

Workshop for Enforcement Authorities and Food Businesses to Provide Guidance on Declarations of Compliance Required for Food Contact Materials

Aims of the Workshop

The Food Standards Agency is planning to hold a workshop on 12th November 2008 to provide enforcement authorities and businesses with the opportunity of working together on draft guidance for Declarations of Compliance (DoCs) on food contact materials and articles (FCMs). DoCs will be a legislative requirement from August 2008. The workshop aims to:

- Provide the opportunity for enforcement authorities and businesses to work with members of the FSA to produce a guidance document, which is a “workable document for all concerned”.
- To ensure that the guidance document is understandable, pertinent to all areas of FCM chains and that the advice provided is practical and results in enforceable DoCs.
- To produce a useable guidance document which can form the basis of an Agency funded trial control campaign by enforcement officers working with businesses in their areas.

Who should attend?

The workshop is aimed at businesses, responsible for producing or receiving DoCs, who use, sell or import materials and articles that are in contact with, or are intended to come into contact with food. These could include material and article manufacturers, converters, fillers, importers and retailers. It is also aimed at relevant environmental health, trading standards and port health officers involved in enforcing the legislation, such that they can work with businesses to ensure that the guidelines produced are accurate but practical and that there is clear understanding on both sides with regard to legislative requirements and realistic achievements.

What will the workshop cover?

- Introduction to the concept of DoCs for FCMs.
- A presentation by the Danish Veterinary and Food Administration on own control checks of compliance documents in Denmark.
- A presentation by a leading food manufacturer on his experience and understanding of DoCs.
- A presentation by the policy lead at the Agency introducing the draft guidelines.

The afternoon session will provide an opportunity for all those present to take part in group-discussions focused on providing a declaration of compliance for specific types of FCMs e.g. plastic, paper and board and multi-layered materials containing mixes of materials. Based on the success of this workshop it is anticipated that the Agency will fund a trial control campaign early in 2009 during which enforcement officers can work with businesses in their areas to test the practical effectiveness of the guidelines. Numbers attending the workshop will be limited so an early expression of interest is advised.

Venue and Cost

The workshop will be held on 12th November at The Congress Centre, Russell Square, London with lunch provided, attendance is free. It will start at 11:00 am and finish at approximately 15:45.

Background Information

Businesses in the supply chain have to provide a declaration of compliance to confirm that materials and articles intended to come into contact with food or those that could be brought into contact with food, comply with the legislation. Regulation (EC) No. 1935/2004 provides for the adoption of specific provisions concerning declarations and suggests issues they might cover. So far specific rules have been adopted for regenerated cellulose film, ceramics and plastics. It is likely that the detailed provisions for Plastics will form the basis for other materials as legislation develops. Advanced drafts for active and intelligent materials support this view. The DoC must be supported by documented evidence that must be made available to the enforcement authorities on request and that proves, amongst other things, that any substance restrictions such as specific migration limits are observed.

As the sole responsibility for compliance to the legislation lies with business operators it is essential that the rules governing food contact materials are understood by them, and those charged with enforcing the legislation. Recently, provisions have come into force for the declaration of compliance, and The Food Standards Agency food contact materials team have produced a draft Guide to aid businesses and enforcement authorities on the legal compliance as well as best practise in producing declarations of compliance

If you are interested in attending this event, would you please register your interest as soon as possible by completing the attached form and email it to Nana Boakye at the address below. Numbers will be limited. Please note that further information will be sent out nearer the time of the event.

Contact

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