

**To:** District Council Chief Environmental Health Officers  
Group Chief Environmental Health Officers  
NIFLG

16th January 2008  
Reference:  
ENF/NI/2008/004  
NIP620

Dear Colleague

### **EUROPEAN COMMISSION 'BETTER TRAINING FOR SAFER FOOD' STRATEGY – 2008 PROGRAMME**

The programme of training courses for 2008 under the European Commission's 'Better Training for Safer Food' strategy is attached to this letter. We would be grateful if you could bring it to the attention of relevant officers within your district and ensure that expressions of interest from those wishing to participate in relevant courses are sent to the Agency **by 15 February 2008**.

#### **Background**

The Commission established its 'Better Training for Safer Food' strategy following the adoption of Regulation 882/2004 on official controls in 2004. Programmes of courses under this strategy took place in 2006 and 2007. These covered a range of issues, such as import control at Border Inspection Posts, implementation and auditing of food safety management systems, zoonoses and microbiological criteria in food and avian influenza.

The courses are open to officers of competent authorities across the UK, including all food law enforcement officers employed by district councils involved in feed or food regulatory controls. The training programmes are delivered across the EU by public and private bodies and are designed to complement, rather than replace, training arrangements at national level. All the training programmes are funded centrally by the Commission including participants' travel and accommodation costs.

Further information on the 'Better Training for Safer Food' strategy can be found on the Commission's website at: [http://europa.eu.int/comm/food/training/index\\_en.htm](http://europa.eu.int/comm/food/training/index_en.htm).

#### **Training Programme for 2008**

It is expected that the 2008 training programme will begin in April and conclude in December. Further details of individual course content, dates and venues will be made available by the training providers shortly before the programme begins.

The Agency is responsible for verifying course applications from potential UK participants and forwarding them to the training providers and the Commission for consideration. To assist in managing applications for the 2008 programme, it would be helpful to us to receive expressions of interest from officers who may wish to participate in this training so we can provide full details and information on how to apply for individual courses as soon as they become available. It is important to note however that only a small number of training places are allocated to the UK.

Officers who are interested in receiving further details of these training courses are asked to provide their contact details and indicate the course(s) they might wish to attend. This information should be sent by **15 February 2008** to my colleague, Bob Pilling, at: [robert.pilling@foodstandards.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:robert.pilling@foodstandards.gsi.gov.uk) or by calling him on 020 7276 8436.

Yours Faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Michael Jackson', written in a cursive style.

**Michael Jackson**

**Head of Audit and Monitoring Unit**

## ANNEX 1

### 'BETTER TRAINING FOR SAFER FOOD" - PROVISIONAL PROGRAMME FOR 2008

*Training activities for staff of the competent authorities of Member States, Candidate Countries and invited third countries*

TRAINING ACTIVITY	DESCRIPTION	EXPECTED PARTICIPANTS
<b>Courses to be continued from 2007</b>		
<b>HACCP</b>	<p>The objective of this course is to train control staff on implementation of HACCP system (course 1) and on auditing to verify correct HACCP implementation (course 2).</p> <p>18 training courses, of which 8 (course 1) and 10 (course 2).</p> <p>Training courses will have duration of approximately 1-week (1 welcome-day + 4 working days)</p> <p>Languages: English and/or French and/or German depending on the language knowledge of participants with interpretation in the other two languages.</p>	<p>20-25 places on each course</p> <p><b>UK has been allocated 15 places for the entire programme</b></p>
<b>Veterinary and food Safety control checks at BIPS (seaports and road/rail)</b>	<p>The objective of this action is the dissemination of best practices for veterinary control procedures at seaport and road and rail border inspection posts to improve knowledge and ensure consistent and high implementation standards across EU.</p> <p>4 training courses of three-day duration (2 seaport and 2 road/rail)</p> <p>Languages: English (assistance in other languages e.g. French/German may be provided, as appropriate)</p>	<p>40 places on each course</p> <p><b>UK has been allocated 6 places for the seaport courses and 2 for road/rail courses for the entire programme.</b></p>
<b>Animal By Products</b>	<p>The objective of this action is to provide a detailed overview and explanation of EU standards on ABP, in particular as regards aspects of law on the identification, consignment, channelling, traceability and management of import and export of ABP.</p> <p>3 training workshops, each of a two-day duration</p> <p>Languages: English and /or French and /or German depending on the language knowledge of participants (with interpretation in the two other languages).</p>	<p>70 places on each course</p> <p><b>UK has been allocated 8 places for the entire programme.</b></p>

TRAINING ACTIVITY	DESCRIPTION	EXPECTED PARTICIPANTS
<b>Zoonoses and microbiological criteria in foodstuffs</b>	The objective of this action is to disseminate knowledge on EU legislation and harmonise the approach to monitoring zoonoses, zoonotic agents and related antimicrobial and food-borne outbreaks.	No details available yet
<b>Animal welfare</b>	The objective of this action is to develop best practices and compliance with the EU and international standards on animal welfare during transport and concerning the stunning and killing of animals at slaughterhouses and in a disease control situation.	No details available yet
<b>Plant protection</b>	This training is mainly addressed to EU12 Member States and Candidate Countries. The objective of this action is to develop a consistent approach to post-Annex I compliance checking and re-registration of plant protection products.	No details available yet
<b>New courses for 2008</b>		
<b>Food Hygiene and Controls</b>	3 x five day workshops. The training is focussed on food hygiene and controls on meat and meat products, milk and dairy products and fishery products and live bivalve molluscs. Languages: English and /or French and /or German depending on the language knowledge of participants (with interpretation in the two other languages).	20-25 for each course <b>UK has been allocated 5 places for the entire programme.</b>
<b>Transmissible Spongiform Encephalopathies</b>	The training should focus on the different risk reducing measures to combat and eradicate BSE and in particular the implementation and proper controls of those measures. 5 x three day training courses Languages: English and /or French and /or German depending on the language knowledge of participants (with interpretation in the two other languages).	30 places on each course <b>UK has been allocated 4 places for the entire programme.</b>

TRAINING ACTIVITY	DESCRIPTION	EXPECTED PARTICIPANTS
<b>Plant Health Controls</b>	<p>This training is focussed on the following areas</p> <p>Training for potato quarantine – 3 x 3 day courses</p> <p>Training for plant quarantine regime – 3 x 4 day courses</p> <p>Training for plant quarantine regime for imports – 3 x 3 day courses</p> <p>Languages: English and /or French and /or German depending on the language knowledge of participants (with interpretation in the two other languages).</p>	<p>25-26 places on each course</p> <p><b>UK has been allowed 12 places for the entire programme.</b></p>