA\).](#)

Application for a new establishment

Use our [approvals service](#) to apply for approval of your establishment by the FSA. You will need to create an account to use this service.

When we receive your application one of our veterinary officials will contact you within two weeks to arrange a visit to conduct an assessment.

PDF

[View Step by step guide for meat approvals application as PDF\(Open in a new window\)](#) (559.42 KB)

Application for additional activities

Use our [approvals service](#), if you are already approved as a meat establishment and want to apply for approval of additional activities or species.

- [Apply for approval by the FSA](#)

Managing your application

Once you've submitted your application, you will be able to manage and track it in our approvals applications service.

England and Wales

Advisory visits

If you want to obtain approval for your establishment you may request an advisory visit. Advisory visits aim to help you identify the welfare and hygiene requirements which may apply to your proposed approval activities. Areas of advice include building structure, equipment and facilities, operational hygiene considerations and HACCP, good practices, record management and standard operating procedures as well as animal welfare.

Advisory visits will be charged at a set fee which is payable before the visit is scheduled to take place. This fee for the financial year 1 April 2026 to March 2027 is £438.96 inclusive of VAT. This fee is strictly non-refundable.

You can request an advisory visit, when you submit your application form using our approvals service.

England and Wales

PDF

[View Advisory Visits Guidance as PDF\(Open in a new window\)](#) (274.89 KB)

EU references in FSA guidance documents

Directly applicable EU legislation no longer applies in GB. EU legislation retained when the UK exited the EU became assimilated law on 1 January 2024, published on legislation.gov.uk. References to any legislation in FSA guidance with 'EU' or 'EC' in the title (e.g. Regulation (EC) 178/2002) should now be regarded as assimilated law where applicable to GB. References to 'Retained EU Law' or 'REUL' should now be regarded as references to assimilated law.

For businesses moving goods from Great Britain to Northern Ireland, information on [the Windsor Framework](#) is available on GOV.UK.

The Windsor Framework was adopted by the UK and EU on 24 March 2023. The Framework provides a unique set of arrangements to support the flow of agrifood retail products from Great Britain (GB) to Northern Ireland (NI), allowing GB standards for public health in relation to food, marketing and organics to apply for pre-packed retail goods moved via the NI Retail Movement Scheme (NIRMS).

Approval assessment

As part of the approval process, we will assess:

- the equipment and infrastructure of your establishment
- your food safety management system, as part of the approval process.

You are not permitted to operate until a conditional approval has been granted.

After approval, one of our officials will return within three months to assess production and your [compliance with all the hygiene requirements](#) in:

- [assimilated Regulation \(EC\) 852/2004](#) and [assimilated Regulation \(EC\) 853/2004](#) for England and Wales
- [Regulation \(EC\) 852/2004](#) and [Regulation \(EC\) 853/2004](#) for Northern Ireland

Once approved, details of the premises together with information relating to types of foods produced are added to the [lists of approved establishments](#).

Right of appeal

You have a right to [appeal our decision](#) if your premises is refused approval under food law.

You can submit an appeal one month from the date when you were notified of the decision.

You can find a full process overview for the approval of meat establishments in chapter 1 section 4 of the [Manual of Official Controls](#) (MOC). It also explains the circumstances in which we would remove your approval.

- [Approval of food establishments in Northern Ireland: governance arrangements and approvals policy](#)

List of approved food establishments

A full list of establishments, such as cutting plants and slaughterhouses, approved to handle, prepare or produce products of animal origin for which requirements are laid down in assimilated Regulation (EC) No 853/2004 for England and Wales, and Regulation (EC) No 853/2004 for Northern Ireland.

- [Approved establishments in England & Wales](#)
- [Approved establishments in Northern Ireland](#)
- [Approved establishments in Scotland](#)
- [Approved establishments in the EU](#)