
Food Standards Agency
FSA Business Guidance
RPC rating: Validated

Description of proposal

The assessment discusses two pieces of guidance, both of which explain existing regulatory requirements for business.

The first covers amendments to guidance on the testing of milk for antibiotic residues; the amendments simplify the text and correct inaccuracies.

The second introduces new guidance on reducing the risk of contracting listeriosis to vulnerable people in social care. The guidance provides specific advice for health and social care organisations on complying with legal requirements on food safety and hygiene legislation.

Impacts of proposal

In calculating the familiarisation costs to business for both documents the submission assumes:

- a reading speed of 275 words per minute (based on EFTEC data); and
- that familiarisation is undertaken by 54% of all affected businesses (based on Business Perception Survey data, as guidance does not discuss new regulatory requirements).

The regulator anticipates that 1037 milk processors and 7752 registered producers will be affected by the changes in guidance on antibiotic residues. In both types of business, the FSA assumes that familiarisation will be undertaken by one employee with an uprated average wage of £11.96 per hour (for producers) or £25.50 per hour (for processors). It therefore estimates the total one-off cost of familiarisation with the full guidance document at £18,000.

Based on Care Quality Commission data, the regulator anticipates that 25,000 care providers will be affected by the introduction of its new guidance on listeriosis. The FSA assumes that a single manager per business (with an uprated wage of £18.29 per hour) will need to undertake familiarisation. On this basis, it estimates the total one-off cost of familiarisation at £140,000.

The regulator does not expect any recurring costs associated with either guidance document.

The RPC verifies the estimated equivalent annual net direct cost to business (EANDCB) of £0.0 million.

Quality of submission

The submission clearly and succinctly outlines the expected costs to business of both guidance documents.

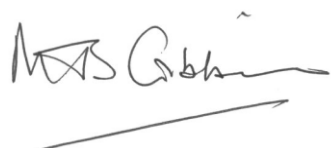
The assessment offers no evidence in support of the FSA's assumption that only one person in each business would need to read and understand the guidance. Additionally, the assessment should only calculate the cost of listeriosis guidance for care providers in the private sector. Nonetheless, given the scale and scope of the guidance, the RPC is able to validate the EANDCB of zero.

Departmental assessment

Classification	Qualifying regulatory provision (IN)
Equivalent annual net direct cost to business (EANDCB)	£0.0 million
Business net present value	£0.0 million

RPC assessment¹

Classification	Qualifying regulatory provision (IN)
EANDCB – RPC validated	£0.0 million
Business impact target score	£0.0 million



Michael Gibbons CBE, Chairman

¹ For reporting purposes, the RPC validates EANDCB and BIT figures to the nearest £100,000