

To: District Council Chief EHO's
Cc: Senior/lead food EHOs – District Council
Group Chief EHO's
NIFLG Members
LACORS
CIEH

20 September 2007

Reference: **ENF/NI/07/045**

Dear Colleagues,

Guidance on Temperature Control Legislation in the UK

The Agency has issued new guidance on temperature control legislation in the United Kingdom.

On 1 January 2006 the Food Safety (Temperature Control) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1995 were revoked. Schedule 4 of the Food Hygiene Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2006 implemented by separate but similar legislation in England, Wales, and Scotland remade the majority of the requirements from the 1995 regulations. However, regulation 10 (the general requirement) and 11 (cooling of foods) of the previous 1995 regulations are now contained within EC Regulation 852/2004, Annex II, Chapter IX, part 5 and 6 respectively.

The majority of the text in the document has not changed from the guidance previously issued by the Department of Health on the 1995 Regulations. The main addition to the guidance is advice on the legislation in Scotland.

The guidance is intended to help explain for food businesses and enforcement authorities the food temperature control requirements that will operate in the United Kingdom.

The guidance contains advice on the types of foods that are required to be held under temperature control. It also gives guidance on the circumstances when some flexibility from the temperature control requirements is allowed.

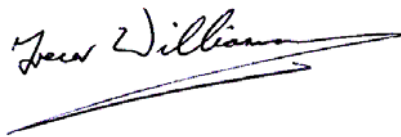
The guidance is intended to compliment best practices in the food industry, which might involve, for example, keeping foods at chill temperatures below the legal maximum and thereby providing additional assurances of food safety.

The guidance is attached with this letter and can also be found on the Agency's website at:

<http://www.food.gov.uk/foodindustry/guidancenotes/hygguid/tempcontrolguidanceuk>

If you require any further information, please contact me on 028 9041 7713 or Kathryn Baker on 028 9041 7736.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Trevor Williamson', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

TREVOR WILLIAMSON

HEAD OF GENERAL FOOD HYGIENE AND INCIDENTS